

Spring and early Summer were both cold and wet which meant that Rutland's Orthopterans got off to a slow start, but by mid-June species strongholds all held good populations.

As before we specifically set out to sweep parts of the County where species had not previously been reported. By the end of the season Richard Brown had a further 23 tetrads coloured-in. The map below shows occupation density by species.

Slender Groundhopper started the survey-season off (27.04), with a new colony found in Burley Woods ●.

Barrow village, near Cottesmore was visited mid-September. In nearby Market Overton ● Lesser Marsh Grasshopper and Roesel's Bush Cricket were new finds.

Two full surveys were undertaken of the Egleton Reserve. Late in the season (10.10) the area around the Volunteer Training Centre ● and the banks around Lagoon 4 ● were surveyed for the first time. Huge numbers of Roesel's Bush Crickets, Long-winged Coneheads were found, together with a few Lesser Marsh and Meadow Grasshoppers still active but very quiet, in the lush bank grasses. A first-time survey of Skylark Meadow ●, a private field on the Reserve, also found these species. Nearby very large numbers of Speckled Bush Crickets were detected stridulating in old mixed hedgerows.

The final stridulating heard in Rutland (13.11) were six Speckled Bush Crickets, in Hawthorn hedges at Walk Farm, Great Casterton. Jenny Harris found the season's last species (22.11), a torpid-looking female Oak Bush Cricket on Bramble, at Ketton Quarries.

Following up on my opening remarks of last year none of the hoped-for Cambridgeshire or Northants species were sighted in County in 2016.

Note: ● indicates a new site

Bush Crickets

- 3 Oak Bush Cricket
- 4 Dark Bush Cricket
- 5 Roesel's Bush Cricket
- 6 Long-winged Conehead
- 7 Short-winged Conehead
- 8 Speckled Bush Cricket
- 9 House Cricket

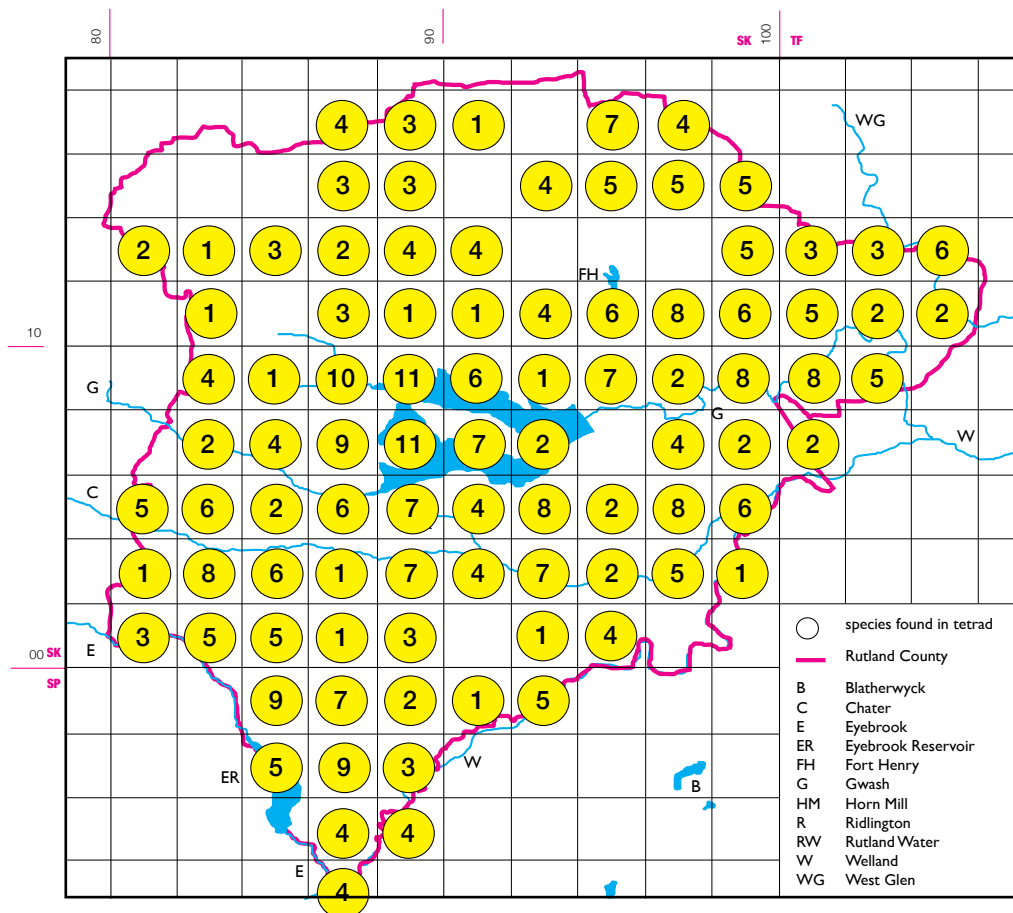
Groundhoppers

- 10 Common Groundhopper
- 11 Slender Groundhopper

Grasshoppers

- 12 Common Green Grasshopper
- 13 Field Grasshopper
- 14 Meadow Grasshopper
- 15 Lesser Marsh Grasshopper

