

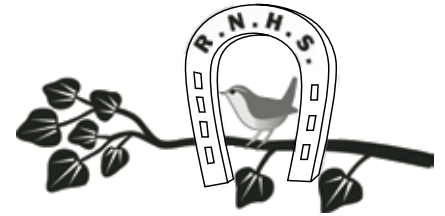
Journal of the
RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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November 2010



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NOTICEBOARD

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2011

This is due promptly on 1st January 2011. Thanks to those who have already renewed by personal payment, or have made arrangements with their banks to pay by Standing Order. We have some forms if you would like to change to a Standing Order: please ring Graham Worrall on 01572 747302. **The form below is only for those who want to continue to renew annually by personal payment.** If you are using it, please do so as quickly as possible, even before 1.1.11 if you can!

Please note: If you've only just joined this autumn, you are not due to renew your membership until 1st January 2012.

WATER VOLES

Here at Rutland Water Nature Reserve we are hoping to undertake a Water Vole re-introduction project in the near future. In order to meet the IUCN criteria we need to review the historical status of water voles in the area, I am hoping this might be something you could advise on.

We are looking for any records, including anecdotal, of Water Voles in the Rutland area. Do you have any reports we could use? Are you able to advise us of other useful contacts in our search?

Becky Corby, Volunteer Coordinator, RWNr (bcorby@lrwt.org.uk)

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FOR 2011 *NOT USING STANDING ORDER*

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

I/We wish to renew membership and enclose cheque for £
£10 for each adult

Name/s _____

Address _____

Post code _____

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The Welland and the mill stream

You may have seen a lot of work being done on the mill stream at Stamford, for long a cause for concern. You can find out more about it at the Welland Rivers Trust website: www.wellandriverstrust.org.uk.

Barn owls and water butts – see page 6.

Census 27 March 2011

The Census recruitment team has asked the Society to help with recruiting for over 29 000 temporary part-time and full-time roles such as Census Collectors and Special Enumerators. Full details at www.censusjobs.co.uk.

British Wildlife and our orthoptera records – see page 11.

70 years of the Malaysian Nature Society

2010 marks the 70th anniversary of the founding of the Malayan (now Malaysian) Nature Society in 1940 by a group of British expatriates interested in the natural history of the Peninsula. I was a member of this society from 1955 until I left Malaya in 1966. At this time I was employed as a field geologist in the Geological Survey and in the late 50s was assigned a mapping programme in the remote district of Upper Perak. In those days the MNS was still a largely expatriate-supported club run by an informal elected committee which organized talks and outdoor meetings mainly in Kuala Lumpur and produced a first-class quarterly periodical – the *Malayan Nature Journal*. Many of its members were professional biologists working in Government departments such as Agriculture, Forestry and Game. The *Journal* reflected this expertise with scientific articles documenting the wonderfully diverse flora and fauna of the country's extensive rain forests.

Today the Society has evolved into a large organisation committed to promoting the study, appreciation and conservation of Malaysia's natural heritage. It is now run by a full-time Kuala Lumpur-based staff of 35 and has 13 state branches and specialist interest groups.

Since independence in 1957 infrastructural and agricultural development and commercial interests have made serious inroads into the remaining virgin rain forests, and the Society has vigorously promoted campaigns to arrest further loss of this unique habitat. One project with which I have some familiarity has been the creation of the Royal Belum State Park covering over 117 000 ha of mountainous land in Upper Perak. This remote region is one of the few remaining areas of extensive primary jungle left in the peninsula. It remained virtually untouched until the 1970s when the Perak River was dammed to form a huge lake and a new east-west highway was constructed.

Belum in Malay means 'not yet'. There was a small village of this name in the head-waters of the Perak River and early administrators travelling to the village by elephant would enquire of any occasional wandering aborigines they met if they were yet nearing the village. The answer was always 'belum' which testifies to the remoteness of the settlement. In my day the village had been abandoned due to the activities of the communist terrorists in the area.

Some readers may recall the early postage stamps of Perak, which depicted a wild tiger. Tigers were still common in Upper Perak in the 1950s. I once came face-to-face with a magnificent beast on a bend in a small deeply cut mountain stream. I retreated quickly back to my labourers who were some distance downstream behind me. They of course did not at first believe the story of my close encounter until, on regaining the sandy fringe at the bend, they saw water slowly seeping into the animal's spoor. Wild elephants were also common in these jungles. Herds would crash down the deeply incised valleys in the mountains and if your camp was on the narrow floor of the valley they could destroy it. I well remember nights when we heard elephants in the vicinity – my labourers would spend all the night banging saucepans to keep them away.

There are few of these extensive tracts of virgin forest left in the peninsula. Tigers, elephants and other threatened species such as Malayan tapir, Sumatran rhinoceros and wild buffalo, almost certainly continue to live in these remote jungles in greatly reduced numbers. The MNS has over the last 70 years been instrumental in demonstrating the richness of the country's natural heritage and more latterly to its increasing vulnerability. It is to be applauded in the way it is harnessing its resources to help protect the remaining virgin forest and other unique habitats for the future.

Dr C R Jones

50 years later and Clive Jones is still active in the field - see page 13. He has been a member of the Rutland Natural History Society for 29 years and was Chairman for eight years.

WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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September 2010

Atmospheric pressure and winds Air pressures were generally between 1008 and 1024 mb, except for 7th and 8th when they were just below 1000 mb, and also on 23rd and 24th when they were between 999 and 1006 mb. The month started with high pressures and northerly winds which were light or nil at 0900 hours. Visibility was also low on 3rd and 4th when I took the wind readings. For the rest of the month the wind was SE-W except for the 24th to 28th when it was northerly again.

Temperatures A fairly average September, slightly cooler than 2009 but similar to 2007 and 2008. The mean night-time minimum was 9.7 °C (2009 - 10.3 °C) and the mean day time maximum was 19.1 °C (2009 - 20.2 °C). The coldest night was that of the 17th (4.8 °C) and the 24th gave the lowest day-time maximum of 12.2 °C.

October 2010

Atmospheric pressure and winds The month started with low pressures between 989 and 1002 mb from the 1st to 6th, after which they were generally higher, up to 1026 mb, until 29th when they dropped again to 993–998 mb until the end of the month. Winds were generally SE-W until the 7th, reflecting the lower pressures mentioned above and after this were generally NW-NE until the 26th when they became SE-SW and often very light or nil. This persisted to the end of the month.

Temperatures This was not a particularly warm month here, in the last 8 years five were warmer and two colder. The mean night-time minimum was 6.78 °C, only 2008 and 2003 were colder (5.1 and 4.93 °C respectively) and 2007 and 2005 were markedly warmer. The coldest night was that of 24th to 25th when a low of -0.1 °C was recorded, just qualifying as an air frost. The mean day-

Rain The total I recorded was 48.8 mm (1.92 inches) which is 96% of my long term mean. There were 11 days when no rain fell but a feature of the month has been the number of days when the rain that did fall was so little as to present a problem in its measurement. On one day I recorded 'a trace' which means the bottom of the gauge was damp and therefore unmeasurable, and there were two days of 0.2 mm and another two of 0.3 mm. These latter readings are close to being guesses as the gauge is only calibrated from 0.4 mm upwards.

Sunshine Averaged over England and Wales this was 143 hours or 99% of the 1971–2000 mean. Curiously, the long-term average for RAF Wittering for September is 142 hours.

time maximum was 14.39 °C, cooler than 2009 (15.46 °C), 2007 (19.97 °C), and both 2006 and 2005 (17.1 °C). The highest temperature in this month was on 10th (19.7 °C) with most temperatures up to this date also being relatively high, an Indian Summer.

Rain A total of 44.2 mm (1.74 inches), which represents 71% of my LTM. The highest fall, 11.7 mm was on the 1st, and there were two periods, the 8th to 14th and 27th to 30th when no rain was recorded. Averaged over England and Wales the rainfall was 80 mm (3.15 inches) which is 85% of the average for 1971 to 2000 and again serves to remind us that we live in a dry area.

Sunshine Averaged over England and Wales this was 125 hours or 111% of the mean for the standard reference period. The long term mean for RAF Wittering for this month is 107 hours.

