



Fieldfare

CONTENTS

Noticeboard	1	Orthoptera report	9
RNHS and other events	2	Glow-worm notes	11
Weather summary	3	Plant galls report	12
Amphibian and reptile report	4	Insects and others	12
Bird report	5	Mycology notes	13
Botany notes	7	Mammal report	14
Lepidoptera notes	7	Bat report	15

NOTICEBOARD

Membership Card with Winter Programme

Your Membership Card comes with this *Fieldfare*, one for each member. Please sign it straight away (juniors should sign the card/s of their parent/s) and **always carry it if you visit Eyebrook or Burley Wood and take it with you when buying or ordering books from Uppingham Sports & Books**. Please destroy your old card.

In March you will receive another card with the Summer programme through to next September. This means you will know about events in advance and helps with administration. Renewals of membership for 2008 must be made promptly on or before 1 January 2008, by Standing Order or personal payment.

HAILS AND FAREWELLS

Welcome to the new Autumn/Winter season with the RNHS. I hope you have all had a wonderful summer, weather permitting, and look forward to seeing members at our indoor meetings, which start again on Tuesday 2nd October.

I am delighted to tell you that member Peter Scott has kindly volunteered to take on the role of RNHS Publicity Officer, which has been vacant since Joy Paterson's retirement. We are all very grateful to Peter for taking this role, so crucial in attracting new members and in increasing public awareness of what we do as a Society.

One of Peter's tasks will be to publicise the details of our indoor and outdoor meetings, and when you see your Membership Card for the Winter season, I'm sure you'll agree with me that we have treats in store. This is in particular down to the energy and imagination of Mary Nourish, our Programme Secretary. Mary has filled this role for five years now, and reluctantly must stand down at the next AGM. We will be very sorry to lose her, but recognise what an awful lot of hard work she has put in over those years, and fully understand that it is time for her to have a break.

This of course means that we are now looking for someone to fill Mary's place after the AGM. It is a vital role in the Society's life and we would be delighted to hear from anyone interested in taking over. It should be an easy transition as much of the Programme for the year to come is already in place.

Please do think hard about this! The role of Programme Secretary is crucial for the efficient running of the Society. We all enjoy our indoor meetings and outdoor visits, so how about helping to make them happen? If you are interested, or want to know more about what is involved, please speak to me or any of the Committee.

Ann Tomlinson

Chairman

Mrs A Tomlinson
River House, 9 Aldgate
Ketton PE9 3TD
01780 721622

Secretary

Mrs L Worrall
6 Redland Close
Barrowden LE15 8ES
01572 747302

Membership Secretary and Record Cards

Mr G R Worrall
contact: as Secretary above

Fieldfare Editor

Mrs H Ellis
Old Hunt's Maltings
Water Street
Stamford PE9 2NJ
01780 482048

Programme Secretary

Mrs M Nourish
Beaumont Chase Farm
Stockerston Road
Uppingham LE15 9HJ
01572 823677

Express Printing
01733 230800

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 2 October PHAROAH'S BIRDS 7.30 pm

John Wyatt is well known to many of our members for his popular and entertaining talks. This may be the last chance of hearing him speak to the Society as he is winding down his business and hoping to retire in 2009. John outlines his talk, 'Pharaoh's Birds', in the following way:

'My talk illustrates that birdwatching in Egypt 2000 and more years ago is still possible thanks to the wealth of information left behind in the form of hieroglyphs, mummified birds, bone remains and highly realistic art and artefacts. The effects of climate change around 3500 years ago and its influences on the species now found in Egypt will also be covered. Don't worry: this is definitely a talk about birds, not antiquities.'

Tuesday 6 November CHURCHYARD LICHENS, SANCTUARY, RESURRECTION AND HOPE 7.30 pm

Ivan Pedley promises a spellbinding evening! With a title like that, one not to be missed. He says audiences usually want more! As a follow-up there will be an outdoor meeting on March 9th 2008 led by Ivan to look at lichens in a local churchyard.

Tuesday 14 December LIFE ON THE LINCOLNSHIRE SALT MARSHES 7.30 pm

June Barton has made several broadcasts on local radio and sounds a colourful character. She is an expert often consulted on the Lincolnshire salt marshes and promises an entertaining evening with not only pictures but sounds too.

AUTUMN OUTDOOR MEETINGS

Sunday 30 September BURLEY WOOD 10.30 am

Fungus foray jointly with the Leicestershire Fungus Study Group led by expert Richard Iliffe. Possible route: Take the A606 out of Oakham towards Stamford. Burley Wood is on the left hand side, approximately 2 miles out of Oakham. Park carefully on the wide verge and meet at the main, wide ride entrance.

Sunday 21 October CLIPSHAM PARK WOOD 10.30 am

Enjoy an autumn ramble through Clipsham Park Wood to Addah Wood, then back on a (probably muddy) path through woodland to the Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue, where in the past we have found earthstars and waxcaps ... Meet in the Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue car park. Directions: come off the A1 at Stretton, go through Clipsham village, after about half a mile Yew Tree Avenue is on the left, car park just beyond.

Sunday 18 November KETTON QUARRY 9.30 am

Well known Leicester mammal expert Harry Ball will be setting traps the evening before, hence the early start to see what small mammals he has caught. Parking will be near the offices at the end of Pit Lane, hopefully in the office car park.

Sunday 2 December THE RSPB RESERVE AT OUSE WASHES 10.30 am

We don't normally have a meeting in December; however, the reserve had many bookings in November so we booked early December. 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. 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 on to 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.

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 15 October **BLOODY OAKS QUARRY** **7.30 pm**

A talk by Roy Lemmon on the flora and fungi of this wildlife-rich nature reserve.

Monday 12 November **RETURN OF THE OTTER** **7.30 pm**

A talk by Chris Farmer of the Environment Agency on the ecology and status of this fascinating mammal.

Monday 10 December **GRASSHOPPERS AND CRICKETS OF RUTLAND** **7.30 pm**

A talk by Phil Rudkin illustrated with slides and sounds.

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.

July 2007

Surface wind July 2007 began with a mainly South to South West moderate to fresh surface wind. This run of wind persisted until the early hours of the 6th when it veered to become mainly Westerly moderate to fresh but with occasional gust to near Gale. This blustery run of wind lasted for only 24 hours when it veered and moderated to become mainly West North Westerly light to moderate. Later, on the 13th, the surface wind backed to become mainly South West light to moderate. Later, on the 18th, the surface wind veered to become mainly Northerly light to moderate but occasionally fresh to strong. This wind regime persisted until the 24th when it became mainly North West to South West light to moderate but occasionally fresh to strong. This flow and strength persisted until the end of the month.

