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## NOTICEBOARD

### LIFE ON THE VERGE CONTINUES!

The 'Life on the Verge' project continues this summer in North East Rutland and South West Lincolnshire. The Wildlife Trusts of Lincolnshire and Leicestershire & Rutland have teamed up again to relaunch a second year of wild flower surveys on roadside verges which need your help as volunteers. Verges found to contain a high diversity of wild flowers will be eligible for designation as Local Wildlife Sites, earmarking them for sympathetic management by local authorities.

Each survey simply requires you to check for a shortlist of wild flowers and takes no longer than a couple of hours. Please visit [www.lifeontheverge.org.uk](http://www.lifeontheverge.org.uk) or contact the Project Officer Mark Schofield (see below) for more information on how you can help with the surveys.



### 2009 RESULTS

Over 300 km of verge were surveyed by over 70 volunteers last year and over 60 km of road were found to be significantly rich in limestone grassland flora. New sites for Man Orchid, Southern Marsh Orchid and Clustered Bellflower were found, as well as large orchid populations in an area not surveyed since the 1950s.

### FREE WILD-FLOWER ID FIELD TRIPS

The project is also providing free wild-flower identification field trips at the following centres: Grimsthorpe Estate Conference Centre, 20th June, 4th July; Rutland Water Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, 19th June; Ancaster Village Hall, 5th June, 12th June (advanced). For full details and how to book yourself a place on any one of the field trips, contact:

Mark Schofield, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust, [mschofield@lincstrust.co.uk](mailto:mschofield@lincstrust.co.uk),  
Mobile: 07825970930, Switchboard: 01507 526667

## APOLOGIES

My apologies for the careless error in the last issue of *Fieldfare* – LROS stands for the Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society, NOT the Loughborough Naturalists Club. Perhaps you could look again at the message from Steve Lister about joining the Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithological Society committee?

# Fieldfare

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# RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY events

## OUTDOOR MEETINGS

**Tuesday June 8**      **LONG DROVE ON THE LOW WASH**      **8.00 pm**

*Long Drove is north of Whittlesey, near Dog-in-a-Doublet bridge. Led by Charlie Kitchen, we hope to see Owls and Corncrakes, amongst others. Meet at OS Explorer 235, TL280993. Park at gate on the Drove.*

**Sunday July 11**      **STONESBY QUARRY**      **2.30 pm**

*Jenny Harris, our RNHS Bat Recorder, will lead this walk, where we should see a profusion of wildflowers and butterflies. The site is to the east of Waltham-on-the-Wolds, on the Waltham to Stonesby Road. Please park on the verge not blocking the gateway, and walk up the track to the reserve. (OS Explorer 247, SK810253.)*

**Saturday August 14**      **LYNDON RESERVE**      **11.00 am**

*Our own RNHS Orthopterist Phil Rudkin will lead this walk, primarily to see Coneheads, Crickets and Grasshoppers. Park in the car park. (OS Explorer 234, SK 894056)*

## INDOOR MEETINGS

Indoor meetings are held at the Burley Road School, Oakham: charge of 40p for tea/coffee/biscuits. After the summer break, they start again on October 5.

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## LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST

See [www.lrwt.org.uk](http://www.lrwt.org.uk), or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours, for events in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks all over the area – for which it is often necessary to book.

## 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.

## LEICESTERSHIRE LITERARY AND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY

**Saturday 10 July**      **BATS AND GLOW-WORMS AT KETTON**      **9.15 pm**

*Led by Jenny Harris, our RNHS Bat Recorder. Meet at 9.15 pm, at Ketton Church on Church Road, SK982042; street parking on High Street or in Aldgate. After a short introductory talk, bats will be sought around Aldgate and Station Road. Cars will then be taken to Ketton Quarry, the Trust Reserve up Pit Lane, to look for glow-worms. Plenty of parking at SK 982051 in the car park behind the industrial units next to the Geological Trail. The evening will finish around 11.00 pm.*

*NB: The second part of the meeting alone could be joined at Ketton Quarry; timing is not guaranteed but around 10.20 pm is suggested. Please see Glow-worm Notes, page 14.*

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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	6	01.46    13.45	Sunday	4	11.55    –
	13	07.39    20.06		11	06.40    19.08
	20	01.24    13.21		18	11.52    –
	27	07.38    20.14		25	06.46    19.24



## WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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

### March 2010

**Atmospheric pressure and winds** It was, as the saying goes, a month of two halves. Pressure was high up to the 18th reaching 1032.5 mb on the 7th and then low from the 19th to the end of the month. As a result winds were generally NW-NE and light during the first 'half', and then SE-SW for the remainder of the month with higher wind speeds. At 0900 hours on the 20th and 26th I recorded wind speeds up to 15 knots.

**Temperatures** In line with the conditions above, the first part of the month was colder than the second, with the lowest night-time minimum of  $-6.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 7th. In contrast, the highest night-time minimum of  $10.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  occurred on the 19th. The lowest day-time maximum was  $5.1^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 10th and the highest was  $16.7^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 18th; but this fell to a maximum of just  $6.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 31st. The mean minimum for the month was  $2.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ , cooler than March 2009 ( $2.7^{\circ}\text{C}$ ) and also 2008 ( $2.4^{\circ}\text{C}$ ). The mean maximum was  $11.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ , again cooler than 2009 ( $12.3^{\circ}\text{C}$ ); but quite a lot warmer than 2008 which was  $10.6^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**Rainfall** The total for the month was 40.3 mm (1.59 inches) which is 108% of my long-term mean (LTM). In accordance with the barometric pressure conditions outlined above, only 3% of this fell in the high pressure 'half' and the rest fell in the second or low-pressure period. March rainfall for 2009 was roughly half this year's at 19.9 mm, but that for 2008 was almost exactly double at 80.4 mm.

**Sunshine** This averaged over England and Wales was 137 hours or 125% of the 1971–2000 mean; duller than March 2009 but brighter than 2008. (I am indebted to Philip Eden's column in the Sunday Telegraph for this information).

### April 2010

**Atmospheric pressure and winds** This month was predominantly anti-cyclonic, i.e. pressures were generally high. They started low for the first four days but then climbed on the 5th and remained that way until the last two days of the month, with a period of four days, the 9th to 12th, with pressures between 1029–1032 mb. Correspondingly, the winds in the first six days were S-W and then after than mostly NW-NE until the 22nd, when they became S-W for the rest of the period.

**Temperatures** Despite the above mentioned 'northerly' winds, it was generally not a cold month. The mean night-time minimum was  $4.2^{\circ}\text{C}$  compared with  $3.3^{\circ}\text{C}$  and  $3.5^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 2009 and 2008; and the mean day-time maximum was  $16.0^{\circ}\text{C}$  with the same for 2009 and  $13.9^{\circ}\text{C}$  for 2008. The lowest night-time minimum was  $-1.6^{\circ}\text{C}$  on the 21st and there was a period of five days, the 24th to 28th, when the day-time maxima were between  $20.0$  and  $21.1^{\circ}\text{C}$ .

