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## NOTICEBOARD

### Farewells

I am sorry to have to tell you that Derek and Frances Lee will soon be leaving Rutland. We shall miss them very much, as great friends and supporters of the Society. But they were also tremendously supportive and active Committee Members. Frances was our Minutes Secretary and produced swift and accurate records of our meetings. Derek, as well as being a Committee member, was also our highly professional and dedicated Honorary Treasurer.

We shall miss them both for their excellent contributions to the life of the RNHS. Obviously their departure leaves us with some gaps to fill.

### Committee member and Treasurer needed

We would be extremely pleased to hear from you if you fancy becoming a Committee member. This doesn't entail a great time commitment, in the main. We meet about four times a year and the chief work involved is sorting out the annual programme of events and meetings, which our capable Programme Secretary Dawn then goes away to finalise. So it's mainly ideas and enthusiasm that are needed. (*We will be looking for a new Minutes Secretary from among the Committee members.*)

The Honorary Treasurer post requires a bit more than that. This is a particularly important role within the Society, and without a Treasurer it will be difficult to keep things running as smoothly as they have to date. The Treasurer would ideally have some experience with accounts, but the Society's financial affairs are very straightforward and simple to deal with. We are also lucky to have Derek still around for the next couple of months or so, and that means so he will be able to give the new Treasurer lots of guidance.

Please do think hard about helping the Society out on this occasion. It will make all the difference to keeping your Society functioning efficiently.

### 'Life on the Verge'

Members may have read of the new 'Life on the Verge' project being run jointly by Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust and Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

As you will see from the details which follow, this doesn't affect the current RNHS verge monitoring programme (so please continue with your efforts!) as the project is directed at finding new verges for attention in the limestone area, or places where

# Fieldfare

#### 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 D Whitefield  
34 Braunston Rd  
Oakham LE15 6LD  
01572 723991

**Express Printing**  
01933 228855

'quick wins' (such as better management or removal of a threat) could lead to improvement of a verge and therefore increased biodiversity.

If you are interested in participating, whether or not you are a current RNHS verge monitor, do get in touch with Mark direct. He gives his contact details below. You will be able to submit records in paper form as well as via the internet.

Of course, if you do spot any of the important indicator species targeted in this new project on any sites in Rutland, please don't forget to tell Graham Worrall as well!

**Ann Tomlinson**, Chairman

### To all at the RNHS

'Life on the Verge' – a roadside-verge wild-flower survey project in south-west Lincolnshire and north-east Rutland – is taking place this summer and next.

It forms part of the Lincolnshire and Rutland Limestone Grassland Project, which began last year and is supported by the Wildlife Trusts of Lincolnshire and Leicestershire and Rutland together with Natural England and Lincolnshire County Council.

This project will complement and not duplicate the ongoing work of your Roadside Verge Recording Group by finding more verges worth managing for wildlife. If you do not currently survey any roadside verges, this project will be a great way to improve your knowledge of this highly important but much threatened habitat. If you are already an active member of the Roadside Verge Recording Group, please consider using our survey form to take a look at verges nearby to the ones you usually survey.

The principal aim of Life on the Verge is to recruit and co-ordinate as many volunteers as possible in the local area to conduct a basic survey of lowland limestone grassland indicator species. Where we find new verges of high conservation value, we can focus efforts in future to manage them appropriately and possibly designate them as Roadside Nature Reserves and Local Wildlife Sites which would oblige local authorities to manage them sympathetically.

The project website can be reached at: [www.lifeontheverge.org](http://www.lifeontheverge.org), where you can keep up to date with the project and download survey documentation.

The survey is designed to enable volunteers of **all skill levels** to participate:



**The Wild flower ID Guide** We have recently printed a *Life on the Verge Wild Flower Identification Guide* for non-experts available as a hard copy from the Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust on request and online from the project website.

**Free training classes** There are two free training classes in June in the Rutland Water area aimed at beginners who want to learn the wild flowers of local limestone grassland.

**The Survey Form** The survey form is simplified and has two sections. The first is a standard survey of flowering plants. These are positive and negative indicator species only. The second is an advanced survey including more species for those who wish to work in more detail and even include fauna. The form will be available online and by post.

**Google Maps** We will need to co-ordinate everyone's efforts on the ground, so we will be using online maps. You can either use these directly from our website to find and claim your own verges to survey or we can allocate a local verge to you on the phone, print them off and post them to you. Watch our website for further developments coming soon.

### Help us focus our conservation effort

The standard survey alone will be sufficient to 'flag' verges of high potential conservation value which can be revisited in future as well as verges of low potential which need not receive further attention.

We cannot hope to survey the 2000 km of roads targeted over the next two years without help from volunteers throughout the project area. No-one knows more about your local roads than you do! It is very likely that volunteers, even without any survey experience, could discover some locations important to the flora of your natural area. If you can spare an afternoon or two over the coming summer, you could make a vital contribution to the most extensive wild flower survey ever conducted in Lincolnshire and Rutland area.

**Mark Schofield**,

Limestone Grassland Project Officer

*Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, Banovallum House,  
Manor House Street, Horncastle LN9 5HF*

*Email: [mschofield@lincstrust.co.uk](mailto:mschofield@lincstrust.co.uk)*

*Mobile: 07825970930,*

*Switchboard: 01507 526667.*

*Project website: [www.lifeontheverge.org.uk](http://www.lifeontheverge.org.uk)*

## RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY events

**Tuesday May 19**                      **HAMBLETON WOOD**                      **7.30 pm**

*An evening meeting, led by Phil Rudkin, RNHS, we hope to hear nightingales, see the remains of the bluebells and other spring flowers, perhaps see some bats, in this beautiful wood by Rutland Water.  
Meet at OS Explorer 234, SK 897072 (turn right in Hambleton village by the church and park by the gate).*

**Wednesday June 10**                      **BARNACK HILLS AND HOLES**                      **7.00 pm**

*An evening meeting at this National Nature Reserve, one of the UK's most important wildlife sites.  
Meet at the car park, OS Explorer 234, grid ref: TF 074047.*

**Weekend June 13/14**                      **NORFOLK/SUFFOLK BORDER**

*This is now fully booked. Information will be sent out to participants in May.*

**Thursday July 9**                      **LYNDON NATURE RESERVE**                      **7.00 pm**

*An evening meeting, led by Paul Stammers, Osprey Project.  
Meet at the Lyndon centre car park, OS Explorer 234, grid ref: SK 895056*

**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.*

### INDOOR MEETINGS

Indoor meetings are held at the Burley Road School, Oakham: charge of 40p for tea/coffee/biscuits. They will start up again on Tuesday October 6, 7.30 pm, with a talk on 'The history of bird ringing'.