Number of Orthoptera species identified within individual tetrads, 2016

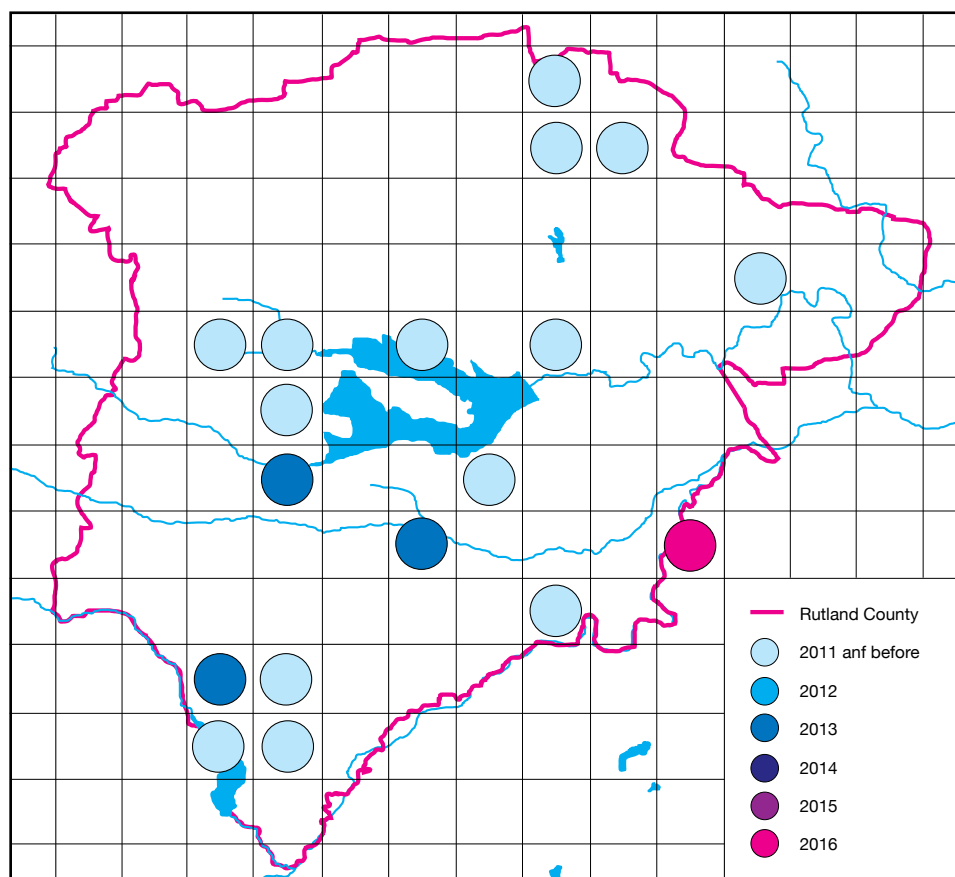


Bush Crickets

Oak Bush Cricket, *Meconema thalassinum*

Under-recorded

date first detected in Rutland



● SK 909 039 (27.08), one dead under tree at Oak

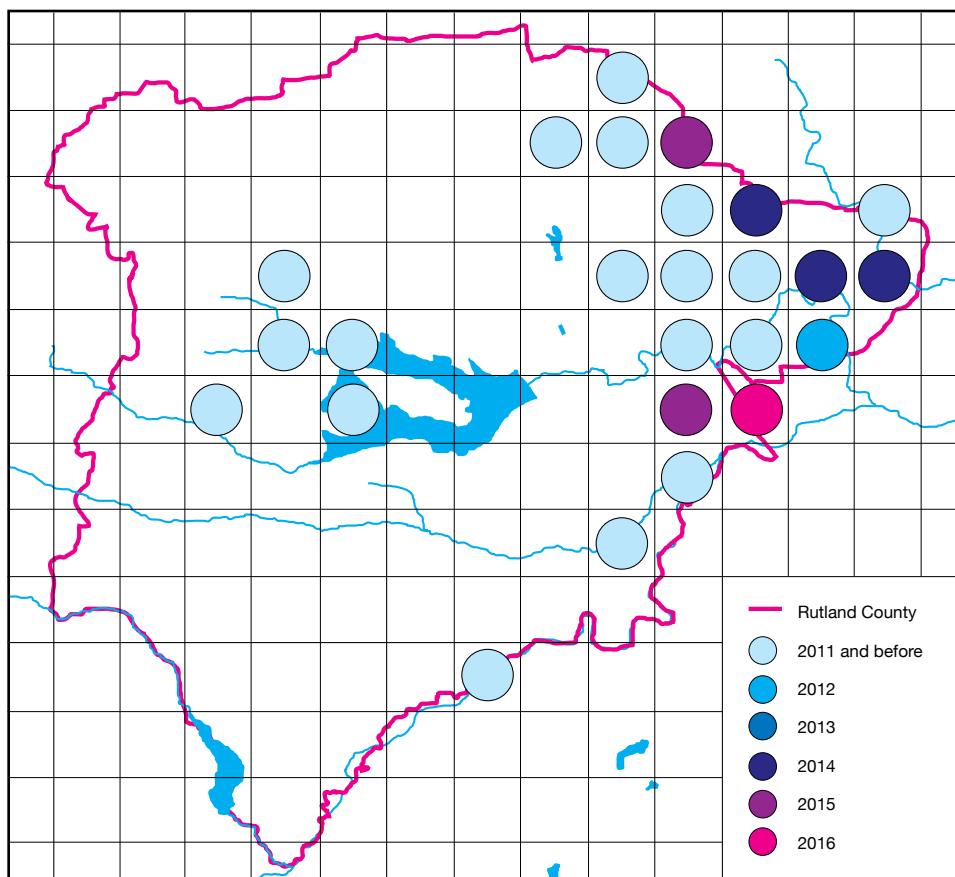
One dead male (06.09), a live one (26.10), both at Gower Lodge, Upp

● SK 977 053 (22.11), a torpid female, KQ

Dark Bush Cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoaptera*

Widespread and locally common

date first detected in Rutland



First nymph sightings: CPW (08.05), NW (11.05).