**Rainfall** There were 22 days without recordable rain, and the little that fell did so in the first three days of the month and also in the last two, with just two other days of precipitation on the 7th and 25th. The total was 22.2 mm (0.9 inches), which is 49.4% of my LTM and compares favourably with the average over England and Wales for the standard reference period 1971 to 2000, which was 47%. 2009 and 2008 were both below average but wetter than 2007 when just 6% (3 mm) of the expected rain fell.

**Sunshine** Averaged over England and Wales this was 221 hours or 141% of the 1971–2000 mean – there have been only four sunnier Aprils in the last 100 years. (Thanks to Philip Eden as before.)



This Green Tiger Beetle *Cicindela campestris* was photographed in April by Peter Scott (see *Insects and others*, page 13).

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

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### March/April 2010

Perhaps not surprisingly after the prolonged winter, **Frogs** spawned much later this year than we have come to expect over recent years. In every single year since I have been Recorder (which is twenty-five years now) spawn has been observed in garden ponds before those in other locations. However this year a quarry site near Stamford was the first with spawn on 10th March, whereas the first garden-pond spawn was on 17th March in Barrowden. Only in 1986 was the first garden spawn later (by a day). Spawning seemed to be complete by the end of March with no reports of fresh spawn in April. Tadpoles were first noted in Barrowden on 8th April. A very small froglet in woodland at Ketton Quarry on 25th April was presumed to have overwintered as a tadpole from last year.

There were no confirmed records of breeding **Toads**, although they were calling at Leighfield on 21st March and at Fort Henry on 9th April. At Leighfield a number were dead on the road. Single toads were seen at Exton, Ketton and Wing away from possible breeding sites.

**Smooth Newts** were first recorded in the aquatic phase at North Luffenham on 20th March and

shortly after in Wing and Stretton. Terrestrial newts were still being seen on 9th and 10th April in Wing and Leighfield though. Beaumont Chase and Wing were the only sites where **Great Crested Newts** were recorded. There were 12 in my pond in Wing on 22nd March. Subsequent counts were much lower due to the havoc wreaked by a pair of Mallards which disturbed the vegetation extensively, although whether they also dined on newts I am uncertain. A visiting Grey Heron is a more likely culprit.

On 8th April **Viviparous Lizards** were recorded at Bloody Oaks (three individuals) and Ketton Quarry (probably four individuals), where one was seen again on 23rd April.

The first records of **Grass Snakes** were on 9th April at Exton Park and Ketton Quarry, although the latter was unfortunately dead. During the rest of the month they were seen at Braunston, Burley Wood, Ketton Quarry (live) and Wing, where a small dead one was found. **Adders** were seen at Ketton Quarry on 6th, 8th and 9th April, probably involving two separate individuals.

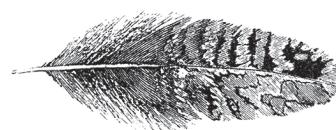
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*My thanks to the following who sent records: T Caldicott, J Crosby, J Harris, A L Lawrence, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, C Scott, P Scott, A R & M A Thorp and L & G Worrall*

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## BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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### March/April 2010

These months always produce a very varied bird list as winter visitors are replaced by incoming summer migrants, and this year is no exception, with everything from Great Northern Diver to Nightingale. As usual there were a number of special birds – Spoonbill, Montagu's Harrier, Dotterel and Ring-billed Gull – but good numbers of other species were also reported. There was a

good passage of Wheatears and warblers arrived mainly on schedule, the exception being Garden Warbler. A good variety of raptors was recorded and the wader passage was varied, with lagoon four at Egleton the key site. Ravens continued their advance into the county with records from more sites.

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*My thanks to the following for their records: J W Ansley, A Ball, A & L Biddle, M A Branston, A Burdett, T Caldicott, A & J Comber, J Crosby, Dr C Gallimore, M & G Griffin, M Grimes, J Harris, A Lawrence, P Langston, LROS, R Lemmon, P Mann, T Mitcham, D Needham, J W Nourish, B & L Nicholls, J Ostler, G Panter, D Perril, L Reidie, P Rudkin, P Scott, N Tomalin, A R & M A Thorp, L & G Worrall, J Wright.*

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**Mute Swan** Breeding records came from FHP, Exton Park and the Oakham Canal in April.

**Whooper Swan** Two flew over Barrowden on 10.03.

**Pink-footed Goose** Three were at RW on 16.03 and two remained to the end of April.

**White-fronted Goose** Two were at RW(South Arm) on 16.03.

**Greylag Goose** 161 at FHP on 06.03 was the highest count with nos. declining to 12 there on 25.04. Six flew over Stocken on 11.03.

**Egyptian Goose** Away from RW, two were at LFP from 06.03 and four or five were in Burley Wood from 13.03.

**Shelduck** Two were at FHP throughout both months with a pair at LFP between 14.03 and 03.04 and a pair on 24.04. Up to ten were at EBR in April.

**Mandarin Duck** A pair was at FHP on 06.03 with a pair on North Brook near Horn Mill on 19.03. A pair was on a pond in Tunneley Wood on 17.04 and a female was on a pond in Burley Wood on 18.04.

**Wigeon** A pair flew over a Wing garden on 12.04. Two pairs were at EBR on 13.04 and there were three at RW (Dickenson's Bay) on 30.04 with a male at Eggleton on that date.

**Gadwall** Nos. at FHP declined from 61 on 13.03 to 11 on 25.04.

**Teal** 11 was the March max. at FHP, falling to just two on 17.04.

**Green-winged Teal** The EBR bird was present throughout both months, with the last report on 28.04.

**Mallard** A pair 'trashed' a Wing garden pond in April. The first brood of ducklings noted was seven on North Brook, FHP, on 17.04.

**Pintail** A pair was at RW(Eggleton) on 26.03.

**Garganey** Single males were at RW(Eggleton and North Arm) on 10, 19 and 28.04.

**Shoveler** Up to five remained at FHP to 09.04 with three on 17.04.

**Red-crested Pochard** One was at RW on 11 and 18.04.

**Tufted Duck** Nos. at FHP declined from 77 on 06.03, to 18 on 25.04.

**Scaup** Ten or eleven remained at RW(Dam) to 19.03 with nine noted on 23.03.

**Common Scoter** There were three at RW(North Arm) on 11.04.

**Smew** Three were at RW(Eggleton) on 01.03 with a male at the Dam on 16.03.

**Goosander** Eight was a good count at LFP on 06.03.

**Red-legged Partridge** Well distributed – pairs were noted in a Wing garden and at Ketton Quarry in March.

**Grey Partridge** There was a pair at Ingthorpe on 24.04.

**Great Northern Diver** One at RW stayed to 05.03.

**Little Grebe** There were ten at FHP on 06.03 declining to five mid-March and one on 17.04. One was at RW(lagoon 3) on 30.04.

**Red-necked Grebe** A bird in breeding plumage was at RW(South Arm) on 13.04.

**Slavonian Grebe** Singles remained at EBR to 22.03 and RW to 13.04.

**Black-necked Grebe** One was at EBR to 12.03 and three remained at RW to 23.03.

**Shag** A juv. was at EBR on 12.03.

**Bittern** Two were at RW(Eggleton) to at least 16.03.

**Little Egret** One was on North Brook, Horn Mill on 07.03 and two at EBR on 12.03. One was at RW throughout both months.