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

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September/October 2010

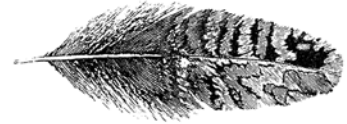
Very little herpetological activity has been observed in these two months. Froglets were seen in two different places in Prior's Coppice in early September and frogs were heard calling

in Barrowden on 30th October. Dead Common Toads were found on roads in Brooke and Leighfield on 30th September and a live toad was seen at Leighfield on 27th October. There was a single Grass Snake record from Leighfield on 10th October.

My thanks to T Caldicott, R Lemmon and L Worrall for these records.

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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September/October 2010

This has been an exciting autumn with a wide variety of birds passing through the county on migration – wildfowl, waders, terns and winter thrushes especially. Scarcer species included Red-throated Diver, Gannet, Spoonbill, Ring Ouzel and Snow Bunting, but there were good counts of Redwings and Fieldfares, whilst a Bittern and Bearded Tits are hopefully settled into the Egleton reedbed for the winter. Included with these notes are Tim Caldicott's records of visible migration at Leighfield, showing just how many birds pass through Rutland at this time of year (page 8). There is surely scope for similar observations to be made at other sites – the Rutland Water dam, George Henry Wood and Pickworth all seem to fit the bill.

My thanks to the following for their records for these months: T Appleton, P Bennett, T Caldicott, A & J Comber, J Crosby, J Foster, Dr C H Gallimore, M & G Griffin, J Harris, A Hayday, Dr C Jones, A Lawrence, LROS, R Lemmon, I Misselbrook, T Mitcham, L & B Nicholls, B & D Parker, D Perril, P Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, L & G R Worrall

Whooper Swan. Two flew west at RW on 20.10 going east on 31.10. At EBR there were up to seven between 21 and 24.10.

Pink-footed Goose. c.250 flew east at George Henry Wood on 20.10.

Greylag Goose. 36 flew east over Stocken on 11.10.

Canada Goose. 22 flew west over Stocken on 16.10.

Mandarin Duck. A female/juv was at LFP on 27.10.

Teal. c.200 flew SW over LFP on 23.09.

Pintail. Up to seven were at FHP between 04.09 and 22.10.

Red-crested Pochard. Eleven were at EBR on 05.10 and four at RW on 22.10.

Scaup. A female was at RW (Egleton) and Dam on 14 and 20.10.

Goosander. A female flew over Oakham on 15.10 and a female was at EBR on 17.10.

Ruddy Duck. A female was at EBR on 26.09.

Red-throated Diver. One was at RW(Dam/ Normanton) from 29.10 into Nov.

Black-necked Grebe. Two were at RW (South Arm) from 04.10.

Slavonian Grebe. One was at RW(South Arm) from 10.10.

Gannet. A juv flew through at RW on 25.09.

Bittern. One was seen intermittently at RW(Egleton) on lagoon 3 from 14.10.

Grey Heron. Nine flew west at GHW on 22.09.

Spoonbill. One was at RW(Egleton) on 06.09.

Red Kite. There were regular reports from Barrowden, FHP and Stocken (six on 24.10) with others at Wing, Stamford and Morcott.

Marsh Harrier. Singles were at RW on 19.09 and 14.10.

Hen Harrier. A male was at RW(Egleton) on 10.10.

Sparrowhawk. Regular at Stocken throughout Sept. One frequented an Oakham garden from 16.20.

Buzzard. Noted at six sites across the county. Nine flying south over Oakham on 30.09 may have been migrants. There were five near FHP on 02.10 and over Clipsham Park Wood on 24.10.

Kestrel. Noted at FHP/Exton Park, Stocken, Gorsefield Wood, GHW, Wing and near Seaton.

Hobby. One was regular at Stocken to 13.09, hunting Swallows over the prison. There were other Sept sightings to 22nd at Barlythorpe, Leighfield and Burley Wood.

Peregrine. An adult flew west at FHP on 22.10.

Water Rail. One was at FHP on 05 and 30.10.

Moorhen. One returned to a Wing garden pond on 11.10.

Little Ringed Plover. Three were at RW on 19.09.

Ringed Plover. Ten were at RW on 19.09. At EBR up to eight were noted between 26.09 and 08.10.

Golden Plover. At RW nos increased from c.800 on 05.10 to c.3000 on 29.10, the birds favouring lagoon 4. There were 48 at EBR on 17.10.

Grey Plover. There were two at RW on 19.09 and one flew over there on 14.10.

Lapwing. At RW there were 532 on 19.09 and 1866 on 10.10.

Little Stint. Two were at RW(North Arm) on 03.09 and one at the Old Hall on 05.09.

Curlew Sandpiper. Two were at RW(Egleton) on 03.09 with one at EBR on 26.09. One was at RW between 14 and 24.10.

Dunlin. Few birds were noted. One flew over Leighfield on 03.09. There were eight at RW on 19.09 and two on 10.10. At EBR up to seven were noted between 26.09 and 22.10.

- Ruff.** At RW there were 12 on 19.09 and ten regularly from mid Oct. Two were at EBR on 05.10 with one on 08.10.
- Jack Snipe.** Singles were at RW on 08 and 10.10.
- Snipe.** There were 23 at RW on 19.09 and ten on 10.10. Six were at EBR on 17.10.
- Woodcock.** One was flushed near Brooke on 30.10.
- Black-tailed Godwit.** One was at RW on 19.09.
- Curlew.** Two flew NW over Oakham on 01.09. Four were at RW(Eggleton) on 24.09 with five there on 10.10. Three flew north at EBR on 26.09.
- Common Sandpiper.** There were two at RW on 19.09 and one on 10.10.
- Green Sandpiper.** At RW there were 21 on 19.09 and five on 10.10. Singles were noted as follows: LFP on 12.09, FHP between 05 and 22.10, over Gorsefield Wood on 10.10 and over Oakham on 14.10.
- Greenshank.** Four were at RW on 03.09, six on 19.09 and three on 24.09.
- Redshank.** Seven were at RW on 19.09 and nine on 10.10.
- Mediterranean Gull.** There were four at RW(Eggleton) on lagoon 4 on 14.10.
- Common Gull.** c.700 flew west over Stocken on the evening of 12.10.
- Yellow-legged Gull.** Singles were at EBR on 26.9 and 08.10. At RW the max between 19.09 and 24.10 was six on 14.10.
- Caspian Gull.** An adult was at RW(Eggleton) on 14.10.
- Whiskered Tern.** The RW bird was last seen on 16.09.
- Black Tern.** One was at RW on 19.09, five on 24.09 and one on 04.10.
- White-winged Black Tern.** Juvs were seen at RW on 16.09 and 24.09.
- Common Tern.** Three were at RW on 19 and 24.09.
- Common/Arctic Tern.** A late bird was over South Arm at RW on 29.10.
- Stock Dove.** A flock of 38 was over Horn Spinney (FHP) on 22.10, the largest noted there for several years.
- Woodpigeon.** c.200 flew north over Lady Wood (Stocken) on 28.10.
- Collared Dove.** 14 were on wires near Exton on 30.09. Double figure counts of this species would be very welcome as it seems to be less common now in many areas.
- Barn Owl.** Noted at Leighfield, Brooke and near Seaton. One was found drowned in a water butt at Barrowden on 08.09 – a fate often suffered by Barn Owls but easily remedied by covering the butts or placing a piece of wood in a water trough so they have something to help them out.
- Little Owl.** One was on a lawn at Normanton on 13.09 with singles also at Barrowden on 14.09 and 18.10.
- Tawny Owl.** Well reported as birds called to establish winter territories. Noted at Burley Wood, Stocken, Brooke, Leighfield (three) and Barrowden. One was found dead by the A47 near Barrowden on 25.09.
- Kingfisher.** Noted at four sites, mainly in Oct – Oakham, FHP, Exton Park and LFP.
- Green Woodpecker.** Regular at FHP in both months. Also noted at Stocken and on Ryhall Heath.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** One visited a Barleythorpe garden throughout both months. Noted at Pickworth Wood and on Ryhall Heath.
- Skylark.** c.65 flew south over Oakham on 11.10.
- Sand Martin.** Noted at RW and EBR in Sept with the last there on 26.09.
- Swallow.** At the well-watched Barrowden nest birds were present to 30.09. There were some good totals elsewhere with c.150 at Leighfield and Stocken on 07.09 and 70 at Leighfield on 28.09. Birds were noted at Stocken in Oct with the last there on 7th. The final bird was over Oakham on 15th.
- House Martin.** c. 200 were around Wing on 01.09, an excellent count, with c.150 over Stocken on the same date. Last noted at Stocken on 21.09, Barrowden on 30.09 and over Oakham on 15.10.
- Meadow Pipit.** 42 were counted passing over Stocken during a one hour count on 28.09. c.30 were in Exton Park on 30.09.
- Rock Pipit.** Two were at RW(North Arm) on 05 and 14.10, and one at the Dam on 31.10.
- Water Pipit.** Singles were at the RW (Dam) on 20, 22 and 31.10.
- Yellow Wagtail.** Six flew over Leighfield on 12.09, with three there on 30.09. Up to 13 were at Park House, Normanton in mid-Sept (no date).
- Grey Wagtail.** Single birds were at FHP on 22.09, RW(South Arm) on 24.09 and Stocken on 28.10.
- Pied Wagtail.** A pre-roost of 62 at HMP Stocken on 14.09 increased to 106 on 30.09.
- White Wagtail.** One was at Normanton on 20.09.
- Dunnock.** c.29 were noted around Leighfield on 04.10.
- Robin.** 44 were counted at Leighfield on 28.09.
- Redstart.** A female lingered at Burley Wood between 13 and 20.09.