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## LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST Rutland Group events

*See [www.lrwt.org.uk](http://www.lrwt.org.uk) or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours, for other events in Leicestershire and Rutland.*

**Sunday 31 May**                      **SEATON MEADOWS RESERVE**                      **2.00 pm**

*This SSSI is one of the last surviving remnants of unimproved flood meadow in Rutland. Led by Graham Worrall, we hope to find Cuckooflower, Ragged Robin, Pignut, Yellow Rattle, Common Meadow-rue and Oxeye Daisy amongst others. Advisable to wear wellies.  
Location: near Harringworth on B672, map reference SP 915979, limited parking under the Viaduct.*

**Sunday 5 July**                      **BLOODY OAKS QUARRY**                      **2.00 pm**

*Led by Anthony Biddle. This small SSSI is an old working of great interest. It is a partly restored and long disused shallow pit dug into the Upper Lincolnshire oolitic limestone series. The principal habitat is species-rich limestone grassland.  
Limited parking opposite on verge.*

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## LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

See [www.lincstrust.org.uk](http://www.lincstrust.org.uk) or phone 01507 526 677 in office hours, for details of the LWT Bourne Group's events and other Lincstrust events in Lincolnshire.

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## HIGH TIDES IN NORTH NORFOLK Nola Thurlow

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



June			July		
Sunday	7	06.53 19.17	Sunday	5	05.54 18.25
	14	11.03 23.45		12	10.01 22.35
	21	05.41 17.56		19	04.15 16.41
	28	11.10 –		26	10.03 22.48

## WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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

### March 2009

**Barometric pressure and winds.** Pressure was in general low from the start of the month with 978.5 mb on the 4th and this of course brought with it high winds, especially it seemed when I was driving home from our Society meeting on the evening of the 3rd. Pressure stayed low until the 11th when it started to rise with a high of 1033 mb on the 17th, which continued until the 25th when it dropped suddenly for four days, eventually rising for the last three days of the month. Wind speeds and direction were quite variable over the month and were generally SW/NW except for 17th to 20th when they were SE/NE before turning W/NW for the rest of the month.

**Temperatures.** March 2009 was generally warmer than March 2008, the mean daytime maximum was 12.3 °C compared with 10.6 °C (2008) and 12.2 °C (2007), the mean night minimum was 2.7 °C compared with 2.4 °C (2008) and 3.2 °C (2007). There were just five nights below 0 °C, the lowest was on the 3rd to the 4th at –2.7 °C but the 24th and 25th both had night minima of +5.5 °C. Daytime maxima varied between 8.2 °C on the 5th and a balmy 17.5 °C on the last day of the month, although this was well above the preceding daytime temperatures – a real one-off for this month.

**Rainfall.** March was a dry month with 19.9 mm (0.78 inches) total rainfall, just over half (51.5%) of the long-term mean (ltm) which is 38.6 mm. March 2008 was exceptional with 80.4 mm (225%) of ltm; we have to go back to 2000 to find a drier March with 13.0 mm, although 2005 was close with 21.3 mm. Looking over my records, back to 1991 in this case, it seems that March rainfall is very variable from 8.6 mm in 1997 and the aforementioned total of 80.4 mm with considerable variation in between.

**Sunshine.** Nationally this was an exceptionally sunny month, especially between the 11th and 23rd, in fact one of the sunniest Marches on

record. The average over England and Wales was 171 hours, 149% of the 1971–2000 mean and the highest in March since 1929.

### April 2009

**Barometric pressure and winds.** The month started with a quiet period when winds were generally low and there was early morning mist or fog. They were generally S/W until the 12th when they changed to NE/NW. After a brief quiet spell on 21st and 22nd they reverted to S/SE to the end of the month. Nationally it was the 8th most 'southerly' April in 137 years of records. The lowest barometer reading was 994 mb on the 27th and the highest was 1027.5 mb on the 20th.

**Temperatures.** The 'southerly' April mentioned above means that the average temperatures were higher than expected; nationally in the last 100 years only the Aprils of 1943, 1944, 1945, 1987 and 2007 were warmer. Here there were no occasions when the night minimum fell below 1.0 °C and on the 9th it fell to only 9.6 °C, the mean minimum was 3.3 °C. The daytime temperature never fell below 9.5 °C and the highest was 20.9 °C on the 21st. The mean maximum was 16.0 °C.

**Rainfall.** Another dry month with a total of 24.5 mm (0.96 inches), just 53% of the ltm, which is 46.3 mm. April 2008 rainfall was 36.5 mm and that of 2007 was 3.0 mm – the lowest April rainfall since I started my records in 1991. Nationally, that is averaged over England and Wales, last month ranked 28th driest in the last 100 years, so combined with a drier than usual March it looks like being a dry spring.

**Sunshine.** Averaged over England and Wales this amounted to 185 hours, which is 117% of the 1971–2000 mean (the standard reference period), and it was the 14th sunniest in the last 100 years.

*I am indebted to Philip Eden's monthly reports in the Daily Telegraph for all the national figures quoted.*



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

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



### January to April 2009

As gremlins sabotaged the January and February report, this report covers the first four months of 2009.

**Frogs** were first reported from Barrowden this year on 24th February. However spawning was reported from a different garden in Barrowden on 28th February. The Worralls' frogs – the usual phonological yardstick – did not start spawning until 9th March though. Thereafter spawning occurred in ponds around the county until the end of March, but noticeably later in the north and east of the county where there were two late spawnings on 10th April at Exton and Greetham. About half the records of spawning were from field ponds.

**Common Toads** were not recorded until 8th March when a moribund individual was found on the county boundary near Essendine. From 18th March until 9th April toads were heard and seen at Wing lakes, where at least fifteen dead eviscerated toads were found in early April. The identification of the culprit was not known, although it was unlikely to have been mink as there is a healthy Moorhen population there. Elsewhere a number of toads were seen at

Rutland Water near Manton although breeding was not confirmed, and toads were heard at Fort Henry. Toad spawn was found at two separate sites in Tunneley Wood on 10th April.

**Smooth Newts** were first seen in Wing on 29th January. Garden ponds in Empingham, Langham and Lyddington also reported their presence. Round Rutland Water Nature Reserve they were found in nine ponds, mostly ponds where they had previously been recorded, but they were also found in one new pond that had only recently been created.

**Great Crested Newts** were first seen in Wing on 29th January, where a maximum count of twenty-one was made on 15th March. They were also seen in garden ponds in Empingham and Lyddington. They were only found in one of the ponds examined round Rutland Water, but this was probably because not all ponds were searched. However the pond containing them had only previously had Smooth Newts in it.

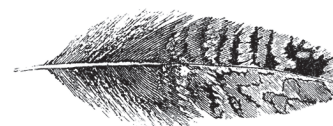
The first **Grass Snake** record was from Rutland Water on 1st April, whence three of the four records came. Two snakes were seen in Wing on 24th April.