**Grey Heron** Not widely noted, perhaps as a result of the hard winter. Singles were at FHP on 06 and 19.03 and one was at a Wing garden in April.

**Spoonbill** One was at RW(Eggleton) on 25.04.

**Red Kite** Well reported across central and east Rutland. One was scavenging a Badger near Edith Weston on 08.04, and a new nesting site has been located.

**Marsh Harrier** A female was at EBR on 24.04 and one was at RW(Eggleton) on 27.04.

**Montagu's Harrier** A female passed north at RW on 21.04.

**Sparrowhawk** Hunting birds were noted at Stocken, Beaumont Chase Farm, Greetham Near Wood, Hambleton Wood, Barrowden, Ashwell and Oakham. A pair were displaying over Exton Park on 09.04.

**Buzzard** High totals of soaring birds in spring are now the norm. There were five over Wardley Wood(07.03), six over Pickworth/Holywell Wood (09.03), nine over Westland/Cottesmore Wood(16.03) and a very impressive thirteen drifting south at Leighfield on 03.04. A hedgerow nest was reported in the west of the county on 22.04, with a woodland nest at a second site.

**Osprey** The first bird returned to RW on 19.03 and a pair are nesting at Manton Bay and the other traditional site. Birds were noted at Horn Mill, EBR and LFP from 21.03 throughout April.

**Kestrel** Following my request in the last Fieldfare, records were received from a well-scattered twenty sites. N.E. and N.W. Rutland are the only blank areas so far. Nest boxes are in use at two sites.

**Merlin** Between 20.03 and 06.04 singles were noted at RW(North Arm), Cottesmore, Luffenham Airfield and Glaston.

**Hobby** First seen at RW on 19.04, with further records from EBR (25.04), Wing and Burley Wood (both 30.04).

**Water Rail** One was at FHP on 13.03.

**Moorhen** Noted at Wing garden pond in both months and probably nesting nearby.

**Coot** Nesting was recorded on the Oakham Canal and FHP.

**Crane** Two flew west over RW(Egleton) on 06.04.

**Oystercatcher** There were 13 at RW on 14.03, and ten in mid-April. Two were at EBR on 20.03 and one on 24.04.

**Avocet** There were two at RW(Egleton) on 17.03 and four on 22.03.

**Little Ringed Plover** Apart from two at EBR on 20.03, all records were from RW between 19.03 and the end of April, with a max. of five.

**Ringed Plover** First noted at EBR on 03.03 with all subsequent records from RW from 17.03 onwards with a max. of 25 on 30.04.

**Dotterel** One was with a large Golden Plover flock near RAF Cottesmore on 29.03.

**Golden Plover** Up to 900 were estimated on farmland near RAF Cottesmore from 29.03 to 03.04.

**Lapwing** Nos. at RW fell from 53 on 14.03 to eight in mid-April. There were 25 in Exton Park on 13.03. Breeding activity was noted near Thistleton, Mounts Lodge and Greetham.

**Sanderling** Two were at RW(Egleton) on 25.04 with singles from 28.04 to the end of the month.

**Pectoral Sandpiper** One was at RW(Egleton) on 29.04.

**Dunlin** All records were from RW with up to 14 noted from 14.03 to 29.04, when a large flock of 130 was on lagoon four.

**Ruff** One or two were at RW on 21.03 and between 17.04 and 22.04. One was with Golden Plover near RAF Cottesmore on 03.04.

**Jack Snipe** Singles were at RW(Egleton) on 08.03 and 17.04.

**Snipe** There were three at RW on 14.03 and six in mid-April. Up to four were flushed at LFP, Beaumont Chase Farm, Little Casterton, FHP and Stocken between 04.03 and 10.04.

**Woodcock** Singles were flushed up to 09.04 at Tunneley, Burley and Clipsham Park Woods and near Langham. A roding bird was at Clipsham Park Wood on 25.04.

**Black-tailed Godwit** Two were at RW(Egleton) on 06.04.

**Bar-tailed Godwit** One was at RW(Egleton) on 21.04.

**Whimbrel** Two were at RW(Egleton) on 17.04, with singles on 19 and 22.04.

**Curlew** Five were at RW on 14.03 with a pair in mid-April. Display was noted near Thistleton on 03.04.

**Greenshank** Singles were at RW(Egleton) on 19 and 22.04.

**Redshank** At RW there were 29 on 14.03, and 16 in mid-April.

**Green Sandpiper** One was at FHP on 19.03. There was one at RW on 14.03 with three there on 11.04. and one on 18.04.

**Wood Sandpiper** One was at RW(Egleton) from 28.04 to the end of the month.

**Common Sandpiper** Up to three were at RW from 08.04 onwards.

**Turnstone** Singles were at RW between 02.03 and 24.03.

**Kittiwake** One was at EBR on 12.03.

**Little Gull** One or two were at RW from 06.04 with 11 on 24.04 and seven the next day. At EBR there were nine on 24.04 and four on 25.04.

**Mediterranean Gull** Three second-summers were at RW on 07/08.04/ and an adult was there from 26.04 onwards.

**Ring-billed Gull** An adult of this American species roosted at RW(Egleton) on 07.04.

**Little Tern** One was at RW(Egleton) on 29.04.

**Black Tern** Two or three were at RW and EBR between 21/28.04.

**Sandwich Tern** One visited RW(North Arm) briefly on 25.04.

**Common Tern** First noted at RW on 06.04. There were eight at EBR on 24.04.

**Arctic Tern** Passage between 13.04 and 25.04 at RW produced a max. of six on 21.04.

**Turtle Dove** First noted at RW(Egleton) on 27.04.

**Cuckoo** The first was at RW on 13.04. with the next calling at Langham and Greetham Wood Far on 18.04. By the end of the month birds had also been noted at Burley, Little Haw, Pickworth and Clipsham Park Woods, Langham, Brooke, Leighfield and Stocken.

**Barn Owl** Regularly noted in the Barrowden/Harringworth areas with others at Barleythorpe, Leighfield, Brooke and near Uppingham.

**Little Owl** Noted at Barrowden in mid-March. One was in a hollow ash near Woodhead on 04.04, and the EBR regular was seen throughout April.

**Tawny Owl** Vocal birds were reported from Leighfield (three), Clipsham Park Wood (up to six), Barleythorpe, Priors Coppice, Pickworth Wood and Oakham. A traffic victim was found by the A47 near Barrowden on 13.03.

**Long-eared Owl** The RW(Egleton) birds were last reported on 06.04. A max. of three was seen on 17.03.

**Short-eared Owl** One was at RW(Egleton) on 16/19.03 and one at Barleythorpe between 18/24.04.

**Swift** First reported at RW on 18.04, nos. remained small throughout April with ten there on 25.04. Returned to breeding sites at Barrowden on 29.04.

**Kingfisher** Appears to have been hard hit by the cold winter with one near Tinwell on 09.03 and one at FHP on 17.04 the only records.

**Green Woodpecker** Well reported from ten woodland sites across Rutland – possible nesting in Clipsham Park Wood.

**Great Spotted Woodpecker** Drumming birds were widely reported. Gardens were visited at Barleythorpe and Oakham in March. Ten were noted in Burley Wood on 15.04.

