

Journal of the RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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What is this? See page 17.



Fieldfare

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NOTICEBOARD

You will by now have all received your *Annual Report* for 2006, and I hope you are enjoying this very professional publication, packed with information about the Society's work over the year. This edition was Patrick Mann's last, and we express our heartfelt thanks to him for his hard work and editing flair over many years, producing a truly impressive series of *Annual Reports*.

Enclosed with the *Annual Report* were two leaflets which deserve your attention – first, the Woodland Trust leaflet, with an Appeal for funds to buy an extra 38 acres to extend Gorse Field Wood up to the edge of Oakham. And second, a leaflet about *The Heritage of Rutland Water*, a publication by the Rutland Local History and Record Society, which includes much of direct interest to RNHS members (with a special RNHS member's price). A possible Christmas present?

Also at a special RNHS member's price, another potential Christmas present – the Butterfly-Conservation endorsed *The Butterfly Friendly Garden* – glorious gardening with butterflies in mind. These books and others are listed in the small Christmas book section on page 19.

A reminder: Thanks to everyone who has already renewed their membership, and to those who have taken out Standing Orders. Renewals of membership for 2008 must be made promptly on or before 1 January 2008, either by Standing Order (please use the insert sheet) or by personal payment (please use the form below).

Erratum: With this *Fieldfare* is an additional page which should be inserted in your *Annual Report*, dealing with beetles (for page 52), and giving some additions to the list of recorders and contributors (on page 1).

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FOR 2008 NOT USING STANDING ORDER

To G R Worrall, 6 Redland Close, Barrowden LE15 8ES

I/We wish to renew membership and enclose cheque for £

£10 for each adult, 50p for 16s or under

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Post code

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Obituary – Mrs Jean Green

Mrs Jean Green died peacefully, in her 98th year, at Bryan Wood Care Home, Huddersfield, on 18th September 2007.

Jean Green was a founder member of Rutland Natural History Society and, until a few years ago, still lived in her house at Ketton, with a large garden and an equally large pond. Tall trees surrounded the house, with the walled area screening the woodland floor, which was covered by a carpet of Aconites and Snowdrops.

Older members will remember the house well. Over many years, if the Society's field meetings were nearby, in Ketton Quarries for example, we were all invited afterwards to Jean's house for a party in the garden, where Arthur Green and Jean looked after us very well.

Jean Green was an excellent field naturalist, a passionate ornithologist, and particularly loved bird song and calls. She was my mentor when I joined the Society in 1966. We were always last to arrive back from woodland walks, as Jean was teaching me so much in recognising the birds by

their songs. At that period she was attending courses at the Field Studies Council.

The role of ornithological recorder for the Rutland Natural History Society was the natural appointment for Jean, when she took over from the first recorder, Roy Hunter, in 1969. Over the next 12 years her extensive bird reports appeared in our newsletters. At 72 years of age, after serving the Society magnificently, she decided to hand over the post to teacher and ornithologist, Terry Mitcham.

Not one to rest on her laurels, Jean continued to contribute her records to the society. The garden was a great love for her, and the superb habitat encouraged many migrants passing through.

Any member was welcome to drop in, and even during the last few years before ill health curbed her activities, she still thoroughly enjoyed enthusing over bird song, and could equally switch to botany if so desired.

A great lady and naturalist of the old school!

Philip Rudkin, 8th November 2007

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY events

AUTUMN INDOOR MEETINGS

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

Tuesday 4 December LIFE ON THE LINCOLNSHIRE SALT MARSHES 7.30 pm

*Promises to be a lively evening with **June Barton** who lives near to the Salt Marshes and frequently broadcasts on her local radio station. June will use video and sound to illustrate her talk about life on the Salt Marshes. (See opposite for possible summer visit by coach to Freiston Shore.)*

Tuesday 8 January BRITISH BIRDS OF PREY 7.30 pm

(NB 2nd Tuesday in month)

***Nick Williams** will be well known to regular visitors to the Bird Fair where he has given talks. His talk on British Birds of Prey features Golden Eagles in Scotland, Peregrines in the Lake District, Harriers and Barn Owls in Lincolnshire. One not to be missed.*

Tuesday 5 February WILDFLOWERS OF LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND 7.30 pm

***Andy Lear**, member of RNHS, conservation officer with the LRWT and expert botanist, will illustrate some of the flora that can be found on reserves both in Leicestershire and Rutland and remind us of warm summer days to come. Hopefully we'll be able to follow this up with a summer visit.*

AUTUMN OUTDOOR MEETINGS

Sunday 2 December THE RSPB RESERVE AT OUSE WASHES 10.30 am

There will be an introductory talk by one of the Wardens before going to the hides, where we should see many wintering ducks as well as Bewick's and Whooper Swans. The site has suffered badly from flooding this summer and many breeding birds lost nests. If there is heavy rainfall around the date of our visit please phone 01354 680212 before setting off, to check for flooding.

Possible route: Take the A47 to Peterborough, then onto Guyhirn. At the roundabout at Guyhirn turn right onto the A141 then follow signs for Manea. On reaching the village turn right at the T-junction then left opposite the Rose & Crown pub. Turn left at the next T-junction towards Welches Dam, continuing to the sign-posted car park.

Tuesday 1 January 2008 FORT HENRY 10.30 am

Join Joe and Mary Nourish for a New Year's Day breath of fresh air and walk off some of that excess Christmas fare! Meet at the Lakes SK 950120.

Sunday 17 February 2008 WAKERLEY WOOD 9.30 am (NB Earlier time)

Our very own prize-winning sound recordist and Woodpecker expert Phil Rudkin will lead a walk around Wakerley where we should hopefully hear Woodpeckers drumming plus other bird song. Meet in the car park SP960987. From the Duddington roundabout, take the A43 towards Corby for about 2 miles and carefully turn right towards Wakerley at the Fineshade Top Lodge/Wakerley crossroads. Car park is on the left after about half a mile or so down lane.

Advance notice: Freiston Shore, Sunday 13 July

As a follow-up to June Barton's talk, a provisional booking has been made on Sunday 13 July 2008 for a coach trip to visit the RSPB reserve at Freiston Shore, which is on the Lincolnshire Salt Marshes. A teacher naturalist will guide us around the marshes to look closely at the flora unique to this area and we will also visit bird hides. Just in case it's very wet (like last year!) we will have use of a Portacabin, which is used as a school room, where we can look at plant specimens under microscopes, use a kettle for hot drinks and where there are toilets. We can't give an exact cost at this moment as it depends on numbers interested but it is likely to be around £12 to £15. If you are interested please contact Mary Nourish, telephone: 01572 823677; or e-mail beaumontchase@farming.co.uk

LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST: Rutland group

Meetings are held at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton. Admission £1, includes tea/coffee/biscuits. For other LRWT events in Leicestershire and Rutland, see www.lwrt.org.uk or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours.

Monday 10 December GRASSHOPPERS AND CRICKETS OF RUTLAND 7.30 pm

A talk by Phil Rudkin illustrated with slides and sounds.

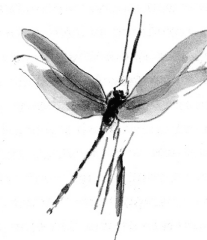
Monday 21 January NEW DEVELOPMENTS IN FARMING FOR WILDLIFE 7.30 pm

Dr Chris Stoate will give an overview of the conservation programme at the demonstration farm at Loddington.

LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST: Bourne group

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

WEATHER SUMMARY John P Hollands, Wittering met.



September 2007

Surface wind September 2007 began with a mainly Westerly light to moderate, occasionally fresh, surface wind. This run of wind persisted until the 18th when it backed to become mainly South Westerly light to moderate but occasionally fresh with gusts to strong. Later, during the 25th, the surface wind veered to become mainly North North Westerly light to moderate. This run of wind persisted until the end of the month.

Temperature During September 2007 the average day maximum temperature was 18.3 °C, almost identical to the 1955–2006 mean of 18.2 °C. The warmest day was the 5th with an afternoon maximum of 22.5 °C, rather less than the absolute maximum for September of 28.9 °C recorded

in 2006. By way of contrast, the coolest day in September 2007 was the 26th with a maximum of 11.3 °C. There were 151.7 hours of bright sunshine, very similar to the long-term mean of 142.7. The sunniest September on record was 1964 with 207.2 hours and the sunniest day in September 2007 was the 11th with 10.3 hours.

Rainfall During September 2007 35.4 mm (1.39 ins) of rain was recorded at Wittering, rather less than the long-term mean of 52.2 mm (2.05 ins). The wettest day was the 27th with 7.8 mm (0.31 ins), very much less than the wettest September day on record when 79.2 mm (3.12 ins) of rain fell on the 22nd in 1992.

