

CONTENTS

Noticeboard	1	Orthoptera report	10
High tides in North Norfolk	1	Plant galls report	11
RNHS and other events	2	Insects and others	12
Weather summary	2	Glow-worm notes	14
Amphibian and reptile report	3	Mycology notes	15
Bird report	4	Bat report	15
Botany notes	7	Mammal report	16
Lepidoptera notes	8		

NOTICEBOARD

Permission to enter Burley Wood

Important Notice: Permission to enter **only applies to the Wood itself** and not to the terraces and open grassland around Burley House, which are private.

Our new Treasurer

We're delighted to welcome Martin Grimes as the new RNHS Treasurer. He writes:

In April, I retired from practice as an accountant in Stamford where I have lived all my life. I have been a member of RNHS for many years and am currently helping with a roadside verge survey. I have also been a volunteer at Rutland Water Nature Reserve since it started, including active involvement with the Osprey Project and Birdfairs. I am also treasurer of Stamford Civic Society and Stamford Mercury Archive Trust.

BBC Radio 4 FM, 'Open Country' on Rutland Water

On Saturday morning, 8th August (repeated on Thursday afternoon 13th August), this half-hour programme will be featuring the Osprey project, and contains contributions from two of our RNHS members, Phil Rudkin and David Perrill.

Birdfair at Rutland Water 2009

Don't forget the British Birdwatching Fair on August 21, 22 and 23, on our doorstep at Egleton. More information at website: www.birdfair.org.uk.

HIGH TIDES IN NORTH NORFOLK Nola Thurlow

High tides for Snettisham; for Titchwell add 5 minutes. Times in BST.

August			September		
Sunday	2	04.38 17.23	Sunday	6	08.06 20.34
	9	09.05 21.33		13	00.30 13.24
	16	02.26 15.08		20	07.53 20.27
	23	08.58 21.34		27	00.16 13.36
	30	02.35 15.54			

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RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY events

Friday August 7 **MOTHS AT KETTON QUARRY** **8.30 pm**

An evening meeting, led by Ron Fellows, RNHS.

Drive up Pit Lane, Ketton, past roundabout, to car park on left, OS Explorer 234, grid ref: SK 977053.

Sunday September 13 **BUSH CRICKETS AND GRASSHOPPERS** **11.00 am**

Phil Rudkin, RNHS Orthoptera recorder, is leading this walk to investigate some of the orthoptera we find in Rutland. If you have bat detectors, do bring them. You might also want to bring a packed lunch. Meet by the Horn Mill Trout Hatchery (park on verge), OS Explorer 234, grid ref: SK 952105.

Sunday October 11 **BIRD RINGING** **9.00 am**

Martin Kerman, Reserve Warden at Rutland Water Nature Reserve and birdringer with the CES project, will give a demonstration of bird ringing (see indoor meeting on October 6). Meet at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton.

INDOOR MEETINGS

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

Tuesday October 6 **THE HISTORY OF BIRD RINGING** **7.30 pm**

Martin Kerman, Reserve Warden at Rutland Water Nature Reserve and birdringer with the CES project, is giving a talk on the history of bird ringing; to be followed up by a bird-ringing demonstration on October 11.

LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST Rutland Group events

Indoor events are held at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton, admission £1 includes tea/coffee/biscuits. See www.lrwf.org.uk for other events in Leicestershire and Rutland.

Monday October 19 **NATURE RESERVES NEAR PETERBOROUGH** **7.30 pm**

Rachel Price, Community Wildlife Officer (Peterborough) for the Beds, Cambs, Northants and Peterborough Wildlife Trust, will talk about the Trust and John Clare country.

WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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

May 2009

Atmospheric pressure and winds Pressure was generally elevated this month apart from a period of 5 days (14th to 18th) when it was lower with a minimum of 999 mb on 15th and 16th. This brought about low wind speeds, especially at the start of the period, and also rain. Apart from this, winds were generally S-W except for the last 3 days of the month when they were E-NE with pressures between 1027–1030 mb.

Temperatures These were run of the mill until the 23rd when it warmed up, generally with a day time high of 25.9 °C on 29th. The night time mean for the month was 7.7 °C, slightly cooler than 2008 (8.1 °C) but close to 2007 (7.5 °C); and the mean

minimum was 19.0 °C, cooler than 2008 (20.1 °C) but warmer than 2007 (17.7 °C).

Rain This was again a dryer than expected month – the third in a row – where the rainfall in each of these 3 months has been 51% and 53% of that expected. This month the actual figure was 27.2 mm (1.07 inches) which is 52.2% of the long term mean. This is the lowest total for May that I have recorded since 1998 when 9.9 mm fell.

Nationally the average for England and Wales was 2.19 inches, which is 94% of the LTM and goes to illustrate just what a dry area we live in.

Sunshine Nationally averaged over England and Wales, there were 229 hours of sunshine or 113% of the average – the sunniest May for 8 years.

June 2009

Atmospheric pressure and winds Pressures were generally high during this month although there was a short period (the 6th to 9th) when they were between 999 and 1007 mb; but mostly they were between 1013 and 1028 mb. As a result wind speeds were generally light, but it was a 'north easterly' month as on 22 days out of the 30 the winds were between NW and E.

Temperatures This was a warm month with a mean night time minimum of 10.5 °C, warmer than 2008 (9.9 °C) but cooler than 2007 (11.2 °C). The mean day time maximum was 22.1 °C, warmer than 2008 and 2007 both at 21.3 °C. Many members may remember that 2006 was a hot year and it is interesting that the mean max. for that

year for June was 23.4 °C, so at the moment we don't seem to be rivalling it. However things can change.

Rainfall The total I recorded this month was 60.3 mm (2.37 inches) or 116% of my LTM. The great majority of this (96% of the whole) fell between 5th and 17th and so by the end of the month, as I write, my garden and the surrounding countryside is looking very dry again – due no doubt to high rates of evaporation and transpiration. Looking back over my records, June 2007 was very wet with 103.1 mm and 2006 very very dry with 9.6 mm.

Sunshine Averaged nationally over England and Wales, this amounted to 218 hours or 115% of the 1971 to 2000 average. It was the sunniest June for 3 years.

AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE REPORT

compiled by Dr C. H. Gallimore

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May/June 2009

Amphibians are less obvious now after the activities of the breeding season, but there have been records of all four species. Reptiles have been reasonably well reported and a new site for lizards has been found.

Frogs have been seen on a number of occasions in Wing, including a road casualty, and tadpoles have been seen in a semi-permanent pond in Ketton Quarry.

All **Toad** sightings have come from Wing, where a number were regularly seen in the recorder's garden, although they do not breed in his pond. Two road casualties were found also. A curious mystery surrounds a third dead toad. Your recorder picked up a small garishly-coloured carrier bag littering the road side near his house on 21st June. Finding that it was heavier than anticipated he looked inside, expecting to find something nasty left by a dog owner, and was surprised to find a large dead toad. The cause of death was not clear, as the bag was open, precluding the possibility of it having become trapped, and it did not appear to have been injured or crushed.

The only newt records have been from Wing also, where both species have been seen in gardens and ponds.

The only lizard records have come from a new site in Manton where ecologists from EMEC Ecology were carrying out a survey for Severn Trent Water in Manton and Wing. They found lizards in a rough wet field in early May and I found three lizards under one refuge on 22nd May. It is good to find a new site for this species, but a bit galling that it was within a mile of the recorder's house, in an area that he visits quite often, and furthermore, that this is the second new site within a mile of his home of thirty years of which he has been unaware!