- Whinchat.** Singles were at EBR between 13 and 19.10.
- Stonechat.** The first autumn bird was at RW(Lyndon) on 18.09. One was at EBR on 17.10 with three there on 19.10.
- Ring Ouzel.** One was at RW(Egleton) on 31.10.
- Blackbird.** Ten minutes of sub-song was heard at Barrowden on 19.10.
- Fieldfare.** First noted over Stocken on 10.10, the first large flocks were noted over Leighfield from 18.10 (see table page 8) and GHW on 20.10, when 263 flew west. Widespread in the last week of Oct.
- Redwing.** The first birds were five over Stocken and two over Oakham on 28.09. Steady passage was noted over Stocken from 08.10 throughout the month, with flocks ranging from 39 (10.10) to 80 (18.10). One was in a Barleythorpe garden on 20.10; another large flock of c.200 was at Wing on 27.10 (see page 8 for Leighfield counts.)
- Mistle Thrush.** On 07.09 there was a max of 16 at Leighfield, and eight fed on Rowan at Barleythorpe. Six were at Park House, Normanton, throughout Sept.
- Cetti's Warbler.** One sang and showed well at RW(Egleton) on 19.09.
- Sedge Warbler.** There were Sept records from FHP on 5th and Leighfield on 7th and 12th.
- Lesser Whitethroat.** Ten were at Leighfield on 03.09, with one or two to the end of the month and the last on 02.10.
- Whitethroat.** There were Sept records from Stocken, Leighfield and Barleythorpe, with the last at GHW on 22.09.
- Garden Warbler.** One was reported from a Barleythorpe garden between 01 and 18.09.
- Blackcap.** c.30 were counted in Burley Wood on 05.09. A male was in an Oakham garden on 02.10 and there were further Oct records from Priors Coppice and Leighfield, with one at GHW on 20.10.
- Chiffchaff.** Well reported throughout Sept with birds at FHP, RW and especially Burley Wood and Leighfield, where there were 18 on 28.09. One was in a Barrowden garden on 06/07.10. Last noted at Leighfield on 18.10.
- Willow Warbler.** Sept singles were at Oakham, Leighfield and Burley Wood, with the last there on 15.09.
- Goldcrest.** One frequented conifers in a Stamford garden between 11 and 29.10.
- Spotted Flycatcher.** Up to five were at Burley Wood to 20.09. Two were at Leighfield on 18.09, with the last there on 30.09.
- Bearded Tit.** Two were at RW(Egleton) on 13.10, increasing to four by 27.10 and remaining into Nov.
- Willow Tit.** Two were at Leighfield on 02 and 07.10.
- Marsh Tit.** Three pairs were at Leighfield on 03.09 and ten were noted around Burley Wood on 13.09. One was at Quarry Wood, Gt. Casterton, on 20.09.
- Treecreeper.** One was in a Barleythorpe garden on 10.10.
- Jay.** Present at FHP throughout Oct as birds collected acorns from hedgerow Oaks and also noted at Normanton. Nine were at Leighfield on 04.10.
- Raven.** One was seen and heard over Barrowden on 30.09 when one was also over Leighfield. One or two were noted at Leighfield from 16 to 30.10.
- House Sparrow.** Up to ten frequented a Barleythorpe garden in both months and c.50 were at the Stocken bird table on 26.09.
- Tree Sparrow.** Widespread in small nos in both months with singles or pairs noted at Oakham, Normanton, Tixover Grange and FHP. Eight were near Braunston on 28.09.
- Brambling.** A good autumn passage saw birds reported in small nos from 02.10 at Leighfield, FHP, Exton Park, RW(Dam) and Brooke and Barleythorpe. The highest count was 32 at Leighfield on 27.10.
- Goldfinch.** Well reported in both months with flocks of up to 40 noted at GHW and Stocken. c.100 were at Leighfield on 04.09, and there were garden counts of 22 in Oakham in Sept and 16 at another Oakham garden on 06.10.
- Siskin.** Noted from 12.09 and throughout Oct. over Leighfield, Oakham and Burley Wood, the highest count being 37 over Oakham on 20.10. Three were at EBR inflow on 17.10 and six at FHP on 22.10.
- Linnet.** 17 were at Stocken on 03.10, 40 flew over Oakham on 05.10 and there were c.60 at Leighfield on 18.10.
- Lesser Redpoll.** Singles were over Burley Wood on 25.09 and Leighfield the next day. 14 flew over Oakham on 11.10.
- Snow Bunting.** A female was at Stocken on 20.10.
- Yellowhammer.** 25 were at Williamson Cliffe Quarry Site on 20.09 and c.30 at FHP on 25.09.
- Reed Bunting.** Three females fed at a Stamford bird table on 31.10 – shades of winter to come !

Visible Migration at Leighfield in October (T Caldicott)

	12th	18th	20th	21st	22nd	24th	27th
Wigeon				100N	220N		
Common Gull					770W	680W	
Skylark		50					
Redwing		320W		360W			
Fieldfare	12	390W	300W	1030W		1000W	480W
Starling				1120W		1600W	
Chaffinch		200W		178W			
Siskin							14SW

September/October 2010 Wildfowl Counts

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir		Fort Henry Ponds /Exton Park		Holywell Lake	
	19.09	10.10	19.09	09.10	18.09	08.10	19.09	10.10
Mute Swan	528	504	107	64	10	11	2	
Greylag Goose	393	374	300	110			1	
Canada Goose	1083	421	13				11	
Barnacle Goose	14	14						
Egyptian Goose	77	56						
Mandarin		3						
Shelduck	11	6	1					
Wigeon	1065	2218	26	210		18		
Gadwall	1227	1147	108	218	26	70	32	30
Teal	718	677	141	234	16	6	6	26
Mallard	1276	1046	201	121	128	131	133	168
Pintail	62	69	11	4	1	3		
Shoveler	323	187	25	18	38	46	4	4
Red-crested Pochard	6	6	2					
Pochard	34	99	84	111				
Tufted Duck	4783	4415	795	612	1	12	9	
Scaup		4						
Common Scoter		1						
Goldeneye	3	5						
Little Grebe	120	96	19	17	1		4	10
Great Crested Grebe	586	410	64	31				
Slavonian Grebe	1	1						
Black-necked Grebe	2	2						
Cormorant	393	192	19	36				
Bittern	1	1						
Little Egret	21	21	1		1			
Grey Heron	12	19	5	4	1			
Water Rail	6	1						
Moorhen	186	75	5	6	58	34	12	13
Coot	3206	4185	543	230	58	79	19	16

BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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September/October 2010

Early in September, Clive Jones found the flowering plants of **Corn Marigold** between Ridlington and Preston. There are about four fields in this area and two at Seaton where the crop grown dictates if Corn Marigold will grow and flower. Any grain is repeatedly sprayed and this stops the 'weeds' growing to the flowering stage. If brassicas or beans are planted, the field cannot be sprayed else the crop would be killed and these years a good show of the Corn Marigold is seen. It is sad that modern methods of farming mean that the name for this flower is totally wrong, but it still sounds better than 'Cabbage Marigold'!