During September 2006 the average day maximum was 21.7 °C, the average night minimum was 11.3 °C and the rainfall was 39.0 mm (1.54 ins), with 156.6 hours of bright sunshine.

October 2007

Surface wind October 2007 began with a mainly North Easterly light surface wind. Later from the 4th to the 10th the surface wind became variable in direction but remained light in strength. On the 11th the surface wind settled down to become mainly Westerly light to moderate. This run of wind persisted until the 19th, when it veered to become mainly East to South Easterly light. Later, during the 27th, the surface wind veered again, this time to become mainly South Westerly light to moderate with occasional gusts to fresh. This run of wind persisted until the end of the month.

Temperature The average day maximum during October 2007 was 14.3 °C, very similar to the long-term mean of 14.1 °C. The warmest day was the 12th with a comfortable afternoon maximum of 19.5 °C, rather cooler than the absolute maximum for October of 28.2 °C recorded in 1985. The coolest day was the 25th with an afternoon

maximum of 'only' 10.1 °C. There were 113.6 hours of bright sunshine, a little above the long-term mean of 106.4 hours. The sunniest day was the 4th with 10.6 hours. The sunniest October on record was in 1959 with 164.5 hours.

The average night minimum was 7.7 °C, very close to the long-term minimum of 7.2 °C. The coldest night was 22nd / 23rd when the air temperature fell to 1.2 °C, rather less cold than the absolute minimum of -3.9 °C recorded in 1997. There were five grass frosts during October 2007.

Rainfall October 2007 was a relatively dry month, with 44.0 mm (1.73 ins) of rain as compared to the long-term mean of 52.7 mm (2.06 ins). The wettest day was the 16th when 27.8 mm (1.09 ins) of rain was recorded at Wittering, which constituted 63% of the month's total rainfall. There were 21 days with no recordable rainfall.

During October 2006 the average day maximum was 16.1 °C, the average night minimum was 9.6 °C, and the rainfall 67.2 mm (2.64 ins). There was a total of 84.6 hours of electronically recorded bright sunshine.

HIGH TIDES IN NORTH NORFOLK Nola Thurlow

High tides for Snettisham, for Titchwell add 5 minutes.

December				January			
Sunday	2	—	12.48	Sunday	6	04.59	17.15
	9	05.57	18.12		13	09.26	21.28
	16	10.33	22.34		20	03.59	16.37
	23	05.05	17.38		27	09.29	21.28
	30	10.49	22.42				

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

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



September/October 2007

Herpetological records become fewer in this period, although there have been a healthy number of reptile sightings this year.

There were three records of **frogs** in this period. A dead frog was found on a lane in Edith Weston in late September and a live one was found sheltering under a tree in Burley Wood. As usual the Worralls' frogs were calling in early October.

Common Toads were only recorded in Wing in mid October when two live toads and one dead toad were seen. Fewer road casualties were noted this year, possibly due to your recorder's absence at the end of September and early October. (This is because I was not present to record dead toads and not that I was instrumental in their demise in previous years!)

A **Smooth Newt** road casualty was the only record of this species, and the only **Great Crested**

Newt record was of two torpid adults that I disturbed from under bags of compost in my garden in Wing at the end of October.

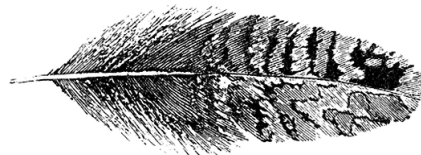
The **Viviparous Lizards** that were inadvertently introduced into the Rutland Water Nature Reserve in early August were still present a month later, and two lizards were also seen at Clipsham on 14th October, the first record for five years from there.

Young **Grass Snakes** were found near a pond in Wing in September, presumed to have recently emerged from a nest, and two adults were seen basking at Leighfield on 14th October. And finally an **Adder** was under a metal sheet in Ketton Quarry on 9th September.

My thanks to the following who sent in records: T Appleton, V Arnold, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, P Scott and L & G Worrall.

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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



September/October 2007

Generally quiet weather during these months produced few surprises but a north-easterly blow at the end of September brought in some interesting seabirds and grebes. Hirundines were able to depart in settled conditions and a Wheatear and some terns remained at Rutland Water to mid-October. Good numbers of Little Egrets were at Rutland Water, whilst a Great White Egret at Exton Park clearly craved a larger audience and toured Rutland Water for several days. Reports of Ravens came from three areas – clearly a species to watch out for.

(See back cover of the *Annual Report* for site abbreviations.)

My thanks to the following for their records: V Arnold, M Aspinall, M A Branston, C Brown, A Bull, T Caldicott, H Burkitt, F & G Chiverton, J & A Comber, J & F Foster, C H Gallimore, M & G Griffin, A Hayday, J & R Hutton, M & S Iannantuoni, I Misselbrook, T Mitcham, J W & M Nourish, K Potterton, P Rudkin, P Scott, A R & M A Thorp, D Willett, M Winslow, G R & L Worrall

Mute Swan. 66 were counted at EBR on 21.10.

Black Swan. One was at RW on 29.09 and a pair were at EBR the following day.

Egyptian Goose. Away from RW there were five at Leighfield Fishponds on 29.10 and two there on 31.10.

Pintail. Numbers at FHP increased from three on 15.09 to nine on 26.10. One was at Leighfield Fishponds on 08.10 and one at EBR on 21.10.

Red-crested Pochard. There were two at EBR on 09.09.

Goldeneye. Ten were off the Old Hall at RW on 16.10.

Smew. A redhead was at RW(Eggleton) on 23.10.

Red-legged Partridge. A covey of c.30 was near Lyndon on 25.10.

Little Grebe. One or two were noted throughout Oct at EBR. Two or three were at FHP from 22.09 to end of Oct.

Great Crested Grebe. c.30 were at EBR on 21.10.

Cormorant. There were 30 at EBR on 30.09 and 34 there on 21.10. Up to three were regular at FHP during Oct.

Little Egret. One was at EBR on 24.09. Present throughout both months at RW – see the wildfowl counts. Five were still on lagoon one on 12.10.

Great White Egret. One was in Exton Park on 12/13.10 and then on both RW reserves from 14–17.10.

Grey Heron. Two were on the Oakham Canal near Langham Crossing on 09.09, and there were three at EBR on 21.10. One at Wing from 20.10 chose to perch in a tall Wellingtonia from which it could survey a number of likely garden ponds.

Red Kite. Three were together near Morcott on 10.10, and one or two were seen regularly between FHP and Horn Mill throughout both months.

Hen Harrier. A ring-tail was seen at RW(Egleton) on three dates from 22.10.

Osprey. One was at EBR on 24.09, mobbed by Carrion Crows on a ploughed field.

Sparrowhawk. Garden records came from Cottesmore and Stamford. Also noted at Clipsham Quarries and Clipsham Park Wood and near Holywell.

Buzzard. One or two were reported from Stamford, Cottesmore, Wing Hall, Oakham, Morcott and Pickworth Wood. Three were over Glaston Wood on 04.10 and there were six over Stoke Dry Wood on 24.09.

Kestrel. Singles were noted near Cottesmore on 29.09 and at Wing on 11.10.

Hobby. September birds were at RW(Egleton) on 20th and over Oakham on 26th. One was again at Egleton on 07.10 and over Oakham on 22.10.

Peregrine. Singles were at Leighfield Fishponds on 07.10 and at RW on 12.10.

Water Rail. One was at RW(Egleton) on 20.09.

Avocet. One was at EBR on 13.09.

Ringed Plover. One was at RW(Lyndon) on 06.09. There were 29 around the reservoir on 07.10 and eight at the Old Hall on 14.10.

Golden Plover. Thirteen flew over EBR on 30.09. There were 80 on winter cereals in Exton Park on 06.10 and 196 at RW on 07.10. Nineteen were noted at EBR on 21.10.

Grey Plover. Singles were at EBR on 30.09 and at RW in mid-Oct.

Lapwing. Rather low numbers were recorded with only 65 at RW on 16.09 and 110 on 07.10.

At EBR there were forty on 09.09 and in Exton Park 142 were counted on 06.10. Thirty were near Cottesmore on 01.10.

Sanderling. One was at RW on 07.10.

Little Stint. One was at EBR on 09.09 with two present on 30.09. At RW there were eleven near the Old Hall on 07.10, declining to six on 16.10. One was on the Lyndon reserve on 27.09.

Pectoral Sandpiper. One was at RW(North Arm) on 12.09.