**Lesser Spotted Woodpecker** Singles were seen in Pickworth Wood on 07.03 and Burley Wood on 21.03.

**Skylark** Sixteen were singing in SK81F(Wardley) during atlas recording on 29.04.

**Pochard** Seven were at FHP in mid-March with five on 30.03.

**Sand Martin** One at RW on 17.03 was the first, and there were fifteen there on 19.03. First noted at FHP on 04.04.

**Swallow** The first was at RW on 20.03 with five there on 22.03. Breeding sites were visited at Stocken on 03.04 and Barrowden on 05.04. Only small nos. were reported to the end of April.

**House Martin** First noted at FHP on 04.04. Two were at Stocken on 08.04, and nest sites were occupied at Barrowden on 22.04 and Wing on 27.04.

**Meadow Pipit** Three were song-fighting at Williamson Cliffe Quarry site on 17.03. Two were at RW (Dam) on 06.04 and a pair were in cereals near Ridlington on 29.04.

**Water Pipit** One was reported at RW on 06.04.

**Yellow Wagtail** An early arrival was at RW on 23.03. There were two at EBR on 08.04, and small nos. at RW to 17.04.

**Grey Wagtail** A pair were regularly at Tinwell Pumping Station from 24.03.

**Pied Wagtail** A pair started nest building on 12.04 in a tractor cab at HMP Stocken. After the window was closed and the birds excluded, a site in a plant container was chosen and there were five eggs on 27.04.

**White Wagtail** One or two were at EBR and RW between 08.04 and 22.04.

**Wren** 47 were counted around Burley Wood on 26.03 – a good total considering the cold winter.

**Robin** One with ideas clearly above its station was nest building in a woodpecker box at Barleythorpe on 30.03.

**Nightingale** First noted at RW on 20.04 with two at Hambleton Wood. Three were singing near Gibbet Gorse on 26.04.

**Black Redstart** The Exton male was still present on 06.03. A female/imm. was at Great Casterton on 22.03.

**Redstart** A passage male was near Leighfield on 17.04.

**Whinchat** One was at EBR on 21/23.04 and two were at RW(Egleton) on 28.04.

**Wheatear** An excellent spring passage began with one at Luffenham Airfield on 19.03 with a max. here of 11 on 02.04. One or two were also reported from RW, Leighfield, Stocken and Williamson Cliffe Quarry Site to the end of April.

**Ring Ouzel** A female was at Luffenham Airfield on 08.04.

**Blackbird** Two recently fledged young were noted at Stamford on 10.04.

**Fieldfare** The largest March flocks were 150 at Stocken and 116 at Tinwell, both on 09.03. There were c.100 at Leighfield on 06.04 and late singles at Beaumont Chase Farm on 24.04 and Leighfield on 27.04.

**Redwing** 12 were in Oakham on 01.03. 31 were on cereals at Tinwell on 09.03 and 70 passed over Stocken on 23.03. The last were two at Leighfield on 17.04.

**Cetti's Warbler** One sang regularly at RW(Egleton) throughout both months.

**Grasshopper Warbler** The first record was one singing at Leighfield on 10.04. Four sang at RW(Egleton) from 14.04 and there were other singing birds at Tunneley and Burley Woods and near Whissendine to 28.04.



**Sedge Warbler** First noted at RW(Egleton) on 06.04. Five were at Leighfield on 29.04 with one also at Burley Wood.

**Reed Warbler** One singing by the pond in Burley Wood on 26.04 was the first with one at RW(Egleton) on 30.04.

**Lesser Whitethroat** First heard near Great Casterton and at RW on 17.04. Eight sang around Leighfield on 24.04 and birds were noted at six other sites.

**Whitethroat** First recorded at Tunneley Wood on 17.04 with the next near Ashwell on 21.04. Six were singing in SK81F(Wardley) and 13 at Leighfield on 29.04.

**Garden Warbler** A late arrival this year with the first noted on 28.04 at RW. Four or five sang at Leighfield, Priors Coppice and Burley Wood on 29/30.04.

**Blackcap** There were March garden records from two Oakham gardens and an April one at Barrowden on 09.04. The first singing birds were at Clipsham Park Wood on 03.04 and Thistleton the following day. Good nos. were widely reported with three along the Oakham Canal at Ashwell on 21.04, five in SK81F and Leighfield on 29.04, and 33 in Burley Wood.

**Chiffchaff** Two were singing in Burley Wood on 19.03 and birds arrived in strength over the next four days. Totals of singing birds included 30 in Burley Wood (26.03), six in Stretton Wood (07.04), five along the Oakham Canal (21.04) and four in SK81F on 29.04.

**Willow Warbler** First heard at RW(Lyndon) and Gorsefield Wood on 02.04. Not widespread until mid-month with 14 in Burley Wood on 18.04 (well established in Clipsham Park Wood on this date) and 23 around Leighfield on 24.04.

**Goldcrest** 28 were noted around Burley Wood on 19.03.

**Long-tailed Tit** Garden records came from Oakham and Barrowden. A nest was noted at Burley Wood on 21.03.

**Great Tit** 42 were counted around Burley Wood on 31.03.

**Coal Tit** c.28 noted in Burley Wood on 19.03.

**Willow Tit** Singing birds were in Burley Wood on 08.04 and at Leighfield on 10.04. One was in Greetham Wood Near on 18.04.

**Marsh Tit** Regular in Tunneley Wood in both months. Song heard in Clipsham was Park Wood on 09.04. Also noted in Burley Wood and Priors Coppice.

**Nuthatch** Singing or calling birds were noted in Exton Park and FHP woodlands, Burley and Hambleton Woods, Beaumont Chase Farm and

Priors Coppice. *Has anyone found them recently at Newell or Clipsham Park Woods?*

**Treecreeper** 14 were around Burley Wood on 23.03 with birds also noted at Wing, FHP, Tunneley and Hambleton Woods.

**Jay** Ten were noted around Burley Wood on 19.03 and one was at RW(Manton) on 13.04.

**Raven** Noted between 23.03 and 27.04 with birds in the Leighfield/ Cold Overton area, Clipsham/ Stocken and FHP.

**Tree Sparrow** Two or three were at Egleton Centre feeders in March and a pair was at Beaumont Chase Farm on 07.03.

**Chaffinch** c.120 were at Leighfield on 06.03.

**Brambling** A male was at RW(Egleton) on 08/11.03.

**Siskin** Present throughout March in Burley Wood, with a max. of 20, and six still noted on 11.04. One was in an Oakham garden on 24.03 and two flew over Leighfield on 17.04.

**Linnet** Flocks reported included 25 at Mounts Lodge (02.03), c.100 at Leighfield (02.03) and 40 at FHP (03.04).

**Lesser Redpoll** Singles were at RW(Egleton) on 05.03 and LFP on 17.03. At Burley Wood up to fifty were present between 31.03 and 18.04.