As the months progressed, flowering of summer and autumn species came almost to a halt with the frosts in October, but in the middle of the month **Viper's Bugloss**, **Yellow-wort** and **Common Centaury** could still be found in the Valley area of Ketton Quarry Nature Reserve.

Commonly observed **dandelion** and **daisy** will carry on flowering until the spring species start to flower or severe frosts bring nature to a halt (let's hope not).

PS on 12th November on the south road verge of Seaton Parish Churchyard I found four Lesser Celandine flowers fully out. Spring starting already?

Many thanks for sightings from C Jones, R Lemmon, G R & L Worrall, B Pochin, K Potterton

LEPIDOPTERA NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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September/October 2010

BUTTERFLIES

One **Brimstone** was seen in Ketton Quarry in early September and one was in Barnsdale gardens in October. Four **Large Whites** were recorded at Stocken on September 2nd and a singleton on October 7th. **Small Whites** were on the wing during the first half of September with records coming from Ketton Quarry, Oakham, the Lyndon Reserve and Stocken. In 2009 they were seen until mid-October! One **Green Veined White** was noted at Lyndon.

Small Coppers were found on thistles near the River Gwash at Braunston and also on the roadside at Brooke. The last **Common Blues** reported, in what has been a very good season for the species, were observed in Burley Wood on September 2nd and several were at Ketton Quarry on the following day, while a late **Holly Blue** was recorded at Stocken.

At this time of year in 2009, **Red Admirals** were scarce, so it is pleasing to be able to report that recently this has been the species that has been most widely recorded in our area. During September, four were seen in Burley Wood and other records came from Oakham and Stocken but it was in October that they were observed

on more sites. These were Barnsdale Gardens, Barleythorpe, Barrowden, Beaumont Chase Farm, Ketton Quarry, Leighfield Fish Ponds, Rutland Water, Stocken and Uppingham, single insects being seen on most occasions.

A last **Painted Lady** was seen at the Herb Nursery at Thistleton in mid-September.

Practically all the sightings of **Small Tortoiseshells** were at Stocken where seven were noted on September 1st and then singles on six further dates during that month, all on a variety of flowering plants. In October, three were noted on the 7th and one on the 10th. It is a sad reflection of the status of these butterflies to have to report that the only other record came from Oakham, when, looking back, large numbers have frequented so many gardens in past years. One member only saw **Peacocks** recently and this was once again at Stocken where nine were on various flowers at the beginning of September.

Commas frequented local woods and reserves with eight in Burley Wood in September while others were seen in Barrowden, Barnsdale Gardens and Lodge Wood, Ketton Quarry and the Lyndon Reserve. One was observed in Clipsham Park Wood on October 7th and one, which was

said to be very small in size, was found in the same wood on blackberries on October 23rd.

Speckled Woods have once again this year appeared in very good numbers. In September, some members visiting Lyndon Reserve saw 22 during the morning and 8 during the afternoon whilst 15 were recorded in Burley Wood. Other sites were Barrowden, Ketton Quarry and Stocken with a final record from Clipsham Park Wood on October 7th.

To complete the lists for this autumn a **Small Heath** was noted at Ketton Quarry on September 8th, this bringing the present totals for the two months to 14 species seen in September and 6 species seen in October.

MOTHS

As there is not a great deal to report regarding moths at this time of year, I shall break with my usual custom, and first recount some news from just outside Rutland. On October 14th a moth was found fluttering around our Orthoptera Recorder's garage light in Stamford. It settled on some wood hanging from the beams, which allowed it to be photographed and it was found to be a **Humming Bird Hawk Moth**. The light was then put out and it is hoped that it may have hibernated in the building. Will it perhaps be seen again next Spring? I understand that one had been seen at the hanging baskets in that garden in July. In another area of Stamford our Insect Recorder also reported one of these moths nectaring in her garden on quite a cold morning. She saw it from

the window and thought initially that it was a small bird as it moved around the flowers! These two records follow several that were from within Rutland and included in our last issue.

Eyebrook Reservoir was only visited once in early September when 310 moths of 35 species were trapped. Amongst those caught were 32 **Snouts** (quite a spectacular number for that species). There was a good mixture of the end of summer species and the start of those which fly in Autumn. The latter included some attractive and colourful examples such as 13 **Brindled Greens** and 3 **Frosted Orange**. Later in the month the nights were much colder so no further visits took place this year.

At Barrowden, the garden trap was operated on milder nights and resulted in 10 micro-moth and 52 macro-moth species being identified during the two months. Nothing out of the ordinary was recorded here and this year only the odd common migrant has been noted.

Weekly trapping for the winter has been recommenced at Rutland Water reedbeds. Catches so far have ranged from 24 species overnight dropping down to 12 by the end of October. One exception was on October 19th when the temperature went down to 0 °C and the result was then just three moths of one species. These were the **Brick** (not usually particularly common)!

Lastly, an **Angleshades** was seen at Stocken on October 25th. This is interestingly a species that can be seen in any month of the year.

Thanks for recent records from: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, J Crosby, R & J Follows, C R Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, P & E Mann, J Myers, D & B Parker, P Rudkin and L Worrall

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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September/October 2010

Autumn arrived suddenly on Sunday 26th September, becoming dull, wet, cold and overcast. However, the 6th October started a run of warm sunny days. But, from 11th October, northeast winds cooled things down a bit, until the latter part of the month. During October, three mornings had hard frosts. Conditions varied from then on, from wet and overcast to warm sunny days. Temperatures also varied during this time, from 10 °C to 17 °C. From the 27th to 30th October, the winds turned to southeast. But the 31st was cool, overcast and dull, with showers. Therefore, I took the opportunity to monitor the final stridulating of the cricket populations for this period.

The two sites that I visited most are conveniently tucked nicely inside Rutland. The Little Casterton Road, Stamford, neglected farmland is one and a half miles from my home, and the Walk Farm entrance gate (off Verge 8), at Great Casterton is three and a half miles away. I could slip away from the gardening (when the sun was out), for a quick visit to check the latest singers.



In the July / August period (September *Fieldfare*), I reported that the glow-worm survey was carried out late this year (21st July). However, this enabled us to record the massive numbers of this cricket, to the southwest of the Eight Riding Tree. Tim Caldicott has also worked Burley Woods this season, with good results for the Dark Bush Cricket. The reason for this story is that I recently delved into my orthoptera file, and came across an article from the Leicestershire Museums Service 'Burley Wood Report', 1989. I quote: '*Dark Bush Crickets were first discovered in Burley Woods by Dr J C Hartley, in 1977. They were frequently recorded on the edges of rides during a survey, and apparently are widespread in the wood.*'

Almost no scientific work on the orthoptera was carried out in the early days of the Rutland Natural History Society. Therefore, I checked the Annual Reports, from 1975 to 1977, which showed the paucity of reports received. Furthermore, the Entomological Reports of those times gave no names of the observers, and just a cursory glance of the species. Examples include the AR for 1975. '*Records of Grasshoppers were few, but the large migration of House Crickets (*Acheta domesticus*) in August created great interest*'. There followed a list: Common Field, and Common Green grasshoppers, and House Cricket. The AR for 1976 mentioned Common Field Grasshopper, Common Green Grasshopper, Dark Bush Cricket, and House Cricket, but very sparse information. The AR for 1977 added Speckled Bush Cricket and Oak Bush Cricket to the list, again with little information regarding location, habitats, activity and numbers. However, it is fair to say that the Society was still developing, and the Entomological section concentrated on Moths and Butterflies. Spanning the following years (and change in the entomological recorders), a more considered approach began to develop for the orthoptera. Then the split of that section in January 2007 (offloading the great weight off the shoulders of Jean and Ron Harvey) into three other branches of entomology ensured the orthoptera would be studied in depth. It also showed what a difficult job it had been for the Entomological recorder of the 1970s.

Sifting through the records for September / October 2010, I am pleased to report that there are more records received for the Oak Bush Cricket.

We pushed out into some new areas of Rutland this year, and gained new squares for Speckled Bush Cricket, Roesel's Bush Cricket, Long-winged Conehead, Field Grasshopper and Meadow Grasshopper. This work is widening our knowledge of the orthopterans in Rutland.

As expected, the records for the grasshoppers were only in September. No October reports.

One of the important parts of the surveys is the observation of any macropterous (long winged) forms of the crickets. So, a special mention for Clive Jones, who is expert in 'netting' species for examination (see page 13). Clive 'nets' them, and I extract the beasts, and get them into the bug pot.