- TF 011 061 (30.05) single, TM
- TF 016 108 (21.07) single, Walk

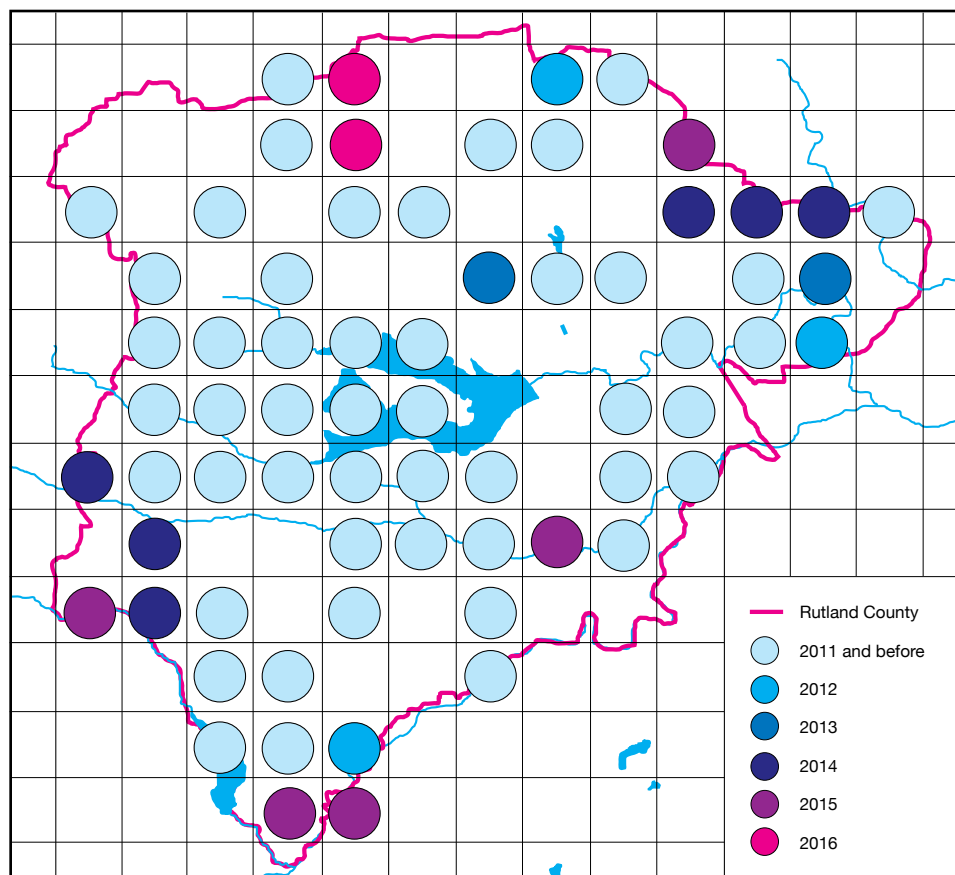
Elsewhere: nymphs seen: June BW and July, CQ

Last report: (11.09), 8 stridulating males, QF

Roesel's Bush Cricket, *Metrioptera roeselii*

Widespread and locally extremely common

date first detected in Rutland



First nymph sightings: Mthorpe (23.06), KQ (26.06)

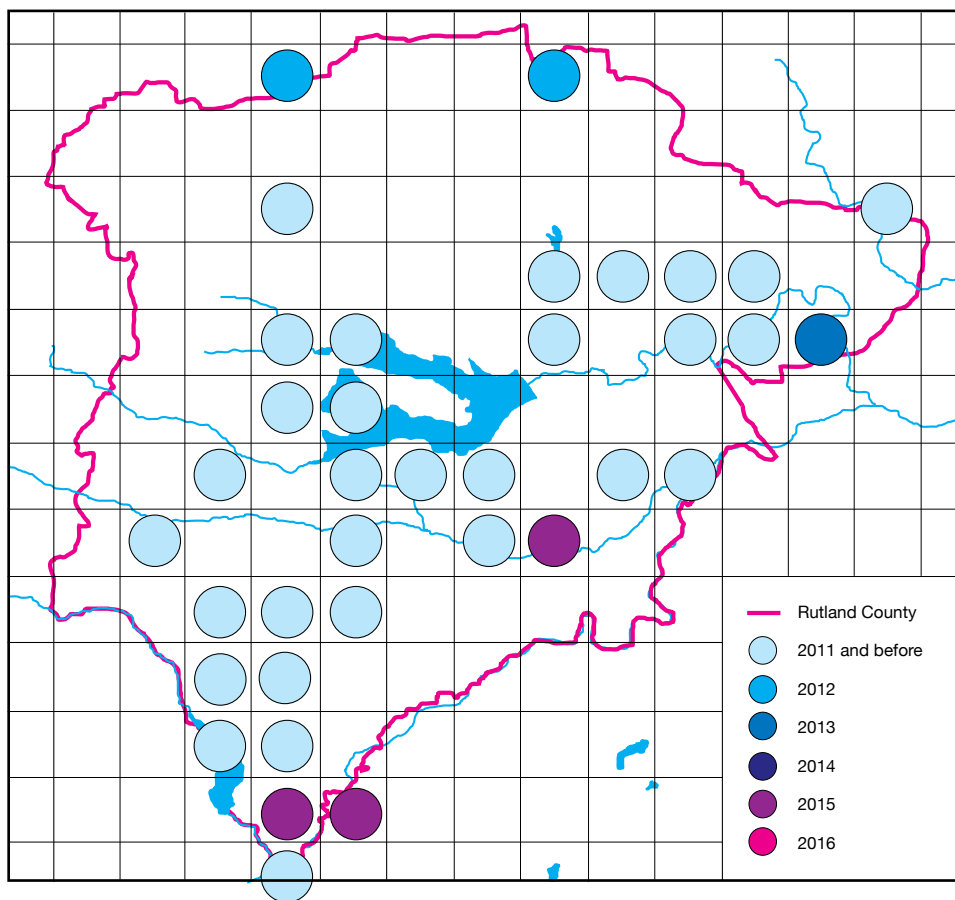
- TF 015 111 (19.07), stridulating males, massive numbers, conservation margins, Walk
- TF 009 084 (24.07), massive numbers in wildflower meadow, QF
- SK 897 057 (12.08), colonies on grasses, RWLynd
- SK 832 050 (04.09), 3 males, meadow, near PC
- SK 882 082 (11.09), massive numbers heard, bank grasses, RWLag4
- SK 892 083 (11.09), colonies on rough vegetation, RWEgl
- SK 893 157 (14.09), colonies, rough pasture, Barr
- SK 895 164 (14.09), 4 males, rough corner, MO
- SK 877 078 (10.10), 10 stridulating males, grasses near Dunlin Hide, RWEgl