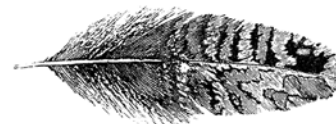
Grass Snakes have been reported from half a dozen sites in the county in both months. One was found under a refuge in Manton in early May and a road casualty was found near Pilton at the end of May. In June two were seen basking at Fort Henry, a sloughed skin was found in Tunneley Wood and a young snake was caught by a cat in Barrowden, but was retrieved and released.

A report in the *Leicestershire Recorder* by Mark Rossell of a photographic visit to Ketton Quarry on 18th April was interesting, if not strictly within the period of this report. He saw, and photographed, five **Adders** (one large male, one smaller male and three females) and is confident that there were at least six, and possibly seven, Adders there altogether. In addition he saw about thirty **Viviparous Lizards** in the same area.

My thanks to the following who sent records: J Howard, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, M Rossell and L Worrall

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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



An excellent two months saw the county's second Cattle Egret plus Spoonbills and Cranes at Rutland Water. An excellent wader passage was recorded, especially on the new lagoon at Egleton and terns were well represented on passage. A 'full set' of owls is unusual but was achieved during this period. Quail were noted in May – hopefully a sign of others to come later in the summer. Ravens continued to grace the county.

Regrettably Turtle Doves continue to decline, with fewer Nightingales and Spotted Flycatchers in line with national trends, but birds of prey provided a welcome highlight with nesting Ospreys and Red Kites and passage Marsh and Montagu's Harriers. Barn Owls also bred but broods were small this year.

My thanks to the following for their records: T Appleton, V Arnold, M A Branston, P & C Brown, A Bull, A Burdett, R Burdett, T Caldicott, Dr C Gallimore, M Grimes, W Kirby, LROS, R Lemmon, P Mann, T Mitcham, J & M Nourish, P Rudkin, P Scott, Jill Stapleton, A R & M A Thorp, M Winslow, L & G Worrall.

Mute Swan. There were two broods (4,5) at EBR on 31.05 and one at FHP (3) on 07.06.

Black Swan. One was at EBR throughout June.

White-fronted Goose. A pair was at RW (Egleton) between 12.05 and 18.05.

Greylag Goose. Breeding was confirmed at FHP (two broods), Exton Park (one brood) and Banthorpe Gravel Pit (two broods). There were 50 at the latter site on 25.05.

Egyptian Goose. Three were at Leighfield Fishponds (henceforth – LF) on 02.05 with a pair noted there on 09.05.

Shelduck. Up to four were at FHP throughout both months. Eleven, plus a brood of five, were at EBR on 07.06.

Mandarin. Bred at Morcott, where a female and six ducklings were present in mid-May.

Wigeon. A male was at RW (Burley Fishponds) on 02.06.

Gadwall. 31 was the peak count at FHP on 31.05. There was a brood of eight ducklings there on 09.06. A pair was at Wing Fishing Lakes from 03.05.

Teal. Four were at EBR on 13.06 and one at FHP on 21.06.

Green-winged Teal. The male at EBR was last reported on 05.05.

Mallard. At least four broods were produced at FHP in May, the best showing for several years. A brood of two was noted at Wing Fishing Lakes on 28.05.

Garganey. One or two were at RW (Egleton) between 01.05 and 09.05. Single males were at RW (Egleton) on 01.06 and EBR on 11.06.

Shoveler. There was a pair at FHP between 24.05 and 09.06.

Tufted Duck. 19 were at Wing Fishing Lakes on 02.06 and two pairs bred, producing broods of six and eleven.

Scaup. A male was still at RW (Dam) on 18.05.

Goldeneye. At RW (Burley Fishponds) there was a pair on 13.05, two males on 18.05 and one male on 30.05, which was still present on 05.06.

Red-legged Partridge. Widespread in the east of Rutland with reports from Exton, Greetham, Empingham and Mounts Lodge.

Grey Partridge. A male was at Ingthorpe on 18.05 and a pair near Mounts Lodge on 12.06.

Quail. Two were calling in Exton Park on 08.06.

Pheasant. A female and two chicks were near Manton on 31.05.

Great Northern Diver. Two were at RW (Dam) on 01.05.

Little Grebe. A pair was at RW (Egleton) on 18.05 and one was on Exton Park Lake on 14.06.

Great Crested Grebe. There were four occupied nests at EBR on 20.06.

Black-necked Grebe. Two were at RW (Egleton) on 10.05 with two in the North Arm on 29.05.

Fulmar. One flew along RW (South Arm) on 21.05.

Cattle Egret. Rutland's second was at RW(Egleton) between 04 and 10.05. Following successful nesting in Somerset last year, perhaps this species is set to follow the example of the Little Egret. The first county record was in April 1993.

Little Egret. One or two were at RW between 10.05 and 28.06, with three on 26.06. There were two at EBR on 15.06 with singles on 28 and 30.06. One flew north over Burley Wood on 11.06 and one was at LF on 23.06.