Temperature July 2007 was a relatively cool month with an average day maximum temperature of 19.6 °C as compared to the long-term mean of 21.2 °C. The warmest day was the 16th with an afternoon maximum of 22.6 °C, significantly cooler than the absolute maximum for July of 32.8 °C recorded at Wittering in 1959.

The coolest day was the 21st with an afternoon maximum of 15.4 °C. There were 160.1 hours of bright sunshine as compared to the mean of 185.9 hours. The sunniest day in July 2007 was the 31st with 12.8 hours. The sunniest July on record was in 2006 with 282.2 hours.

The average night minimum was 11.8 °C, very close to the long-term mean of 11.7 °C. The coldest night was 30th/31st with a minimum of 7.7 °C. The absolute minimum for July is 5.2 °C recorded in 1993.

Rainfall July 2007 was a wet month with 59% more rain than the 40-year mean, yet despite this, there were 9 days with no measurable rainfall. The wettest day was the 20th with 26.0 mm (1.02 ins) of rain recorded. This was considerably 'drier' than the long-term extreme of 79.0 mm (3.1 ins) recorded on 1979, but despite this the high rainfall rate from lunchtime to teatime could have caused disruption.

Rainfall distribution during the month was extremely varied. To illustrate this, Cottessmore recorded 154.9 mm (6.1 ins) as compared to Wittering's total of 84.4 mm (3.32 ins) for July.

During July 2006 the average day maximum was 26.3 °C, average night minimum was 9.8 °C and rainfall 47.2 mm (1.86 ins). There were 282.2 hours of bright sunshine.



August 2007

Surface wind August 2007 began with a mainly West to South Westerly light to moderate surface wind. This wind regime persisted until the 20th when it veered to become mainly Northerly moderate to fresh with gusts fresh to strong. This rather blustery run of wind persisted until the 24th when it backed and moderated to become mainly North Westerly light. This wind regime persisted until the end of the month.

Temperature August 2007 had an average day maximum of 20.7 °C, very similar to the long-term mean of 21.1 °C. The warmest day was the 5th with an afternoon high of 28.7 °C, fortunately rather lower than the absolute maximum for August of 35.2 °C recorded in 1990. The coolest day was the 21st with an afternoon maximum of 16.5 °C. There were 190.9 hours of bright sunshine, significantly higher than the mean of

175.8 hours. The sunniest day in 2007 was the 5th with 13.0 hours. The sunniest month on record was in 1947 with 267.7 hours.

The average night minimum was 11.2 °C, similar to the long-term mean of 11.9 °C. The coldest night was 26th/27th with a minimum of 8.1 °C, significantly warmer than the absolute minimum of 4.8 °C recorded in 1964.

Rainfall August was a relatively dry month with 39.4 mm (1.55 ins) of rain recorded; the long-term mean is 59.8 mm (2.35 ins). The wettest day was the 15th with 16.8 mm (0.66 ins) recorded, this figure is small compared to the wettest August day on record which occurred in 2004 when 90.8 mm (3.57 ins) of rain fell on Wittering. As a matter of interest, Cottesmore had a rainfall total for August of 32.6 mm (1.28 ins).

During August 2006 the average day maximum was 20.3 °C, night minimum 12.1 °C and rainfall 65.8 mm (2.59 ins). There was a total of 176.0 hours of bright sunshine.

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

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



July/August 2007

These two months are usually quite good for reptiles, while amphibians keep a lower profile and this was certainly the case this year as far as reptiles were concerned. Three new sites for **Viviparous Lizards** were found, one a very substantial one. Surveys of land round Rutland Water in connection with the proposed inundation have revealed good numbers of **Grass Snakes** and both species of **newt**.

Frogs were only reported from Leighfield and Wing, but **Common Toad** records were more widespread. In July there were records from gardens in Lyddington and Wing, as well as one from Ketton Quarry. Small toads were also seen at Leighfield. Toads were risking life and limb on the roads by mid-August, particularly in Lyndon and Wing.

Great Crested Newts were found in my Wing garden in July. More unusually, one was found in a boot at Fishponds Cottage and, despite sharing the boot with the foot of the boot's owner until the owner became aware that his foot was not alone in the boot, the newt was apparently none the worse for its experience. Quite a lot of Great Crested and **Smooth Newts** have been caught and translocated in the new lagoon sites at Rutland Water.

The main herpetological revelation was the discovery of a large colony of **Viviparous Lizards** in Wing, adjacent to the Water Treatment Works, in an area that will be affected by the planned enlargement of the works. Although 14 had been seen during a fairly cursory visit in mid-July, 56 adults and young were found on 27th July. There were 33 adults, including at least 4 pregnant females, and 23 very small young. This was all rather embarrassing for your recorder as the site is less than a mile from his home, although, in mitigation, the area does have restricted access. Plans are afoot to transfer the lizards to a suitable new site in the county.

As if one new site for lizards was not exciting enough, there have been reports from two other sites, one in Oakham near the railway track and a second from Rutland Water Nature Reserve. The latter population, comprising at least 3 individuals, arrived in bales of hay from Stamford, having become inadvertent passengers when the hay was transported to the reserve, and were discovered when the

hay was unloaded. It will be interesting to see if they thrive in their new home.

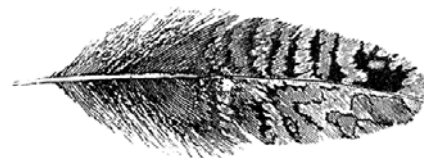
Grass Snakes have been found at a number of places round Rutland Water. Ones and twos have also been seen at Leighfield, Fort Henry

and Ketton Quarry. A 35 inch sloughed skin was found at the edge of my pond in Wing in July and a few weeks later the presumed owner was seen. There was also a further sighting of an **Adder** in Ketton Quarry on 29th August.

My thanks to the following who provided records: T Appleton, T Caldicott, F and D Lee, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, K O'Brien, L Park, P Rudkin and P Scott.

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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



July/August 2007

Two months of below average weather produced some very interesting sightings at the reservoirs but breeding birds had a hard time coping with the rain and success was low for many species. High water levels reduced feeding areas for returning waders but a good variety was recorded as the notes show. August wind and rain provided the main highlights with Shags, a Sabine's Gull and two skua species at Rutland Water.

My thanks to the following for their records: V Arnold, M A Branstons, P & C Brown, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, C H Gallimore, M & G Griffin, M & S Iannatuoni, B Jest, C R Jones, F & D Lee, R Lemmon, R Mackay, P Mann, T Mitcham, P Rudkin, Jill Stapleton, A R & L A Thorp, D Whitefield, G & L Worrall

Mandarin. A female was on the North Brook, near Horn Mill, on 26.07.

Tufted Duck. Broods of only one or two ducklings were at EBR on 15.07, FHP on 07.08, and Leighfield Fishponds on 27.08.

Red-crested Pochard. Two females were at RW (Egleton) on 31.08.