Curlew Sandpiper. Singles were at EBR on 24.09 and RW(South Arm) on 14.10.

Dunlin. There were four at EBR on 09.09 and two there on 24.09. Nine were at RW on 16.09 and there were sixteen on 07.10. Fourteen were near the Old Hall on 14.10.

Ruff. Reported from both RW reserves from 21.09 with a maximum of fifteen on 07.10.

Jack Snipe. One was at RW on 07.10.

Snipe. There were nine at EBR on 09.09. At RW, numbers increased well from 21 on 16.09 to 89 on 07.10. Ten were at Leighfield Fishponds on 08.10.

Black-tailed Godwit. One was at RW(Lyndon) on 27.09.

Curlew. One called over Leighfield on 01.09 and there were five at RW(Lyndon) on 27.09.

Redshank. Rather scarce this autumn with only one at RW on 16.09 and 16 there on 07.10.

Greenshank. Four were at RW(Lyndon) on 06.09 with a single there on 27.09.

Green Sandpiper. A good spread of records with up to five at RW in September and eight there on 07.10. One lingered at Leighfield Fishponds from 01.09 to 20.09 and there were two at FHP on 27.09.

Common Sandpiper. There were two at Leighfield Fishponds on 07.09 and one there on 25.09. One was at RW(Lyndon) on 06.09.

Grey Phalarope. Singles visited RW on 30.09 and 09.10.

Sabine's Gull. Three juveniles were at RW on 27/28.09 with two still present on 29.09.

Arctic Tern. About 10 were at RW from 27.09 to 01.10 with two still present on 16.10. There were two at FHP on 29.09.

Common Tern. A juvenile was at RW on 18.10.

Woodpigeon. About 260 passed south at Leighfield on 31.10.

Barn Owl. Well reported this autumn with birds seen in the Barrowden area, RW(Egleton), Horn Mill, Barnsdale/Whitwell, Wing and near Oakham. A dead bird was by the Uppingham bypass on 09.09. A chick, ringed at Exton in

July 2006, was found dead in May this year at Dunsby Fen Farm near Bourne.

Little Owl. Calling birds supplemented sight records with reports from Seaton (3), Wing, Barrowden/Wakerley Bridge (4), Normanton, FHP and Beaumont Chase.

Tawny Owl. A road casualty was by the A606 by Rushpit Wood on 12.09. Calling birds were noted at RW(Egleton), Clipsham Park Wood and Barrowden. One was at a nestbox in Tunneley Wood on 19.10.

Swift. A late bird was over Oakham on 23.09.

Kingfisher. One was at EBR on 09.09. One was at Ashfield, Oakham, on 05.10 and four were at RW on 07.10 with one at the dam there on 27.10.

Green Woodpecker. Reports were received from Burley and Clipsham Park Woods, FHP, Clipsham Quarries and Pickworth Wood.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. A family party fed at a garden peanut feeder during the first half of September at Tickencote. One visited an Ashfield, Oakham, garden on 08.10 and there were reports from Burley, Pickworth and Clipsham Park Woods and Exton Park.

Swallow. One remained in Barrowden until mid-Sept. Southerly passage was noted at FHP and EBR on 29/30.09. There were ten at Leighfield on 12.10 and one over Oakham on 16.10.

House Martin. Thirty were still at Barrowden on 22.09 with perhaps forty at Stoke Dry on 30.09. The last bird was one over Oakham on 11.10.

Yellow Wagtail. A mixed flock of wagtails near Stockerston on 09.09 contained c.25 Yellow Wagtails – they remained until 16.09. Two over Leighfield Fishponds on 22.09 and one at RW(Dam) the next day were the last birds.

Grey Wagtail. One was regular at FHP from 07.09 to the end of Oct. At Leighfield Fishponds two were present on 01.09, increasing to four on 27.09.

Whinchat. One was at Leighfield Fishponds between 15/22.09.

Stonechat. One was Gorsefield Wood on 25.09. October was an excellent month with up to five around the RW reserves, and one or two at Leighfield to at least 29th. The Gorsefield bird was seen again on 25.10.

Wheatear. One was near Leighfield Fishponds between 11/22.09. One was at RW(Dam) on 22.09 and one at EBR on 30.09. One near the Old Hall at RW on 12.10 was still present on 16.10.

Blackbird. C.32 were feeding on hawthorn berries at Gorsefield Wood on 24 and 26.10.

Fieldfare. Ten were at Leighfield on 02.10 and 67 flew west at RW(Dam) on 12.10. There was a heavy passage on 18.10 with c.200 near Bloody Oaks, 100 west over Stamford and c.100 at Wing. C.250 were in the Leighfield area on 29.10.

Song Thrush. There were c.10 at Leighfield on 22.09 and double that number there on 21.10.

Redwing. The first birds were about 7 at RW and Leighfield on 27.09. c.30 flew NE over Stamford on 28.09 and c.100 were at Wing on 18.10.

Mistle Thrush. Flocks of up to ten birds were noted at Wing and Normanton with 18 present at Leighfield on 18.10.

Sedge Warbler. One was at FHP on 15.09.

Reed Warbler. One was present at Leighfield Fishponds on 25.09.

Lesser Whitethroat. The last record was from Leighfield on 22.09.

Whitethroat. Last seen at Leighfield on 11.09.

Chiffchaff. Singing birds remained widespread during September and early October. Singles were noted near Brooke on 23 and 31.10.

Willow Warbler. The latest record was from Leighfield on 29.09.

Spotted Flycatcher. There were only three September records – Beaumont Chase Farm on 6th, Bloody Oaks Quarry the following day and Priors Coppice on 12th.

Willow Tit. Up to four were at Leighfield in both months and singles were at Gorsefield Wood on 16.10 and Priors Coppice on 19.10.

Nuthatch. Noted during both months, with most reports of calling birds at Priors Coppice, FHP, Tunneley Wood, Pickworth and Clipsham Park Woods and Leighfield Fishponds.

Jay. Very noisy birds were noted in Pickworth and Clipsham Park Woods from mid-Oct.

Raven. Up to three were in the Leighfield area between 11.09 and 16.10. One flew north over Cold Overton on 30.09 and two flew south over the RW(Dam) on 16.10.

Starling. A total of c.800 passed west at Leighfield on 31.10.

Tree Sparrow. Small numbers were noted at EBR and the Egleton Centre feeders and four fed on feeders at Normanton during both months.

Brambling. Up to four were noted over Leighfield on six dates between 29.09 and 31.10.

Goldfinch. Good numbers visited nyger feeders in two Oakham gardens with over forty at one on 24.09 and seventeen at the other 19.09.

Siskin. Small numbers passed over Leighfield in September and there were ten there on 29.10.

Linnet. About 30 were at EBR on 09.09.

Lesser Redpoll. Two or three were noted over Leighfield between 09.09 and 29.09. Eleven were there on 24.10 and twelve on 31.10.

Bullfinch. Records were received from Leighfield (14 on 18.09), Gorsefield Wood (18 on 25.10), Priors Coppice (16 on 04.09) and Clipsham Quarries (6 on 17.10)

National Waterfowl Counts September/October 2007

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir		Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park		Holywell Lake	
	16 Sept	7 Oct	16 Sept	7 Oct	15 Sept	6 Oct	16 Sept	6 Oct
Mute Swan	377	499	99	90	11	10	3	3
Pink-footed Goose								1
Greylag Goose	352	115	138	25		66	38	48
Canada Goose	540	496	42	566			128	60
Barnacle Goose	14	14						
Egyptian Goose	18	28						
Shelduck	1	5	2					
Mandarin		1						
Wigeon	162	1558	28	160	4	21	17	
Gadwall	565	983	15	54	53	54		26
Teal	561	1215	122	220	15	36	1	22
Mallard	1061	1089	162	230	82	210	112	116
Pintail	53	129	2	15	3	5		
Shoveler	495	620	31	79	10	49	1	5
Red-crested Pochard	8							
Pochard	8	150	66	32				
Tufted Duck	5134	4011	170	43	10	8	7	6
Scaup	1	1						
Common Scoter		1						
Goldeneye		12						
Goosander	3							
Ruddy Duck		2						
Little Grebe	59	67	11	19	2		2	5
Great Crested Grebe	404	441	30	41				
Red-necked Grebe		1						
Black-necked Grebe		2						
Cormorant	285	396	17	15		1		1
Little Egret	3	9						
Grey Heron	14	29	6	5	1			
Water Rail	1							
Moorhen	90	219	6	11	58	56	7	12
Coot	2167	3154	78	98	45	56	15	12
Kingfisher		4						
Lesser Scaup	1							
Shag	1							

BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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July-October 2007

July remained very wet, increasing grass growth and holding back many wild flowers. Some unusual sightings were made: **Nettle-leaved Bellflower** at Langham, **Corn Marigold** at Empingham Rd Ketton, and on the new graveyard on the west of Leicester Rd Uppingham, as a result of scraping off the grass cover on this site. This suggests that the land was cultivated before being put down to grass many years ago. One **Pyramidal Orchid** was found on Bloody Oaks Triangle, the first to be seen in over 20 years of close observation. Clive Jones reported that Gypsy Hollow had recovered after the extensive clean-up of the area occupied since 2005 by New Age Travellers, and good dense stands of **Greater Burnet-saxifrage** had returned.