- Spoonbill.** One was at RW (Eggleton) on 13.05 with a pair noted there on 07.06.
- Red Kite.** Widespread reports of hunting birds, with two regularly over Stamford. Three pairs were proved breeding.
- Marsh Harrier.** Singles were at RW on 02.05 and 27.05, and Cold Overton on 30.05.
- Montagu's Harrier.** A ring-tail was at RW (Eggleton) on 15.06.
- Buzzard.** Twos and threes were noted at Exton/ FHP, Wardley, Wing, Manton, Preston, Bloody Oaks, Barrowden and Great Casterton.
- Osprey.** Two pairs were breeding off the RW Reserve and a pair took up a territory on the new lagoon at Eggleton. Occasionally noted at EBR with one visiting LP on 02.05, 28.05 and 26.06.
- Kestrel.** Regularly seen at FHP and Exton Park, where four young were ringed on 23.06. Also noted at Flitteris Park and Wing Burrows.
- Hobby.** All records were between 01.05 and 26.06. Five were at RW on 02.05 and two at EBR on 30.05. Noted at three other possible nesting sites.
- Moorhen.** A pair in a Wing garden provided interest as their breeding attempt produced six chicks on 05.06, which declined to one by 20.06. A pair bred by a garden pond.
- Crane.** One flew over RW (Eggleton) on 02.05 and two were over Exton Park on 19.05. A pair at RW (Manton Bridge) on the morning of 22.06 were later seen over Brooke en route into Leics.
- Oystercatcher.** Two were at RW (Dam) on 01.05 and one at EBR on 22.05. A pair and two chicks were at RW (Eggleton) on 29.05.
- Avocet.** All records were from RW (Eggleton) where two were present from 09.05 to 15.05, with two on 03.06 and one on 09.06.
- Little Ringed Plover.** Two were at EBR on 05.05 and 07.06 with birds also at RW(Eggleton).
- Ringed Plover.** Noted at RW(Eggleton) between 05.05 and 01.06 with maxima of 14 on 09.05 and 16 on 29.05.
- Grey Plover.** There were two at RW(Eggleton) on 13.05, with singles there on 14.05 and one on 06.06.
- Knot.** Singles were at RW on 18.05 and 06.06.
- Sanderling.** An excellent passage for this species with birds noted on ten May and three June dates at RW. There were 17 on 13/14.05 and nine on 27.05 with the last on 06.06.
- Little Stint.** Singles were at EBR and RW (Eggleton) on 04.06.
- Temminck's Stint.** One was at EBR on 19.05.
- Curlew Sandpiper.** Two were at RW on 04.05 with one on 23.05.
- Dunlin.** 13 were at EBR on 05.05 with four on 13.05. At RW, noted between 05.05 and 06.06 with a max. of 12 on the first date.
- Ruff.** Two were at EBR on 25.06 with one the next day. At RW there were six on 07.05, with singles on 25.06 and 30.06.
- Black-tailed Godwit.** There were 13 at RW (Eggleton) on 08.06 with six there on 25.06 and two on 30.06.
- Bar-tailed Godwit.** Three were at RW on 15.05 and 17.05, and singles on 26.05, 06.06 and 09.06. One was at EBR on 30.06.
- Whimbrel.** Noted at RW between 02.05 and 16.05, with five on 05.05. One was at EBR on 01.05, with two there on 06.05.
- Curlew.** Singles were near Stretton on 18.05 and over Barleythorpe on 15.06.
- Greenshank.** One or two were at RW between 01.05 and 03.06 with three on 25.06. Singles were at EBR on 12/13.05, and 30.06.
- Green Sandpiper.** Up to three were at RW between 09.06 and 30.06, and singles were at EBR on 19.06 and 28.06, with two on 26.06.
- Wood Sandpiper.** One was at RW (Eggleton) on 30.06.
- Common Sandpiper.** One was at EBR on 30.06.
- Turnstone.** Noted at RW between 13.05 and 22.05, with a max. of eight on the first date.
- Red-necked Phalarope.** A female was at EBR on 30.05.
- Mediterranean Gull.** A first-summer bird was at RW (Eggleton) between 04 and 13.05.
- Little Gull.** One or two were at RW between 26.05 and 12.06 with one again on 26 and 28.06.
- Yellow-legged Gull.** A first-summer bird was at RW (Eggleton) on 18.05 and again on 09.06.
- Kittiwake.** One was at RW on 05.05.
- Black Tern.** Both reservoirs shared a good passage. At EBR up to five were noted between 13.05 and 31.05, whilst at RW there were 23 on 13.05 with reduced numbers until 23 appeared again on 01.06 with three on 26.06.
- Little Tern.** Three were at RW on 09.05 with singles on 13–17.05 and then two on 26.06 and one the following day. At EBR one was noted on 14.05, with three on 24.06.
- Sandwich Tern.** One was at RW on 10.05 with two at EBR on 28.06.
- Common Tern.** Away from the breeding colony at RW, there were 17 at EBR (but no platform to nest on!) plus singles at LF on 20.05 and 28.05 and Wing Fishing Lakes on 19.06.

- Arctic Tern.** There were 26 at EBR on 13.05 whilst at RW there were up to six between 13.05. and 03.06.
- Turtle Dove.** One sang in a plantation near Pilton on 09.05. All other records were from RW(Egleton) where a displaying bird was seen on 01.06, two were noted on 16.06 and one collected nest material near the Centre on 26.05.
- Cuckoo.** Singing birds were reported between 05.05 and 10.06 (Barrowden) with males calling at ten scattered sites mainly in the west of the county, including three in Burley Wood on 24.05.
- Barn Owl.** Brooke, Barleythorpe, Wing and RW provided sight records and three broods of young were ringed (one, two and three!).
- Little Owl.** Singles were noted in May at Beaumont Chase Farm, Brooke, EBR, and RW (Egleton) and at FHP in June.
- Tawny Owl.** Birds were heard or seen at Hambleton, Gibbet Gorse, Tunneley Wood, Beaumont Chase Farm and Langham, and young were calling in Burley Wood on 24.06.
- Long-eared Owl.** One was seen at RW (Egleton) on 03.06.
- Short-eared Owl.** One was seen at RW (Egleton) on 18 and 22.05.
- Swift.** Screaming parties were noted only in Barrowden and Lyddington in June.
- Kingfisher.** Continues to remain scarce with reports from EBR (04.05), RW (12.05) and Tinwell (18.05).
- Green Woodpecker.** Regular in Exton Park/FHP and also reported from Langham, Bloody Oaks Reserve and Flitteris Park.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** Occupied nests were at Beaumont Chase Farm and Tunneley Wood (two) whilst fledged juvs. were noted at Wing. Nine were counted in Burley Wood on 14.06.
- Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.** A male was seen to fly from RW (Burley Fishponds) to the edge of Burley Wood on 11.06.
- Swallow.** All four young fledged at a Barrowden nest on 18.06.
- House Martin.** Five nests noted at a regularly watched site in Wing on 23.06.
- Meadow Pipit.** Display and song were noted in Exton Park on 18.05 and near Pickworth on 28.05.
- Yellow Wagtail.** At least 12 males were on territory in Exton Park in May with males also noted near Pickworth and Bisbrooke.
- Grey Wagtail.** There was a pair at the regular nesting site at Tinwell Pumping Station on 18.05.
- Whinchat.** Singles were at RW on 02.05 and 06.05.
- Nightingale.** Two singing birds were noted on RW (Lyndon) Reserve and three in Hambleton Wood. The last date was 29.05.
- Wheatear.** There was a pair at RW (Dam) on 01.05.
- Mistle Thrush.** There was a flock of 18 at LP on 13.06.
- Grasshopper Warbler.** Two sang in Tunneley Wood on 12.05 with one still present on 23.06. Three sang at RW (Egleton) on 12.06 and one in Holywell Wood on 16.06. One was seen in Priors Coppice on 13.06.
- Sedge Warbler.** Five were noted at LF on 10.05.
- Lesser Whitethroat.** Very well reported during these months with singing birds recorded at twelve sites, with up to six in the Leighfield area on 13.06.
- Whitethroat.** Widespread reports from all areas included three at Wing Fishing Lakes (03.05) and 18 around Leighfield (10.05). A family party was seen at Manton on 14.06.
- Garden Warbler.** Some good counts of singing males were of five in Hambleton Wood on 10.05, 14 at RW(Egleton) on 11.05, six around Leighfield on 14.05, and four at Priors Coppice on 28.05.
- Blackcap.** 18 were counted around Burley Wood on 24.06.
- Willow Warbler.** 36 were in song around Leighfield on 14.05 with 18 at RW (Egleton) on 19.05 – encouraging totals.
- Chiffchaff.** One sang in a Barrowden garden between 06 and 10.05.
- Spotted Flycatcher.** First noted at RW (Warden's Cottage) on 17.05, with one at Tunneley Wood the next day. Other reports came from Clipsham, Edith Weston, Exton Park, LF, Burley Wood, Barleythorpe and Priors Coppice.
- Willow Tit.** Noted at RW (Lyndon) on 28.05. A family party was at RW(Burley Fishponds) on 02.06, and three were at Leighfield on 13.06.
- Marsh Tit.** One sang in Tunneley Wood on 10.05 with other reports from Priors Coppice and Burley Wood.
- Nuthatch.** Eight were noted in Burley Wood on 14.06, with other records from Priors Coppice, Tunneley Wood and FHP.
- Raven.** Two were near Leighfield on 04.05 and one was near Empingham on 28.05. In June singles were over Burley Wood (11.06) and Priors Coppice (13.06) with a pair at Lincolnshire Gate on 20.06.
- Tree Sparrow.** Two pairs were in an ivy-covered ash tree near Ketton Quarry on 16.06.