Little Grebe. One or two were at FHP between 01.08 and 25.08, and a pair had two young at Leighfield Fishponds on 27.08.

Black-necked grebe. A juvenile was at RW (Egleton) between 07 and 11.08.

Shag. A juvenile was at RW on 19.08 with three present between 20.08 and 28.08.

Little egret. Two were at EBR on 01.07 and two were at RW (Egleton) on 20.07.

Red Kite. One was over Wing on 11.07. A regular bird was seen over Stamford throughout July and other records came from Horn Mill / Exton, Burley and Leighfield Fishponds.

Marsh Harrier. A juvenile was at EBR on 05.08 and one was at RW (Egleton) on 27.08.

Sparrowhawk. Fledged young were seen or heard calling during July at Uppingham and in early August in Stamford and FHP.

Buzzard. Four over Pickworth Wood on 08.08 was the highest count, with other reports from Beaumont Chase, Exton / Horn Mill, Clipsham Park Wood and Barrowden.

Osprey. The RW pairs fledged broods of two and three. There were regular reports of one or two from EBR and FHP. One flew over Wing on 26.07 from the direction of EBR.

Kestrel. A pair fledged three young in a nestbox at Normanton in July.

Hobby. Singles were over Stamford on 15.07 and Wing on 24.07. Notes at RW and FHP between 21.07 and 29.08 with one at EBR on 26.08.

Peregrine. One was seen stooping unsuccessfully near Wing on 18.07 and juveniles were at FHP on 21.07 and 03.08.

Oystercatcher. Four were at RW (Egleton) on 04.07.

Little Ringed Plover. Three were at EBR on 15.07.

Ringed Plover. Noted at EBR from 05.08 with a max of three 18.08. Five were at RW (Lyndon) on 31.08.

Lapwing. Counts at EBR included 252 on 01.07 and 456 on 21.07.

Curlew sandpiper. Two juveniles were at RW on 23.08.

Purple sandpiper. A juvenile was at RW (Egleton) on 22.08.

Dunlin. Present at EBR from 15.07 with a maximum of 13 on that date. Seven were at RW on 24.08 and two at Lyndon on 31.08.

Snipe. Two were at EBR on 05.08 with four there on 26.08. On 25.08 one was near Horn Mill and two were at Leighfield Fishponds.

Black-tailed Godwit. Sixteen were at EBR on 02.08 and up to four were present at RW (Lyndon) between 20 and 30.08.

Redshank. The only record was of one at EBR on 15.07.

Greenshank. In August singles were at Leighfield Fishponds (11th), Horn Mill (23rd), EBR (26th) and Lyddington Crossing (28th).

Green Sandpiper. One was at EBR on 15.07, four were at RW (Eggleton) on 20.07. In August, one was at Lyddington Crossing on 19th, two at Leighfield Fishponds on 25th, with a single there on 27th.

Common Sandpiper. One or two were at EBR between 15.07 and 26.08, and one was at Leighfield Fishponds on 27.08.

Arctic Skua. A pale phase bird flew through at RW on 21.08.

Great Skua. One passed through at RW on 22.08.

Little Gull. An adult was at RW (South Arm) on 20.07.

Sabine's Gull. An adult in breeding plumage passed through at RW on 20.07. This species was last recorded in Rutland in 1997, when singles were at RW in August and September.

Common Gull. An early migrant was at Leighfield Fishponds on 22.07.

Yellow-legged Gull. Single adults were on fallow in Exton Park on 14.07 and 07.08. An adult was at RW (Eggleton) on 20.07 and a fourth summer bird was at EBR on 05.08.

Common Tern. It was a poor breeding season at RW with rising water levels on the lagoons flooding many nests. About 30 were at EBR on 01.07 and three were at FHP on 21.07.

Turtle Dove. Noted only at RW (Eggleton) between 18.07 and 24.08 with max of 9 present on 19.07.

Barn Owl. Very well reported during both months with hunting birds present near FHP, Wing, EBR and the Barrowden/Seaton area. Broods of 3 and 6 were ringed at Teigh and Ashwell in July and two young fledged from a nestbox at Tixover.

Little Owl. Traditional sites at Barrowden, Beaumont Chase and EBR all provided records and there were also reports from FHP, Uppingham and RW (Eggleton).

Tawny Owl. Two were at Burley Wood on 10.07 and at EBR on 23.08. One was flushed from a nestbox in Tunneley Wood on 25.08 and calling birds were reported from Cottesmore and Edith Weston.

Swift. About 70 were over Barrowden on 01.07 with 30 noted there on 20.07. Twenty-one flying south at FHP on 04.08 were probably on passage and the last was seen over Oakham on 25.08.

Kingfisher. Following a dearth of records earlier in the year this species was well reported, especially in August, with birds noted at Leighfield Fishponds, RW (Lyndon and Dam), FHP, the River Gwash at Toilethorpe and the canal at Oakham.

Green Woodpecker. Reported from many areas in both months – an adult fed three young at Normanton in July and birds were seen or heard at Ketton Quarries, FHP, Clipsham Park Wood, Pickworth Wood, Edith Weston, Barrowden and Wing Fishing Lakes.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. Noted at Edith Weston, Oakham and Normanton, where adults and young fed at a peanut feeder in July.

Lesser Spotted Woodpecker. A male was at Leighfield Fishponds on 11.08.

House Martin. Only four nests were occupied this summer at the normally productive site at Wing (15 pairs bred here in 2005).

Yellow Wagtail. Only singles or pairs were recorded between 08.07 and 31.08 from RW, Leighfield, EBR and FHP.

Grey Wagtail. One was at RW (Edith Weston) on 04.07, but passage really began with one at FHP on 01.08. Singles were subsequently seen at RW (Edith Weston), Horn Mill, FHP and Leighfield Fishponds to 27.08.

Redstart. A juvenile/female was on Hambleton peninsula on 27.08.

Whinchat. A female was at EBR on 15.07 with singles noted at RW from 17.08.

Wheatear. Singles were at Langham and EBR on 26.08 with one at Leighfield on 27.08.

Mistle Thrush. Some good records of flocks were received. 23 were in Exton Park on 14.07, 10 were in a Normanton garden in mid-July, 30 were at Bloody Oaks on 30.07 and 13 were near FHP on 23.08.

Grasshopper Warbler. Up to four sang at RW (Eggleton) on 18–19.07.

Sedge Warbler. Four were at Leighfield Fishponds in July and two or three were at FHP throughout August. One was in song at RW (Eggleton) on 31.08.

Lesser Whitethroat. Eight were counted at RW (Eggleton) on 13.08, one was at Leighfield Fishponds on 27.08 and two were at RW (Eggleton) on 31.08.