Although there were no records received for the Short-winged Conehead this period, I make no apologies for telling this story of their expansion in other areas. Members will remember the amazing invasion onto the Rutland Water, Egleton Reserve, during July 2010. I received a very interesting email from Roy Frost, the Derbyshire and Notts orthoptera recorder, on 28th October. Roy writes that on the 27th October he took his car for repairs, and left it at the garage. Inspired by the stories of the Rutland Short-winged Coneheads, he set off for a walk (complete with Bat Detector), to a nearby reserve, named 'The Avenue Washlands'. To Roy's amazement, he located a stridulating male Short-winged Conehead, in a clump of *Juncus*. A search eventually revealed the singer. This site is 37 km north of the nearest Derbyshire site at Aston on Trent. Quote '*It took the Long-winged Conehead four years to move from south to north Derbyshire. I never expected to see my first local Short-winged Conehead just a few weeks after seeing my first in the far south of the county. I wonder what on earth is going on with this species.*'

Furthermore, during the Society's field meeting to Holme next the Sea reserve, in Norfolk, on 17th October, by midday the sun shone and the weather turned warmer. Short-winged Coneheads were plentiful, and noisy in the reeds by the footpath. Then, on 25th October, I was with Stamford U3A Bird Group, at Frampton Marsh, RSPB reserve, near Boston. Again about midday, with the sun shining, much stridulation was evident in the reed fringes next to the ponds and footpaths. Exciting times indeed!

Finally, members will be pleased I am sure to know that Rutland's orthoptera has again been given credit, in the leading paragraph, in the October edition of *British Wildlife*, the premier magazine for naturalists. This appeared on page 49, in the Wildlife Reports section. Dr. Peter Sutton, the National Orthoptera Recording Scheme Organiser, has recognised the importance of our records. Thank you Peter!

BUSH CRICKETS

Oak Bush Cricket *Meconema thalassinum*

Always pleased to receive records for this under-recorded cricket! One male, observed resting on wooden post, very close to Oak trees, Leighfield area, 3rd September (SK 814 042). Records from Stocken: one male, observed on fence post close to Hornbeam tree; one male, dropped out of bush after much shrub beating, during a rain shower (both on 6 September). On 25 October, the same observer made an important discovery, of a dead nymph found in the area, approx 220 m away from the observations of adults earlier in the summer. Proof of breeding! (SK 957 174).

Dark Bush Cricket *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

Five stridulating males, in bramble patch, at side of wet ditch, at the beginning of the farmland path, Walk Farm, Great Casterton, 4.0 pm cool, sunny afternoon, 6th October. (TF 016 108).

Roesel's Bush Cricket *Metrioptera roeselii*

The 12th September started well, with all new squares for the following sightings. Clive Jones and myself carried out a survey in a large field, next to the Uppingham school sports field, just off the Leicester Road. This habitat is a wonderful, neglected area of rough grassland, dominated by hogweed, creeping thistles, coarse grasses and scrub hawthorn. Also, the field had not been walked recently, and we had a job to find a track through. But this did not bother the crickets. Time started was 11.30 am, conditions: 5/8 cloud, dry, force 3, warm. Along a 300-yard stretch, large colonies (uncountable) of stridulating males were heard. (SK 858 000, elevation 153 m).

By 12.50 pm in a small corner of waist high vegetation (Ash/Bramble), more large numbers stridulating. (SK 857 001, elevation 159 m).

At 3.0 pm we arrived at the verge, just east of Prior's Coppice reserve, near Hibbitts Lodge. After a short, sharp shower, we located one male, stridulating in the grasses on the verge (SK 839 054, elevation 152 m). On the way back at 4.30 pm, we stopped off at a wide verge of long grasses, and found a large colony of stridulating males. This was in the Chater valley, between Brooke and Ridlington (SK 846 040, elevation 101 m).

These new areas are very welcome, to further our knowledge of the spread throughout Rutland! On the 18th September, at 5.30 pm on an overcast, dry and mild evening, the Society met at Dawn's Paddock for their monthly field meeting. One male was heard in the rough herbage in the first paddock, followed by 4 more in the meadow of

the second paddock. One female was captured, and admired by the members before release. (SK 842 075, elevation 154 m.)

A welcome new contributor to our records is David Cole, who heard a stridulating in grasses, along the old railway line between South Luffenham and Morcott, on 21st September. This was identified as a male Roesel's Bush Cricket. A new square in a remote Rutland habitat. David will investigate further in 2011. (SK 928 005. This is an approximate reference).

Final work in October was to track the remaining stridulations! Starting on the 4th of October, at the neglected farmland, Little Casterton Road, Stamford, east of Quarry Farm, at 3.45 pm, warm, damp and calm – large numbers still active in the rough grasses (TF 018 084).

On the 13th October on a visit to friends at Great Casterton, on the Ryhall Road, I checked a small rough nettles patch in a field opposite the house, to be surprised and delighted to hear 2 stridulating males. The rate of song was very slow. This was at 12.55 pm, 14 °C, overcast and dry. A new square (TF 001 092).

On the 24th October, I decided to carry out the last survey of the Egleton reserve at Rutland Water. I met Martin Grimes coming out of the centre, and he joined me. We set off at 11.0 am, east of the Birdwatching Centre, negotiating the works and muddy areas, and noting the disappearance of the fields below Lax Hill for the new lagoon (the former site for Common Green Grasshopper). It was now 14 °C, clear sky and sunny, dry and force 1. One male's slow stridulating heard in grass along the path, next to the Alan Richardson seat (SK 882 066, elevation 85 m, field 28). A few yards further, around the bend of the path, next to the John Tourtel Seat, 2 more stridulating males in verge grasses. Now we were on the path towards Fieldfare Hide, where we located 4 males, this time the stridulating near normal speed (SK 884 066, field 27).

Retracing our steps back to the centre, we then set off at 2.30 pm heading north of the centre, past the Badger watching hide, and heard 2 stridulating males, in long grasses, at the edge of the cut hay field. (SK 879 072, elevation 84 m, field 34/35).

At 3.15 pm, sun still shining, we were back at the car park, outside of the centre, and in the thick herbage at the edge of the bank next to the disabled parking area, one stridulating male was heard (SK 879 072).

Final stridulating was back at the neglected

farmland, Little Casterton Road, Stamford, on 30th October, at 2.50 pm, mild southeast wind, force 2, overcast. One extremely slow stridulation from a very worn-out male, coming from the rough grasses (TF 018 084).

Long-winged Conehead *Conocephalus discolor*

New squares for the following sightings! Clive Jones and myself carried out the survey, at the large (wonderful wilderness) field of scrub and grasses, south of the Leicester Road, Uppingham, behind the Uppingham school sports field. 11.30 am 5/8 cloud, dry, force 3, warm, 12th September. Large numbers (uncountable), of stridulating males, along a 300-yard stretch (SK 858 000, elevation 153 m). At 12.20 pm, on reaching the far end of the field, one female 'netted' by Clive. This was normal winged (SP 856 998). At 12.50 pm, in small corner of the field, in waist high vegetation, more large numbers of stridulating males, in Ash/Bramble thicket (SK 857 001). By 4.30 pm we stopped off in the Chater Valley, half way between Brooke and Ridlington. Large colony of stridulating males, in grasses on wide verge. (SK 846 040, elevation 101 m). End of new squares.



Clive Jones 'netting' a Long-winged Conehead (not quite the same as meeting a tiger, see page 2).

On 20th September, at 7.50 pm, on a cool, overcast dry evening, on protected verge 7, I was amazed to hear 4 stridulating males, in wide grass margin, just inside gateway of the farm field (SK 999 097).

Tim Caldicott visited Burley Woods for the last time this season, on 20th and 25th September, where he observed 5 adults and 3 adults respectively. These were in the southern edge of the woods (SK 887 092).

On the 4th October, I visited the neglected farmland, at Little Casterton Road, Stamford, 3.45 pm, overcast, warm, damp, calm. Large numbers of stridulating males in the rough grasses (TF 018 084).

On the 6th October, a surprise for me! And a new square, when I visited Walk Farm, Great Casterton, at 4.30 pm, 13 °C, warm south east flow, sunny and dry. In a damp ditch, with rough herbage and Rosebay Willow herb, 16 stridulating males were very pleasing. This ditch was at the end of the entrance footpath, and the beginning of the farmland trail (TF 015 110, elevation 57 m). I went back a day later, on the 7th, and was again delighted to hear 6 males, this time in the grass margin, in the field next to the hedgerow of the entrance footpath. This was approx 100 yards from the colony in the ditch (TF 016 108).