**Crossbill** 18 were in Burley Wood on 01.03 and seven were present on 07.03.

**Yellowhammer** c.70 were on the Williamson Cliffe Quarry Site on 10.03, and 30 were at Stocken on 25.03.

**Reed Bunting** Between 10.03 and 29.03, one or two visited two Oakham and one Stamford garden.

**Corn Bunting** One sang near Mounts Lodge on 17.04.



*Raven chicks*



## March 2010 Wildfowl Counts

	Rutland Water	Eyebrook Reservoir	Exton Park and Fort Henry Ponds	Holywell Lake
	14.03.10	13.03.10	13.03.10	13.03.10
Mute Swan	130	28	13	2
Pink-footed Goose	3			
White-fronted Goose	2			
Greylag Goose	158	40	93	6
Canada Goose	131	14	2	40
Barnacle Goose	4			
Egyptian Goose	9			
Shelduck	57	6	2	
Mandarin Duck	2			
Wigeon	2071	226	18	
Gadwall	91	23	85	22
Teal	565	78	11	14
Mallard	354	14	69	53
Shoveler	9		4	
Pochard	37	47	7	1
Tufted Duck	468	202	80	8
Scaup	11			
Goldeneye	256	39		
Smew	1			
Goosander		5		
Little Grebe	32	2	8	2
Great Crested Grebe	127	18		
Slavonian Grebe	1	1		
Black-necked Grebe	3			
Cormorant	136	33	3	
Bittern	2			
Little Egret	2			
Grey Heron	4	6	1	
Water Rail	2		1	
Moorhen	34	2	12	14
Coot	571	77	69	24

## BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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### March/April 2010

March started very slowly because of the cold. Roy Lemmon saw Spurge Laurel near Bloody Oaks Quarry in flower – he had been watching it in bud for two months! – on the fourth. Jenny Mallett paid her first visit of the year to Verge 4 and saw Aconites in flower on the south verge on the eleventh and James Crosby saw Lesser Celandine in flower at Stocken on the twelfth.

Things took off midmonth with records of Sweet Violets, Colt's-foot, Red Dead-nettle, Gorse, Alder and Primrose in quick succession.

April burst into life with Cherry Plum at Ketton, Common Whitlow grass at Barrowden and Wood Anemone in three woods in Barrowden parish, Stocken



and Exton Park. On 28th April, Terry Mitcham found the first flower of the Early Purple Orchid along the southern edge of Newell Wood. It looks as if there has been an unusually good show of Cowslips: at the end of the month they were in abundance all over the limestone soils of the

eastern side of Rutland and, surprisingly, Glenys Panter recorded some in flower on a Braunston-in-Rutland verge!

Reserve Verge visits were in operation on Verges 1, 3, 4, 7, 8, 10 and 16.

*Thanks to: J Mallett, P Rudkin, R Lemmon, M Grimes, G Worrall, R Archer, J Harris, J Ostler, T Mitcham, J Crosby, G Panter, T Caldicott*

## LEPIDOPTERA NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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### BUTTERFLIES

#### March 2010

The cold weather of February continued well into March. Those records that were then received were limited to the very short period between the 17th and the 25th. These were for **Brimstones** in Barrowden, Belton, Ketton and Oakham; **Small Tortoiseshells** in Oakham, Thistleton and Tinwell; **Peacocks** in Edith Weston, Oakham and Wing and finally **Commas** in Burley Wood and Langham.

#### April 2010

By the end of the first week of April, when Spring really began in earnest, many members were out recording. Ten species were found to be on the wing by the end of the month.

The first **Grizzled Skipper** was found in Ketton Quarry on the 29th. **Brimstones** appeared throughout the County and were seen in our woods, on reserves and verges in addition to those in members' gardens. There were three records for **Small Whites** with a pair observed mating at Thistleton, and there were also three records for **Green Veined Whites**.

One early **Orange Tip** was seen at Ketton Quarry on the 8th but the remainder of observations of this species were in the last week of the month, when very good numbers were seen. Twenty were noted in Prior's Coppice, more than twelve at the Eggleton Reserve and 'many' at both Ridlington and Wing. **Holly Blues** were noted at Barleythorpe on the 16th and singles were reported from 5 other sites in the following week.

**Small Tortoiseshells** would appear to be around in greater numbers this year, as records came from twelve areas this month. Let us hope that there will be a return to larger numbers once again on our garden flowers in autumn, as used to be the

case. Another species seen in many areas recently was the **Peacock**. More than ten were recorded in Ketton Quarry and more than five in Burley Wood, in Leighfield and also at the two reserves at Rutland Water. At Ketton, one butterfly was seen chasing a large bumblebee which soared up and appeared to be trying to escape from the Peacock!

Following hibernation, **Commas** were seen on three dates at Ketton Quarry with others at Belton and Rutland Water Lyndon Reserve. The first **Speckled Woods** to be seen fluttering amongst the trees were from the 25th onwards, and were noted in Prior's Coppice, Wing and in several places around Rutland Water.

### MOTHS

#### March and April 2010

With many frosts and low temperatures during March, very few moths were recorded and thus I shall concentrate on results for April.

Firstly, a **Humming Bird Hawk Moth** was seen at Edith Weston on April 6th, which is an extremely early date for this species. Some members may recall that one was similarly found a few years ago at Burley and it was thought then that it had 'over wintered'.

It would appear to be a good year for the **White Marked**, which has in the past been an uncommon moth in our area. It frequents Sallow and was a new addition to the Eyebrook list on the 18th, and also recorded on three occasions at Rutland Water. I hear also that others have recently been found on neighbouring sites 'across the border'. Incidentally, our first visit to Eyebrook for the year resulted in a total of 19 species.

At Barrowden, 23 species were recorded during April where a **Blossom Underwing** was the

'highlight'. Traps operated at Edith Weston and Barnsdale Gardens attracted the usual spring species.

The trap at the reedbeds at Rutland Water was operated on alternate nights throughout April. Numbers caught during the first two weeks were very high, e.g. 480 moths of 11 species on both the 3rd and the 5th, whilst during the second half of the month numbers were consistently low with only 21 moths of 4 species on the 21st. It has

been most interesting to compare results from the same site over a limited period and this can then be related to weather conditions. The final total number of moths recorded here for April was 3066 coming from 33 species.

Lastly, a few moths were once again identified at outside lights at Barleythorpe. These have included the **Satellite**, **Dotted Chestnut** and **Grey Shoulder Knot** amongst others.

*Grateful thanks to the following for their many contributions: V Arnold, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, A Comber, J Crosby, R Follows, C H Gallimore, M Grimes, J Harris, A L Lawrence, S Leech, R Lemmon, J Mallett, T Mitcham, J Ostler, L Reidie, P Rudkin, P Scott and G & L Worrall*

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## PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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### March 2010

There were no recordable reports this month but I received one from Clive Jones, with photograph, of a Field Maple tree showing considerable swellings on the trunk. It is virtually impossible to say exactly what causes these but a likely agent is going to be a bacterium or a fungus. These swellings are burrs and can give some interesting patterns to the wood, seen when it is cut or made into veneer.

*From now on there will be an increasing number of galls from a variety of causes and I shall be happy to receive any reports – however run of the mill they may seem, they all help to give a wider picture of galls in the County.*

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### April 2010

The start of the season, rather soon for insects to be causal agents, but the rusts are early starters. Verge 7 on the 22nd produced rust galls on Common Mallow and Lesser Celandine, Ketton Quarry woodland had rusts on Nettle and Wood Dog Violet on 25th and the tally was completed by another rust gall on Lesser Celandine in Priors Coppice on 29th.

## ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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### March/April 2010

#### **Slender Groundhopper** *Tetrix subulata*

Only one species record was received for this period. Tim Caldicott observed three Slender Groundhoppers on his Brooke Road allotment, Oakham, on 9th April; and one on 16th April. The Groundhoppers overwinter as either nymphs or adults, so can be located almost all the year round. Thanks Tim!

No other records were received for this period. However, as it is the start of the orthoptera recording season, this is a good opportunity to update the list of Orthoptera for vice-county 55 (Rutland and Leicestershire; this is the system of subdividing the UK into convenient recording

units, Rutland falls within vice-county 55).

In Spring 2009, the Ecology section of the Historic and Natural Environment team, Holly Hayes, Birstall, published a proposed list of County Recorders for vice-county 55. I found myself one of the County Recorders, alongside my friend (and expert naturalist), Helen Ikin, of Loughborough Naturalists' Club. Helen covers Leicestershire, and I cover Rutland. We correspond on orthoptera matters during the season.

I have given this situation some thought, and would ask our members if they locate any crickets or grasshoppers in Leicestershire, would they kindly send the sightings to me, and I will forward them onto Helen. Thank you!



Updated list follows for Rutland.

**Lesser Marsh Grasshopper** *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Extremely common and successful. First recorded in Rutland in 1997. Now the dominant species in many sites.

**Common Field Grasshopper** *Chorthippus brunneus*

Under recorded, due to very quiet stridulating, and to unattractive habitat use. However, more records have emerged in the last 2 years.

**Meadow Grasshopper** *Chorthippus parallelus*

Very abundant in most habitats in Rutland, found everywhere.

**Common Green Grasshopper** *Omocestus viridulus*

Unfortunately, not common these days. Their preference for old grasslands is most likely to contribute to their status, with this habitat declining. Some authorities believe the immense spread of the Lesser Marsh Grasshopper may be a contributory factor.

**Slender Groundhopper** *Tetrix subulata*

Under recorded, few records received, due to their tiny size, and no stridulatory mechanism. (But see above.)

**Common Groundhopper** *Tetrix undulata*

The same comments as for *Tetrix subulata* are applicable.

**Long-winged Conehead** *Conocephalus discolor*

First record for Rutland in 2003. Since that date has spread rapidly, and colonised many habitats. Common in Rutland.

**Short-winged Conehead** *Conocephalus dorsalis*

Small colony first recorded in Rutland 2007. Larger colony found in 2008 and 2009. Hope this species will spread in the future.

**Roesel's Bush Cricket** *Metrioptera roeselii*

First recorded in Rutland in 2001. None located in 2002, but from 2003 onward has rapidly spread in all suitable habitats. Now common in Rutland.

**Dark Bush Cricket** *Pholidoptera griseoaptera*

Common in Rutland. Flightless, but found in habitats where they have probably always occurred.

**Oak Bush Cricket** *Meconema thalassinum*

Under recorded. Does not stridulate. Status therefore unknown. But certain to be more abundant than is thought.

**Speckled Bush Cricket** *Leptophyes punctatissima*

Common and abundant, arguably the most numerous species of cricket in Rutland. Flightless, and has probably always been in habitats where we find them. Bat detectors essential in surveying these attractive spotted crickets.

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## INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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*March brought a welcome increase in insect records, mainly of Hymenoptera and Coleoptera.*

### March 2010

**True bugs Hemiptera**

An adult Birch Shield Bug *Elasmotethus interstinctus* was noted on a wooden fence post at Leighfield. A Green Lacewing *Chrysopa perla* was recorded in a greenhouse at Thistleton.

**Bees, wasps, ants and allies Hymenoptera**

One recorder noted his first wasp of the year on the 18th as it 'buzzed' a tractor at Stocken.

Buff-tailed Bumblebees *Bombus terrestris* were well recorded this month – two were noted at Thistleton, one at Barrowden and one at Barleythorpe, and over the month 22 sightings

were noted at Stocken. Red-tailed Bumblebees *Bombus lapidarius* were recorded at Oakham and Stocken. Early Bumblebees *Bombus pratorum* were at Ketton Quarry where 5–10 females were noted. Four White-tailed Bumblebees *Bombus lucorum* were noted at Thistleton.

Honey-bees *Apis mellifera* were also busy – nine recorded at Barrowden, 8 were flying in Burley Wood, and approx. 30 noted at Thistleton.

**Beetles Coleoptera**

All beetle records for this month were of Ladybirds: 7-spot Ladybirds *Coccinella 7-punctata*

were the most commonly observed – 8 were seen at Barleythorpe, approx. 6 were noted at Thistleton, one noted on Lords and Ladies at Ketton Quarry and one seen in a garden at Barleythorpe; also a total of 10 recorded on six separate dates at Stocken. A Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis f. conspicua* was observed in Barleythorpe, and at another site at Barleythorpe a further 3 Harlequin Ladybirds were noted. One 22-spot Ladybird *Psyllobora 22-punctata* was enjoying the sun on a wallflower at Stocken.

### **Slugs and Snails Terrestrial Gastropoda**

It was warm enough for a Black Slug *Arion ater* to be active at Ketton Quarry. Also at the same site a Snail *Cepaea nemoralis* was recorded.

### **Earthworms Oligochaeta**

Lob Worm *Lumbricus terrestris* – in the Ketton Quarry Woodland a worm was noted crossing the path and the recorder involved ‘couldn’t help reporting it’.

## **April 2010**

### **True bugs Hemiptera**

A Green shieldbug *Palomena prasina* was recorded near Normanton – a beautiful bright green colour after hibernation. A Common Backswimmer *Notonecta glauca* (also called a Water Boatman) was seen on a pond at Stocken. A Lesser Water Boatman was also recorded at the same site.

### **True flies Diptera**

Common Bee-fly *Bombylius major* - one was recorded in a garden at Barrowden and they were noted as ‘numerous’ at Bloody Oaks Quarry; one was seen at Clipsham Park Wood and a record also came from Thistleton Verge 15.

A Common Banded Hoverfly *Syrphus ribesii* was noted in a garden at Stocken and a record came from Thistleton Verge 15.

St Mark’s Fly *Bibio marci* – the first recorded was a single insect on St Mark’s Day April 25th at Normanton, then the next day a small ‘swarm’ was seen near a wood at Stretton.

### **Bees, wasps, ants and allies Hymenoptera**

Tawny Mining Bee *Andrena fulva* – one nest and 2 females were recorded in Barrowden.

A Red Mason Bee *Osmia rufa* was recorded entering a wall at Stocken.

Honey Bees *Apis mellifera* were noted along Verge 15 at Thistleton.

Spring Flower Bee (Hairy-footed Flower Bee) *Anthophora plumipes* – a total of 10 insects were recorded over 2 days in Barrowden.

Early Bumblebee *Bombus pratorum* – one to two were active at Gibbet Gorse.

Buff-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus terrestris* – several were seen at Verge 7, and a record came from Clipsham Park Wood and also Thistleton Verge 15.

White-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus lucorum* – single records came from Clipsham Park Wood and at Thistleton Verge 15.