Siskin. An interesting series of sightings may indicate local breeding. One flew over LF on 09.05 whilst in June two flew SW over Beaumont Chase Farm on 13.06, and there were singles over Oakham (17.06) and Leighfield (26.06).

Linnet. c.70 were at Leighfield on 04.05 with 50 still present on 10.05.

Reed Bunting. Birds holding territory in oilseed rape fields were noted at Beaumont Chase Farm, Exton Park and near Merry's Meadows.

Corn Bunting. One in Exton Park on 01.05 was not seen subsequently. Three sang near Mounts Lodge on 16.06.

Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park

	10.05	14.06
Little Grebe		1
Grey Heron	1	1
Mute Swan	6	6
Greylag Goose	27	11
Shelduck	3	4
Gadwall	17	13
Mallard	38	47
Tufted Duck	2	16
Moorhen	8	11
Coot	45	36
TOTAL	147	146

BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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May 2009

In excess of 150 records were received for this warm, dry month. The most notable was possibly Andy Lear's record of two patches of **Dyer's Greenweed** in Merry's Meadows SSSI Reserve. This is the only record I have ever received for this beautiful plant in Rutland.

Some verge reports have been received, for which many thanks.

Peter Scott also reported that he found four **Green-winged Orchids** in Empingham Marshy Meadow SSSI – a change from cattle grazing some years ago has reduced the number of this orchid from many dozens. Nature is very quickly altered by changes in human activity.

June 2009

June was even better for records – over 270 sightings were reported, including verge reports.

Grass Vetchling was again seen on the south verge of the Uppingham bypass on 10th June – it can only be easily spotted when in flower for about two weeks, as the leaves look, as its name suggests, like blades of grass.

Bee Orchids seemed few in number at most sites but Linda Biddle reported a group of eleven near the bank of the Gwash between Great Casterton and Ryhall.

The party of the Parkers, Manns, Northen and Myers did a phenomenal job at six locations and counted over 2,400 **Common Spotted Orchids**.

Many thanks to: B Parker, D Parker, P Mann, E Mann, E Northen, J Myers, R Lemmon, L Biddle, G Worrall, M Grimes, A Malcolm, J Mallett, A Lear, P Scott.



May and June 2009

BUTTERFLIES

Having had fairly poor seasons in the last two years, it has been most rewarding to receive so many records for this issue. Whilst **Red Admirals**, **Holly Blues** and **Peacocks** have still been fairly few, some species and especially the 'browns' have recovered well, as is shown by numbers quoted in the following notes.

During the last week of June, **Small** and **Large Skippers** were seen in the quarries and on reserves with the largest numbers, i.e. 10+, being counted at Ketton on the 23rd. Small numbers of **Grizzled Skippers** were reported at Ketton in May and at Clipsham in June, while the number of **Dingy Skipper** records varied from May 24th at Ketton Quarry until a maximum of 11 were noted at Clipsham Quarry in June.

Brimstone records also came from the quarries, from Rutland Water reserves and one garden in Oakham. **Large** and **Small Whites** were both well recorded throughout the two months. **Green Veined Whites** were in the main only seen during May.

Orange Tips appeared in ones and twos on a variety of sites, with a final sighting on May 29th. Single **Green Hairstreaks** were observed in Bloody Oaks Quarry and Ketton Quarry, while 9 were found during a walk around Clipsham Quarry on June 14th. One **Purple Hairstreak** was discovered in Burley Wood on the 28th.

Only two records for **Small Copper** have been received; these were from Prior's Coppice and Merry's Meadows. During the last week of May and during the whole of June, **Common Blues** were well recorded in the quarries and on reserves but it is interesting to note that there were no garden records for this species. Sites for **Holly Blues** were limited to only four for this period. Records for **Red Admirals** have also been very few this year and I have read that this is so in other parts of the country too.

The **Painted Lady** has achieved notoriety with the enormous migration which took place when large numbers entered the country at the end of May. Some of these flew through Rutland in large groups and were seen by many around Rutland Water and at Wing. Since that time, in the region of 20 records have been received of small numbers observed regularly throughout our area.

During June, the numbers of **Small Tortoiseshells** seen increased, with reports coming from several of our reserves. At the Egleton reserve, around 40 larvae of the **Peacock** were found on nettles in May, while adults were only seen at Edith Weston, Ketton Quarry, Lyddington and Lyndon. Four records were received for **Commas**; these were at Ketton Quarry, Lyddington, Lyndon and south of Uppingham.

Speckled Woods were seen throughout both months and often in large numbers – it was in fact the species with the most records for this report. On June 19th, over 30 were counted in Burley Wood and during the last week of the month, over 20 were seen at Ketton Quarry and 10 on the Egleton reserve. Lower numbers were reported from fourteen other areas. Ketton Quarry was visited by several members to monitor the **Marbled White** colony and over 50 were seen on two occasions. A few were once again found in Bloody Oaks Quarry and one was seen at the Old Saddle Club near Edith Weston.

From mid-June onwards, **Gatekeepers** appeared and were reported from Clipsham and Ketton quarries and also Barrowden. Numbers of **Meadow Browns** have been extremely high, with in excess of 150 at Egleton, 20–30 at Ketton, 15 at Merry's Meadows and several sites had more than 10. As in 2008, Clipsham Quarry had the largest numbers of **Small Heaths** with over 20 being seen on June 14th. Other sites for this species were Ketton Quarry, Stamford Quarry reserve and the Old Saddle Club.

Since **Ringlets** emerged during the second half of June, enormous numbers have been reported. For example, 220 in Burley Wood, over 150 at Egleton, 30+ at Lyndon and 'dozens' at the Old Saddle Club. In all, records have come from 16 sites to date.

Finally, members may be interested to know about a dead butterfly that was found (in a fresh condition) just outside Rutland in Wakerley Spinney on May 6th. It was a **Silver Washed Fritillary** and this species is not usually on the wing until July, so I sent it to the Northamptonshire recorder who agreed with me that it must have been a release/escape. On July 2nd one of our members saw four of these butterflies flying in Wakerley Wood; how nice it would be if some were to cross the County border so they could be added to our species list!

MOTHS

After poor seasons in both 2007 and 2008, at last the future is looking brighter as numbers of moths have shown an increase recently, especially during the second half of June. Some excellent catches have been achieved, in good weather, when traps have been operated on a variety of sites, e.g. 122 species at Rutland Water and 112 species at Ketton Quarry.

At Clipsham Quarry, an 'earlier than usual' visit on May 20th resulted in 33 species, but of these nine were new records for the site, which demonstrates that we only catch a percentage of numbers present depending on the weather and the date. A second visit here by the Leicestershire Moth Trapping Group who ran 17 Lights/Traps for an all night session on June 25th resulted in 2,636 moths of 211 species!!

Three visits to Eyebrook Reservoir in May ended with three micro-species and one macro, i.e.

Treble Lines being added to the site list. Two visits were made in June and the second of these added the **Blackneck** and **Rosy Footman**. On this occasion (June 27th) we ran an extra trap in the Plantation to sample moths from a slightly different habitat. The results were 105 species from the usual Dam area and 71 species from the Plantation, but 22 of the latter were different, thus resulting in an overall total for the night of 127 species.