Elsewhere: Ext, HM, KQ, Leigh, North Brk, Wg Burrows, v7

Long-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus discolor*

Widespread and common

date first detected in Rutland

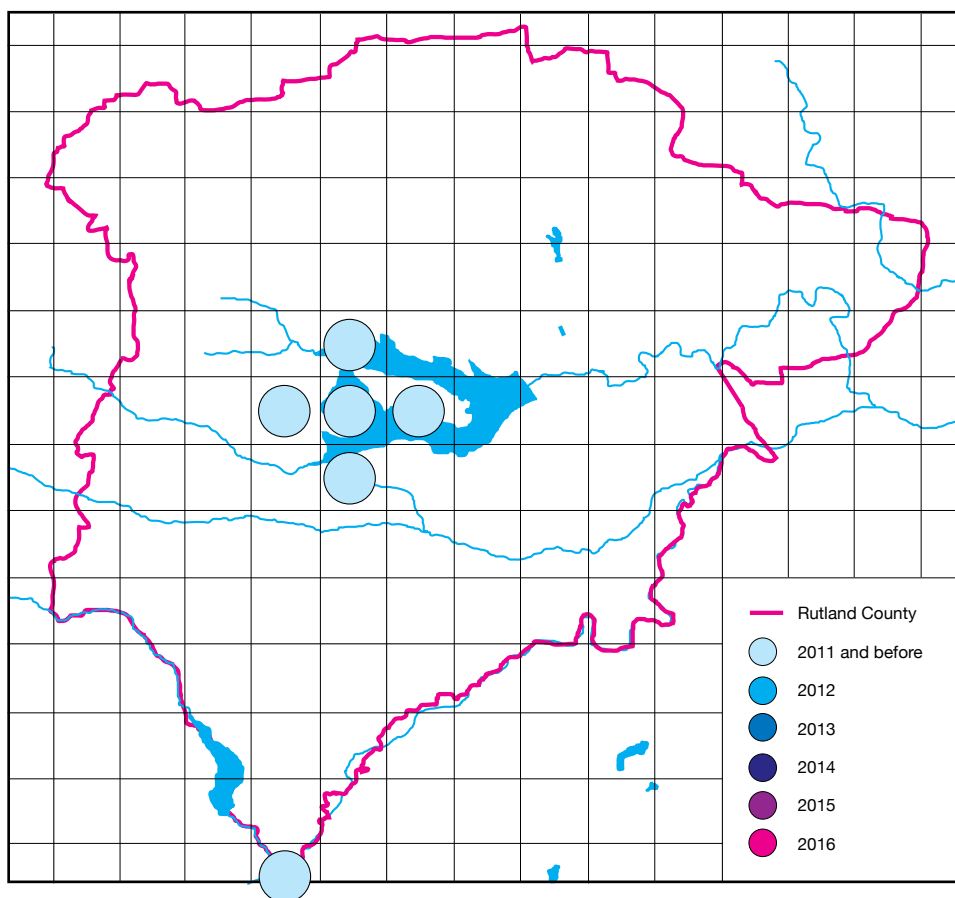


- TF 009 084 (24.07), 2 female nymphs wildflower meadow, QF. Return visits found: (07.07), 5 adults; (09.08), 3 small colonies
 - SK 880 082 (11.09), large colony of stridulating males with some females, bank grasses, RWLag4
 - SK 877 079 (10.10), massive numbers, grasses/thistles near Dunlin Hide, RWEgl
- Elsewhere: Ext, HM, North Brk, QF, RWLynd, Wg Burrows

Short-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus dorsalis*

Well established around Rutland Water

date first detected in Rutland

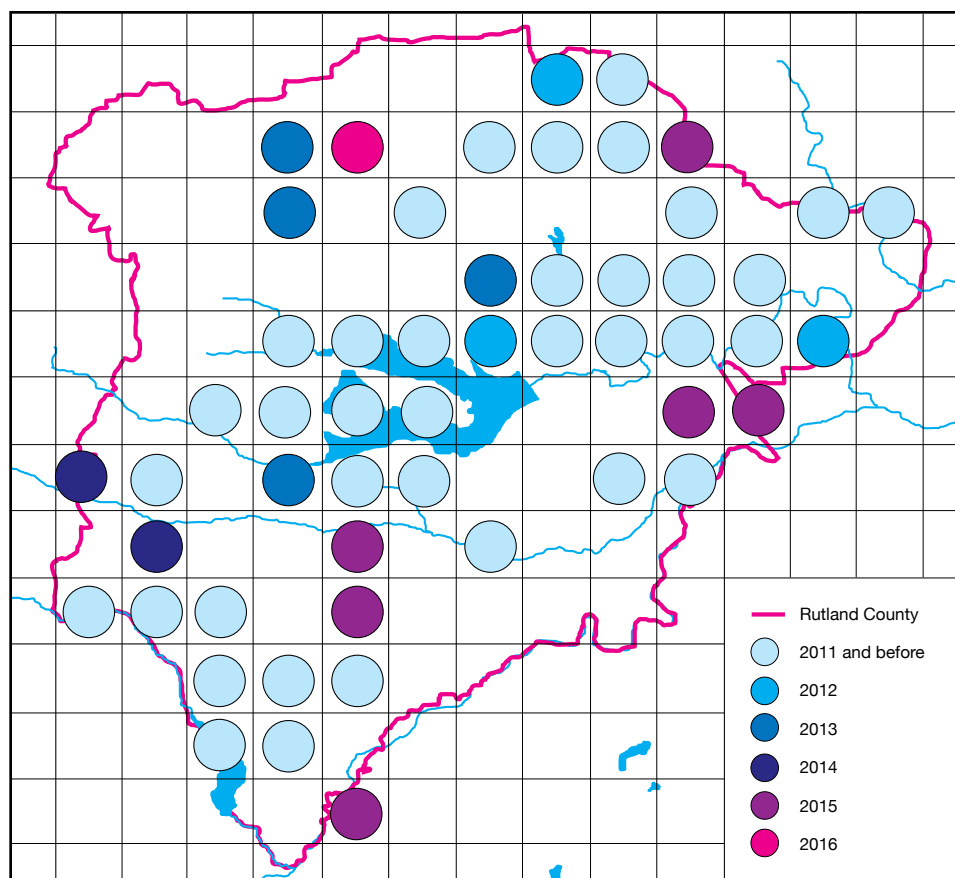


RWEgl visit (05.10) found 5 small, and 3 large colonies, South-East of BWC

Speckled Bush Cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima*

Widespread and common, best found using bat-detector (35kHz)