Garden bumblebee *Bombus hortorum* – several were noted at Verge 7.

Common Carder Bee *Bombus pascuorum* – ± 5 females were noted at Priors Coppice, 3–5 were seen at Verge 7, and a record came from Thistleton Verge 15.

Red-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus lapidarius* – a large insect with mites on its thorax was seen at Barrowden, 3–4 females were noted at Priors Coppice, one insect was noted on Verge 7 and another at Stocken early in the month, and a total of 9 on the 27th at Stocken. Three queen bees were at Thistleton Verge 15.

Vestal Cuckoo Bee *Bombus vestalis* – a single insect was caught for identification, and then released, at Priors Coppice.

### **Beetles Coleoptera**

Green Tiger Beetle *Cicindela campestris* – approximately 6–10 beetles were found basking on a sandy footpath at Ketton Quarry – beautiful insects (see photo page 2).

Lily Beetle *Lilioceris lili* – 3 were recorded on Martagon lilies at Barrowden.

7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* – a record 2 mating and 10 single insects came from Barrowden (recorder notes ‘better numbers than recent years’). Several were noted along Verge 7 (Gt Casterton to Pickworth), also several at Ketton Quarry Woodland, and one insect was seen at Priors Coppice. Five Harlequin Ladybirds were recorded near Normanton – one *Harmonia axyridis f. conspicua* and four *f. succinea*. 7-spot Ladybirds were noted as ‘numerous’ on a visit to Bloody Oaks Quarry, and as ‘frequent’ at Clipsham Park Wood, and several noted alongside the Harlequins near Normanton.

### **Woodlice Terrestrial Isopoda**

Common Pill Woodlouse *Armadillium vulgare* – 12 were recorded, along with 30 Common Rough

Woodlice *Porcellio Scaber*, when a stone was moved at Stocken.

### Millipedes *Diplopoda*

Common Centipede *Cryptops hortensis* – 3 were noted scurrying for cover from under the same stone at Stocken.

White-legged Millipede *Tachypodiulus niger* – one was recorded from Thistleton Verge 15. If any of our members are not sure on their millipede ID, the recorder states 'It is the only one which looks like a stick of liquorice and has white legs'. Its name means 'he of the swift feet'. Sounds a fascinating beast!

### Spiders, harvestmen and allies *Arachnida*

Garden Spider *Araneus diadematus* – one was noted at Ketton Quarry.

### Slugs and snails *Terrestrial Gastropoda*

Snail *Monarcha cantiana* – several were recorded on Verge 7.

Garden Snail *Helix aspersa* – these were noted at Ketton Quarry Woodland.

White-lipped snail *Cepaea hortensis* – these were noted at Ketton Quarry Woodland.

Brown-lipped Banded Snail *Cepaea nemoralis* – recorded from Thistleton Verge 15.

Large Black Slug *Arion ater* – a 'very small' approx. 3 cm slug was noted at Ketton Quarry Woodland.

### Pond life

Water Slater (Water Hog-louse) *Asellus Aquaticus* – a large number, c.50, were recorded in a pond at Stocken.

*Many thanks to: T Caldicott, A Chiverton, J Crosby, M Grimes, C R Jones, R Lemmon, J Ostler, D Perril, P Scott, and L & G Worrall, for interesting cards, photos and letters*

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## GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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Temperature is an important factor for glow-worm larvae needing to turn into adults in their second summer of life. Basically, it has to be warm enough for long enough. Assuming it is, the larva just curls up and lies motionless, normally on its back or its side, for a few days until it is ready to shed the last of its larval skins. It then stays put as a pupa, typically for about 10 days for a female and 15 for a male (the male has more structural changes to make, including wing formation, than a female). Pupal skin is extremely fragile. The verge cutting regime organised with RCC Highways means that verges with glow-worms are not cut after the end of May, even though glows are not normally seen before mid-June, to avoid destroying vulnerable larvae about to pupate and the pupae themselves. RCC Highways then do not cut glow-worm verges until after 1st August, to avoid wiping up the static females as they wait for their flying mates. Unfortunately, Highways contractors cannot always be accurate with dates, and it has also been known for 'tidying up' cutting by village contractors or others to take place within the 'no-go' period.

Microclimates occur too; it can happen that sheltered woodland helps pupation more than a more exposed location, but even within a site

there can be variation and literally 'hot spots'. I suspect that this year pupation will be late in most cases, and it may be that July will produce more glows than usual. But nothing is certain! Another variable is the food supply for larvae trying to put on enough weight to pupate, and with such a cold dry spring it could be that snails, which are the food for larvae, have not done well. Until very recently some snails in our garden still had their shells sealed.

I look forward to hearing about any hunts members have carried out, even if unsuccessful.

Could I refer you to the Noticeboard (page 2), which details a meeting by the Leicestershire Literary and Philosophical Society on Saturday July 10th, led by Jenny Harris. They are meeting at 9.15 pm at Ketton church to look around that area for bats, then intend to go on to Ketton Quarry to see if its glow-worms are shining, finishing around 11.00 pm. If you just wanted to join in at the Quarry you would be welcome; no time can be guaranteed, but they could be there around 10.20 pm. Use the car park by the Geological Trail behind the industrial units on Pit Lane, SK982051. A torch could come in handy for any uneven surfaces.



## MYCOLOGY NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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### March/April 2010

It was cold and dry till mid-March, then springlike with rain and mildness, but April was a very dry month with cold nights. Unsurprisingly, the only member of the Morel family reported was *Morchella elata*, a dark slender conical honeycomb arising from buried woodchips under gravel, but it was over the border at Easton-on-the-Hill. Velvet Shanks held on in places till the end of March, and Scarlet Elf Cups were delayed but still a delight in late March and early April. Perhaps the oddest sight was Beechmast Candlesnuff at Ketton Quarry Woodland, where miniature white-tipped black fingerlets emerged from old beech cupules. 20 Pleated Inkcaps at the end of April suggests increasing decomposing activity. The largest number of sightings must go to the micros Nettle Rash and *Calloria neglecta* on old dead nettle stems!

#### RESERVES

**Bloody Oaks Quarry SK971108 4.3:** On old dead nettle stems, Nettle Rash *Leptosphaeria acuta* not fully developed yet, and disco *Calloria neglecta*; and two groups of 10 in all of Velvet Shanks *Flammulina velutipes* on cut stumps of hawthorn, not very fresh but not gone over.

**Ketton Quarry Woodland SK974055 25.3:** Old dead nettle stems had Nettle Rash undeveloped and *Calloria neglecta*, disco *Dasyscyphus brevipilus* on decaying beechwood in contact with leaf litter, and several beech cupules were seen bearing very cute Beechmast Candlesnuff *Xylaria carpophila*; several crusty patches of *Peniophora cinerea* still young on beech twigs in leaf litter; a good number of large fresh Jelly Ears *Auricularia auricula-judae* on fallen ash log which must have appreciated the rainfall. Crystal Brain *Exidia nucleata* on beech twigs in leaf litter was identified by colleagues from the Leicestershire Fungi Study Group; it is microscopically very similar to White Brain *E. thuretiana* but less opaque and not so white; in Leics they find only Crystal Brain. On an ash trunk was *Trentepohlia calamicola*, a small patch of reddish brown 'fur' which RL thought might be a lichen, but Ivan Pedley identified it as an alga. Amazing what turns up.