Garden Warbler. Singles were in an Edith Weston garden on 24 and 26.08 and at Leighfield Fishponds on 25.08.

Willow Warbler. About 20 were noted at RW (Eggleton) on 25.07. One was at FHP on 28.08.

Spotted Flycatcher. Evidence of breeding came from Uppingham and Wing churchyard. One or two were reported from FHP, Leighfield Fishponds and Priors Coppice between 07.07 and 29.08. On 03.08 one at the latter site was seen trying to eat a Southern Hawker dragonfly but the outcome was not seen as it flew into the woodland canopy.

Long-tailed Tit. Five fed on fat balls in a Langham garden on 31.08 – signs of an early winter?

Marsh Tit. Five or six noted in Priors Coppice in both months with odd birds also seen at RW (Eggleton).

Willow Tit. One or two reported from Leighfield Fishponds, (but 4 on 05.08) and RW (Eggleton) in both months. Also noted in Priors Coppice.

Nuthatch. Reported in July from Priors Coppice and RW (Lax Hill).

Raven. Two were noted in flight near Leighfield Fishponds on 28.07.

Starling. About 50 were noted on a house roof in Barrowden on 09.07.

House Sparrow. A flock of about 20 was in a garden hedge at Lyddington throughout August.

Bullfinch. Small groups noted regularly in a Lyddington garden in August.

BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

6 Redland Close, Barrowden LE15 6ES. Telephone: 01572 747302

Apologies; no report this time, please continue to send records.

LEPIDOPTERA NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

4 Clarkesdale, Great Easton, Market Harborough LE16 8SP.

Telephone: 01536 770259

July/August 2007

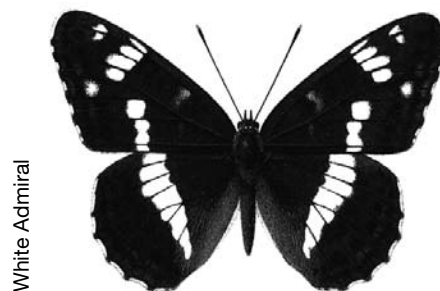
BUTTERFLIES

Numbers were low in most parts of our area for the whole of July but in the first week of August, with an improvement in weather conditions, more butterflies were observed and this was also repeated in the last week of the month.

The outstanding record to mention first was the appearance of a **White Admiral** found nectaring on purple Hebe in an Uppingham garden on the morning of July 31st. It re-appeared later in the day and was photographed but was not seen there again.

Skipper records have been few for both **Small** and **Large. Essex Skippers** were identified at Beaumont Chase Farm and at Edith Weston.

One **Brimstone** was seen in Oakham in July but otherwise this species was only recorded during August in four sites, with 15 counted in Ketton Quarry on the 25th. The majority of both **Small** and **Large Whites** were on the Reserves and they



appear to have been virtually missing from some gardens this year. **Green Veined Whites** were seen in similar numbers to those of Small Whites.

Small Coppers were found during August at Beaumont Chase Farm, Edith Weston, Eggleton, Leighfield Fishponds, Lyddington, N. Luffenham and Prior's Coppice, **Common Blues** were found in Ketton Quarry and at Leighfield. Three records for **Brown Argus** came from the latter site and also Lyddington and Priors Coppice. The second generation of **Holly Blues** flew from the end of July and throughout August with records coming from seven areas.

Red Admirals were observed by a number of members in gardens, on protected verges and on the Reserves. A few **Painted Ladies** visited gardens, with a maximum of six being seen in Oakham and also five were noted in Ketton Quarry. The majority of records for **Small Tortoiseshells** were for single insects and came

from a variety of habitats. The **Peacock** was a well-recorded species with 'good numbers' in Stoke Dry Wood, 36 at Lyddington, 30+ at Ketton Quarry and 12 at Priors Coppice. It is interesting to note that all these larger numbers occurred between July 27th and August 8th.

Fewer **Commas** were observed than in 2006 and **Speckled Woods** would also appear to have been in much lower numbers this year. **Marbled Whites** were found in Bloody Oaks Quarry by two members independently. Two were seen on July 12th and a single insect on July 19th. Four or five were still on the wing at their usual site at Ketton Quarry on August 6th.

Last year we reported that **Gatekeepers** were 'prolific' with over 100 being seen on one site. This year, the largest numbers have been 30+ at Egleton and Ketton Quarry, 15+ at Beaumont Chase Farm and 10+ at S. Luffenham but records did come from a good number of sites including four protected verges. I received an interesting comment from a member who visited the Egleton Reserve. He observed Gatekeepers being very 'territorial' and chasing off Large and Small Whites and a Peacock from a patch of brambles!

Meadow Browns were also very well recorded but numbers were down in some areas. Maximum numbers reported this year were 30+ at Egleton, 30 at Ketton Quarry and 20+ on Verge 7 at Gt Casterton. There was only one record for **Small Heath** at Ketton on August 25th. **Ringlets** with their flight period in the month of July have really suffered this year. Let us hope that the high numbers of previous years will return in the future with more favourable weather conditions.

MOTHS

The summer of 2007 will be remembered by moth trappers as a very poor one, both in terms of species identified and quantities caught. Garden numbers were particularly low. I have received some interesting comments and data with regard to results, which I will include where relevant in the following notes.

August 11th was National Moth Night and as the target species this year was the Chalk Carpet we chose Clipsham Quarry for our venue, as this species has been found there in the past but sadly not this year. We ran a tripod light and six traps from 21.00 to 04.45 and recorded 108 species, a total with which we were well pleased. The most interesting macro-moths were **Poplar Lutestring** and **Square Spotted Clay** but the most unusual and unexpected visitor was a ferret, which was found investigating the sheet under the tripod in the early morning!

Our fortnightly visits to Eyebrook Reservoir have continued with one on August 23rd timed to coincide with the Society visit 'Bats and Moths'. A tripod light and box traps were operated in the Plantation until 23.00 and our own traps near the Dam were left overnight as is usual. The results from these two areas have been compared and although 40 species were recorded at both sites, 17 additional species were unique to the Plantation and a further 23 to the Dam: this gave an overall total of 80 species for the night. The highlights were firstly, a **Small Rufous** caught in a box trap in the Willows, which was new for the site and not often recorded in Rutland, and secondly two **Great Brocades** in one of the morning traps at the Dam. These immigrants from Scandinavia were first seen in our area last year and another was recorded at Beaumont Chase Farm the following night.

With the help of computers it is now easy to amass all these results and analyse them, which makes our hobby all the more interesting. Numbers of moths and numbers of species caught over the past five years have been compared with totals for 2007 up to the end of August:

Eyebrook Dam	2007	5-year average	2007% average
Micro-moths	168	716	23%
Micro species	45	58	77%
Macro-moths	1148	3246	35%
Macro species	126	172	73%

A similar list was compiled for the garden results at Barrowden, where the catches were higher due to more night's trapping but the final percentages were similarly low.