date first detected in Rutland



First nymph sightings CWBW (18.06, 27.06)

- TF 009 084 (09.08), single stridulating male (caught), QF
- SK 832 050 (04.09), 10 stridulating males, hedgerow, PC
- SK 893 157 (14.09), colony of males stridulating, on Ash and Crab Apple trees, Barr village
- SK 880 082 (11.09), massive numbers, long stretch of old mixed hedgerows, RWLag4
- SK 984 047 (05.10), 2 males, south-facing hedge, Manor Farm, Kett

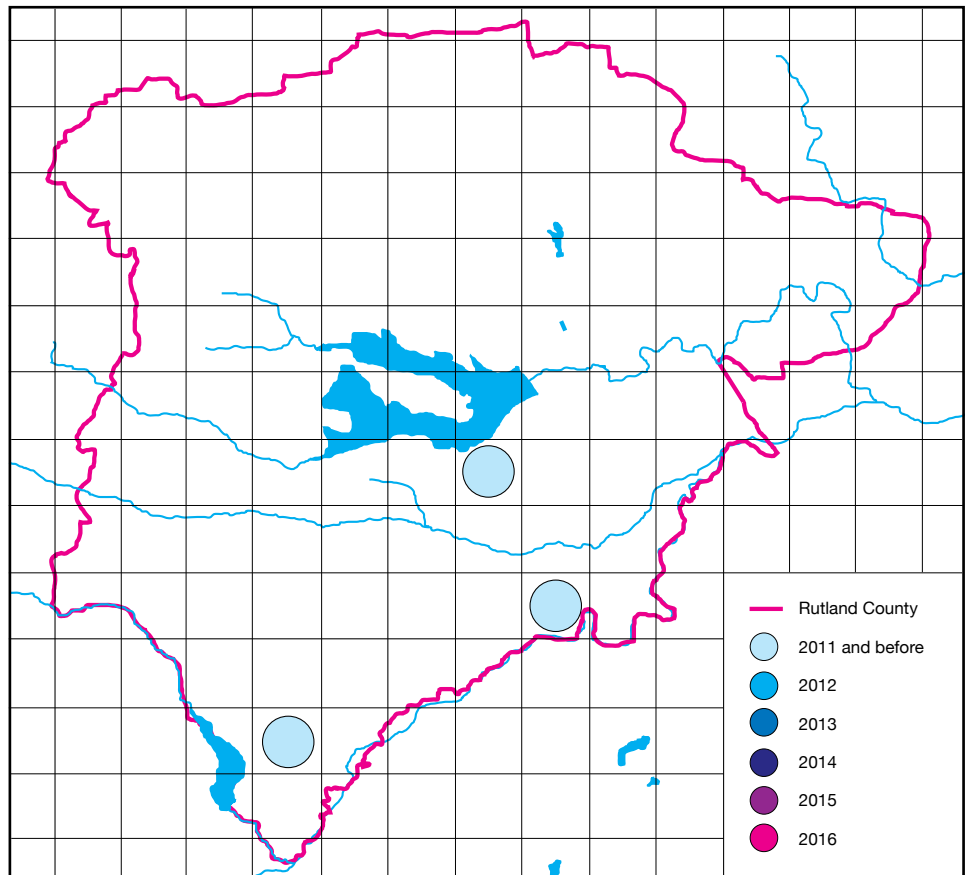
Elsewhere: large colonies in July and August: BarnsG, Ext, HM, KQ, LFP, RWEgl, RWLynd, Walk, v7

Last report: (13.11), 6 stridulating males, Hawthorn hedgerow, Walk

House Cricket, *Acheta domesticus*

No longer considered wild.