The garden traps at Lyddington yielded 139 species during May and 205 species during June. Here, the new species were **Heart and Club** and the **Concolorous**. We must at this point thank Derek Lee for all his records which will be sadly missed as he moves to 'pastures new'.

At Barrowden, the garden trap attracted in excess of 150 species for this period and included an *Epiblema grandaevana*, which remains a scarce species with only a few records in VC55. Our

previous sightings were at Seaton in 2001 and at Eyebrook in 2007. A Heart and Club was also trapped in this garden, as in Lyddington being another scarce species during the last few years.

Garden traps were run at Edith Weston on four nights in May and four nights in June with up to 44 species on one occasion. At Barnsdale Gardens at Exton, there were two counts in May and five in June, when 82 species on the 30th included 19 new additions for the site.

Several members submitted moth records from their gardens and also from their daytime walks around the countryside. In excess of 200 **Chimney Sweepers** were found at both Merry's Meadows and on the Lyndon Reserve. In mid-June, around 60 micro-moths *Nemophora degeerella* were observed in Burley Wood doing their 'dance' above plants along the ride. Others were also present at Lyndon Wood Pond.

Hawk moth records included a photograph of an **Eyed Hawk-moth** at Uppingham, and news of an **Elephant Hawk** that emerged successfully from a chrysalis collected last year at Langham. Some of the more unusual moths seen were two micros *Alabonia geoffrella* at Lax Hill and a **Red-tipped Clearwing** in Prior's Coppice. In Burley Wood, one **Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnet** was found fully emerged with three more in the process on neighbouring grass stems.

Caterpillar records included **Mullein Moth** at Edith Weston and North Luffenham and **Drinkers** at Belton and Manton. At Barrowden a two metre length of Hawthorn/Spindle hedge has been covered with the larval tents of many **Ermine** caterpillars, devastating the leaves before their pupation.

The **Horse Chestnut Leaf Miners** are active once again this year, with evidence on this species of tree at Edith Weston, Empingham, Exton, North and South Luffenham and Whitwell.

Many thanks to all the following for their recent contributions: V Arnold, M Branston, T Caldicott, M Carlisle, J Comber, R Follows, C H Gallimore, V Hemsley, C R Jones, A L Lawrence, D & F Lee, R Lemmon, J Mallett, P & E Mann, L Martyn, J Myers, E Northen, D & B Parker, K Potterton, P Rudkin, A Russell, M Skevington, P Scott and G & L Worrall.

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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May/June 2009

The heat of late May, and the heat wave of June, has had an impact on the orthoptera this new season. My notes in *Fieldfare* 2007 and 2008 state that no adult species were found in May/June, only nymphs. What a difference this time around! In June, reports have been received of stridulating adults in Rutland sites; and (from Roy Frost, Orthoptera recorder for Derbys and Notts) a stridulating adult at a gravel pit in Notts.

Of course, many hundreds of nymphs have been seen, because they hatch in April/May. However, they do not stridulate until they become adults, which involves a few weeks of passing through instar stages (moult). So the weather plays an important part in their progress; and this year their development has been earlier.

Bush Crickets

Dark Bush Cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

Tim Caldicott has been working the western area of Burley Woods, Oakham, this season, and found many nymphs in the grasses of the rides: 4 nymphs on 11th June, 16 on 14th June, 12 on 19th June, and 16 on 24th June.

On the evening of the 24th, a group of us were in Burley Woods, on our annual Glow-worm survey. We approached the first ride at 8.50 pm, and there in the long grasses, a large colony of Dark Bush Cricket nymphs were developing. We caught and identified female and male nymphs. On reaching the eight-riding tree, more were located. The cricket nymph species are all individually shaped, so are easier to recognise than the grasshoppers, and are fascinating to view in a bug pot, with a magnifying lid. Time was spent admiring these youngsters, and in particular the lovely green yellow underparts.

Roesel's Bush Cricket, *Metrioptera roeselii*

Tim Caldicott observed one male, in long grasses, between Harrier and Tern Hides, Eggleton reserve, Rutland Water, on 12th June. On 30th June, at 5.40 pm, very hot and dry, I visited the LRWT Bloody Oaks reserve. One adult male was stridulating in the rank vegetation, at the bottom of the grass bank. Outside the county, on 28th June, 7 were stridulating in a Trent-side gravel pit in Nottinghamshire. This illustrates how early the adults have matured in 2009. The first one to sing in Rutland in 2008 was on the 15th July.

Long-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus discolor*

One nymph, seen in the long grasses, in the regular site at Brickyard Quarry (neglected farm field), Little Casterton Road, Stamford, just inside Rutland, 29th June.

Speckled Bush Cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima*

One nymph located at Prior's Coppice on 13th June. In the western area of Burley Woods, 4 on 14th, and 10 plus on 19th June (all nymphs).

Groundhoppers

Slender Groundhopper, *Tetrix subulata*

One on 6th May, one on 24th May, one on 1st June. All seen on bare earth, on Tim Caldicott's Brooke Road allotment, Oakham.

Grasshoppers

Common Green Grasshopper, *Omocestus viridulus*

2 stridulating males first heard on 23rd June, then again on 24th. On the 30th June, good numbers stridulating. All sightings were in grass field at the back of the Training Centre, at Barleythorpe (SK 844 096).

Field Grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus*

This species is always under recorded! The question is, is this due to the grasshopper declining, or due to lack of observation? As I have said previously, the Field Grasshopper has a very short, quiet stridulation. Also, it is usually found in bare earth situations, which are possibly overlooked by naturalists. So, thanks to Tim Caldicott for the following important records: one observed on 15th June, and 2 on 27th June, on the Brooke Road allotments, Oakham; 2 seen, in the western area of Burley Woods, Oakham, on 28th June.

Meadow Grasshopper, *Chorthippus parallelus*

In contrast to the Field Grasshopper, the Meadow is our most common grasshopper. Numerous, lively, easily seen, and of course, with the traditional wellknown song, which is often on soundtracks of radio and TV plays.

About 5 tiny nymphs were observed on 29th May, then 5 adults on 26th June, all on Tim Caldicott's front lawn in Oakham. Tim reports 'I only cut my front lawn with shears, and it is rather weedy'. So that is why I do not get any hoppers on my lawns at Brooke Avenue!

I had a pleasant surprise on visiting the LRWT Bloody Oaks Nature reserve, on a dry and hot evening, 5.15 pm, 30th June. From the entrance gate, across the grassy path, onto the bank, and to the far end of this small reserve, there were literally hundreds of nymphs and adults, and an amazing amount of stridulating from the males. The hoppers were jumping everywhere I walked. Incredible what the hot summer conditions have done for the development of our orthoptera. Adults and nymphs were caught for inspection, then released.

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Our other very successful grasshopper! 2 were seen in the Brooke Road allotments on 17th June, and one in the western area of Burley Woods, Oakham, 28th June.

During my visit to the Brickyard Quarry farm field at 5.45 pm, 29th June, hot and dry, one pair were in courtship mode, and stridulating was heard. (First heard on 15th July 2008, at Eggleton reserve). Many nymphs caught, also one female, for identification.