At Lyddington, a recent report quotes '*At this time last year the cumulative total of macro-species was 265, this year it is 243 and that includes 10 new species for the year. The total species count for 2007 will certainly be well down and quantities within the species remain very low.*' Two unusual species caught at Lyddington in July were the **Oak Eggar** and the **Browntail**.

Other trapping results have been received from Barnsdale gardens at Exton, Beaumont Chase Farm, Dawn's Paddock at Braunston, Edith Weston, Lyndon Wood Pond and Stoke Dry Wood.

Casual records from members have included **Hummingbird Hawkmoths** at Edith Weston, Pilton and Uppingham. A **Privet Hawkmoth** was photographed on a fence in Oakham and a **Drinker** in Burley Wood. Many **Cinnabar** larvae

were found at Leighfield Fishponds and two **Vapourer** larvae at Egleton.

The **Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner** continues to spread. Records came from eight sites in July

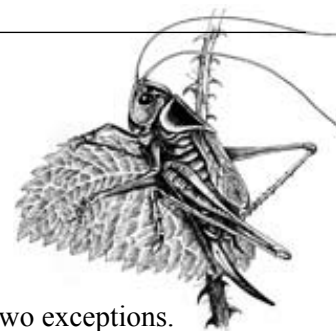
and a further five sites in August. **Firethorn Leaf Miner** was found at L. Casterton.

All other individual records will be included in the Annual Report.

Many thanks to the following: V Arnold, T Caldicott, F Chiverton, G Chiverton, R Follows, C H Gallimore, N Gordon, C R Jones, A L Lawrence, D & F Lee, R Lemmon, A Malcolm, J Mallett, P Rudkin, A Russell, P Scott, G & L Worrall.

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

10 Brooke Avenue, Stamford PE9 2RU. Telephone: 01780 762998



July/August 2007

Despite the poor summer weather, the orthoptera have fared reasonably well, with two exceptions. The Common Green Grasshopper was well down in numbers. Also, the Lesser Marsh Grasshopper numbers were low in the early part of the season, and they were very quiet indeed – but towards the end of August they were much more noticeable.

Once again, for this period, our two pioneering bush crickets – Roesel's and Long-winged Conehead – were making the news, regarding the extra-long-winged forms (*macropterous*). Members have caught samples of both species in the last two months, and a good percentage has included long-winged forms, both male and female. Derek Lee, Tim Caldicott and myself, as proof, and for the society's records, have provided photographs.

Furthermore, over the border come more reports of these forms. The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust sightings have come from Wymondham Rough reserve, of a Roesel's: photograph received from Steve Woodward. During the society's field meeting at Old Sulehay, on 29th July, the meadow field area was swarming with stridulating Roesel's, and Francis Chiverton caught samples, which included several macropterous forms. It was suggested that the overcrowding could mean that these long-winged forms would be ready to leave the colonies.

The most interesting story of a macropterous male bush cricket comes from Aldgate, Ketton. On 21st July, our chairman Ann Tomlinson was washing the car in her garden. Suddenly, Ann noticed a strange-looking cricket on the car bonnet. It was duly caught and brought over to me. It was a wonderful specimen, a Roesel's Bush Cricket. The long wings were very impressive, and stretched way beyond the abdomen. It was immediately photographed for the record (see Figure 1) before being released back in Aldgate. Ann has not picked up this species stridulating in her area previously, so it is possible that it has flown in from a local (or even a distant) colony.

Most of the books state that these long-winged forms are a result of hot, dry summers, causing an increase in numbers, resulting in overcrowding. These macropterous forms then have the ability to fly long distances, and hence start new colonies. However, as we all know, this summer has been wet and cool. I received a thoughtful e-mail from Roy Frost, Derbyshire and Notts orthoptera recorder: '*One interesting local and possibly relevant feature is that Dingy Skippers have had a small second brood for only the third time ever in*



Figure 1 Roesel's (macropterous form)



Figure 2 Roesel's (usual form)



Figure 3 Roesel's (usual form)

Derbyshire. Emergence of the first brood in April was decidedly early, suggesting that the excellent weather then was more important than the much poorer weather that has followed.'

Exciting news this period: new 10 kilometre squares for Roesel's bush cricket, Long-winged Conehead, Common and Slender Groundhoppers, and Speckled Bush Cricket have been created.

Books

Members who subscribe to *British Wildlife* magazine will note that two of the following books are reviewed in the current edition (August 2007).

My notes in the July *Fieldfare*, referring to 'Books on the Orthoptera' (page 9) can now be updated. The new book *A Photographic Guide to the Grasshoppers and Crickets of Britain and Ireland* is an excellent production, and the photography is fabulous. Identification is now much improved with this in circulation. I also mentioned that the *Collins Guide to the Insects of Britain and Western Europe* by Michael Chinery, which is the classic field guide that members have used since publication in 1986, is long out of print. To my delight, as I perused the book stands at this year's Birdfair, there was the aforementioned book. It has been reprinted and revised, but this time by a different publisher: A & C Black.

This is a guide for the pocket, for use in the field. Do not confuse it with *A Field Guide to the Insects of Britain and Northern Europe*, also by Chinery.

Oak Bush Cricket, *Meconema thalassinum*

One male, 27th August, flew into MV light trap, during moth-trapping night, Stoke Dry Wood, Uppingham. Photograph provided by email.

Dark Bush Cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

Large colonies in hedgerow, along lower main ride, compartment 21, Burley Woods, 9.30 pm, 17th July. One stridulating male, field 41, Egleton reserve, Rutland Water, 17th August. Ten males heard in thick vegetation at both sides of verges, Hambleton Peninsular Road, near junction of A606, 17th August. Adults seen in verge scrub, throughout July and August, during visits to Verge 8, Great Casterton. Heard stridulating at 11.0 pm. in rough herbage, Essendine, Verges 5, 12 and 13, 24th August.

Roesel's Bush Cricket, *Metrioptera roeselii*

Throughout July and August, the expansion of Egleton reserve continues – 30 plus stridulating males in uncut hay field, on the Lyndon reserve, adjacent to Shallow Water Hide, 23rd July.

The spread continues at Wing Fishing Lakes, and in the wet ditch in field over the railway track. New 10 kilometre square, four males heard, discovered 300 yards inside Rutland on the east side of the verges, Little Casterton Road, Stamford, 19th July.

When rechecking this site on 5th August, the old, neglected farmland behind Brickyard Quarry had an enormous colony, with at least 40 stridulating males in tall grasses/thistles. This colony must have been here for probably two years, and has simply been undiscovered because no-one visits.

On a group visit to Beaumont Chase Farm, Uppingham, on 8th August (also visited last

year), numbers were stable in all surveyed areas.