On 24th October, Martin Grimes and myself carried out the last survey at Egleton reserve, Rutland Water. 14 °C, clear and sunny, force 1. We set off at 11.0 am, east of the Birdwatching Centre. On the bend in the path next to the John Tourtel Seat, there were 4 stridulating males in the long grasses (SK 882 066). Further along, on the path towards Fieldfare Hide, 3 males heard in the tall grasses/thistles (SK 888 067).

At 2.30 pm, we were back at the centre, and set off to the north, and past the Badger Watching Hide, in a rank grass field, 2 males were heard (SK 879 073). Then, at 3.15 pm, back at the car park of the Birdwatching Centre, in the rough vegetation at the back of the disabled parking area, one stridulating male was heard (SK 879 072).

My final sightings were at the end of October, all at the neglected farmland, Little Casterton Road, Stamford. Eleven, on the 22nd, 3.15 pm, 14 °C, overcast and windy, force 3, sunny intervals. Five males, on the 27th, 2.15 pm, 17 °C, sunny and dry. And the last sighting was on 30th at 2.45 pm, southeast, mild overcast, force 2 – three stridulating males at normal speed, and one male having real trouble in warming up; with a very slow song.



Phil Rudkin with his bat recorder tuned to orthoptera

Speckled Bush Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*

September reports provided a few pleasing new squares. A new square for 5 stridulating males in Ash tree, at 3.0 pm, on the road, next to Hibbits Lodge, just east of the car park at Prior's Coppice reserve (SK 839 054, elevation 152 m).

On 20th, 6 were heard in Ash tree, on protected Verge 7, in established population here, in the first farm gateway, just near the village of Great Casterton (SK 999 097).

Another new square, at the Woodland Trust's property, Gorsefield, Oakham, on the 26th. 6+ males, stridulating in Elder/Hawthorn scrub. (SK 848 016, elevation 163 m). This was at 11.30 am, cold and overcast.

Reports for October were full, and included two new squares. On the 6th, at 3.50 pm, 13 °C, southeast, force 3, sunny and dry. Ten stridulating males, in Hawthorn, and five, in Elder/Blackthorn. This site was at the entrance to the

footpath to Walk Farm, Great Casterton. (TF 016 108, elevation 52 m). A 100 yards up the footpath, in the thick hedges, large numbers heard, in Blackthorn.

Reaching the open farmland walk, more large numbers of stridulating males, heard in tall Blackthorn hedgerow, at 4.45 pm. (TF 015 113, elevation 66 m). Another visit to the footpath on the 7th resulted in six males heard, and one male caught and photographed. On the 10th, another new square, this time for the old Barnsdale Hill, opposite the Barnsdale Country Club entrance, 4.15 pm. Six stridulating males, in Hawthorn hedgerow on the south bank (SK 904 087, elevation 96 m). At 5.15 pm, driving into Barnsdale Woods entrance and a few yards to the bottom of the hill, 32+ males, heard in Hazel, and 12 in Bramble patch (SK 906 087).

The last stridulations for October were both heard at Walk Farm, on the 21st at 2.30 pm, 16 °C, sunny and dry, overcast. (There had been a frost earlier in the morning.) But this did not deter these hardy little crickets, as there were 15 in Blackthorn at the entrance gate, and 7 more in Blackthorn along the path (TF 016 108).

The final stridulations were heard on the 27th, at 1.30 pm, 17 °C, southerly force 3 winds, sunny and dry, 5/8 cloud. At the entrance gate to Walk Farm, five, in Hawthorn and six in Hawthorn/Bramble. Just over the road from the entrance, on protected Verge 8, another four heard in the Hawthorn hedgerow.

GROUNDHOPPERS

Slender Groundhopper *Tetrix subulata*

The only reports were from Tim Caldicott for September! On the 2nd, 2 were observed on bare earth, in Burley Woods, Oakham (SK 892 094). The following were found in Tim's famous Brooke Road allotment, Oakham: one, on the 4th, four on the 10th, and finally, on the 14th, 5 were noted. All favoured Tim's compost heap (SK 860 081).

GRASSHOPPERS

Common Green Grasshopper *Omocestus viridulus*

One of the important habitats for this declining grasshopper has now gone to make way for the new lagoon, north of Lax Hill, on the Egelton reserve, Rutland Water. Therefore it is a relief to receive Tim Caldicott's records from other parts of Rutland. On the 9th September, Tim heard a stridulating male in the long grasses in the ride, at the eastern edge of Burley Woods (SK 896 095). The same day, 2 were heard in the pasture field, near Barleythorpe Hall (SK 846 098).

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*

Records for this grasshopper have been steadily improving over the last two years. It is not clear at this point in time if this is due to climate change or more coverage by our intrepid reporters.

Following the two new squares in July / August, yet another one features this period. Observations on regular sites for September were: one, on Tim Caldicott's patio door, in Welland Way, Oakham, on the 2nd. Five on the 4th, and four on the 10th, on the Brooke Road Allotment (SK 860 081). In Burley Woods, on the 25th, 4 were observed, in the western area (SK 888 096). The new square was at the Woodland Trust's Gorsefield, Oakham site, on the 26th September, where Clive Jones 'netted' one on the mud bank, at 11.0 am (SK 848 016, elevation 163 m).

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*

The following reports are all from Stocken. On the 1st September, 15+ were observed in pasture, on a warm, sunny day, with much stridulating heard.

Thank you to my patient observer reporters for all their hard work this season, which has been a very successful one indeed: T Caldicott, D Cole, J Crosby, M Grimes, C Jones, P Rudkin, R Frost (information from across the border).

The field was on a south-facing slope. On the 2nd, 6 were counted, this time on a weed-strewn pathway. Finally, on the 20th, 3 were observed on an extensive lawn (SK 957 174). Thanks to James Crosby!

At the large scrub / Hawthorn field, next to the Uppingham School playing field, just off the Leicester Road, a male and a female were 'netted' and identified. A new square for this species! (SP 856 998, elevation 148 m). Finally, on the 26th September, one male, observed at the Woodland Trust's property, Gorsefield, Oakham. New square! (SK 848 016.) 11.0 am, overcast and dull.

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Tim Caldicott again provides the last two reports for September. One, seen in Tim's back garden, on Welland Way, Oakham, on the 5th September. Seven, on the Brooke Road allotments, Oakham, on the 10th.

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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September 2010

A total of 31 records this month, some of them 'the usual suspects' which turn up repeatedly and all over the County and are fully documented in the Annual Report.

They are all welcome of course as they help to fill in the picture for the County.

On the 6th the Leicester Fungi Study Group held a foray in Priors Coppice and among the records were a few galls, not all caused by fungi! One that is, and has been very widespread this year, is the Powdery Mildew on Meadowsweet, which causes considerable distortion of the plant.

The Lyndon / Gibbet Gorse area on 9th produced both Knopper and Smooth Spangle galls on Oak along with a couple of rosette type galls on Hawthorn and Goat Willow. Both are caused by gall midges but totally different species. Another midge gall was reported from Hambleton Wood on 16th, rather optimistically called the Lighthouse gall, I say optimistic as it is only a few mm tall.

The Society's visit to Dawn's Paddock on 18th gave four records, the most noticeable one being on Creeping Thistle, this is incidentally one we have found there in the past. It is caused by a fly, *Urophora cardui*, which lays its eggs in the stem and this then enlarges considerably and is the nursery for the growing larvae. Fairly unusually they pupate and over-winter in the gall and emerge the following year.

Eyebrook Reservoir on 23rd produced a gall we haven't had before, caused by aphids on Hawthorn. The leaf is distorted and crimson-purplish and looks like an upturned boat.

The last records this month on 30th were from Barnsdale Lodge Wood and were both on Oak. Many galls on Oak are caused by gall wasps and the two reported were the Common Spangle gall and the Silk Button gall. These wasps are not nearly as big nor as brightly coloured as are common or german wasps but are adapted to induce galling as part of their life cycle.

October 2010

A quieter month as the growing season winds down but there are still galls to be found.

A report from Wing was of between 10 and 20 Knopper galls on a ten-year-old oak.