date first detected in Rutland

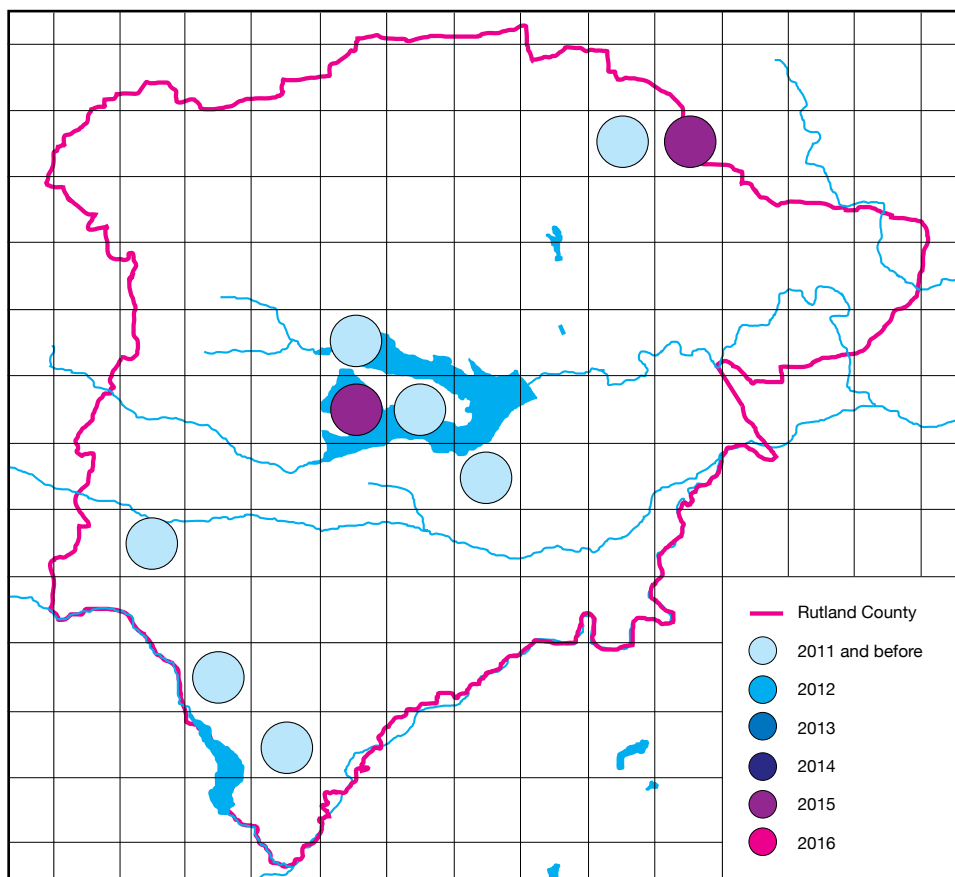


There are a few historical records associated with extremely hot summers. Better domestic sanitation and more countryside management caused species decline. Now to be found in pet supply shops, as food for reptiles.

Common Groundhopper, *Tetrix undulata*

Under-recorded and overlooked.

date first detected in Rutland



A tiny creature with very effective camouflage!

Hard to observe, as it does not fly.

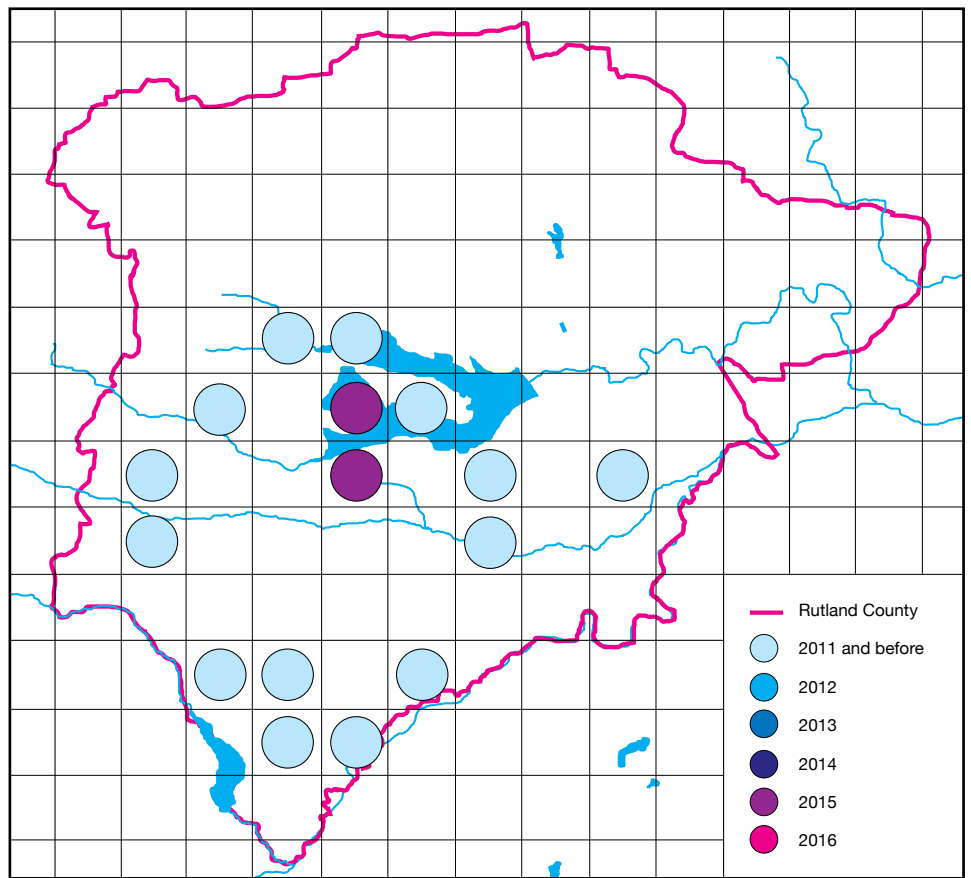
No stridulating mechanism; therefore cannot be picked up on bat-detectors.