Another new 10 kilometre square, this time at the junction with Wing/Pilton/Lyndon. In rough corner of cut hay field, six stridulating males, 9th August. On 26th August, numbers increasing with expansion near the Trout Hatchery, and in the meadow, Exton footpath. Wonderful specimen of a long-winged form, a male, found in Aldgate, Ketton (Figure 1). 17th August, another long-winged form, found by a visiting naturalist at Egleton, near Fieldfare Hide, a male. Stridulations heard at the entrance to Burley Woods, 22nd August. At 2.0 pm, 26th August, more stridulation heard at the junction of Ingthorpe Road/Empingham Road, Stamford.

Four stridulating males, in long grasses, in the Donkey Paddock, Ketton Quarries, 29th August. This site, and the Aldgate record, constitute two more new squares for Rutland. During August 10th and 11th, stridulating males heard at Prior's Coppice, western edge, and at Leighfield Fish Ponds. Also heard at Shorne Hill, to crossroads, Brooke. More new squares.

Long-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus discolor*

This species matures slightly later than Roesel's. But, when the singing started, the expansion throughout Rutland is found to be almost identical to Roesel's at Rutland Water reserves, Wing Fishing Lakes, Beaumont Chase Farm and Exton/Horn Mill footpath and meadows. However, it is pleasing to report new 10 kilometres squares as follows: Female nymph, on grass footpath, west of Leighfield Fish Ponds, 22nd July (photograph). Eight

stridulating males, in long, rank grasses at old neglected farmland behind Brickyard Quarries, Little Casterton Road, Stamford, were singing side by side with Roesel's, 5th August. One female seen. One male caught on 10th August, and photographed. On the evening of the Society's meeting at Eye Brook Reservoir, 23rd August, a large colony located whilst bat detecting in the plantation, just inside Rutland border. This was in rank tall grasses/thistles by the water's edge. Francis Chiverton caught a female, which was a macropterous form (photograph). Heard stridulating in long grasses, at 11.0 pm, 24th August, on Verge 5, Essendine. Finally, still with new 10 kilometre squares, 29th August, two stridulating males, in tall grasses, the Donkey Paddock, Ketton Quarry.

Speckled Bush Cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima*

One, seen on Hawthorn hedge, 1st July, Leighfield Fish Ponds. One seen 7th July, and one on 27th July, both in Priors Coppice. One nymph found emerging from newly cut grass, 9th August, Elaine's Field, Lyddington. During the Society's evening field meeting at Eye Brook Reservoir, on 23rd August, two large colonies located in Hawthorn and Ash, whilst bat detecting, in the Rutland end. New 10-kilometre square. Usual large numbers in Hawthorn hedgerows, Horn Mill/Exton footpath area, 26th August. Nine stridulating males in Hawthorn, 29th August, Donkey Paddock, Ketton Quarry. New square.

Slender Groundhopper, *Tetrix subulata*

One seen in new coppiced area of Priors Coppice, on bare, burnt ground, 10th August. Two seen, 29th August, (typical habitat to look for these tiny hoppers) (Photograph)

Common Groundhopper, *Tetrix undulata*

One found on bare patch, in grass margins, Beaumont Chase Farm, 8th August. New square.

Common Green Grasshopper, *Omocestus viridulus*

Numbers very much reduced this season. This species matures earlier than most grasshoppers, so it is possible that the cold and wet summer was not beneficial to it.

One caught and identified in long grasses, near Tern Hide, Eggleton reserve, 29th July. One female in grasses on verge, near Fieldfare Hide, Eggleton, 13th August (photograph).

Field Grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus*

One found on grass footpath, Leighfield Fish Ponds, 22nd July (photograph).

Meadow Grasshopper, *Chorthippus parallelus*

High numbers maintained in usual areas of Rutland Water reserves, Beaumont Chase Farm, and Exton/Horn Mill footpath and meadows, where hundreds of nymphs and adults seen in meadow grasses, during July and August.

Good numbers on 29th August, at the Donkey Paddocks, and near the Geology trail, Ketton Quarry.

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Numbers reduced this season, and stridulations late starting. Perhaps inclement summer weather held up development, because by end of August, numbers improving. But still present at Rutland Water reserves, Beaumont Chase Farm, Wing Fishing Lakes, Horn Mill/Exton footpath and meadows.

22 August and 28th August, good numbers reported from Leighfield Fishponds edges, west of ponds. Also in Priors Coppice grass rides (photograph).

Many thanks to the contributors for their reports and digital photographs: Francis Chiverton, Gill Chiverton, Tim Caldicott, Roy Frost, Clive Jones, Frances and Derek Lee, Phil Rudkin. Ann Tomlinson.

GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

6 Redland Close, Barrowden LE15 6ES. Telephone: 01572 747302

Apologies; your recorder is indisposed and unable to send in a report at this time.

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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



July 2007

A good month's reporting with a total of 21 from a wide selection of sites including Lax Hill, Ketton Quarry, Hambleton and Barnsdale Lodge woods, and Verge 7. Of necessity some galls are commoner than others and I am always pleased to receive these reports, it helps to give an overall picture for the County.

A gall that has featured in both July and August is one on nettle which appears as swellings, mostly on leaves, and is caused by a gall midge of the genus *Dasyneura*. This is a huge genus with about 130 species reported in this country. A slightly unusual gall appeared on Broad Buckler Fern in Barnsdale Wood on the 5th. This causes the frond tips to be bent over into a mophead, and is caused by a fly which lays its eggs on the plant.

Another gall reported in both months has been on leaves of Wild Rose. They appeared on the 12th on Verge 7, and also at Prior's Coppice on 29th August, and can be either smooth, called Rose Pea galls or spiked, sometimes called Sputnik galls although I suppose that rather dates one! They are caused by gall wasps of the genus *Diplolepis*.

August 2007

As well as those mentioned above, this month produced several records, from different observers, of galls on Oak. Four were reports of Knopper galls on acorns and two, from Leighfield Fishponds and Verge 7, were of Silk button galls on leaves. This being the season, I personally have searched on Oak and found nothing so far. I shall redouble my efforts!

This month has also produced a notable occurrence of a terminal leaf gall on Germander Speedwell in the North Glade, Ketton Quarry. In this case a gall midge infests the plant and causes the terminal leaves to form a pouch, which is quite noticeable as well as fairly common in our area. What was striking on this particular occasion was the very high incidence of the gall throughout the whole of the North Glade. I suppose it must be dependent on conditions at the time of infestation; certainly in past years I have seen such a high incidence of a similar gall on Marjoram in Bloody Oaks Quarry that very few plants flowered. This year it isn't nearly as common.