No other reptile records were received.

*My thanks to the following who sent in records: T Appleton, T Caldicott, P Coleman, A L Lawrence, F & D Lee, R Lemmon, M Markham, T Mitcham, P Rudkin, M Tyler and L & G Worrall*

## BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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



### March/April 2009

March and April are always busy months as winter migrants depart and summer visitors and passage migrants appear. Long-staying Great Northern Divers and Scaup remained at Rutland Water and there was a good sprinkling of scarcer waders with Avocets noted at both reservoirs and Curlew Sandpipers at Rutland Water. A 'full set' of owls was recorded but fewer drumming woodpeckers were noted. One or

two early Cuckoos brought forward thoughts of summer and most warblers appeared on cue with Grasshopper Warblers at three sites. There were garden records of Bramblings, which have been generally scarce this winter.

I would welcome all breeding records for the summer months, even of more common species, so that we can ensure good coverage for the current BTO Atlas – a grid reference will help to allocate them to the correct tetrad.

*My thanks to the following for their records: V Arnold, P & C Brown, A Burdett, R Burdett, T Caldicott, A Chiverton, G Chiverton, B Clarke, A & J Comber, J Corbett, Dr C Gallimore, J Harris, P Langston, A L Lawrence, F & D Lee, R Lemmon, Dr & Mrs O Lewellwen, S Lister, P Mann, L & M Martyn, I Misselbrook, T Mitcham, J & M Nourish, G Panter, D Perril, D J & B Parker, K Potterton, P Rudkin, H Stanier, Jill Stapleton, A R & M A Thorp, M Tyler, N Went, D Whitefield, G R & L Worrall.*

**Greylag Goose.** A pair was at Wing Fishing Lakes on 05 and 09.04.

**Egyptian Goose.** Two were at EBR on 07.03 and up to five were at Leighfield Fishponds throughout March and to 18.04.

**Shelduck.** Up to three were at FHP throughout both months with eight regularly at EBR. Two were at Leighfield Fishponds in March to 05.04 and 62 were at RW(Egleton) on 24.03.

**Mandarin.** Pairs were at RW(Dam) on 06.04 and at FHP on 27.04.

**Green-winged Teal.** The drake at EBR was present throughout both months.

**Pintail.** A female was at EBR on 29.03.

**Tufted Duck.** Three pairs were at Wing Fishing Lakes in early April.

**Scaup.** Six were at RW(Dam) to at least 22.03, with a drake remaining to 15.04.

**Goosander.** Five were at Leighfield Fishponds on 02.03, with single females at RW(Egleton) on 27.03 and Exton Park lake on 28.03.

**Red-legged Partridge.** A pair visited an Edith Weston garden on 18.03.

**Grey Partridge.** A single bird was seen near Lyndon on 24.04. Please report all (any?) sightings of this species.

**Great Northern Diver.** One or two were seen regularly in the Whitwell/Dam area at RW throughout both months.

**Little Egret.** Singles were at RW(Egleton) on 27.03 and 17.04, and at FHP on 27.04.

**Grey Heron.** One was over Stamford on 19.03, and one caught a Tench in a garden pond at Stamford on 28.04 but was disturbed and left without its meal.

**Red Kite.** Well reported from wooded areas across the county and from the Barrowden and Wing areas. Birds also noted over Oakham (15.03) and Stamford (19.03, 21.03 and 20.04).

**Marsh Harrier.** One flew over Oakham on 27.03.

**Sparrowhawk.** Garden records were received from Oakham, Stamford and Edith Weston and display was noted in March at Wing Fishing Lakes, Wardley Wood and Birley Wood.

**Buzzard.** Noted now wherever birdwatchers go in the county. The peak counts were of four over Wing and Wakerley Bridge (18.03 and 25.03), five over Little Haw Wood (30.03), six over Brooke on 22.03 and eight over Stretton on 04.04.

**Osprey.** The first bird returned to RW on 20.03, with others noted there and at EBR on 22.03. Two pairs seem to be established with other unmated birds noted around RW. One regularly visited Horn Mill trout hatchery in April.

**Kestrel.** Reports were received from an encouraging nine sites across Rutland, especially around EBR/Beaumont Chase, RW, Exton, Pickworth, Ketton and Preston.

**Peregrine.** One near Tixover on 23.03 was attracted by a large flock of Woodpigeons.

**Water Rail.** One was at RW(Lyndon) on 15.03.

**Moorhen.** Good nos. noted at Wing Fishing lakes in early April. Nesting at a pond at Gibbet Gorse on 21.04 and noted with nest material in a Wing garden but no nest found in late April.

**Oystercatcher.** Six were at RW on 15.03. A pair joined captive birds at Geeston in mid-April and one was at EBR on 26.04.

**Avocet.** Singles were at RW on 06.04 and EBR on 10.04, and there were eight at EBR on 16.04.

**Golden Plover.** There were 130 at EBR on 01.03 and eleven flew north at RW(Egleton) on 17.04.

**Lapwing.** 32 at EBR on 14.03 was the largest count. Display was noted from 08.03 at Banthorpe Gravel Pit, Exton Park, Mount Lodge, Wing Burrows and Greetham.

**Curlew Sandpiper.** Two were at RW(Egleton) on 25.04.

**Dunlin.** There were 34 at EBR on 01.03 and a single on 10.04.

**Jack Snipe.** One was at RW on 15.03.

**Snipe.** Two were at EBR on 01.03 and 14.03, and there were ten at RW on 15.03. Eleven were at Leighfield Fishponds on 05.03 with ten there on 01.04 and two on 22.04.

**Woodcock.** Singles were reported between 08.03 from Tunneley Wood, RW(Egleton), Burley Wood, and the last, on 09.04, at Langham.

**Bar-tailed Godwit.** Three flew north at RW(Egleton) on 24.04.

**Curlew.** Two were at EBR on 01.03. At RW there were eight on 10.03 and six on 15.03. One flew north at Leighfield Fishponds on 21.03 and one was on breeding territory near Greetham on 24.03. A pair were in the Welland valley at Geeston in the last week of March.

**Redshank.** One flew over Leighfield Fishponds on 07.03. Three were regular at EBR throughout March and there were 13 at RW on 15.03.

**Green Sandpiper.** Singles were at RW(Egleton) on 15.03 and 15.04. One was at Leighfield Fishponds on 18.04.

**Common Gull.** c.350 were near Leighfield Fishponds on 01.04.

**Little Gull.** An adult was at RW(Egleton) on 27.03 and there were 19 in RW(South Arm) on 17.04.

**Kittiwake.** An adult was at RW(Egleton) on 04.03.

**Arctic Tern.** Six were at RW(Dam) on 15.04. Two were at EBR on 26.04.

**Whiskered Tern.** Three were found in South Arm at RW on 27.04 and two lingered on Eggleton reserve until late afternoon. This is the second Rutland record, following one at EBR on 18 June 2007.