August became much drier but only 24 reports were received. Two sightings of **Nettle-leaved Bellflower** were noted at Stoke Wood and near Woodhead on the Gt Casterton-Pickworth road. Ketton Quarry came up with a good show of

Autumn Gentian and **Carline Thistle** and also one plant of **Common Fleabane**.

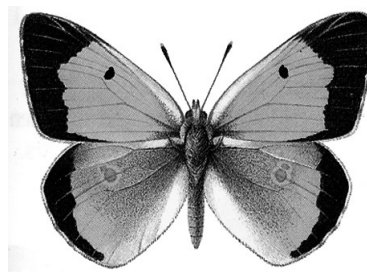
September remained very dry. The Society's visit to Burley-on-the-Hill Wood produced a few notables: *Lophocolea bidentata* – a liverwort – **Toad Rush** and **Common Cudweed**. Bloody Oaks Quarry did its usual good display of **Clustered Bellflower**, **Carline Thistle**, **Autumn Gentian**, **Yellow-wort**, **Deadly Nightshade** and large flowerings of **Eyebright**. **Orange Balsam** was recorded from the River Gwash at Little Casterton: this species is not recorded in *Flora of Rutland* by Guy Messenger.

October again was very dry but renewed flowerings of **Ox-eye Daisy** were recorded from an earth bank west of the Oakham bypass, at Manton on the A6006 and South Luffenham on the A6121; all appear to be on soil disturbed in the last two years. **Sowbread** was reported from Barrowden village green and a roadside in South Luffenham.

Thanks to: G Chiverton, R Lemmon, G Worrall, F Lee, D Lee, C Jones, P Tomalin, M Nourish, J Nourish, P Mann, B Pochin, K Potterton, L Worrall, B Parker, D Parker and P Ennis.

LEPIDOPTERA NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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September/October 2007

BUTTERFLIES

After the wettest summer on record, butterfly numbers have naturally been down generally in our part of the country but there have been some 'bright spots'!

I received a photograph of the one and only **Clouded Yellow**, to my knowledge, seen in our area this summer. It visited a garden in Oakham on September 5th and was seen resting there on plants for about 15 minutes before flying off.

Single **Brimstones** were noted at Brooke, Lyddington and on the Lyndon Reserve. **Large Whites** were seen at Lyddington and Edith Weston in September with a final sighting there on October 3rd. **Small Whites** remained on the wing in Lyddington until October 11th and at Barnsdale on the 12th. The only record received

for **Green-veined White** was from the Lyndon Reserve on October 5th.

Small Coppers were found in both September and October; singles were in Lyddington on two occasions and the last sighting came from Gorse Field Wood on October 20th. The last **Holly Blues** were observed on September 10th both at Edith Weston and Lyddington.

The **Red Admiral** would appear to have been the most well recorded species in this period but no large numbers were seen as in 2006. Records came from six areas during the two months and the largest totals this year were a group of 8 found in Leighfield on September 16th, and 8 and 11 respectively on the 10th and 11th at Lyddington. **Painted Ladies** were seen during the first half

of September, with final sightings at Leighfield Fishponds and Wing on the 16th. Last year they were seen until mid-October.

During September, **Small Tortoiseshells** visited gardens at Barnsdale and Edith Weston and numbers reached 7 on buddleia in a garden in Oakham and 11 in a Lyddington garden. Late single insects were seen in Clipsham Park Wood and Wing on October 28th. Five hibernating **Peacocks** were found in an old plastic waste bin left on the edge of Pickworth Great Wood in October. Single flying individuals were seen in Lyddington in both months.

September records for **Commas** came from Edith Weston, Ketton Quarry, Lyddington and Lyndon. On October 5th, 12 were found on blackberries at this latter site and the last record received was for one at Clipsham Park Wood on the 28th. Finally, **Speckled Woods** were found on both Rutland Water reserves, in Burley Wood and at Lyddington but in smaller numbers this year. Several were seen along the Oakham Canal and the last record for this species was from Prior's Coppice on October 18th.

MOTHS

This has been a very poor period compared to 2006, due again to the wet summer and very changeable temperatures. Many pupae may have been lost in the wet ground and it will be interesting to find out next season whether numbers can recover quickly or whether the climate will have had a longer lasting effect.

Garden species have been well down (e.g. 20% down at Barrowden against 2006) and numbers within each species very low in most cases too. Migrant species have also this year been either missing or in low numbers with few southerly winds.

Regular trapping has continued with the garden traps at Lyddington throughout the two months.

Two visits were made to Eyebrook Reservoir, one to Prior's Coppice and one to Stoke Dry Wood in September. Records have also been received for monthly evening visits to Lyndon Wood and twice-monthly visits to Barnsdale Gardens at Exton, also occasional garden trapping at Edith Weston. Whilst all of these results have been very variable, there has been a good selection of autumn species caught.

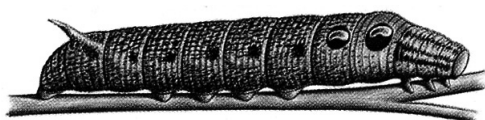
An **Elephant Hawkmoth** caterpillar was found in a garden at Manton in early September.

Silver Y moths were seen at Leighfield and Prior's Coppice and male **Vapourers** were observed in Edith Weston on several occasions during the two months.

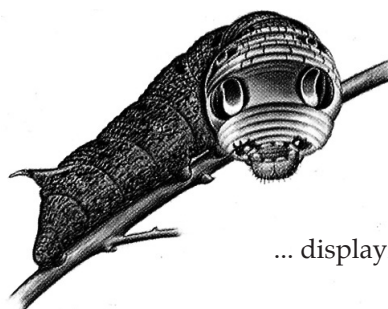
In the last Notes, I reported on the spread of the **Horse Chestnut Leaf Miners**. During October, a very extensive survey has been undertaken. Mines have been found in the leaves of Horse Chestnut trees in Oakham, Uppingham and no less than 28 villages throughout Rutland. A further 8 villages were visited but no evidence was found, either because of access difficulties, or the infestation was not visible. This must have been a very time-consuming study and I am sure that members will be interested to hear of these results.

A lepidopterist from Bedfordshire visited Barnsdale Gardens on October 12th to look for the evidence of other leaf miner moths.. He identified numerous mines produced by various species, which will be listed in the Annual Report. There were two types on Cherry, four on Hawthorn, one on Pyracantha, one on Whitebeam, five on Hazel, four on Beech, three on Apple, one on Acer, two on Blackthorn, one on Bramble, one on Rose and one on Birch. (There were also mines caused by flies on Holly and Dogwood.) At Edith Weston on Apple, Cherry and Pyracantha, three types produced by other moth species were found. We are very grateful to receive these records for the Society.

Many thanks to the following for their contributions: V Arnold, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, R Follows, C H Gallimore, A L Lawrence, D & F Lee, R Lemmon, D Manning, D Masters, A Russell and P Scott



Elephant Hawkmoth caterpillar ...



... displaying

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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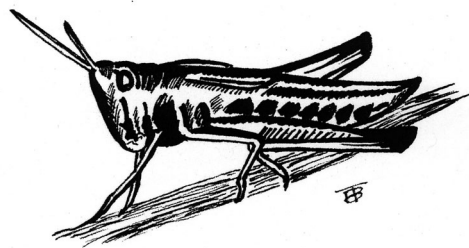
September/October 2007

This period under review turned out very exciting indeed. There are more new squares for Long-winged Conehead and Speckled Bush Cricket, also a new site record for Roesel's Bush Cricket, after grass mowing at a reserve. The undoubted highlight of September! Read on:

On a society field meeting in July, at Old Sulehay, we were discussing the spread of the Long-winged Coneheads and Roesel's Bush Crickets over the whole country. I was asked what species of the orthoptera I thought would be the next to appear in Rutland. My reply was that I will be on the lookout for the Great Green Bush Cricket, *Tettigonia viridissima*, and the Short-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus dorsalis*, in about two years time.