My thanks to T. Caldicott, G. Chiverton, R. Lemmon

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

20 Victoria Road, Stamford PE9 1HB. Telephone: 01780 753820



Firstly, a sighting held over from the beginning of June – a female **Variable Damselfly** sighted in Priors Coppice. In the *Field Guide to the Dragonflies and Damselflies of Great Britain and Ireland* by Steve Brooks it states 'The Variable Damselfly is an enigmatic species in that its distribution is scattered over many parts of England and Wales, extending into Scotland, but the colonies are often restricted to small areas which appear no different from much of the surrounding countryside.' Variable damselflies are quite difficult to identify but happily the observer took some very clear photographs which, with agreement, I was able to show to Ruary McKenzie-Dodd and Henry Curry at the Dragonfly Project stand at the Birdfair. It was good to have the initial identification confirmed by experts. Another very interesting sighting for this year and a species not recorded by any of our members last year.

July 2007

For a very wet July there were a surprising number of records, even if we weren't able to get out and about as much as we would have liked.

Damselfly sightings were spread over the whole month. Many **Common Blue** damselflies were recorded in Barnsdale Lodge Wood and Hambleton Wood and 10+ were seen in a field margin at Lyddington, and they were also observed on 3 occasions in Edith Weston. Sightings of **Azure** damselflies came in from Hambleton and Edith Weston. **White-legged** damselfly records came from Hambleton and Edith Weston. Two records were received for the **Banded Demoiselle** – 3 were seen on the Chater at Leighfield and several males were seen at Barrowden duckpond. Seven **Emerald** damselflies were seen at RW Eggleton.

Dragonfly sightings too were spread over the whole month. **Emperor** dragonflies were seen twice at Priors Coppice. **Common Darters** were seen at the end of the month at Leighfield Fishponds, as was a **Ruddy Darter**. A **Black-tailed Skimmer** was noted at RW Egleton and one at Leighfield Fishponds. **Brown Hawkers** were seen at Lyddington, RW Sykes Lane and at Barrowden. **Southern Hawker** sightings came in from Leighfield Fishponds, Hambleton, Wing and Lyddington where 10+ emerged from a garden pond. The month ended with the sighting of 3 **Migrant Hawkers** in a garden at Wing.

As expected, various flies and bugs account for a large section of records this month.

Marsh Damsel Bugs were seen in Priors Coppice and **Mirid Bug** records came from Priors Coppice, Leighfield Fishponds and RW Egleton. In Priors Coppice 20+ **Leafhoppers** *Cicadella viridis* were noted, as were some of the largest members of the **Mosquito** family, and a **Midge** record came from Leighfield Fishponds. Many hoverflies were recorded: the **Ornate Hoverfly** and *Spaerophoria scripta* in Priors Coppice, the **Marmalade Hoverfly** and the **Bumblebee Hoverfly** in Hambleton Wood, the **Pellucid Hoverfly** at RW Egleton and Barnsdale Lodge Wood, the **Scarce Hoverfly** at Leighfield Fishponds, and the **Yellow-belted Hoverfly**, the **Lesser Hornet Hoverfly** and the **False Dronefly Hoverfly** at RW Egleton. One **Hornet** was noted at Priors Coppice and also a **Twin-lobed Deerfly**. A single **Ichneumon Fly** *Amblyteles armatorius* was recorded on a conservatory window at Wing. Three species of Shield Bug were recorded: **Forest Bug** at Leighfield Fishponds, **Gorse Shield Bug** at RW Egleton and **Green Shield Bug** at Edith Weston.

Beetle records were as follows: a **Burying Beetle** *Silpha atrata* at Priors Coppice, two **Wasp Beetles** at Hambleton Wood, **Soldier Beetles** at Verge 7, Hambleton Wood, Edith Weston and RW Lyndon. **Click Beetle** and **Lily Beetle** at Edith Weston, and the **Burying Beetle** *Nicrophorus investigator* in a moth trap at Edith Weston. *Lagria hirta*, a hairy beetle, was recorded at RW Egleton. Four types of Ladybird were also recorded – an **Orange ladybird** at Leighfield Fishponds, several **7-spot ladybirds** at Barnsdale Lodge Wood and a single 7-spot at Hambleton, and interestingly a first sighting in Edith Weston of a **Harlequin ladybird**.

Sawflies recorded: *Rhogogaster viridis* at Leighfield Fishponds and a **Horntail** (commonly known as a Wood Wasp) was sighted three times over the month at Edith Weston. A blue/green **Lacewing** was seen at RW Egleton. **Water Bugs** *Corixa*

punctata were caught in a moth trap at Barnsdale Gardens. **Common Carder Bees** were busy on flowers at Hambleton and Barnsdale Lodge Woods. A bumblebee mimic – the **Hill Cuckoo Bee** *Bombus rupestris* – was noted at Ketton Quarry. **Median Wasp** records came from RW Egleton and in a moth-trap at Edith Weston, as was a **Common Wasp**. **Potter/Mason Wasps** *Ancistrocerus nigricornis* and *Gymnomerus laevipes* were recorded at Priors Coppice. A **Hymenoptera** record *Gasteruption jaculator* was noted at Edith Weston. Lastly for the month three large **Great Black Slugs** *Arion ater* were noted feeding on peanut crumbs at night in Barrowden.

August 2007

Not surprisingly there were many dragonfly and damselfly records again for August. **Banded Demoiselles** were seen at Leighfield Fishponds and RW Egleton. **Common Blue damselflies** were out in number – 10 at Leighfield Fishponds and 50 at Priors Coppice. 10 **Blue-tailed damselflies** were recorded at Leighfield Fishponds and also 6 **Azure damselflies**. **Emerald damselflies** were seen at Leighfield Fishponds and RW Egleton.

Dragonfly sightings: **Southern Hawkers** were seen at Edith Weston, Barnsdale Gardens, Lyddington, Leighfield Fishponds, Priors Coppice, RW Egleton and at Wing. **Brown Hawker** records came from Priors Coppice, Lyddington and Wing. An **Emperor** was recorded at Leighfield Fishponds. Two **Black-tailed Skimmers** were at Leighfield Fishponds. **Common Darters** were at Leighfield Fishponds and Priors Coppice, and **Ruddy Darters** at Leighfield Fishponds.

Two Damsel bugs, the **Marsh Damsel Bug** and the **Tree Damsel Bug**, were recorded at Priors Coppice. A shield bug, the **Forest Bug**, came to the moth-trap at the moth-trapping evening at Eyebrook. A **Woundwort Shieldbug** was seen at RW Egleton.

Two **Honey Bees** were noted at RW Egleton, a **Buff-tailed Bumblebee** was at Leighfield Fishponds and at Priors Coppice a **Barbut's Cuckoo Bee** *Bombus barbutellus* was recorded. **Median Wasp** records came from Priors Coppice and RW Egleton and the **Solitary Wasp** *Ectemnius continuus* was seen at Priors Coppice and Leighfield Fishponds.