**Turtle Dove.** One was at RW(Eggleton) on 24.04, with three there on 28.04.

**Cuckoo.** First heard at Oakham and Little Haw Wood on 13.04 with birds calling at Stretton, Langham and Lyddington the next day. By the end of the month birds had been reported from eight additional sites across the county, from Wing to Tunneley Wood.

**Barn Owl.** Birds were noted at two likely breeding sites and from Brooke, Langham, the Welland valley and Wing.

**Little Owl.** Well reported during these months with singles or pairs noted at Beaumont Chase Farm, EBR, Hinman's Spinney, Lyndon and Wing.

**Tawny Owl.** Calling birds were noted as follows: Leighfield (three), Burley Wood, Edith Weston, Barnsdale Wood (three), Hambleton Wood, and Tunneley Wood (three).

**Long-eared Owl.** A long-staying bird on Eggleton reserve was present from early March to at least 24.04.

**Short-eared Owl.** One was at RW(Eggleton) on 26.04.

**Swift.** Our first record was of three over Barrowden on 26.04.

**Kingfisher.** One was by the R. Gwash at Brooke on 26.04 and two were at Leighfield Fishponds throughout April.

**Green Woodpecker.** Records were received from Burley, Barnsdale and Tunneley Woods, FHP, Barleythorpe, Edith Weston, Clipsham Quarry and Wing Fishing Lakes – a widespread and noisy species!

**Great Spotted Woodpecker.** Drumming was noted at Beaumont Chase Farm, Burley and Tunneley Woods, Priors Coppice and Langham – on a plastic nestbox! Also noted at Oakham and Wing Hill.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker.** Drumming birds were heard at Leighfield Fishponds on 01 and 12.04 and Tunneley Wood on 10.04.

**Skylark.** Widely reported in small nos. with five singing over fields near Little Casterton on 14.04 the maximum.

**Sand Martin.** First noted at EBR on 13.03, there were thirty at RW(East Creek) on 20.03 and fifteen at EBR on 31.03.

**Swallow.** One at RW (Lyndon) on 16.03 was the first reported with one at East Creek on 27.03 the next. One was at a breeding site at Normanton on 03.04, with others at Barrowden from 05.04.

**House Martin.** The first record was at RW(Burley Fishponds) on 27.03. The first noted at breeding sites were two at Barrowden on 11.04.

**Meadow Pipit.** There were twenty at FHP on 06.03, and fifteen at RW(Dam) on 15.03 and Flitteris Park on 05.04. Display was noted at RW Golf Course, Lyndon, on 21.04.

**Water Pipit.** Four were at EBR on 11.04.

**Yellow Wagtail.** Two at RW(Dam) on 06.04 were our first. There were nine there on 08.04 and at EBR on 15.04.

**Grey Wagtail.** Singles were at FHP on 05 and 19.03, and a pair was at the regular site at Tinwell Pumping Station on 30.03.

**White Wagtail.** One was at EBR on 15.04.

**Nightingale.** Three were singing at Gibbet Gorse on 21.04, with singles at Holywell Wood on 25.04 and Hambleton Wood on 29.04.

**Stonechat.** A male was at Barrowden on 06.03 and a female at RW(Eggleton) on 15.03.

**Wheatear.** A female type was at Leighfield on 15.03. One was at Lyddington on 03.04 and a pair was near Beaumont Chase Farm on 26.04.

**Fieldfare.** Widespread throughout March with 300 at Wakerley Bridge on 01.03, and 100 near Stretton on 17.03. Other flocks of up to fifty were at Oakham (06.03), Great Casterton (30.03), Exton Park (08.03) and near Teigh (24.03). In April c.400 near Leighfield on 05.04 was the peak count, with one over Eggleton on 28.04 the last record.

**Redwing.** Noted at only four sites in March with 120 at Wakerley Bridge on 22.03 by far the largest flock. The only April birds were 12 at Beaumont Chase Farm on 05.04.

**Mistle Thrush.** A pair were nesting in a Lyddington garden on 12.04.

**Cetti's Warbler.** One was at RW(Eggleton) on 15.03.

**Grasshopper Warbler.** Singing birds were reported as follows: one at Priors Coppice from 14.04, up to three at RW(Eggleton) from 17.04, one at Holywell Wood on 25.04, one at Leighfield Fishponds on 26.04, and three at Tunneley Wood on 30.04.



**Sedge Warbler.** Singles sang at FHP on 16.04 and Leighfield Fishponds on 18.04, with two there on 26.04.

**Lesser Whitethroat.** One singing at Wing Fishing Lakes on 09.04 was the first record with the next near Langham on 14.04. Subsequently birds were noted at Brooke, Leighfield, Beaumont Chase, Ketton, and Lyndon.

**Whitethroat.** First heard at Beaumont Chase Farm on 24.04, with two at Wing and at Wing Fishing Lakes on 30.04 – rather late first arrivals.

**Blackcap.** Males were noted in two Oakham gardens, taking seed and fat, until 07.03. One was in song on 01.03. Other March records were from RW(Egleton) and Great Casterton. Widespread from 05.04, when singing birds were noted at Wing Fishing Lakes.

**Chiffchaff.** Full song was first reported from RW(Egleton) on 10.03 with three there on 15.03 and three at Leighfield Fishponds on the same date. Singing birds were noted at Edith Weston and Stamford on 18.03 and there were fifteen singing in Burley Wood on 31.03.

**Willow Warbler.** One singing near Woodhead, Great Casterton, on 06.04 was our first record with one at Greetham Valley G.C. the next day. Five were singing at Wing Fishing Lakes on 14.04, with birds widely reported thereafter. One passed through a Stamford garden on 22.04 and there were 17 singing around Leighfield on 26.04.

**Goldcrest.** Two were in an Oakham garden on 02.03.

**Long-tailed Tit.** Small nos. frequented gardens in Barrowden, Empingham and Stamford up to 25.03. Nest-building was observed at Wing Fishing Lakes on 18.03.

**Willow Tit.** Two were reported from an Oakham garden up to 11.03. Two were in Barnsdale Wood on 17.03 and one was in song in EBR Plantation on 22.03.

**Marsh Tit.** Records came from Beaumont Chase Farm and Barnsdale, Pickworth (two pairs) and Tunneley Woods, where one was removing debris from a nest-hole on 10.04.

**Coal Tit.** Two were regular at an Empingham garden feeder to 11.03.

**Great Tit.** Eight were in song in three comps. of Burley Wood on 01.03.

**Nuthatch.** Three were calling in Burley Wood on 01.03, with other records from Exton Park and FHP and Lyndon – not a regular site on 21.04.