Therefore, it was with great delight (and surprise), that the following took place.

On Thursday morning 13th September, I took my son's dog to the Kennels at Hambleton for his 3-monthly cut and shampoo. The temperature was 22 °C, dry and warm, 3/8 cloud. At 9.35 am I cruised steadily down the hill on the Hambleton Peninsular Road, holding the bat detector out of the car window (no one behind). The verge on the right (north-east side) consisted of tall dying Rosebay Willow Herb and long grasses. The detector picked up Long-winged Conehead and Roesel's Bush Cricket songs. I had just passed the fisherman's entrance to south arm 111. Parking back at the entrance and walking the verge opposite, I listened with pleasure to these two, knowing this was more expansion. 60 yards from the car, I suddenly stopped in my tracks. The adrenalin began to pump! This was a new stridulation, the challenge I had been waiting for. The song was a chuffing noise, similar to the Long-winged Conehead, but (and here is the critical identification point) the phrases ending and winding down with a ticking noise, described as a fishing reel, or the old knife-grinders wheel. This was the stridulation of the Short-winged Conehead, wonderful!



Members will remember when we were attending field meetings, the exciting moments when we separated the songs of Blackcap/Garden Warbler, or the drumming of the Great Spotted and the Lesser Spotted Woodpeckers. This was just the same!

To distinguish between the two coneheads: the stridulation is the key to identification. The next step was to capture and photograph the Short-winged Coneheads. And to put the finishing touch, to catch a female – caught by Francis Chiverton. In female Coneheads, there is a difference in the shape of their ovipositors. The Long-winged Conehead female's ovipositor is almost straight. The Short-winged Conehead female's is up-curved. This is an ideal way to identify the species when they are silent, and you have observed them. Gill and Francis Chiverton and myself visited the site on 17th September, and they were very intent on listening to the new sound. Digital photographs were taken of the location, which many members will know, as it is just off the bottom of Hambleton Peninsular Road hill. My daughter and I were there on 15th September, when I linked up the Bat Detector to my recorder, and captured the stridulation.

I have received no records for Short-winged Conehead; therefore, this is the first record for Rutland. I wonder what the future will hold for this lovely green cricket. Will its range expand, and how far around is the new population?

I sent the evidence to Dr Peter Sutton, the head of the National Orthoptera Recording Scheme. And I am delighted to report that Dr Sutton has published this find in the current edition of *British Wildlife*, October 2007, page 54, and has given Rutland full credit.

As the end of the orthoptera season draws to a close, it is an opportune time to thank my small but growing army of recorders. My thanks to Tim Caldicott and Derek Lee for the super digital photographs which, added to my own, have built up a visual record of Rutland orthoptera. Thanks to all contributors: V Arnold, T Caldicott, F & G Chiverton, D Hall, J Harris, F & D Lee, P Rudkin, P Tomalin.

Dark Bush Cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoptera*
Stridulating heard in rank vegetation, at side of lane past wood. Fox Covert Wood Lane, Barrowden, 12 Sept.

Stridulations heard, Clipsham Park Wood. One male caught, at top of Yew Tree Avenue. The two latter sightings, during Society field meeting at Clipsham Park Woods, 21 Oct.

Roesel's Bush Cricket, *Metrioptera roeselii*

On the 7th and 12th September, good numbers heard stridulating in the Leighfield area, including Shorne Hill and crossroads, and on either side of verges at Brooke Hill. Stridulating heard in rank vegetation, at side of lane, past wood, Fox Covert Wood Lane, 12 Sept. Heard in margins of field, at Little Casterton, 16 Sept.

During grass cutting at Merry's Meadows nature reserve, Greetham, on 2 Oct, the Leics & Rutland Wildlife Trust volunteers observed a male crawling out of the cut grass – he was moved to safety. Later, a female was found in long grasses nearby. This is a new square, and site record.

Many males heard stridulating in rough herbage, on Glaston Road, Wing Burrows, and nearby, good-sized numbers were also located, on 4th Oct. This is a wonderful expansion from the large colonies at the nearby Wing Fishing Lakes.

On 7th Oct, although 12 °C, and overcast but dry, numbers on the Egleton reserve were very vocal and further spread of the colonies noted. The stridulations are now slower in delivery at this stage of the season, and with low temperatures. However, this has no effect on the females' responses.

Long-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus discolor*

Four stridulating males, in verge on Hambleton Peninsular Road, in dying Rosebay Willow Herb and long grasses, 13th Sept. Brief song in same location, 17th Sept. Numbers spreading out from the nearby Wing Fishing Lakes, into Wing Burrows, 4th Oct. Stridulating still ongoing, at Wing Fishing Lakes, 11th Oct. Numbers maintained and spreading on Egleton reserve, 7th Oct. Stridulations slower now, as with above comments on Roesel's Bush Cricket.

Short-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus dorsalis*

New arrival, first record for Rutland, 13th Sept. Two males stridulating, and another two a further 10 yards on, in verge containing dying Rosebay Willow Herb, and tall grasses. Hambleton Peninsular road, bottom of Hambleton Hill, 9.35 am. Visits on 15th and 17th. Three males and one female caught, photographed and released. Sound recording via Bat Detector taken. Site

photographed. Further visits 30th Sept, and 7th Oct. Still stridulating. The National Orthoptera Recording Scheme has accepted the record for Rutland.

Speckled Bush Cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima*

Good widespread reports of this abundant species! Two, enjoying the sun, on bramble leaves. Prior's Coppice, 4th Sept. A new square, and a large colony located, as three members finished their work with the Short-winged Conehead on 17th Sept.

Walking along the verge, on the Hambleton Peninsular road, many in Ash. Then, along the fisherman's track, good numbers in Hawthorn and Blackthorn. All picked up on the bat detector, at 35 kHz. One found in Stone House Way, Bisbrooke, on 21 Sept. One, resting on Bay Tree leaves in garden, of Main Street, Lyddington, on 23 Sept. Large colonies, stridulating males heard in trees, along rides, compartments 15 and 25, at 11.0 am during the Society's field meeting at Burley Woods, 30 Sept. Further new square, with four new small colonies, in trees, behind the Yews, along Yew Tree Avenue, Clipsham. 28th Oct. 12.15 pm. Cloudy and windy, 16 °C. One male, sunning itself, on Laurel leaf, Leighfield area, 23 Oct.

Finally, one found inside conservatory, 9 Main Street, Lyddington, 29 Oct.

Slender Groundhopper, *Tetrix subulata*

One resting by Leighfield Fishponds, 1st Sept. Six, observed on burnt ground, Prior's Coppice nature reserve, 4th and 12th September.

Field Grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus*

One found and identified near the Eight Riding Tree, 12.30 pm. Compartment 29, during the society's field meeting at Burley Woods, 30 Sept.

Meadow Grasshopper, *Chorthippus parallelus*

One, found at Rutland Water, Edithweston end, 11 Sept.

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Two, stridulating males, in grassy rides, Prior's Coppice, 12 Sept. Six, seen in grass, at edge of Leighfield Fishponds, 22 Sept.

DISCUSSION: This has been a season full of interest. There have been a good number of the macropterous forms of Roesel's Bush Crickets and Long-winged Coneheads, from Rutland and further afield, as mentioned in previous *Fieldfares*. An interesting feature of the songs of these long-winged forms is that the male's stridulating does not alter the frequency of the sound. The expansion of these species into Leicestershire,

Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire is also very exciting.

Dr Peter Sutton (*British Wildlife*, October edition, page 54) raises an interesting point regarding the question of sympatric species competing when their ranges overlap, as a result of range expansion. *'Will a competitive edge displayed by one species result in the eventual displacement of*

the other?' We will have to wait and watch the situation in Rutland, hoping that the Short-winged Conehead will expand and spread as rapidly as its close relation the Long-winged Conehead has. What will the future hold?

Next year, will the Great Green Bush Cricket arrive? After all, it is on the doorstep!

GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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July-October 2007

Sorry notes are a *Fieldfare* late. Very wet and windy weather in this year's mating season caused problems even for our stalwart hunters, but more for the g-ws. Adult males, newly emerged from their pupae and unable to eat, conserve their strength to hunt for glowing females, so usually fly in calm fair weather. Did we have many warm, dry nights? Certainly not. So males may well have stayed put till their reserves ran out and they died. Meanwhile, emerging females, also without mouthparts, just move up and down a stalk, conserving their energy to lay eggs when mated. They glow whatever the weather, though usually stay low down when it rains. Adult males and females can only survive a fortnight before they die. To make it worse, larvae about to pupate leave their foraging areas and move to open places ready to display, but where they would be more exposed. Perhaps those in woodland would be better placed, one thinks, but they often display on the edges of windy rides where males wouldn't want to fly! We can only hope that a few males felt super energetic, and there were still some of both sexes hanging on later than usual, even into August when the weather did improve, and that they found each other.