There doesn't seem to be a rule about the parasitization of trees, sometimes young ones are attacked and sometimes not and the same seems to apply to older trees.

Clipsham Park Wood on 7th produced a total of 8 galls, of which 3 were midge galls on Meadowsweet (2) and Germander Speedwell, two were rusts, two mites and a rather elderly Robins Pincushion on Dog Rose.

The gall on Ground Elder, caused by a fungus, is usually well developed by now and records

of it were received from Horn Mill on 14th and Barnsdale Lodge Wood on 28th. Another fungal gall which appears late in the season is caused by a smut on the leaves of Creeping Buttercup, and records came from Priors Coppice on 14th and Ketton Quarry on 21st. Eventually these lesions ripen and black spores are released. This is of course where smuts get their name from.

Barnsdale Lodge Wood on 28th also gave records of galls on White Willow, one a rosette gall where the leaves at the end of a shoot form a right rosette, and the other a blister gall on the leaves which is caused by a sawfly. The latter gall is common on Sallows. The final record from BLW was a mophead gall on male fern caused by a fly and this insect is spread throughout the County.

Thanks to Dr C H Gallimore, R Lemmon

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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Insect sightings are now beginning to reflect the time of year. However, if you are still out and about, if only in your garden, there is a survey which you can take part in – do read the note at the end of these records.

Also a note about September's insect report – there were 3 photos of Broad-bodied Chasers which were attributed to Alan Lambert. These in fact were taken Monty Tyler as they emerged from the pond in his garden and Alan Lambert was the person who helped send them via his computer to Hendrina for publication – apologies to Mr Tyler.

September 2010

Odonata

Emperor Dragonfly – one insect was noted at Stocken. **Southern Hawkers** – single insects were recorded on two occasions at Leighfield, and at Burley Wood there were two sightings of single insects. **Brown Hawker** – one insect was recorded at Leighfield.

Migrant Hawkers – small numbers were noted all month at Leighfield, and at Burley Wood again small numbers recorded all month. **Common Darter** – approximately 10–15 insects were recorded at Ketton Quarry Valley, and one insect on the 22nd at Barrowden.

Hemiptera

Birch Shield Bug *Elmostethus interstinctus* – one was recorded in a garden at Barleythorpe. **Parent Bug** *Elasmucha grisea* (so named because the

female sits on her eggs and the young nymphs to protect them from parasites) – one adult was seen on nettle at Hambleton Wood. **Sloe Bug** *Dolycoris baccarum* – one adult was noted at Stocken.

Common Green Capsid *Lygocoris pabulinus* – five were noted on birch foliage at Stocken. **Common Froghopper** *Philaenus spumarius* – one insect noted at Stocken.

Forest Bug *Pentatoma rufipes* – one insect was noted climbing up the recorder's front door at Wing! **Juniper Shield Bug** *Cyphostethus tristriatus* – this shield bug was recorded on a bedroom window sill in Oakham.

Trichoptera

Caddis Fly *Phryganea* sp. – one caddis fly was attracted at night to a lighted window in Barrowden.

Diptera

Crane Flies *Tipulidae* – these were observed as being ‘numerous’ over the whole month at Stocken.

Hymenoptera

Hornet *Vespa crabro* – there must be a nearby nest at Stocken as these insects were observed regularly during the month; at one time a hornet was seen to hunt and catch a wasp.

Coleoptera

7-spot Ladybirds *Coccinella 7-punctata* – seven were recorded at Barleythorpe, 4 were noted at

Ketton Quarry woodland, and one was seen at Priors Coppice. A **Cream-spot Ladybird** *Calvia 14 punctata* was recorded also at Priors Coppice. A **Devil’s Coach-horse** *Staphylinus olens* was noted under a bin at Stocken.

Terrestrial Gastropoda

Brown-lipped Snail *Cepaea nemoralis* – one specimen of the wholly brown form was recorded on Hogweed at Hambleton Wood. **White-lipped Snail** *Cepaea hortensis* – one empty, but still fresh, shell was noted on the Rutland shore of Eyebrook Reservoir.

October 2010

Odonata

Migrant Hawker – three insects were recorded at Leighfield Fishponds and a further two at the same location later in the month. **Common Darter** – five insects were noted at Leighfield Fishponds with a further 2 recorded there later in the month. Two Common Darters were also seen on the 21st at Ketton Quarry.

Hemiptera

A **Sloe Bug** *Dolycoris baccarum* was recorded in a garden at Barleythorpe.

Trichoptera

Caddis Fly *Phryganea sp.* – one insect was attracted to light in a carport at Barrowden.

Hymenoptera

Red-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus lapidarius* – one bee was noted in a garden at Barleythorpe. **Buff-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus terrestris* – on the 28th a

recorder in Oakham wrote ‘*Queen bumblebee found hibernating in a garden trough. It had made a large smooth-sided ‘cell’ in the soil. She began to vibrate madly when disturbed but I covered her up.*’

An **Ichneumon** *Ichneumon stramentarius* was recorded at Stocken.

Coleoptera

7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* – fifteen insects were ‘active’ at the end of the month in Barleythorpe; one insect was noted at Clipsham Park Wood and three were recorded at Barnsdale Lodge Wood. One **Dor Beetle** *Geotrupes stercorarius* was found inside a building at Stocken.

Terrestrial Gastropoda

White-lipped Snail *Cepaea hortensis* – several cracked shells of cepaea were found on a metal cover at Barnsdale Lodge Wood.

Thank you to the following recorders for sightings and accompanying interesting comments and photos: T Caldicott, J Crosby, C Gallimore, J Harris, R Lemmon, D Perril and L & G Worrall

We have been contacted by Maggie Frankum, who is one of County Coordinators for hymenoptera for VC55. She hope that some of our members will be interested in taking part in a survey of Winter-active bumblebees in VC55, though I expect any sightings in Britain will be welcome. There is, however, no need to go further than your garden, park, garden-centre or car-park. Winter flowers that bumblebees could be visiting include mahonia, winter-flowering heathers, honeysuckles etc. I have copies of the details required in the survey and will get a copy of the leaflet to you if you are interested. Where to send results is on the leaflet, or if you want to send them in with your monthly records I can forward them. The website www.bumblebeeconservationtrust.co.uk has a very good coloured ID and descriptions of bumblebees.

GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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Ketton Quarry SK 975056: 12,10: During work by the Wildlife Trust in the Grove area at the top of Pit Lane, a larva was discovered at mid-day. Well spotted!

MYCOLOGY NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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No report this issue, please continue sending in your records.

MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

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September/October 2010

There have been fewer records than usual this month, and quite unusually we have had a total of 4 **Weasels** seen. One luckily escaped becoming a road casualty on the A606 near Langham in early September. Later in the month a friend was climbing the stile at the entrance to the Trout Farm path at Fort Henry. As she was poised over the stile she froze and squeaked, looking down at the ground below her. A small brown furry face was looking up at her out of a small hole directly under the stile. The two stood looking at one another for about 30 seconds, before the weasel disappeared down the hole. In late October a weasel was seen at Greetham Valley Golf course, and another crossed the Wing-Morcott road at dusk one evening.

A **Badger** was a road casualty between Great Casterton and Pickworth in mid-September, and on 12th October a badger was seen on the verge on South side of Seaton Road Barrowden, at Red Hill farm. There were three reports of **Foxes**, two seen separately in Burley Wood on 24th September, and another in Pickworth Wood on 7th October. A large **Rabbit** warren was found at Gorsefield, the woodland trust property at Oakham, lots of droppings and signs of activity present in the area.

In mid-September two **Grey Squirrels** were seen together in Hambleton Wood, and later in

the month two were seen at Eyebrook reservoir. At Lyndon a squirrel crossed Lyndon Lane, on 19th October, and the following week one was seen running around a tree on Reservoir Road, Edithweston.

At Fort Henry freshly dug molehills had been scratched out and fox prints were visible in the soft soil, and lots of fresh workings were seen on the Rutland shore of Eyebrook reservoir. In September a **Hedgehog** crossed Top Street Wing. At Barrowden (in the Worralls' garden) hedgehogs have been feeding well and looking fat, but they were not seen until 16th September, when a good-sized one was seen eating peanuts in the carport. Three different sized ones were seen most nights from then until the end of September. In October a very large hedgehog was frequently seen, and two late litter ones. The large one may well be already using the nestbox, as new leaves have been dragged inside. The Worralls will continue to put out peanuts and hope that the little ones continue to grow well!