**Raven.** Singles were over Egleton on 13.03, Burley Wood on 15.03 and Leighfield on 01.04.

**Starling.** A Stamford garden roost in conifers attracted c.600 birds on 02.03 with nos. declining to around eighty by 10.03 – an interesting, if messy, ornithological addition to the suburban scene!

**Tree Sparrow.** Noted at Egleton Centre feeders in both months and at Normanton, where breeding was expected. Odd birds were at Beaumont Chase Farm in April.

**Brambling.** Singles visited garden feeders at Oakham (20–21.03.), Beaumont Chase (31.03) and Normanton (13.04). One flew north at Leighfield on 12.04.

**Goldfinch.** Up to 25 fed in an Empingham garden to 11.03. Only small nos. were reported from other feeding stations.

**Siskin.** Birds began visiting garden feeders from 11.03 at Empingham, Lyddington, Stamford and Oakham – four being the max. and the last date 15.04. In Barrowden up to twenty visited a garden briefly but did not take presented food. Three flew west at Leighfield on 12.04.

**Lesser Redpoll.** In March there were ten at Leighfield Fishponds on 07.03 and six on 21.03. Three fed on nyger in an Empingham garden on 11.03. In April there were two at RW(Egleton) on 04.04, and two at Holywell Wood on 25.04.

**Bullfinch.** Reports came from Wing Fishing Lakes in both months, a Braunston feeding station in March and Beaumont Chase Farm garden on 25.04 – destroying apple blossom.

**Hawfinch.** One fed at a sunflower seed feeder in an Edith Weston garden on 15.03. This is possibly the same bird which was seen earlier in the year at Lyndon Reserve feeders.

**Yellowhammer.** Eleven were at a rural feeding station near Braunston on 30.03.

**Reed Bunting.** Up to three fed in three gardens in Stamford and Oakham between 01.03 and 29.03.

**Corn Bunting.** Two were singing in the Mounts Lodge area on 06.04.



## Wildfowl counts – March 2009

	Rutland Water	Eyebrook Reservoir	Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park	Holywell Lake
	15.03	15.03	14.03	15.03
Mute Swan	107	45	10	4
Greylag Goose	129	46	56	3
Canada Goose	167	39	4	33
Barnacle Goose	13			
Egyptian Goose	18			
Shelduck	70	8	3	
Wigeon	2540	210	61	
Gadwall	98	13	123	6
Teal	206	90	6	7
Green-winged Teal		1		
Mallard	301	10	42	18
Pintail	1			
Shoveler	44		1	
Pochard	18			1
Tufted Duck	459	58	75	19
Scaup	5			
Goldeneye	258	36		
Goosander	23	1	3	
Ruddy Duck	4	1		
Great Northern Diver	1			
Little Grebe	14	2	1	4
Great Crested Grebe	104	25	1	
Cormorant	33	18	2	
Little Egret	2			
Grey Heron	10	2		
Water Rail	1			
Moorhen	50	2	17	28
Coot	535	24	63	9

## BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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

### March 2009

A good month for wildflowers. Spring was obviously in the air.

The first **Bluebells** were in flower, **Colt's-foot** was well out by midmonth and **Toothwort** was found in three sites. **Cherry Plum** was in full flower along the A6121 through Ketton and Tinwell - a precursor of things to come.

One notable unusual find was **Creeping Comfrey** found at the end of the month in Belton in Rutland Churchyard, noted in the books as a good place to look for this naturalised plant.

24 record cards were received for the month.



## April 2009

Whilst the month was warm and relatively dry, only 15 record cards were received. **Marsh Marigold** was seen at Leighfield, Pickworth Great Wood, the pond near Clipsham Quarry and Seaton Meadows SSSI. Much less frequently seen in recent years because of the changes in farming practice over the second half of the twentieth century.

2009 will probably go down as the best **Sloe** blossom year in decades – probably as a result of two factors: no severe frosts and two previous very poor fruiting years because of frost at the flower-opening stage.

Reports on the first visit to two verges were received.

**If anyone still would like to record the Verges of Rutland, please phone me on 01572 747302 after 10.00am – any day of the week.**

*Thanks to R Lemmon, J Mallet, B and D Parker, P and E Mann, J Myers, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, G Worrall, P Rudkin, E Northen, G Panter, D Whitefield, T Mitcham, C Jones.*

## LEPIDOPTERA NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

4 Clarksdale, Great Easton, Market Harborough LE16 8SP. Telephone: 01536 770259



### BUTTERFLIES

#### MARCH 2009

The majority of records for March were in the second half of the month. **Brimstones** were seen in many areas, with the largest number being observed in several compartments of Burley Wood. **Small Tortoiseshells** appeared in ones and twos and were mostly in members' gardens.

A **Peacock** was drawn out of hibernation by church heating and flew around during the morning service at Oakham on the 8th. Eleven were counted in Dawn's paddock on the 21st and others were noted in five further areas. These included four which were feeding on Willow catkins near lagoon 1 at Rutland Water.

**Commas** completed the species list for the month, with singles being seen in several woods, on sites around Rutland Water and in four gardens.

#### APRIL 2009

On April 24th **Dingy** and **Grizzled Skippers** were located at Clipsham Quarry, when both species were said to be 'keeping very low amongst the grass'.

Brimstones continued to fly throughout the month and were recorded by a number of members.

**Large** and **Small Whites** were seen from mid-month onwards, mostly on our Reserves and in the woods and quarries. **Green Veined Whites** appeared in fours and fives at Prior's Coppice, Eggleton and Thistleton amongst other sites.

The first **Orange Tips** were seen on April 4th at Rutland Water and by the end of the month 7+ were noted in Prior's Coppice. Records for this species came from fourteen sites in total. In contrast, only four records for **Holly Blues** have been received so far. These were at Barrowden, Edith Weston, Lyddington and Wing. A single **Red Admiral** was seen in Lyddington.

Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks appeared in a variety of habitats throughout the month, while Commas were only found at Barrowden, Lyddington and Lyndon. Finally, **Speckled Woods** were observed during the second half of the month with 10+ recorded at Eggleton, bringing the total number of species seen during March and April to thirteen.

### MOTHS

#### MARCH AND APRIL 2009

Whilst some moth traps have yielded fairly low catches this spring, the garden trap at Lyddington produced its best ever record for the month of April, with 11 micro- and 55 macro-species being identified. Amongst these were a **White Marked** (a rare moth in our area), two **Blossom Underwings** (this species had been considered as possibly extinct until it re-appeared in 2006) and a **Poplar Kitten** (not usually on the wing until late May).

Wardley Wood was visited in mid-March, when the fourteen species found included 29 of **The Engrailed**. One of these was also photographed

on an ash tree in Burley Wood, showing how well it is camouflaged when resting on the bark.