John Tyler, author of *The Glow-worm* book (ask me if you want to borrow one of the Society's copies), tells me he has had reports from many places this torrential year of enormously increased numbers of glows – e.g. 500 counted in a smallish area which would usually have 50. Unfortunately, and most ironically, just when you think the species might be making a bit of a comeback, what this actually means, apart from the amazement and delight of people who don't realise what's going on, is that few eggs will have been laid. It will

take 2 years for any larvae which hatch to come to maturity, so 2009 will be a year to count glows with fingers firmly crossed, though please do still try to shine a torch briefly on a glow to see if there's a male with her; you're unlikely to see him otherwise. It might be expected that the one-year old larvae from eggs laid in 2006 could have done well eating the profusion of snails in this year's rain, but we won't know the result till they pupate in summer 2008. This overlapping two-year strategy has obviously served the species well over its millions of years, and 'boom and bust' years certainly occur. It can take years for them to build up numbers again, and if two successive years of unsuitable weather happen, the situation would be dire for our already small, fragmented and widely separated colonies. G-ws are understood, however, sometimes to live from egg to adult for three years rather than two, which might help some survival.

Another interesting research finding is that larvae 'flicker' as they hunt for snails or damaged worms to eat, best visible to us on dark nights in spring and from late August to October, after which they hibernate under stones, hedges, down wormholes, etc. Some of you have said you've seen tiny flashing lights crossing roads or tracks well outside the glowing season. Larvae were known to pulsate like a lighthouse in this way when confronted by predators; it seems to convey a 'keep off, I taste bad' warning, and g-ws are usually not eaten except by the odd frog, toad or hedgehog. But now they have been observed flickering at night when on the move even if no predator is around. Larvae have proved extraordinarily difficult to locate, as we know, but this research offers a different chance of detecting some. They can travel 5 m an hour and



climb 1.5m, are likely to be around spots where glows have been seen, but, most importantly, also some distance away too. John Tyler also reports a useful way to prospect for larvae in daylight is to scatter lots of smallish flat squares of wood over the suspected area and regularly look beneath to see if larvae are using them for rest or shelter. The chances of locating all the larvae in any area by any means is remote, but knowing something of the extent of their travels would be interesting and could help people avoid destroying the larvae upon which glows depend.

South Luffenham: End 6/early 7: 2 on 3 occasions, just north west of the level crossing where reported in the July *Fieldfare*.

Luffenham Heath Golf Course: June: 1.

Burley Wood: 17.7: 10.25 pm, 1 in Compartment 20; 10.40 pm, 1 under deer hide C21; 10.45 pm, 1 in C25.

Clipsham Quarry: 24.7: 8 in area of office and weighbridge. Too slippery in heavy rain to climb usual banks in the dark!

Pickworth Great Wood/Holywell Wood: 11.7: No Rutland glows in usual place; 2 just in Lincolnshire.

Essendine, Verge 5 and main line cutting top: 7.7: 11 glows on verge against cutting top, 3 just inside verge fence wire in grass and 6 visible elsewhere on the cutting top; 2 on verge opposite. 14.7: 58 very bright glows within the overgrown grassy cutting top area between the village and the small bridge over the railway, 15 on the adjacent verge and some more on the actual embankment, which it was not feasible to count. 19.8: 5 glows in grassy area. This is the first year for more than a decade in which John Copeland has not been able to report nightly sightings, and all thanks to G and F Chiverton for these reports. The 14.7 count is considerably higher than usual, and by 19.8 there are usually no glows left; looks like the 'open area wind and rain' effect mentioned above?

Barrowden Verge 3, Luffenham Road (The Drift): 4.7: 4 together on west verge, 1 on east, all in usual place just above village sign. 11.7: as 4.7. 18.7: 5 on west, i.e. 2 half way back on verge, 3 on front edge. 20.7: Front swathe cut by Highways in error; apologised when contacted, particularly regarding the 3 on the front edge two days earlier. No further sightings, unsurprisingly. Counts on both sides of the road are low compared with many other years. Luffenham Road is rather 'sunken' and marked on old maps as 'ancient road', which would account for g-ws clinging

to verges which still hold remnants of ancient grassland, the rest of which all over the hillside is now intensively ploughed with just small grass strips left behind the hedges. Verges 3 and 17 were once part of a much larger colony, but g-ws on and behind them are now too far apart to meet.

Barrowden Verge 17, Back Road: 4.7: In a brief gap between downpours, a Consultant Entomologist carried out a survey for glows on behalf of the developer, but after the granting of planning permission for affordable houses behind the eastern 50 m of the north verge. 10 were under hedge on north and between hedge and road, 2 opposite field entrance on south; in the field itself 4 behind the verge hedge on grass strip and 24 along thick hedge with ditch and wide grass strip which runs north from the verge towards the A47. This hedge and ditch is an ancient landscape feature on early 19th century pre-enclosure maps, and the designated verges along Back Rd appear remnants of former 'closes' near a farm, probably for horses. At enclosure around 1890 a track across them became Back Road. G-ws appear to be clinging on around these still extant old features as an ultimate refuge ('last ditch' indeed), with larvae likely to forage into the field when crops are young or even hibernate there. 6.7: Field entrance and part of north verge rough cut, not by Highways. 7.7: 8 villagers helped count: 1 on south opposite field entrance by big hedge, 7 under hedgerow on north, 4 between hedgerow and road, 2 in field entrance but we did not trespass up the thick hedge. Females of various size, no males. 18.7: Nil, but reports of some in past days. 19.7: Wildlife Site marker posts on north reinstated by Highways after they had long been reported missing. 4.8: 'Tens' reported on north during rape harvest by villager and visitor; weather improved. None subsequently seen; hopefully some did meet their mates. Even without those along the thick hedge up the field, which is a real find as we had previously only seen glows near it just inside the field entrance, this year's numbers are unusually high. This suggests males not flying in bad weather, females hanging on and potential larval shortage next year. Sept/Oct The Consultant Entomologist was further asked to carry out larval survey and removal, which he felt would be time-consuming, difficult and futile. A survey along the lines noted above might have helped locate them, however, but by mid-October they become less active and begin hibernation, so it's now too late for this year. Your Society continues to be involved with the matter.

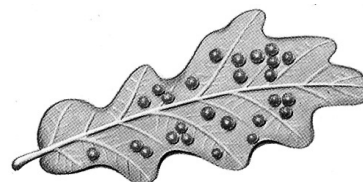
Reports from other areas: Old Sulehay,
Northants: June: Some glows at moth trapping;
A43 layby near Wakerley lane: Early 7: 30,

another unusually high number in a rather exposed place.

Thanks: M Branstons, G & F Chiverton, A Clark, J Harris, P Kirby, A Last, B & D Parker, P J Rudkin, P Scott, J Tyler, L & G Worrall and some Barrowden villagers.

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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September 2007

This month produced a total of 25 records, 7 of which were rusts, and it also showed a late flourishing of galls on Oak. From Leighfield Fishponds came records of Silk Button Spangle and Marble galls, common Spangle galls were reported from Priors Coppice and the Society's visit to Burley Wood gave us a Knopper gall.

From Leighfield Fishponds on 11th and Priors Coppice on 12th came reports of a gall on Creeping thistle in which there is thickening of the stem caused by a gall fly and which appears to be a new record for the County. Also on 12th many stinging nettles were seen with leaf galls beside Fox Covert Wood.

Bloody Oaks Quarry on 20th produced 4 records of different galls, 3 of them run of the mill but one, on Sowthistle, was last seen there in 2003, the only other record for the County. It is one of the more obvious galls, consisting of paleish domes on the upper leaf surface surrounded by a bright purple border, really quite colourful.

Galls were also reported on Ash, Field Maple, Marjoram, Meadowsweet, Spindle and Sycamore, mostly being repeats of galls reported earlier in the year, nevertheless well worth having.

October 2007

This month 20 reports were received, inevitably there will be a decrease as the growing season comes to a close and leaves fall.