**SK972055 6.4:** A small area of Scarlet Elfcups 30 cm x 30 cm found where, in 2007, a glade was cut in the woodland just off Pit Lane; super find, thanks JH.

**Ketton Quarry SK978054 25.4:** Fungus Foray with Leicestershire Fungi Study Group. RI notes fungi very sparse following three very dry weeks, but an enjoyable time was had, to the accompaniment of birdsong. Gill fungi: On soil, *Coprinopsis marcescibilis* (formerly a *Psathyrella* and new for us), Sulphur Tuft *Hypholoma fasciculare* on fallen hardwood trunk, Spring Brittlestem *Psathyrella spadiceogrisea* on soil, and Felted Twiglets *Tubaria conspersa* in mossy ground. Candlesnuff Fungus was on fallen wood, King Alfred's Cakes were on fallen ash trunks and Jelly Ears on cut elder branches. Brackets and crusts: Smoky Bracket *Bjerkandera adusta* on birch stump, Blushing Bracket *Daedaleopsis confragosa* on fallen birch trunk, *Peniophora lycii* on fallen ash twig, Bay Polypore *Polyporus durus* on fallen hardwood trunk, Dryad's Saddle *P. squamosus* from roots of ash and Yellowing Curtain crust *Stereum subtomentosum* on dead wood. Microfungi: on dead stem of nettle, *Calloria neglecta* and Nettle Rash, with Nettle Clustercup Rust *Puccinia urticata* on living nettle stem, Common Tarcrust *Diatrype stigma* on fallen hardwood twig, Beech Woodward *Hypoxylon fragiforme* on fallen beech trunk, Birch Woodward *H. multiforme* on cut birch logs, *Mollisia melaleuca* on dead beech wood, Sycamore Tarspot on fallen sycamore leaves, rusts *Puccinia sessilis* (aecia) on leaves of Lords-and-Ladies, *P. violae* (aecia) on leaves of Early Dog-violet; also *Dendryphon nanum* on dead stem of Deadly Nightshade, *Discostroma tosta* on dead stem of Rosebay and *Ramularia rubella* on dock leaves. Thanks for the list, LFSG, Richard, Tom and Roy.

**Ketton Quarry North Glade SK975056 25.3:** 2 groups of Velvet Shanks on old hawthorn stumps, one with about 30 fruiting bodies, the other 5, mostly well developed, some emergent.

**Barnsdale Wood SK912089 4.3:** On old dead nettle stems, undeveloped Nettle Rash and *Calloria neglecta*, asco *Hypomyces aurantius* with bright orange perithecia on the hymenial surface of a fallen fruiting body of Birch Polypore *Piptoporus betulinus*; a good number of Turkeytails *Trametes versicolor* on a fallen log and Lichen *Chaenotheca ferruginea* on the southern aspect of ?ash trunks.

**Barnsdale Lodge Wood SK905088 18.3:** King Alfred's Cakes, not fresh, on fallen ash trunks and Hazel Woodward not fresh on fallen hazel.

**Rutland Water Eggleton Reserve 4.3:** Purple Jelly Discs *Ascocoryne sarcoides* on log pile; grey pored Smoky Bracket *Bjerkandera adusta* wrapping itself in tiers round a broken dead elder branch with some of the larger specimens partly consumed by something unknown, rusty coloured Blushing Bracket *Daedaleopsis confragosa* on willow, golden pored Hairy Curtain Crust *Stereum hirsutum* on a tree stump; and deep orange Common Jelly Spot *Dacrymyces stillatus* on a wooden railing. Not many species, but a startling range of colour and forms.

**Rutland Water Lyndon Reserve SK895056 8.4:** On old dead nettle stems, disco *Calloria neglecta* and asco Nettle Rash *Leptosphaeria acuta*.

**RWLr Gibbet Gorse SK901058 2.4:** Two colonies of Turkeytail *Trametes versicolor*, one dark coloured on rotten tree stump and one yellowish with petal-like margins on fallen birch branch with bark. JO, intrigued, checked samples at home, and found they were indeed all Turkeytails. Also Lichens *Ramalina farinacea* and *Evernia prunastri* on same small hawthorn twig, on floor beneath trees with Orange Shield Lichen *Xanthoria parietina*, *Physcia tenella*, fragment of *Parmelia* sp. 8.4: On wood, Coral Spot *Nectria cinnabarina* and Common Tarcrust *Diatrype stigma*.

**Prior's Coppice SK831052 29.4:** On old dead nettle stems, Nettle Rash and the asexual state of *Calloria neglecta*, King Alfred's Cakes not fresh on fallen ash; smut *Entyloma ficariae* very widespread and common, rusts *Melampsora populnea* on Dog's Mercury, telia of *Puccinia chrysosplenii* on the underside of leaves of Golden Saxifrage (RL notes this as 'uncommon', perhaps due to being difficult to spot!), *P sessilis* on Lord's-and-Ladies, and telia of the galler *Uromyces ficariae* on leaf undersides and petioles of Lesser Celandine. Downy mildew *Plasmopara pygmaea*

was on undersides of Wood Anemone leaves; we currently record downy mildews under Kingdom Fungi but taxonomically they are in a different biological Kingdom.

## WOODS

**Burley Wood SK885094 12.3:** CRJ visited the Scarlet Elf Cup *Sarcoscypha austriaca* locality and found more than a dozen, just developing and diminutive. At **SK887100** the lichen *Graphis scripta* was noted as spread to other hazels in the vicinity of the original old coppiced tree.

21.3: Several clumps of Scarlet Elf Cups near the pond on the Society's visit pleased J&JR and were also noted on 23.3 by TC. At **SK893809**

21.3: Bleeding Broadleaf Crust *Stereum rugosum* was on hazel and Common Jellyspot *Dacrymyces stillatus* covered the wooden 'seat' at the Eight-riding lookout. JO also found some fungi apparently found elsewhere but placed by the lookout: Oak Maze Gill *Daedalea quercina* with a vivid yellow-green colour over part of its pores, possibly bacterial, and Birch Polypore *Piptoporus betulinus*.

**Clipsham Park Wood SK975170 6.4:** Pale Brittlestem *Psathyrella candolleana* scattered in wood and Scurfy Twiglet *Tubaria furfuracea* on grass rides. A rust was on Barren Strawberry.

## FIELDS, GARDENS, VERGES

**Verge 7, Gt Casterton-Pickworth, Midpoint TF000116 22.4:** Smut *Entyloma ficariae* on Lesser Celandine, rusts *Puccinia malvacearum* on leaves and petioles of Common Mallow, *P sessilis* on Lord's-and-Ladies, and *Uromyces dactylidis* also on Lesser Celandine.

**Stocken SK957174 30.4:** c20 Pleated Inkcaps in short grass after some rainy days, very fresh and paper thin.

*Thank you for all sightings: T Caldicott, J Crosby, J Davies, P & H Ellis, T Hering, R Iliffe, CR Jones, R Lemmon, J Ostler, J & J Rodgers, Leicestershire Fungi Study Group.*

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