Groundhoppers

Slender Groundhopper, *Tetrix subulata*

Due to tiny size, and no stridulating mechanism is under-recorded

date first detected in Rutland



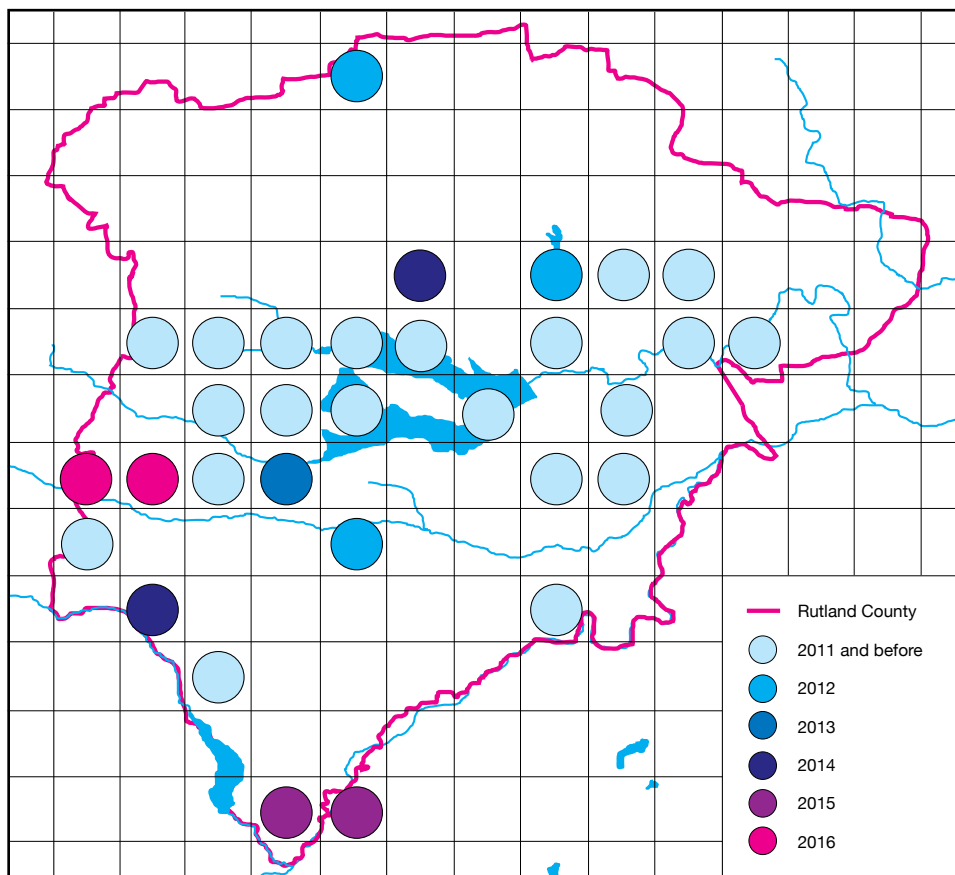
- SK 889 095 (27.04), 12 along Lower Ride, BW
- SK 888 099 (04.05), 6 in deeply rutted ride, BW

Grasshoppers

Common Green Grasshopper, *Omocestus viridulus*

Widespread but uncommon

date first detected in Rutland



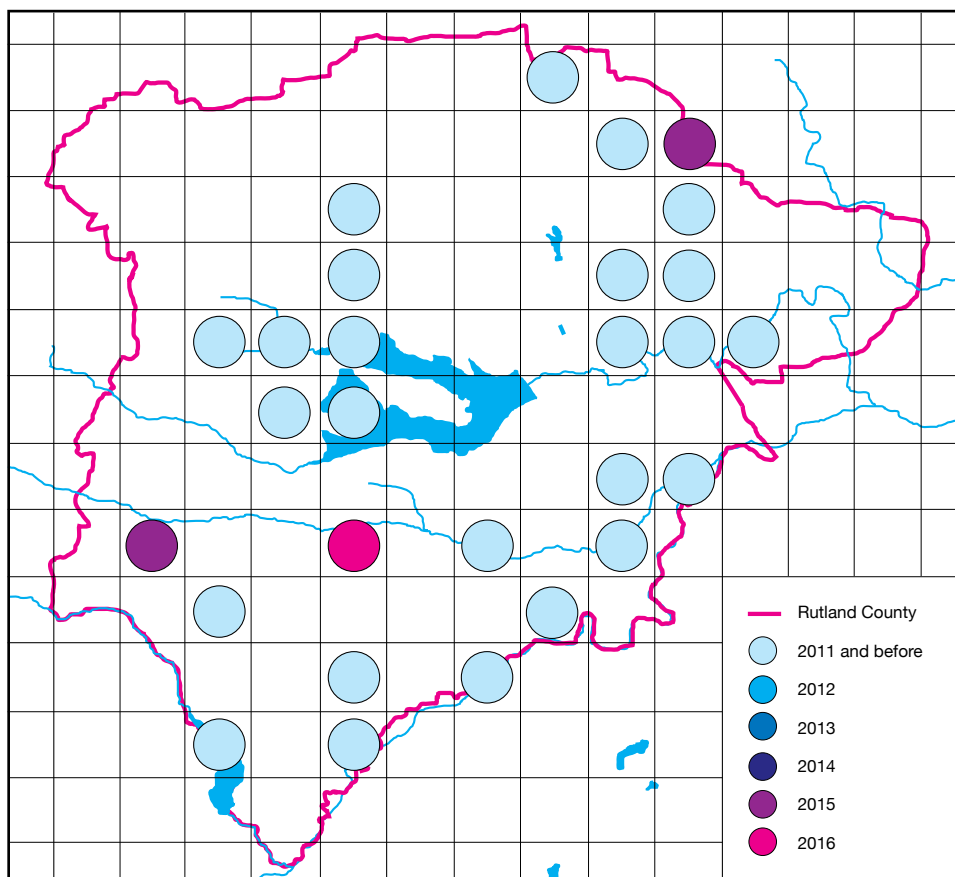
● SK 818 044 (21.07), single stridulating male, meadow, south of PC