Barnsdale Wood on 4th yielded 9 of these, on Enchanters Nightshade, Germander Speedwell, Oak, Alder, Ground Ivy, Male Fern, Meadowsweet and Elm. Many of these are commonly found but 2, on Elm and Ground Ivy, are worthy of a little

comment. We tend to disregard Elm, I suppose we have the occurrence of Dutch Elm disease at the back of our minds and therefore we assume that the tree has disappeared. In fact it is still there, many hedgerows have young plants and there are a few relatively mature trees that have either missed the infection or have matured since. In Barnsdale Wood some Elms are heavily infested with a gall mite and the leaves of those trees have huge numbers of galls on them. The gall on Ground Ivy is called the Lighthouse gall because of its shape. I have to admit that at 4–5 mm tall it isn't going to be much use to the Rutland Belle but nevertheless it is worth a mention.

Hambleton Wood on 11th produced 6 galls, among them a couple which consist of brownish hairy patches technically called an Erineum, on the underside of the leaf. These were on Crab Apple and Hawthorn and are caused by gall mites of the genus Phyllocoptes.

Priors Coppice had just 2 galls on the 18th, the Mop Head gall on Male Fern and a smut, *Entyloma microsporum*, on Creeping Buttercup. This smut is a late developer and although the galls were quite obvious they were intact, later as the spores ripen they burst and the leaves are covered by a black powder.

Finally the RNHS visit to Clipsham Park Wood on 21st resulted in only 2 galls, one on Meadowsweet and the other on Wych Elm. The latter, caused by a fly, appears to be a new record.

The 'close season' for galls is approaching but there will always be those that persist despite the leaf fall and I would be happy to have any reports you can send me.

Thanks to T Caldicott, G Chiverton, R Lemmon

INSECTS AND OTHERS

compiled by Gill Chiverton

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SEPTEMBER 2007

Dragonflies and damselflies were still very much in evidence in September as our records show. Records came in of good numbers of **Migrant Hawkers** and **Ruddy Darters** at the Oakham Canal, and also seen were **Common Blue Damselflies** and **Banded Demoiselle** (a photo that came in with this record showed the really stunning colour). A **Red-eyed Damselfly** was recorded at Leighfield Fishponds (first one for our records this year), also seen at Leighfield were **Emerald Damselfly** and a late-flying **Azure Damselfly**. **Common Darters** were seen at Lyndon reserve and Burley Wood and also approx. 20 were recorded from Priors Coppice. **Migrant Hawkers** were also seen at Lyndon reserve. A female **Brown Hawker** was on the wing at Ketton Quarry.

Five different ladybird species were recorded this month. A **Harlequin** was seen in Uppingham and also **harlequin pupae** were found at Edith Weston.

(Some examples of Harlequins are shown on the right. The ground colour and pattern are highly variable – the ones here are yellow, yellow, black, black with red, black with red, black with orange, black with orange. Harlequins, at about 7-8 mm across, are larger than our native ladybirds. See www.harlequin-survey.org for more information.)

22-spots were seen twice in the month at Leighfield Fishponds. **Orange** were recorded at Leighfield Fishponds and Edith Weston. Also at Edith Weston were **7-spot** and **2-spot**.

Other beetle records were as follows:

A **Knotgrass Leaf Beetle** was seen on water mint at Leighfield Fishponds; at Edith Weston village a **Devil's Coachhorse** and a **Green Shield bug** were noted, and also at Edith Weston a burying beetle *Nicrophorus vespillo*.

Two **Crane-fly** species were recorded – *Tipula maxima* at Prior's Coppice and *Tipula vittata* (a small version of *Tipula maxima*) at Leighfield Fishponds. Two species of **Hoverfly** were seen – *Xylota segnis* at Edith Weston and *Myathropa*

florae was feeding on hedge parsley at Barnsdale Lodge Wood. A **Scorpion Fly** was recorded at Lyndon Wood.

An active nest of **Common Wasps** was seen in the ground at Barnsdale Lodge Wood. A **Hornet** was seen in Burley Wood. An **Ichneumon Wasp** *Ophion luteus* was recorded at Leighfield Fishponds (a note on the record card that 'it stings' left me wondering whether the recorder had personally experienced this!).

In the 'others' section some interesting snails, one slug and a spider. A **Tiger Slug** *Limax maximus* was seen at Ketton Quarry. Three species of snail were seen at Ketton Quarry – a **Hairy Snail** *Trichia striolata*, a **Plaited Door Snail** *Cochlodina laminata*, and *Helicigona lapicida* which has a flattened shell. At Barnsdale Lodge Wood there was a record of a snail with a pale yellowish coloured shell *Oxychilus drapardaudi* and at Bloody Oaks Quarry a snail with a 'gingerish' coloured shell *Candidula intersecta*.

Lastly the observation of a 'very large spider' (an *Araneus quadratus*) 'wrapping-up' a big flesh-fly and 'dragging it back to her lair'.

OCTOBER 2007

October was certainly the month when people started noticing the **Harlequin** ladybird. As well as numbers of records I also had some telephone queries about the insect. Single Harlequin ladybirds were recorded at Ketton High Street, Exton Church and at Lyddington where one was attracted to a moth-trapping light. Two Harlequin ladybirds were seen at Barnsdale Gardens and twenty were enjoying the sunshine on a wall at North Luffenham Church. Thirty-five Harlequin ladybirds were observed on a south-facing garden wall in Edith Weston and continued to be seen in small numbers on sunny days for the rest of the month. Approximately 100 Harlequin ladybirds were observed on the white-coloured south facing wall of a house in Empingham – this number was made up of two of the most common forms, orange with 15-20 black spots and black with two or four red spots.

Other ladybirds were also recorded over the month. These were **2-spot** at Barnsdale Wood, **Pine** at Barnsdale Gardens and singles of **Orange** seen twice in the month at Leighfield Fishponds.



A **Lesser Stag Beetle** was recorded at Rutland Water, Egleton. Another **Lesser Stag Beetle** was also seen at Edith Weston, as was a brightly-coloured beetle *Thanasimus formicarius*. Recorded too in Edith Weston was a burying beetle *Nicrophorus humator*. Also received for this month was a photograph of a **Black-and-yellow Longhorn Beetle** *Rutpela maculata* (even the long antennae are striped black and yellow). Lastly a note that the **Bloody-nosed beetles** in the paddock near Braunston are still very busy.

Shieldbugs were more in evidence this month. The 5th instar nymph of a **Parent Shieldbug** was seen at Barnsdale Wood. Two **Hawthorn Shieldbugs** were recorded at Barnsdale Gardens and also one **Green Shieldbug** was recorded there. A 2nd instar of a **Hawthorn Shieldbug** was found at North Luffenham. A **Forest or Red-legged Shieldbug** was found in Barrowden. The Latin for this insect is *Pentatoma rufipes* (*rufipes* red-footed) and our observer noted that it had 'lovely tawny legs and feet in particular'. A **Forest Shieldbug** was also seen on the RNHS visit to Clipsham Park Wood.

A **Common Wasp** was recorded at Priors Coppice and a **Hornet** at Clipsham Park Wood. A **Plant**

Bug *Notostira elongata* was recorded at Leighfield Fishponds.

Dragonfly records were fewer. A **Southern Hawker** and a **Migrant Hawker** were recorded at Leighfield Fishponds. Again at Leighfield Fishponds, 15 **Common Darters** were recorded on one occasion and later in the month 3 were recorded in the same area. One **Common Darter** was seen at Priors Coppice enjoying a sunny day and one was recorded at Barnsdale Gardens.

Under the heading of 'others' evidence of **Brown-lipped snails** in the form of empty shells was seen on the RNHS visit to Clipsham Park Wood. A **Common Shiny Woodlouse** *Oniscus asellus* was recorded on decaying wood at Priors Coppice.

Also under the heading of 'others' it's very interesting to be able to record a **Fossil Sponge**. This was found in a piece of flint by one of our members during an organised walk at Tunnely Wood. It has been identified by the Leicester Museums' Service as possibly *Rhizopoterion cribosum*. It had been quietly waiting there for 90 – 70M years to be recorded by the RNHS. See page 1 top right!

My thanks to all recorders: V Arnold, T Caldicott, F Chiverton, G Chiverton, M Grebby, C R Jones, A Lambert, F & D Lee, R Lemmon, G Panter, P Scott, M Tyler and D Whitefield.

It has been lovely to get photographs of some of the insects (and others) and makes all the record keeping much more interesting. So photos are always welcome and also any natural history record that doesn't seem to fit anywhere can always add a bit of excitement to the 'others' section.

MYCOLOGY NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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July-October 2007

Apologies for the lack of full Notes since the July *Fieldfare*; broken elbow and backlog occurred. Your sightings will go into the next *Annual Report*.