Trapping has taken place in several sites as has been usual in previous years. Eyebrook Reservoir was visited twice in April, when **Oak Beauty** was added to the site list. One visit in March and two in April, to Stoke Dry Wood, resulted in quite low catches, probably partly due to the fact that forestry work has been carried out there. Garden traps were operated at Barrowden, Edith Weston and also in Barnsdale gardens at Exton. One

White Marked was found at the latter on April 1st.

A new trap at Rutland Water reed beds yielded a total of 40 species, in late March and on alternate days throughout April. Two new species were **Tawny Pinion** and also another White Marked, whilst **Spring Usher** and **Lead Coloured Drab** had each only been recorded there once before. It will now be possible to monitor this site both early and late in the year, as well as supporting regular trapping sessions during the summer.

*Thank you to all who have contributed recently: J Ansley, V Arnold, T Caldicott, A Comber, R Follows, C H Gallimore, C R Jones, A L Lawrence, D & F Lee, R Lemmon, J Mallett, P & E Mann, T Mitcham, J Myers, E Northen, D & B Parker, D Perril, P Rudkin, A Russell, H Stanier, D Whitefield and G & L Worrall.*

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## ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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



### March/April 2009

As I write (5th May), it is cold, dull and windy. Looking back at April, the weather has been mixed. Therefore this will probably slow the development of the nymphs of the grasshoppers and crickets. Hopefully, if the conditions improve over the next few weeks, members will notice the occasional cricket nymph sitting around on leaves and posts sunning themselves. The grasshopper nymphs are harder to locate, as they keep hidden in the grass/pasture.

This is a good time to reflect on the 2008 season, with particular reference to the new 10 km squares created for several of our species. With good coverage in 2007, our small army decided to explore new habitats in 2008. This has been very pleasing and important for the mapping, and the knowledge gained of Rutland's orthoptera population.

This work resulted in new 10 km squares for the following species; Oak Bush Cricket, Dark Bush Cricket, Roesel's Bush Cricket, Long-winged Conehead, Short-winged Conehead, Speckled Bush Cricket, Slender Ground Hopper, Meadow Grasshopper, Lesser Marsh Grasshopper. Full details will appear in the *Annual Report 2008*.

Whilst on the subject of the *Annual Report*, my proof copy was sent to a non-member (a most eminent entomologist). A comment made was that I should reveal the name of the members,

who regularly send in orthoptera sightings from the Lyddington garden and moth trap. Never one to shirk a reasonable request, I will name the observers, our Hon Treasure and his wife, Derek and Frances Lee.

Looking ahead to this coming season, I am hoping to increase coverage of areas that we have not yet covered. The usual habitats will be checked for any ups or downs in numbers (we have full information from two years survey work), but concentration will be on the new areas. Also, I wonder if a new species will occur in Rutland this year (there are a few more on the borders). I hope so!

### **Slender Groundhopper** *Tetrax subulata*

There were no sightings for orthoptera at this stage in 2008, but I am pleased to report success this time around. The accolade for first for 2009 goes to Vic Arnold of Edith Weston, followed by Derek and Frances Lee at Lyddington.

Vic found one specimen in his greenhouse, on 4th April. It was sitting on a spider's web. Vic released it onto the lawn, where it 'hopped off'.

Derek and Frances found one in the conservatory, and released it 'probably brought in with the moth trap', on 14th April.

It is not a surprise that Slender Groundhoppers are found at this time. The eggs hatch from late spring to summer. They overwinter as nymphs or



adults, often emerging in mild weather. The adult forms therefore may be found at any time of the year. This is common to both Groundhoppers. The society received reports for Slender

Groundhopper from 10 habitats in 2007, and 5 habitats in 2008. So, we are off to a good start with this species.

*Thank you to the observers.*

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## PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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



### March 2009

Just one normal record this month, woody galls on the stems of Creeping Thistle, which were appropriately found on the RNHS visit to Dawn's Paddock on 29th. These can be quite large and are the nursery for young of a true fly *Urophora cardui*. Eggs are laid on the plant in June-July and the galls are fully mature by September, having several chambers inside each with one larva. The adults emerge from the gall the following May-July and the cycle is repeated.

Also this month I received a report accompanied by a photograph of an Oak tree in Burley Wood which had considerable outgrowths on the trunk, up to human head level. I thought it must be a gall but a search of the books revealed nothing specific so I sent the report and photo to the British Plant Gall Society chairman who was also baffled. He in turn passed it on to several experts, including one at Kew, who between them decided that it was indeed a gall probably produced by

bacteria which had been introduced by nibbling of the bark by animals. It would be extremely difficult to identify the bacterium but a likely candidate is *Agrobacterium tumefaciens* which is known to produce galls in other species.

### April 2009

A total of eight reports this month, seven of them were rusts which are also reported in the Mycology report. It looks like being a good year for rusts. The other report, from Verge 7 on 16th was caused by mites which bring about distortion of the leaves of Cleavers. This is a common gall but this is an early occurrence and I have seen only the one example this year.

I will take this opportunity to mention that I have the Society's copy of *Naturalists Handbooks number 17 Plant Galls* in my possession and would remind all members that it is there for you to borrow should you so wish. Please let me know if you would like to borrow it.

*Thanks are due to C Jones, R Lemmon, P Rudkin and P Scott*

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## GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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



*There have been two consecutive difficult years for glow-worms because of long spells of heavy rain and strong winds at breeding time, when males tend to wait for more energy-saving flying conditions while females can glow green but in vain, and die. Please check their old haunts though, just in case. Probably the most likely and accessible place to see them would be Verge 6 at Essendine; turn left off the Stamford to Bourne road just before the railway bridge at Essendine, and look not only on the verges but at the grassland next to the main line on the right, down to the end of the straight part of the lane, but you MUST NOT enter the grassland by the railway for safety reasons. Don't get there until 10.15 pm or later; they don't start glowing till around that time and 'switch off' around 1.00 am, night after night for some 10 days until they die unless they attract a mate, when they switch off almost immediately. Glows can start from the early part of June and continue to the end of July. Midsummer Night is often a good date, and this year there's even a new moon on 22nd June.*

*Go as often as you can, and I do hope you find some, somewhere!*

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## INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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



### March 2009

Ladybirds were slowly getting 'out and about' again in March and I received the following records. A single **Kidney-spot Ladybird** *Chilocorus renipustulatus* was photographed in Burley Wood. **Seven-spot Ladybirds** *Coccinella 7-punctata* were recorded at Empingham and Edith Weston. An **11-spot Ladybird** *Coccinella 11-punctata* was noted at Edith Weston, and **Harlequin Ladybirds** *Harmonia axyridis* were seen at Edith Weston and Empingham.