● SK 821 053 (06.08), 8 stridulating males, Leigh

Field Grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus*

Widespread, locally common

date first detected in Rutland



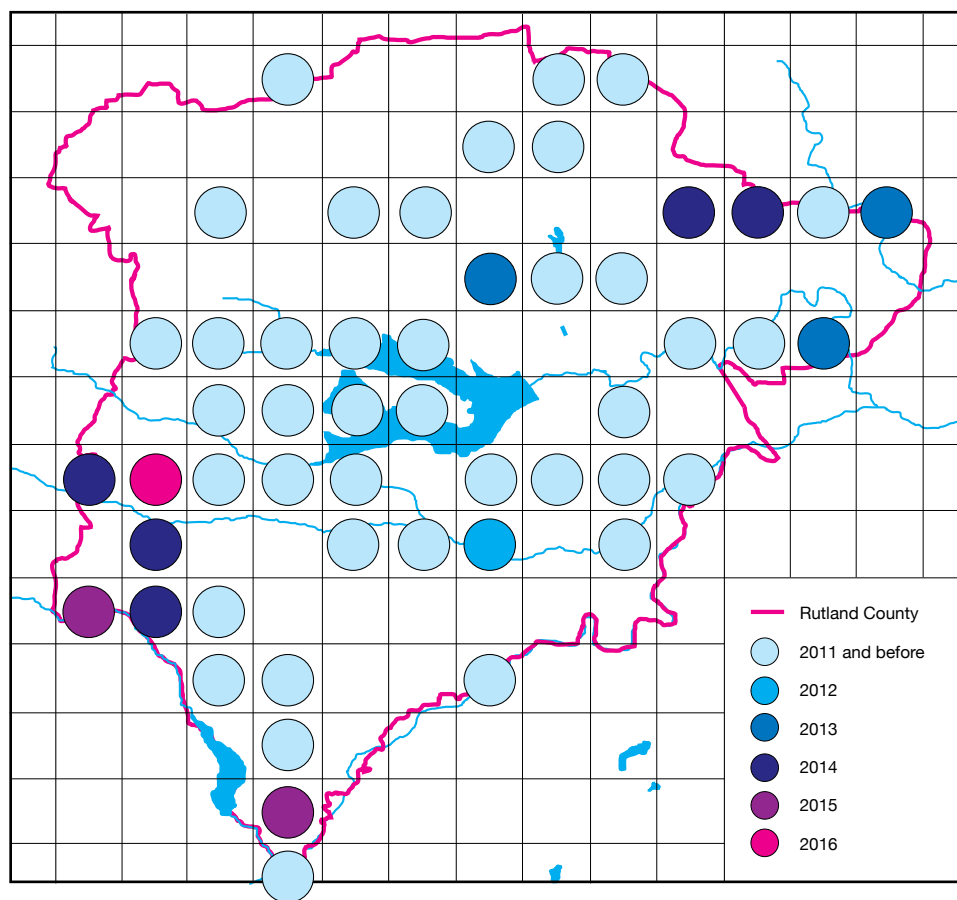
First sighting: (30.06), single adult, Leigh fishponds

● SK 8840 37 (07.08), 2 adults bare ground, CWBW

Meadow Grasshopper, *Chorthippus parallelus*

Widespread and common

date first detected in Rutland

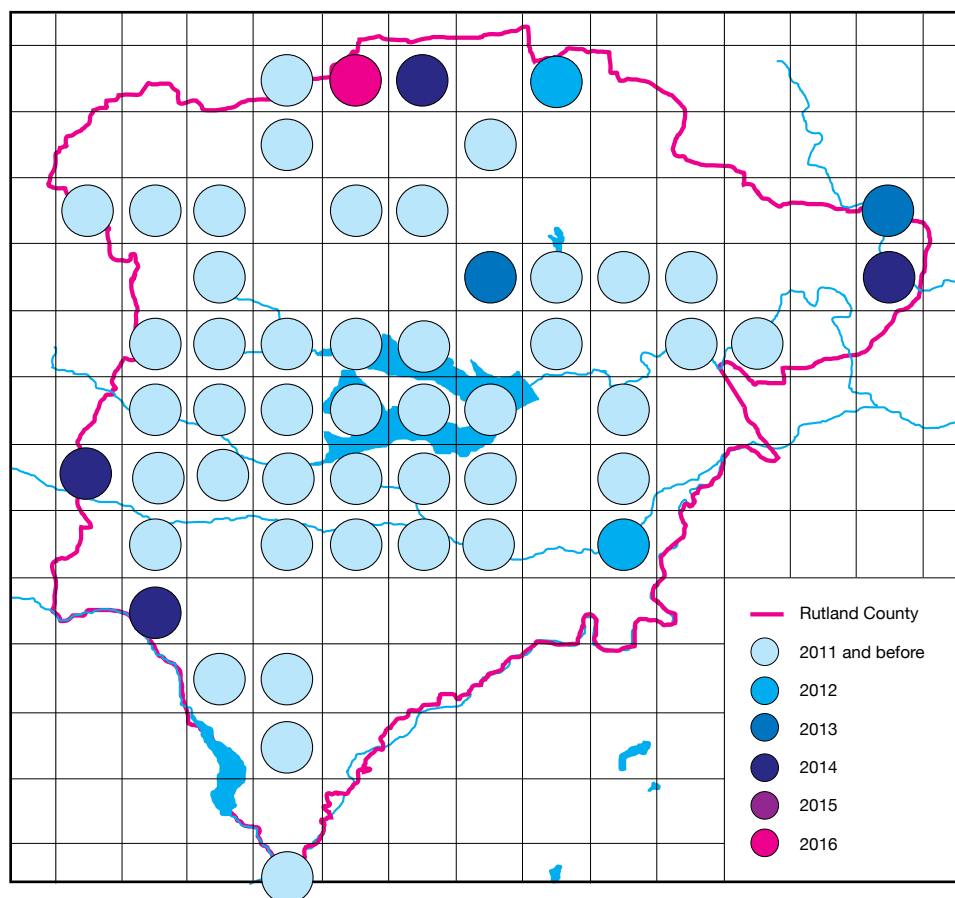


- TF 009 084 (24.07), 10 stridulating males, wildflower meadow, QF
 - SK 832 050 (04.09), pair stridulating males, meadow, near PC
 - SK 880 082 (11.09), 15 stridulating males, bank grasses, RWLag4
- Elsewhere: BOQ, Ext, HM, KQ, North Brk, RWLynd, Walk,

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Widespread and common

date first detected in Rutland



First nymph sighting: (19.06), seven nymphs, near a pond by The Lodge, LFP

- SK 881 077 (15.07), 3 courtship pairs, Sharple's Meadow, RWEgl
- TF 009 084 (24.07), 10 stridulating males, wildflower meadow, QF
- SK 882 082 (11.09), 4 adults, bank grasses, RWLag4
- SK 886 164 (14.09), 4 males and 2 females, grass verge, MO
- TF 009 084 (30.09), 2 males wildflower meadow, QF

Elsewhere: Ext, HM, KQ, North Brk

Contributors

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