In the 2006 *Annual Report* you have just received, on page 63 in the Mycology section, under *Mitrophora semilibera* please cross out the final entry '?/10 Armley Wd'. If this little semi-free morel really had fruited in Autumn instead of Spring it would have been a notable event for the fungus world, and fungi can certainly surprise us. However, re-checking revealed it was not to be, but I was too late to alter the entry.

Extraordinary downpours continued into July,

then it was often dry and not particularly warm, with plenty of rusts and mildews noted by RL but hardly a gill fungus in sight.

There were rumours of yellow waxcaps *Hygrocybe langei* in Bloody Oaks Quarry early in July, but despite a number of subsequent visits none were seen. On 1st July Ketton Quarry valley had 8 *H. langei* and 2 Blackening Waxcaps, with the associated and charmingly named Mousepee Pinkgill *Entoloma incanum*. In Addah Wood on the Society's visit in October there were some small red waxcaps in a clearing which may previously have been a ride, and although Golden Spindles



were in Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue at the end of the morning, waxcaps were not noted.

You'd think boletes might have fruited early, and in July CRJ had his usual 'great going-over pong' in his garden, but none appeared under the Barrowden Oak in summer or autumn nor were any spotted in Burley Wood on the Society's visit in late September.

Lawyers' Wigs have been scarce, though PE found 40+ erupting under swathes of cut grass on the verges of the track to Addah Wood on the Society's visit; he'd found them there before and knew where to look! Some 20 macro species (not including rusts, etc.) were noted on the visit, including Earth Stars beneath the Yews (see page 17 for a photo of one of them); nice finds, but this

is a relatively low count for the area. Numbers were similar on the Burley Wood visit too, another usually 'fruitful' area.

The Giant Polypore around a Beech at Wing had two large clumps in early October. Jelly Ears would suddenly erupt in a rainy spell, then quickly dry up, and the alga *Nostoc* was occasionally seen on wet stony ground but not in some usual haunts. Our log pile has been almost completely bare except for an odd Firerug.

Presumably very heavy summer rain and autumn dryness is implicated in the lack of fruiting. In some years we have good sightings in November after rains, so please look where you can and send reports, though the way this year is behaving frosts will probably see them off!

*Many thanks indeed to everyone who has sent sightings, and I regret not having been able to do them justice:
T Caldicott, H & P Ellis, C R Jones, R Lemmon, R Iliffe, G & L Worrall*

MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

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September/October 2007

We begin with good news - the **Otter** has again visited the lakes at Fort Henry, and left spraint on the stone under the bridge in early September, so they are still around.

We have had three reports of **Badger** road casualties, and much activity at setts in the area but no live badgers seen this month. **Stoats** are still very often seen, one dodging around piles of stones from building work on Dr Gallimore's house in early September. Later that month a stoat was observed as it struggled to carry a dead rabbit across the grass verge and into a field along the Cottesmore to Market Overton road, and in October another was seen at the Lyndon visitor centre. It crept out of undergrowth surrounding the pond near feeders, and stood up facing the centre window, much to the delight of visitors, staying for a little while before darting away. Another was clearly seen in the open near gorse in Gorsefield Wood later in the month.

There have been fewer reports of **foxes**, a total of 4 seen, three seen separately in Burley Wood, one a cub, and one in Morkery Wood (Lincolnshire). A young **hare** was in the Seaton Road Barrowden, in early September, where 7 were observed in a stubble field along the Tixover footpath. Two were



observed on the Walk Farm track off Pickworth road, and 2 beautiful hares, probably young ones, sat up in the ride of the plantation near the Trout Farm at Fort Henry. During October, in a bean field, a hare was seen, and towards the end of the month another four were seen in the same field.

Grey squirrels have had a very successful year, and the Tickencote road alongside the A1 has a resident group that seem to be always around, in spite of regular road casualties that would be expected to reduce their numbers! They have also been seen close to the Lyndon Centre at Rutland Water, in the spinney at the junction of Ashwell and Market Overton roads at Cottesmore, in Pickworth Wood and in Dawn's Paddock, eating peanuts put out for birds. **Brown rats** have also been seen there, coming out of the bank of the stream, and from badger setts. At Leighfield Fishponds a rat was seen under a crab apple tree, and at Clipsham Park Wood a recently dead rat was found beheaded by the RNHS group visit. **Rabbits** are reported from Bloody Oaks Quarry and Hambleton Woods, and myxomatosis-affected rabbits have been seen at Morcott, and Walk Farm near Pickworth.

In Dormouse nest boxes at Tunnely Wood wrens have built nests, and two of these were homes to single **Pygmy Shrews** when inspected at the end of October! A **Wood Mouse** carried out a peanut raid on nuts put out for a Robin at Redland Close Barrowden. **Hedgehogs** have not been seen there recently, but one was reportedly seen in the village in early October. At Oakham Mrs Hutton has regularly seen one or more hedgehogs in her garden taking food put out for them throughout September, and one was reported from Lyddington in early October.

Moles have been active in spite of the dry autumn, and fresh workings have been seen at

Barnsdale, Priors Coppice, Clipsham Park Wood, and between Fort Henry and the Trout Farm. At Dawn's Paddock, 61 molehills appeared over a couple of nights in mid-October!

A **Roe Deer** was seen as it ran across a grass field and into Stoke Wood near Stockerston. Many **Fallow Deer** have again been seen in woods locally, including bucks and fawns, and large groups of up to 20 at one time. A fawn was also seen at Luffenham Heath Golf Club. **Muntjak** have also been reported from Burley, Pickworth, Morkery (Lincolnshire) and also from Clipsham Park Wood and Quarry, and Dawn's Paddock.

Many thanks to all recorders for sending in information promptly: J Ansley, A J Biddle, M Branston, T Caldicott, Dr Gallimore, J & R Hutton, M & S Iannantuoni, F & D Lee, R Lemmon, B Lynch, T Mitcham, J & M Nourish, G Panter, K Potterton, P J Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, D Whitefield, L & G Worrall

BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

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My apologies, due to technical difficulties there is no bat report this time; please keep sending in your records.



BOOKS FOR CHRISTMAS

This is a small selection of books – and one journal – which I hope may be of interest either as gifts or in answer to that seasonal question 'What would you like for Christmas?'

The Heritage of Rutland Water (launched on November 25), compiled and edited by Robert Ovens and Sheila Sleath, and with contributions from RNHS members, amongst others, is a must. The leaflet enclosed with the *Annual Report* has a summary of the contents and an order form (with a special RNHS member's price of £18 instead of £20), but just in case you can't lay your hands on it, call at the Rutland County Museum, phone the Museum at 01572 758 440, or write to:

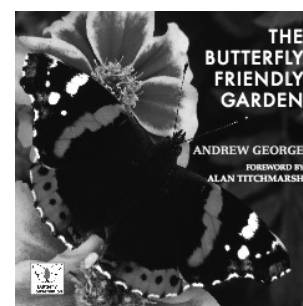
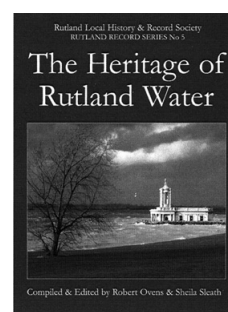
The Honorary Editor, RLHRS, Rutland County Museum, Catmose Street, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6HW

The Butterfly Friendly Garden, by Andrew George, published in association with Butterfly Conservation, is a glorious gardening book with butterflies and moths in mind – and there is a special offer until the end of January 2008 to RNHS members (£15 instead of £20).

Send a cheque for £17.50 to include P&P, made out to Alphabet & Image Publishers, quoting Fieldfare special offer, at Alphabet & Image Publishers, 77 High Street, Totnes, Devon TQ9 5PB

or phone 01803 866 946 with credit card details.

(Website: www.alphabetandimage.com)



Order online at www.britishwildlife.com or write to Subscriptions department, British Wildlife Publishing, The Old Dairy, Milton on Stour, Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5PX.

So here are the details of these three books.

Wildwood: a journey through trees, by Roger Deakin (author of *Waterlog*). A fascinating book, starting and ending in East Anglia, and exploring more aspects of wood and woodlands than you would believe possible – I particularly enjoyed the accounts of the wild fruit forests of Kazakhstan and the walnut forests of Kyrgyzstan. (Hamish Hamilton 2007, ISBN 9780241 14187 7). £20.

And finally, an outstanding book I would add to the list above, from a Cambridge author who was a close friend and sometime travelling companion of Roger Deakin of *Wildwood* fame. It explores and develops the idea of 'wild places' in the British Isles, from northern Scotland and the Burren to holloways in Dorset and the mudflats of Essex.

The Wild Places, by Robert Macfarlane. (Granta 2007, ISBN 978186 207941 0). £18.99.