I received records for two bee species this month – a **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascorum* was observed during the RNHS outing to Dawn's Paddock. **Early Bumble Bees** *Bombus pratorum* were recorded as follows: 2 females were seen in Ketton Quarry woodland, probably looking for nest sites; 1 female was seen in Burley Wood entering a hole in the ground; and at the end of the month 2/3 were seen in different parts of Priors Coppice.

Two species of woodlouse were observed this month. Several specimens of the **Common Rough Woodlouse** *Porcellio scaber* were seen under some decaying wood at Bloody Oaks Quarry. Also observed there were several specimens of **Pill Woodlouse** *Armadillidium vulgare* – these too were under decaying wood. Pill Woodlice were also seen in Burley Wood, again under decaying logs.

Snail and slug records came in as follows: the recently vacated shell of a **Strawberry Snail** *Trichia stridata* was found at Bloody Oaks Quarry. Also found there was the fresh shell of a **White-lipped Snail** *Cepaea hortensis*. At Priors Coppice another White-lipped snail was found. At a visit to Ketton Quarry woodland a live snail, *Discus rotundatus*, was found under a decaying log. At the same location, also under a decaying log, a **Glass Snail** *Oxychilus cellarius* was observed, and also here a **Southern Garden Slug** *Arion hortensis* found.

### April 2009

More ladybird records to start this month. Two **Pine Ladybirds** *Exochomus 4-pustulatus* were recorded together on a small 'Christmas tree' at Brooke Road allotments in Oakham. On the same tree were two Harlequin Ladybirds *Harmonia axyridis*.

A number of **Common Bee-Fly** *Bombylius major* records came in all through the month. Seven separate records in Edith Weston, one at Uppingham on a sunny day, one at Barrowden also in the sun and then others towards the end of the month; and lastly they were recorded as 'numerous' throughout Ketton Quarry.

Many bee records were received. The **Hairy-footed Flower Bee** *Anthophora plumipes* was recorded in Barrowden – at least 6 females in the first week in April, and then in the second week 8 were at work in light rain and 2 even observed in heavier rain.

Single specimens of the **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascorum* were noted at Verge 7, Gibbet Gorse and 2/3 were seen at Priors Coppice. A number of Early Bumble Bees *Bombus pratorum* were observed at Hambleton Wood. One female **Red-tailed Bumble Bee** *Bombus lapidarius* was seen at Priors Coppice, also a female **White-tailed Bumble Bee** *Bombus lucorum*. **Buff-tailed Bumble Bees** *Bombus terrestris* were noted at Gibbet Gorse and Bloody Oaks Quarry. A **Forest Cuckoo Bumble Bee** *Bombus sylvestris* was seen at the end of the month at Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Tawny Mining Bees** *Andrena fulva* records came from Uppingham where two were noted in the sun on a wall, and one also again in the sun at Barrowden.

Two beetle records (apart from the ladybirds which are also beetles) – the **Lily Beetle** *Lilioceris lili* was recorded on two occasions in Edith Weston when up to four were seen. A **Wasp Beetle** *Clytra arietis* was also recorded there.

Two common Pill Woodlice *Armadillidium vulgare* were noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Large Black Slugs** *Arion ater* were seen at the Lyndon centre, Verge 7 and Ketton Quarry valley area. Live and active snails *Monacha cantiana* were seen on Verge 7 and an empty but fresh shell of this species was noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry. The snail *Candidula intersecta* was recorded at Gibbet Gorse. At Bloody Oaks Quarry specimens of the snail *Candidula gigaxii* were noted on Dog's Mercury.

A spider record from Barrowden – a **Woodlouse Spider** *Dysdera crocata* was spotted crossing a carpet and relocated to the woodpile 'where there were lots of woodlice'. As one can tell from the name, the Woodlouse Spider likes to snack on woodlice.

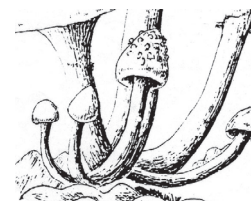
A last record to cover both months – news from Dawn's Paddock that the **Bloody-nosed Beetles** *Timarcha tenebricosa* are doing well and were recorded mating in April.



Many thanks to the following recorders: V Arnold, T Caldicott, Dr C Jones, R Lemmon, P Scott, D Whitefield and L & G Worrall

## MYCOLOGY NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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



### March/April 2009

March had a cold start and finish, a mild middle, below average rainfall, and was sunny with cold nights. April was fairly dry with warm spells and a few frosts. Semi-free Morels *Mitrophora semilibera* seem to fruit most when rainfall is heavier. A few were in Clipsham Quarry, a welcome new site for us was discovered at Egleton Gorse Close, but none were found in checks at a number of former sites. There was, however, a triumphant Morel *Morchella esculenta* at Ingthorpe, where there had been disturbance by road and bridge work. Many thanks indeed to all who have looked.

Among the many microfungi were several which cause galls including *Puccinia adoxae* on Moschatel in Barnsdale Lodge Wood, so there'll be plenty of swollen stems and blistered leaves. Rutland's most pampered fungi, however, must be the Palamino Cups *Peziza repanda* in a Lyddington garden, where habitat had unwittingly been enhanced by soil from the wormery!

I am pleased to report that 73 Lichens have now been added to our existing list of 62 in Rutland, thanks to the kindness of Ivan Pedley who generously supplied his complete list from Belton Church and Churchyard from 1996 to our visit with him there in March last year. They will all appear in the Mycology section of the 2008 Annual Report.

### RESERVES

**Ketton Quarry Woodland SK 974055: 12.3:** Discomycetes *Calloria neglecta* on base of dead old Common Nettle stems, *Dasyscyphus brevipilus* on well decayed beech wood; ascomycetes Common Tarcrust *Diatrype stigma* in good quantities on felled / fallen hawthorn branches with *Nectria episphaeria* hyperparasitic on the Common Tarcrust, Nettle Rash *Leptosphaeria acuta* on base of

old common nettle stems and Sycamore Tarspot on fallen sycamore leaves. **12.4:** Seven fresh Bay Polypores *Polyporus durus* on fallen (beech) log, a substrate that has been yielding the species for some time, and white rubbery plasmodium of slime mould *Reticularia lycoperdon* on hawthorn.

**KQ Valley SK 976050: 12.03:** Some 20 fresh Velvet Shanks *Flammulina velutipes* in two close groups on old hawthorn stumps.

**KQ West Glade SK 972056: 12.03:** Alga *Gleocapsa* sp identified from the more or less permanent pool.

**Bloody Oaks Quarry: 12.03:** *Calloria neglecta* and Nettle Rash on base of dead nettle stems and *Asco Diaporthe leiphemia* on fallen branches from dead oak at entrance, making them look like a nutmeg grater. **9.4:** Rust *Puccinia violae* on hairy violet leaves (a galler).