Discussion: it is very pleasing to note the early stridulating and the maturity of adults of the crickets and grasshoppers this season. Undoubtedly this is due to the good weather experienced, making comparisons with the last two years very interesting. It will also be useful to note the size of the species in the next few weeks, having observed the smallness of them in 2008.

Will there be a new orthopteran appearing in Rutland this season? It would be exciting indeed!

Many thanks to contributors: T Caldicott, P Rudkin, R Rogers (via Roy Frost, Derbyshire and Notts Recorder).

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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May 2009

This has been an unexpectedly quiet month for galls; the rusts have continued to play their part and there has been an increase in the numbers of other gall causers such as mites, gall wasps and sawflies, but total numbers have not been as high as in previous years. There are two rusts found on Coltsfoot leaves, one causes a gall and the other doesn't, and the former *Puccinia poarum* was found in Ketton Quarry on 7th and Merry's Meadows on 21st. There were 5 records for another rust, this time on Creeping Thistle, and these were each from a different location and on different dates. Mite galls were found on Sloe, Field Maple and Crab Apple on the occasion of the Society's evening visit to Hambleton Wood on 19th, and Merry's Meadow produced an uncommon gall on Oak on the 21st. The appropriately named Cotton Wool gall looks exactly like a ball of cotton wool about 15 mm in diameter and is caused, as many galls on Oak are, by a Gall Wasp. Cribbs Meadow on 28th gave two galls, one on Willow caused by a Sawfly and the other on Ground Ivy caused by a Gall Wasp.

June 2009

The 'other gall causers' continue to hold sway this month with several records of Mophead galls on ferns, notably Male and Broad Buckler ferns. These quite distinctive galls, where the top end of the frond is distorted into a mop-like configuration, are caused by the young of a fly – they have been found in Priors Coppice on 11th and Burley Wood on 24th. The first report of the year of a Robin's Pincushion gall was in Eggleton Reserve, Rutland Water, on 12th, and the 14th brought records of Knopper galls on Oak induced by a gall wasp, and galls on Germander Speedwell produced by a gall midge. Both of these were from verge 8 at Toilethorpe.

I would like to remind members that ANY gall reports, even of common ones, are welcome, especially as they help to fill in the picture across the County.

Thanks are due to T Caldicott, G Chiverton and R Lemmon

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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May 2009

Odonata

We received our first records of the year for damselflies and dragonflies this month.

A **Large Red Damselfly** was noted at North Luffenham. **Blue-tailed Damselflies** were out in 'good numbers' at Wing Fishing Lakes (at least 30no.) and approx 25no. were recorded at Leighfield Fishponds. Also at Wing Fishing Lakes a **Red-eyed Damselfly** was recorded. Two species of dragonflies were recorded: a **Common Darter** at Ketton Quarry and two sightings of **Broad-bodied Chasers** at Priors Coppice.

Hemiptera

Green Shieldbug *Palomena prasina* records came from Barrowden where an adult was sunning itself outside a kitchen window, and two were noted at Edith Weston. Also noted at Edith Weston was a **Woundwort Shieldbug** *Eyarcoris fabricii*. Two **Froghopper** records were received, both for the red and black *Cercopis vulnerata*; one adult at Merry's Meadows and one at Belton in Rutland.

Neuroptera

Two sightings of **Alder Flies** *Sialis lutaria*; one at Edith Weston and one by Ashwell Church.

Mecoptera

A **Scorpion Fly** *Panorpa communis* was noted at Lyndon Reserve.

Trichoptera

A **Caddis Fly** *Phryganea grandis* was recorded at Barnsdale.

Diptera

Many **Snipe Flies** *Atherix ibis* were recorded on trees and bushes on the edge of the water at Lyndon Reserve (an accompanying photo showed one in a typical downwards resting position). On May 1st a **St. Mark's Fly** *Bibio marci* was recorded at Edith Weston. A **Common Bee-Fly** *Bombylius major* was noted on May 2nd, also at Edith Weston. A **Parasitic Fly** *Tachina fera* was recorded at North Luffenham. A large **Hoverfly** *Eupeodis nitens* was seen at Ketton Quarry. Also at Ketton Quarry a **Bumblebee Hoverfly** *Volucella bombylans* (yellow form) was recorded; with a record for the

red or 'typical' form of *Volucella bombylans* being recorded at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

Hymenoptera

A **Soloman's Seal Sawfly** *Phymatocera aterrima* was recorded at Edith Weston churchyard. A **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascorum* was foraging at Bloody Oaks Quarry. A **Hornet** *Vespa crabro* was at Clipsham Quarry and a **Hornet** was also recorded at Edith Weston. A **Garden Bumblebee** *Bombus hortorum* nest was noted in grass at the edge of a garden pond at Wing. Later it was discovered dug up overnight – recorder notes 'I guess by a badger'.

Coleoptera

On warm May evenings it's always good to get a chance to see or hear cockchafer 'bumbling' around. Needless to say our intrepid recorders did not disappoint and cockchafer sightings came in, and also a great photo. **Cockchafer** *Melolontha melolontha* records as follows: 3 came to a moth-trapping sheet at Clipsham Quarry; at Barrowden one unlucky chafer was 'dismantled' by a sparrow, one was found dead on the roadway at 11.15 pm and one was 'bumping' round a carport light; one was noted on a beech hedge at Barleythorpe; 4 were recorded at Edith Weston on 14th May, 2 were noted at Barnsdale Gardens on 25th May and another 2 on 30th May.

Ladybirds **Coccinellidae** were recorded at follows: **Orange Ladybird** at Edith Weston, **7-spot Ladybird** at Bloody Oaks Quarry, **Harlequin Ladybirds** at Brooke Road, Oakham and Burley Fishponds, **14-spot Ladybird** at Leighfield, **22-spot Ladybird** at Leighfield; all these records were of single insects.

Lily Beetles *Lilioceris lili* – five were recorded at Barrowden, 3 were noted at Edith Weston on 6th May and single records for 7th, 8th and 9th May. A **Click Beetle** was noted at Lyndon Reserve, and **Burying Beetle** *Nicrophorus humator* was recorded at Edith Weston. A variety of longhorn beetle, a **Wasp Beetle** *Clytra arietis*, was recorded at Barleythorpe.

Gastropoda

White-lipped Snails *Cepaea hortensis* were noted at Ketton Quarry and Bloody Oaks Quarry. A **Black Slug** *Arion ater* was also seen at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

June 2009

Odonata

Two male and 2 female **Banded Demoiselles** *Calopteryx splendens* were recorded at Ketton/Aldgate, and 2/3 were seen by the river Chater at Wing. **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum* records came from Ketton/Aldgate, Priors Coppice, Ketton Quarry and Wing Fishing Lakes. **Blue-tailed Damselflies** *Ishnura elegans* were noted at Ketton/Aldgate and Wing Fishing Lakes. Several **Azure Damselflies** *Coenagrion puella* were also seen at Ketton/Aldgate. Records for **Red-eyed Damselfly** *Erythromma najas*, **Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrrosoma nymphula* and **White-legged Damselfly** *Platycnemis pennipes* also came from Wing Fishing Lakes. **Black-tailed Skimmer Dragonfly** *Orthetrum cancellatum* records came in from Barleythorpe, Priors Coppice, Burley Wood and Leighfield Fishponds. **Emperor Dragonfly** *Anax imperator* records came in from Priors Coppice for 3 separate dates. Female **Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonflies** *Libellula depressa* were noted at Ketton Quarry and over a garden pond in Wing.