Fallow Deer are reported in numbers from Pickworth, Clipsham, Little Haw and Burley Woods in September and October, and from Morkery Wood in October. **Muntjac** were seen in Burley Wood in September, and unfortunately one had become trapped and died in the wire fence at Bloody Oaks Nature Reserve. At Little Casterton, east of Quarry Farm, a muntjac was observed as it ran away into scrub.

Thank you very much to the reliable and regular mammal recorders! The more records I receive the more interesting the reports become! Thanks to: Dr C Gallimore, J Harris, P Langston, R Lemmon, P R Rudkin, AR & MA Thorp, L & G Worrall

BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

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July to October 2010

There have been relatively few general bat records for the period. Sightings not strictly confirmed to species were at the end of July and during August, when Linda and Graham Worrall reported that few bats had been seen in their Barrowden garden and the nearby roost-owner reported fewer bats using their roost than usual. In October, a small bat was seen flying over the lane down to the Egleton Visitor Centre on 18.10 at around 9.30 pm; on 27th a small bat was flying around Leighfield Fishponds not far from Prior's Coppice just before sunset, and at a similar time of day on the 28th one was flying around the Brooke Road allotment in Oakham. Both were flying quite low. This was the last record to date.

Pipistrelle sp. *Pipistrellus* sp.

A non-flying juvenile male pipistrelle was found in Tinwell Church. It was thought to have been on the floor for several days before it was rescued on 11.7. On 12.7, with the help of the church wardens and a very long ladder, it was placed back in the roost at the east end of the chancel, to much welcoming chittering and activity. This confirmed a maternity roost there for the first time. Interestingly, even after at least two days on the floor, it was in good condition, suggesting that its mother had been coming down to suckle it; a similar thing occurred in Melton Mowbray in 2008 when three mother pipistrelles followed young that had crawled out of a cavity wall and into bedrooms below, and were found suckling and unwilling to leave them.

On 15.9 Dr Gallimore found a dead pipistrelle on his lawn in Wing, and he continued to see bat droppings under the eaves of his new extension until late October. A maternity colony discovered at Gunthorpe in 2009 was very active in July, but not counted, nor positively identified.

Common Pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

Common pipistrelles identified using a bat detector were seen regularly in a Barmstedt Drive garden in Oakham during July and August, on five dates in September, the final sighting being on 5.10. This species was also recorded in Aldgate, Ketton on 3.7 and 10.7, in Ayston village on 18.7, Burley Wood on 4.8, and at Egleton Nature Reserve on 21.8. On the latter occasion, it was quite a windy evening, and the bats were foraging in the shelter of tall willows on the approach to

Harrier Hide, on the south side of Lagoon I. At Hambleton Peninsula on 4.9 the bats stayed fairly close to the trees, in the fairly strong westerly wind blowing onshore.

The maternity colony in Wing had 31 bats on 15.6, while the colony at All Saints Church, Braunston had 22 bats on 12.6 but 64 on 23.6. The Dell, Oakham had two bats on 15.6 but none on 25.6.

A male common pipistrelle was found in the chancel of Lyddington Church on 13.7 in a debilitated state. After feeding it for a week, I released it in the churchyard, whereupon it very quickly flew back under the eaves of the church! An adult male found on the carpet of an interior corridor at Rutland College in Oakham was thin at 4.0 gm, but ate well after initial re-hydration with glucose and water, and was released on 22.8. Other common pipistrelles were already foraging around the tree-lined lawns. A bat found on a driveway in Manton on 18.8 was of a good weight, at 5.5 gm, but appeared to have sustained some kind of injury, although nothing was visible, but it was holding its forearms (wings closed) out in front of it and its head turned to the left. It has remained in captivity. A female common pipistrelle was found at Burley Circle near Oakham on 27.8 and taken to the vet, but at 3.5 gm it was very emaciated and also seemed to have been a cat victim. It died on 28.8. Another female juvenile was found trapped inside Empingham Primary School on 13.9 and this also died.

Soprano Pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus*

Although foraging soprano pipistrelles were found in many of the same places as common pips (Burley Wood, Hambleton Peninsula, Ketton, Egleton reserve) away from habitat with wetlands and woodland they were much less common. None were recorded at Ayston, for instance, and the species was only recorded on two occasions during the period, 29.8 and 20.9, at Barmstedt Drive, Oakham. The roost at Whitwell Hotel had approximately 490 bats on 5.7. A colony discovered in 2009 in Braunston had a maximum of 202 bats on 19.6 but the colony at Lyndon Road, Manton had no bats during the count period this year.

The roost counter at Rutland Watersports centre only recorded one bat on both of the June counts, and it was later discovered that a colony of wasps had built a nest inside the soffit through

which the bats ascend to their (hidden) roost site in the roof; the wasps were using the same exit as the bats. With wasps stinging visitors to the Watersports shop and picnic tables, it was considered desirable to destroy the nest, but how to do this without harming the bats? On 26 July, Linda and Anthony Biddle and I carried out an emergence survey and recorded at least 46 bats using the roost; emergence beginning five minutes after the last wasp had gone to bed. It seemed that no-one I knew in the bat world had come across this situation before. In the end, a friend from the Bat Group brought two beekeeper's suits over to Rutland so that we could carefully open part of the soffit to see where the wasps' nest was in relation to the bat roost. When we had satisfied ourselves that the nest was nowhere near the bats, with the OK from Natural England, the nest was treated by David Crowden of Acorn Environmental, with myself as licensed bat worker present. Many thanks to the staff at Rutland Watersports for their patience while the problem was resolved.

There were no grounded soprano pipistrelles.

Nathusius' pipistrelle *P. nathusii*

Two or three possible Nathusius' pipistrelles emerged from a site along the main east/west ride in Burley Wood on 4.8 at dusk and later, when it was almost completely dark, several were heard at the main entrance, apparently leaving the wood in the direction of Rutland Water.

Brown Long-eared bat *Plecotus auritus*

There were very few records of long-eared bats. In Wing, Dr Gallimore found no bats using the maternity roost during the June and July count period, although he saw bats emerging from the old exit above the extension at other times, and the position of dropping seemed to indicate that they were using the new roof space also. Tri-lobed droppings noted in the outbuildings in September suggested long-eared were present, although not detected during the summer. A single grounded bat was found on 13.9 at Linecross Engineering at the Old Station Yard, South Luffenham. That was a Monday morning, and the bat may have been trapped in the factory all weekend; it was very thin and although it began to eat a little, I found it dead on the morning of 15.9.

Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*

On 3rd and 10th July, Daubenton's bats were heard foraging along the River Chater and clearly seen in the beam of a powerful torch near the small bridge in Aldgate and at the road bridge in Church Road, Ketton. There appeared to be more activity on 3.7 than on the later date. This species was again recorded in Burley Wood on 4.8.

Whiskered bat *Myotis mystacinus*

A total of 57 bats emerged from the maternity roost in Main Street, Seaton. There were no other confirmed records until 24.10 when a juvenile female was found in Stocken Prison on 24.10. It was taken to the vet in Oakham, but they were unable to get it even to drink glucose and water; it weighed less than 4.0 gm and was very dehydrated, so it was euthanased.

Noctule bat *Nyctalus noctula*

A noctule bat was heard briefly over Station Road, Ketton on 3.7, and on 10.7, Phil Rudkin, with his bat detector tuned to 20kHz to locate crickets, alerted us to noctules regularly passing and foraging overhead at the little footbridge over the River Chater in Aldgate. It sounded as though they were coming down quite low. There were no other records.

One last thing, thankfully not yet found in Rutland: scientists and ecologists now believe that White Nose Syndrome, a fungus that invades the face and membranes of hibernating bats, has been responsible for the deaths of over one million bats in the USA. It is 90% fatal, killing the bats by disrupting their hibernation and causing them to starve to death. In addition to the devastating effect on bats, it is estimated that the cost to farming from the loss of bats as pest control agents will run into *billions* of dollars. Let's hope it never gets here.

My thanks for records and help with surveying to: V Arnold, A & L Biddle, L & I Burger, T Caldicott, A & J Comber, Dr C Gallimore, P Rudkin, A Tomlinson, and L & G Worrall; also non-members I Howden, J Ledger, D Roizer, M Thompson, and J Whiteford