**Prior's Coppice: 26.03:** A few small dried Jelly Ears *Auricularia auricula-judae* on a living elder. **23.4:** Smut *Entyloma ficariae* on lesser celandine, rust *Uromyces ficarii* telia on lesser celandine (galler) and downy mildew *Plasmopara pigmaea* on wood anemone leaves.

**Rutland Water Gibbet Gorse SK 091058: 5.3:** Fresh but iced Black Bulgar *Bulgaria inquinans* on two fallen oak branches, Hazel Woodward *Hypoxylon fuscum* on hazel branches and Nettle Rash on old nettle stems near ground. **31.4:** Witches' Butter *Exidia glandulosa* on fallen deciduous (oak) wood and rust *Puccinia arenariae* telia hypophyllous on Common Chickweed.

**RW Track towards Hinman's Spinney SK 918066: 29.3:** Five mature King Alfred's Cakes.

**RW Egleton Reserve Gorse Close SK 888062: 28.4:** Small group of some five Semi-free Morel *Mitrophora semilibera* going over a little. Thanks, TC, it's a new site for us.



**RW Lyndon Centre:** 31.4: Rusts *Puccinia punctiformis* on Creeping Thistle, smelling of honey, and *P urticata* on nettle leaves; both cause galls.

**RW Hambleton Wood:** 2.4: Disco *Calloria neglecta* and Asco *Leptosphaeria acuta* on bases of dead nettle stems; Bleeding Broadleaf Crust *Stereum rugosum* on hazel; a few small dried-up Jelly Ears on elder; one *Psathyrella vernalis* just inside western entrance, on woody debris; rust *Uromyces muscari* on bluebell leaves; plurivorous coelomycete *Colletotrichum dematium* on very wet old dead Nettle stems (no conidia seen) and thick white slime mould *Reticularia lycoperdon* on hazel.

**RW Barnsdale Lodge Wood SK 905088:** 9.4: King Alfred's Cakes on fallen ash; smut *Entyloma ficariae* on lesser celandine, rusts *Puccinia adoxae*, a galler, on leaves of the unusual moschatel (Town Hall Clock) and *Uromyces muscari* telia on bluebells; and hypomycete *Ramularia ari* on leaves of Lords-and-Ladies.

**Clipsham Quarry:** 19.4: Fine specimens of King Alfred's Cakes, but a poor show of Semi-free Morels with 4 found, and no further ones on 24.4.

## WOODS

**Clipsham Park Wood:** 15.3: Fresh Blushing Brackets *Daedaleopsis confragosa* and on birch Razorstrops *Piptoporus betulinus*.

**Burley Wood:** 19.3: *Calloria neglecta* and Nettle Rash on base of old nettle stems, Sycamore Tarspot on sycamore leaves. In **Compartment 34, SK 894014** Clive Jones photographed very large old fused overlapping brackets of Razorstrops on the strongly decayed fallen trunk of a mature birch, not a common sight! Razorstrops can host true Fungus Beetles *Ciidae* (26 sp in Britain), and larvae of the noctuid moth Waved Black *Parascotia fuliginaria*.

**Pickworth Great Wood SK 985153:** 19.4: Good numbers of fresh Yellow Stainers *Agaricus xanthodermus* under tree close to woodland ride, fresh Common Inkcaps *Coprinus atramentarius* and in their usual place, Hoof Fungus *Fomes fomentarius* on birch.

## FIELDS, GARDENS, VERGES

**Dawn's Paddock SK 842074:** 29.3: On the Society's visit, Disco *Calloria neglecta* and Asco Nettle Rash at base of dead nettle stems, King Alfred's Cakes on fallen ash tree, Common Tarcrust on barkless ash wood and about 10 old, no longer blushing, Blushing Brackets on felled willow logs.

**Barrowden:** 19.3: A second rosette of Smoky Bracket *Bjerkandera adusta* was spotted, this time on top of an exposed damaged root from the Lawson's Cypress felled several years ago.

**Ingthorpe Rd Gt Casterton SK 999090:** 24.4: A fresh Morel *Morchella esculenta*: 'wonderful to find again after road and bridge work disruption' says Barbara Parker.

**Lyddington SP 875972:** 7.4: Several clusters of Palamino Cup *Peziza repanda* in shaded corner of garden amongst primroses and shrubbery litter on damp, dark soil enriched from the Tomalins' wormery. Nice find!

**Horn Mill Roadside SK 953104:** Rust *Puccinia aegopodii* (galler) on leaves of ground elder.

**Verge 7, Casterton-Pickworth TF 000116:** 16.4: Nine Yellow Fieldcaps *Bolbitius vitellinus* mostly fresh or emergent but 2 rather washed out, one *Psathyrella vernalis* in grass, very fresh but almost fully developed, 5 mostly fresh scattered Pleated Inkcaps *Coprinus plicatilis* and rust *Puccinia malvacearum* on common mallow.

Thanks for all reports: T Caldicott, Dr C R Jones, R Lemmon, E Mann, P Mann, J Myers, E Northen, B Parker, D Parker, M Tomalin, P Tomalin, L Worrall, G Worrall.

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## MAMMAL REPORT

compiled by Linda Biddle

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



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

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## BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

41 Woodland View, Oakham, LE15 6EJ. Telephone: 01572 755274



### March 2009

There were two records in March. The first flight record of the year was of four bats, probably **pipistrelles**, flying together on a mild evening at dusk in Linda and Graham Worrall's Barrowden garden on 15.3. On 20.3 a single **long-eared bat** was found by builders under roof slates as they demolished a derelict building in Langham, but no evidence of a maternity roost. The bat was placed on a tree and once it had warmed up it flew off.

### April 2009

In April, up to four bats were seen on a number of dates, and there were droppings on the car parked under the car port at the Barrowden site. On 23.4, three bats were thought to be returning to a roost nearby at 5.10 am, traversing the same garden. A resident of Cricket Lawns, Oakham, reported that her bat colony had returned on 13.4, and there were fresh droppings under the gable end of a house in Bowling Green Close, although no bats

emerged at dusk. On 13.4 I heard several passes by a **Common Pipistrelle** in Oakham on a cool windy evening, around trees on the Burley Road allotments, and on 28.4 several bats were seen at the same location, mainly commuting down a hedge line towards the edge of town. Droppings thought to belong to **Brown long-eared** bats were seen by Dr Gallimore at the Stone House, Wing, around 1.4, with plenty of droppings reported later in the month.

A very unusual record for Oakham was that of a male **Daubenton's** bat found grounded in a small garden on Cold Overton Road on 8.4. It was very emaciated, but recovered and will be released shortly. This is the second Daubenton's bat found in this part of Oakham; a female died of cat strike on a new housing estate behind Braunston Road in September last year. A very small stream flows through this area, and thence to Rutland Water, but it is hard to imagine it attracting Daubenton's bats. The last record of Daubenton's bat in Oakham was more than 20 years ago.