Fly records were as follows: a horsefly, the **Twin-lobed Deerfly**, was recorded at RW Egleton and also at Priors Coppice, a **Scarce Hoverfly** was at Priors Coppice, a **Snipe-Fly** *Atherix-ibis* was at Leighfield Fishponds. A **Scorpion Fly** was

noted at Barnsdale Gardens and a fly *Graphomyia maculate* was seen at Priors Coppice. Sawfly records: the **Rose Sawfly** *Arge pagana* was noted at RW Egleton, Priors Coppice and Leighfield Fishponds; a **Horntail** was seen at Edith Weston, and a **Solomon's Seal Sawfly** was seen at Edith Weston, with damage by the same insect noted on plants at Barnsdale Gardens. The **Ichneumon Fly** *Amblyteles armatorius* was recorded at Edith Weston.

A **Green Dock** beetle was seen at Leighfield Fishponds and ladybirds comprised the only other beetle records. A **Pine ladybird** was seen at Leighfield Fishponds, as was a **24-spot**

ladybird. An **Orange ladybird** was recorded at Barnsdale Gardens. Interestingly, there were more **Harlequin ladybird** sightings – one in a moth-trap at the RNHS evening at Eyebrook, and two separate records over the month from Edith Weston.

Harvestmen were constantly spotted (and subsequently moved outside) in a house at Barrowden. The same behaviour was also noted for July.

Lastly there was the record of a **Glass Snail** *Oxychilus draparnaudi* at Ketton Quarry Woodland.

Thanks to the following people for records: V Arnold, T Caldicott, G H Gallimore, F & D Lee, R Lemmon, L & G Worrall

MYCOLOGY NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

6 Redland Close, Barrowden LE15 8ES. Telephone: 01572 747302

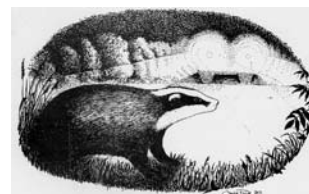
Apologies, your recorder is indisposed; please keep sending in your records.

MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford PE9 1BH. Telephone: 01780 762108

July/August 07

A **Polecat** has been reported as a road casualty on the A47 at Coppice Leys, showing that previous sightings were not just occasional animals passing through, but we do now have a number of animals present in the area. There are no reports of **Otters** this month but the health of the **Rabbit** population is reflected in the number of **Stoats** seen locally. Over recent years their numbers have been increasing, and nine reports are received for July and August. In July Dr Gallimore watched one 'for at least 10 minutes as it frolicked on my croquet lawn, dashing back and forth, dropping on one shoulder, rolling, leaping and lying flat. Occasionally it dashed into nettles for a few seconds. It was mobbed by 4 magpies for the first few minutes of the display.' A few days later a stoat with similar behaviour was observed in an adjacent field. In August a family, one adult and six 3 inch long young in brown fur were nearly run over on the B622 near the Seaton turn. Two were seen fighting in the road at Wing Burrows and one on a bridge at Leighfield Fishponds. One crossed the Lyddington-Gretton



road, and 2 road casualties were reported. Strangely the number of **Weasels** seen locally has declined, and none were seen this month.

As usual there are numerous **Badger** road casualties reported, and just one small live one seen walking along Seaton Road, Barrowden. Many local setts are very active with walkways visible in hedgerows and going into crops, and play areas showing in woodland setts. **Foxes** disturbed by harvesters have been visible, one seen on consecutive mornings at 7.00 am at Quarry Wood, Great Casterton, once carrying a rabbit. A fox cub was observed behind a gate at Walk Farm track, Pickworth. At the end of July in a field adjacent to Pickworth Wood the oat crop was being harvested, two swaths cut around the edge of the field inside the conservation headland. As I approached, a small fox cub, less than half grown, and fluffy, which made it look round and chubby, jumped up out of the oats and dashed towards the wood, ears pricked right up. It leapt over the two swaths of straw in turn; legs akimbo, stretched out all at the same time

like a Thelwell pony, and raced into the wood. The same day cubs were heard playing in the field at Gypsy Lane, Uppingham. Others were seen at the junction of Main Street and Wakerley Road Barrowden, and also in Morkery and Burley Woods, where 2 cubs were reported separately.

In late July a small **Hedgehog** was seen at 9.50 pm in Uppingham, and evidence that one or more had been eating peanuts left out for them in the Worrall's garden at Barrowden was found. Sadly, these are the only hedgehogs reported this time. Please keep your eyes open for them, and send in any sightings, including road casualties. Their numbers are obviously still very low in Barrowden, after many years of high populations.

There are many **Hares** present in the local arable areas, and a total of 20 reports have been received. Three were observed chasing and 'boxing' on cultivated land west of Fort Henry, and two leverets seen near Barrowden. At the end of July a hare lolloped away from me as I walked along the track towards Pickworth Wood from the village. It was a lovely evening. He (she?) went into the wheat crop adjacent, but I could see his ears sticking out of the crop listening to our approach, turning the black tips in our direction. The ears disappeared and a few seconds later he reappeared on the track and raced away in front of us.

A **Short-tailed Vole** ambled away from me as I walked down the Mount's Lodge track on Pickworth Road, appearing not to notice my presence at all. A **Bank Vole** was seen eating beetroot in Dr Gallimore's vegetable garden, and another in a garden rockery at Lyddington. Two **Common Shrews** were found dead on the Walk Farm track after very heavy rain in July, almost certainly drowned, and another in the same area the following week probably suffered the same fate. At Ketton Quarry in August one was found dead. Three **Pygmy Shrews** are reported, one found dead by Dr Gallimore's front door in Wing, and one under a 'reptile tin' at Wing Treatment Works. The third raced into the road between Casterton and Mount's Lodge, and then back to the verge, making circles as it did so, and looking exactly like a leaf swirling in the wind.

Fallow Deer are recorded in large numbers and several fawns from Pickworth and Burley Woods, fewer than previously from Morkery. Many are also present around Clipsham Wood. Four were seen in the plantation between the Trout Farm and Fort Henry in July, and later 4 were seen in an adjacent maize crop. **Muntjac** are still commonly seen, in Burley and Pickworth Woods, also Fort Henry ponds, and a lame but otherwise healthy one passed through Dr Gallimore's garden in August. One was a road casualty on the A1 south of Woolfox.

Many thanks for all your interesting reports: A Biddle, M A Branston, C G Gallimore, M & S Iannantuoni, F & D Lee, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, P J Rudkin, AR & MA Thorp, L & G Worrall

BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

41 Woodland View, Oakham, LE15 6EJ. Telephone: 01572 755 274

Apologies, no bat report this time; please keep sending in your records.





Muntjac

Miss Foulk