Hemiptera

A **Green Shieldbug** *Palomena prasina* was recorded at Edith Weston. A **Capsid Bug** *Globiceps cruciatus* was noted at Ketton Quarry. A **Squash Bug** *Coreus marginatus* was recorded at Oakham. A **Mirid Bug** *Campyloneura virgula* was recorded at Burley Wood (recorder noted 'this one has a bite!').

Mecoptera

One **Scorpion Fly** *Panorpa communis* was noted at Edith Weston, and **Scorpion Flies** were recorded as numerous at Ketton/Aldgate.

Trichoptera

A **Caddis Fly** *Phryganea grandis* was recorded at Edith Weston and also at Barnsdale Gardens.

Diptera

A **Bumblebee Hoverfly** *Volucella bombylans* of the black and red or 'typical' form was recorded at Barrowden. A **Scarce Hoverfly** *Volucella inflata* was seen at Ketton Quarry.

Hymenoptera

One worker **Red-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lapidarius* was noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry and also at the same location was a **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascorum*. **Bumble Bees** 'assorted workers' were busy on Cotoneaster flowers in a Barrowden garden. Single **Hornet** *Vespa crabro* were noted on two dates at Edith Weston.

Coleoptera

Small **Chafer Beetles** *Amalophia ruricola* were recorded at Bloody Oaks Quarry. Two **Cardinal Beetles** *Pyrochroa coccinea* were noted at Ketton Quarry. A **Common Malachite Beetle** *Malachius bipustulatus* was recorded on nettles in Burley Wood. Two **Wasp Beetle** *Clytra arietis* records – one from Barleythorpe and one from Edith Weston.

Cockchafer Beetles *Melolontha melolontha* were still about in Edith Weston and on three different occasions in Barnsdale Gardens. A **Bloody-nosed Beetle** *Timarcha tenebricosa* was recorded near Uppingham.

Ladybird records for June were as follows: **7-spot Ladybird**, one specimen on Verge 7, one observed in Barleythorpe and insects observed through the month in Edith Weston. A **10-spot Ladybird** was noted in Burley Wood. A **14-spot Ladybird** was seen at Wing Fishing Lakes. An **Orange Ladybird** came to a moth-trap at Eyebrook. Many **Harlequin Ladybirds** were observed at Ketton/Aldgate.

Gastropoda

A few **Large Black Slugs** *Arion ater* were noted at Ketton Quarry, valley area.

Many thanks to recorders for many interesting observations and also some great photos: V Arnold, T Caldicott, C Gallimore, J Harvey, C R Jones, R Lemmon, D Perrill, P Scott and L & G Worrall

At one of the last indoor meetings I brought along some of the photos I had received over the year. These were displayed with names of the insects beside them, and I also brought the wild bee comb that was found at Barrowden. I thought recorders would like to know that these are at present loaned to our local C. of E. Primary School.

GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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June/early July 2009

With weather so warm, perhaps pupation occurred earlier than normal and some sightings may have been missed. It could be that mating has been particularly speedy. Numbers were thought likely to be down, due to very wet and windy conditions in the breeding season of 2007, when males would have been reluctant to fly and any eggs laid then would be due to produce adults now. This factor may be involved with small counts on more exposed sites. But there was a triumph at Burley Wood with record numbers – so perhaps the more sheltered environment helped the 2007 males. There are bound to be other variables! In any case, even a small number indicates a presence, and just one glow can cause inordinate delight! I hope there will be a few more reports next time.

Barrowden, Verge 3 Luffenham Road

Verge cut 1 swathe in late May, according to agreement with Highways, in order not to disturb potential pupation in early June.

13.6: 2 plump on edge of tall grass at back of west verge in usual place, some 50 m opposite and above village sign.

18.6: 3, good size, on west in usual place. Motorist stopped and also reported 13.6 sightings and a further 3 villagers later also reported 3 seen on 18.6.

3.7: 2 on west as above, plus 1 on east verge a little higher up hill. Very hot weather during days, but cooler and slight breeze after dark. 2 villagers also looking.

Barrowden, Verge 17 Back Road

18.6: 2, very thin, on north verge between field entrance and new housing on east of field behind verge and 2 plump in western corner of same field behind hedge in tall grass. Light from new houses not very obtrusive. Verges cut 1 swathe in late May, then back to hedge between new houses and field entrance in early June by unknown hand. 3.7: Cooler after dark, in very hot weather. 2 plump in field corner. Field edge now cut wide inside entrance, and long grass continuation near thick old hedge running towards A47 also cut low for some 20 m. Farmer uses this wide grassy field

edge for vehicle access at harvest (rape again this year). 20 mins later two villagers reported they had seen 2 in same place, plus 1 on south verge, but when I returned those in field corner were not visible, nor were any on south verge. It is feasible that they had mated and switched off in that short time, even though no males were seen.

Burley Wood, Junction of Compartments 18, 20, 15, 16, 25, 21, 23

21.6: An extremely heartening report from PJR and team, a record count of 31 glowing females, 2 of which had a mate. This was in the usual area but stretched further along rides than other years. The visit was a little earlier in the year than on some other occasions. All females were well down in the grass on rides and deep in vegetation along the verges. First glow: 10.15 pm; 31st glow: 11.05 pm. Congratulations all round!

Clipsham Quarry

June: Moth trappers reported 5 (males).

Essendine, Verge 5 and East Coast main line cutting top

22.6: 1 on verge adjoining cutting top. Grass in cutting top over 1 m high and thick except for a few clearer spaces; no glows visible. 11.00 pm, fine weather.

3.7: 1 on side of railway embankment (verge side), 1 between north/south tracks themselves; in cutting top: 1 by hedge, 1 near fence, 1 in grass. None on verges, both of which had very recently been clear cut to fence and farm hedge opposite, contrary to agreement with Highways not to cut during breeding season. These are very low numbers indeed for the site.

Over Rutland border:

Near Fineshade Abbey: A June report of their presence.

Wakerley Wood road verge, opposite Wakerley Spinney: 4.7: 2 deep in undergrowth.

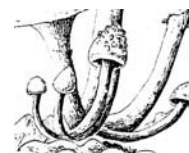
Road from Wakerley Wood to A43: 4.7: 1 halfway down on continuation of above verge.

Near junction of road from Wakerley with A43: 4.7: 1 on front of north verge. None found in usual place near old railway bridge near Wakerley.

Many thanks to: M A Branston, A & G Chiverton, R Follows, D Needham, B Parker, P J Rudkin, P Scott, D Whitefield, L & G Worrall.

MYCOLOGY NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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May/June 2009

The Semi-free Morels of Rutland Water Gorse Close continued into May, and in June there were fresh Chicken of the Woods at Burley Fishponds and Dryad's Saddles at Ketton Quarry. Cow dung at Merry's Meadows sported Psathyrellas. Otherwise mildews and rusts dominated, the latter often gall-forming, with particularly heavy infestations of *Puccinia violae* on Hairy Violet. May was 'summery' and June was hot and dry.

RESERVES

Ketton Quarry Woodland SK 974055: 7.5: Common Grey Disco *Mollisia cinerea* on underside of decaying Beech log, gall-forming rust *Puccinia punctiformis* on Creeping Thistle.

KQ Valley SK 976050: 7.5: 3 *Peziza septiata* on burnt ground and 4 fresh Dryad's Saddles on broadleaf (?hawthorn) stump. **18.6:** Rust *Microbotryum lichnidis-dioicae* on anthers of White Campion.

KQ North Glade SK 975056:7.5: Gall-forming rust *Puccinia poarum* on Colt's-foot leaves.

KQ RIGS: 7.5: Gall-forming rust *Puccinia violae* telia on Hairy Violet; there have been heavy infestations generally this year.

Bloody Oaks Quarry: 14.5: Gall-forming rusts *Melampsora populnea* aecia on Dog's Mercury and *Puccinia punctiformis* on Creeping Thistle. **25.6:** Powdery mildew *Erysiphe depressa* anamorph on Lesser Burdock and gall-forming rust *Puccinia violae* telia on Hairy Violet leaves.

RW Egleton Reserve, Gorse Close nr Goldeneye Hide SK 888062: 1.5: About 14 Semi-free Morels by path to Hide – wonderful! **22.5:** Southern Bracket *Ganoderma australe (adpersum)* near base of a living beech.

RW Burley Fishponds: 16.5: 3 large Giant Puffballs in their old, brown, flaky stage. An old one was here in February, too, so this appears a good site for them. Perhaps they persist so long

because of the huge number of spores they must hold! **5.6:** Large fresh Chicken of the Woods on an old willow.

RW Hambleton Wood: 19.5, RNHS visit: Anamorph state of powdery mildews *Erysiphe cynoglossi* on Field Forget-me-not and *Microsphaera alphitoides* on Oak; rusts *Puccinia punctiformis* on Creeping Thistle and anther rust *Microbotryum lichnidis-dioicae* on Red Campion (this used to be a smut called *Ustilago violacea*.)

Merry's Meadows: 21.5: On old cow dung, 3-10 *Psathyrella coprobia* per pat; gall-forming rusts *Puccinia poarum* on Colt's-foot leaves and *P punctiformis* on Creeping Thistle; downy mildew *Plasmopara densa* on Yellow Rattle.

Prior's Coppice: 11.6: Anamorph state of powdery mildews *Erysiphe ulmariae* on Meadowsweet, *Sphaerotheca aphanis* on Herb Robert and *uncinula adunca* var *regularis* on Goat Willow; anther rust *Microbotryum lichnidis-dioicae* on Red Campion and aecial state of gall-forming rust *Triphragmium ulmariae* on petioles and leaf veins of Meadowsweet.

WOODS

Burley Wood: 31.3: A Hoof Fungus *Fomes fomentarius* on a Silver Birch log escaped the last *Fieldfare*, sorry, and thanks PJR for the excellent photograph. A well-ravaged puffball or earthball was also noted. **24.6:** Choke *Epichloe typhina* on a grass and uredinal state of rust *Phragmidium violaceum* on Bramble.

FIELDS, GARDENS, VERGES

Verge 7, Casterton-Pickworth TF 000116: 4.6: Powdery mildew *Erysiphe heraclei* anamorph state on Cow Parsley, rust *Microbotryum lichnidis-dioicae* on anthers of White Campion; gall-forming rusts *Phragmidium mucronatum* on Dog Rose and *Puccinia malvacearum* on Common Mallow; White blister *Albugo tragopogonis*, also a galler, on Goat's-beard.

Thanks for all reports: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, H Ellis, R Lemmon, P J Rudkin

BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

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Your recorder is very busy; please continue sending in your records.



MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

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May/June 09

It's good that we have an increase in **Hedgehog** reports this month and among them some from my own garden, in Stamford, but very close to the Rutland border! The first was in early June walking across the garden in the afternoon and the second as follows: one early evening I went to our garage where we keep a tin of dog food, about 2'6" high and 18 inches across, with a loose but close-fitting lid. Unusually the lid was upside down, and I immediately concluded that a field mouse had gone onto the lid and it had turned over depositing the mouse in the tin (it has happened!), so I very carefully lifted the lid, expecting a mouse to leap up at me as they do when cornered. Imagine the surprise when I found a large fat hedgehog, fast asleep, obviously very full of dog food and very comfortable. I tried to tip it out onto the garden, but unfortunately the hog stayed where it was and the small biscuits rolled over it, burying it, and unfortunately sticking biscuits to its spines. I removed it gently (wearing gloves to keep off the fleas!) and placed it on the lawn. It looked very much like a party hedgehog with pineapple and cheese on sticks, only a perfect meal for the dog, so I thought better of letting it go away as it was!! I tried to remove as much of the food as possible and put it through the hedge so that the dog couldn't reach it. It has been a fairly frequent visitor since, obviously remembering the food supply, and one or two smaller ones have also been seen from time to time. Dr Gallimore reports he has found droppings in his garden for the first time for many years.

At Barrowden the Worralls had regular visits from one hedgehog during May, and at the end of the month two were seen at the same time, one large and grey, the other slightly smaller and fluffier round the face. On June 6th courting behaviour was seen, circling and snuffling, and a further individual was seen separately. Then single animals were seen most nights, probably 3 individuals, and courting was again observed on June 12th and 16th.

Badgers were observed in setts at 2 locations north of Stamford. On both occasions the evening sun was unfortunately beaming straight into the

sett entrance, and cast a shadow of the observer, alerting the animals which returned to the safety of the sett. Dr Gallimore has had badger activity in his garden, a bumble bee nest at the edge of the lawn having been dug out, and a latrine in the rough part of the garden. 4 road casualties were recorded.

Two **Weasels** have been recorded in early June, one crossing a ride at Clipsham Park Wood, and another carrying prey across the cycle track near the golf course at Rutland Water. A **Stoat** was also seen between Wing and Glaston, carrying a small mammal. Happily we have a few small mammals reported this month, including three **Common Shrews**, a live one at Wing, and dead ones at Ketton and Burley Wood. A **Bank Vole** (of which more next month) was seen in Dr Gallimore's garden, and 2 **Short-tailed Field Voles** are reported, one under corrugated sheeting at Manton, and the other in the jaws of the weasel reported above!

Rabbits and **Hares** have been commonly seen locally, and **Moles** active though less so than in previous months. Two dead moles were found on the path at Prior's Coppice in early June. Only one **Grey Squirrel** was recorded, from the Worrall's garden in Barrowden, probably scavenging the old nuts left by the hedgehogs.

At the end of April Peter Scott and LROS members had a surprise when listening to nightingales, in a clearing in Hambleton Wood. A **Fox** burst into the clearing, closely followed by a **Muntjac**. It seems the fox was more shocked than the observers and it made a panic-stricken exit, followed still by the Muntjac. Near Woodhead Wood a single **fox-cub** was seen on 2 occasions, another in Westland wood (Exton estates), and a third in Burley Wood. Adults were recorded from Burley, Glaston and Manton. A total of 26 **Muntjac** were seen, in Langham, Wing, Beaumont Chase Farm, and most in Burley, Little Haw, Pickworth, Cottesmore and Holywell woods. **Fallow Deer** are commonly recorded from the above woods, and also Tunnely and Westland woods.

Finally, a Roe deer was seen crossing crops west of the top lake at Fort Henry.

Records were received this time from: A J Biddle, M A Branston, Mrs R Burdett, T Caldicott, Dr C Gallimore, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, PJ Rudkin, P Scott, A R & M A Thorp, A Wardell, L & G Worrall