



D Cotter – Muntjac

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## WELCOME

**This is certainly going to be a bumper bundle of news – possibly the biggest edition ever!** It seems a long time since the last Fieldfare was published, and the spring season rushed by, with lots happening to occupy us in the natural world as well as in the wider world! Nature has continued to deliver promises and pleasure, with birds, flowers and wildlife proceeding as usual, enjoying the temporary peace and quiet of Lockdown, and enhanced by the beautiful spring weather. The coming of the spring migrants was a joy, and a welcome diversion from the difficulties of life at the time. Who can think of anything else when a nightingale sings full throttle to advertise for his mate! I think we all came to appreciate nature even more, and many others, not previously interested in wildlife, realised how important nature is to our well-being. So perhaps we shall see a surge in new members!

I hope that many of you have been collecting records from your garden wildlife, and that you will send them to me. I have already received several entries into the competition! Even if you think you have no chance of being a winner, do send in your observations, as we are interested to see what you have found in your gardens. I know that several members have been learning new species, bugs, moths and butterflies and enjoying the experience of looking in detail at a small area.

Unfortunately, Covid 19 continues to dominate our lives, and RNHS is affected in many ways, so that we have had to adjust our programme, planning and risk assessments.

**Sadly, there will be no indoor meetings held at V.A.R now, until after Christmas,** but there will be webinars available to book into instead for the remainder of this year's calendar of indoor meetings. Please refer to the website for updated information on this and /or get in touch with Linda Biddle or Jayne Walker, as you need to book ahead to be able to receive a link on your computer or tablet, inviting you to the meeting. Contact details for both are on the contents list on the back page.



The outlook for outdoor meetings is much more positive and will go ahead, but again they will be book ahead only, as numbers will be limited, and contact details for yourself (and next of kin) supplied. We shall divide into small groups and maintain distancing wherever possible. Once again, please contact Linda or Jayne to book/or for more details regarding recent procedures set up for a safe outdoor walk.

All our activities will be affected in some way, and because of the constantly changing situations you are asked to look on the website before any meeting to check that it is going ahead, and to look for any last minute instructions.

We seriously hope that this will all be temporary, and that we shall be able to go back to being to a much more normal, friendly and sociable society before too long!

In the meantime – do continue to watch and record wildlife and enjoy it!!

**Linda Biddle, RNHS Chair**

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## DIARY DATES

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### RNHS Indoor Evening Meetings

**There will be no indoor meetings held at VAR until after Christmas.** Please read Chairman's introduction, (front of magazine) for more details as webinars may be available, subject to speakers being available.

**Tuesday 6th October. 7.30pm.**

**Fungi - A talk by LRWT conservation officer Ben Devine.**

This will be a Zoom meeting. Please contact Linda Biddle for bookings.

**Tuesday 3rd November 7.30pm.**

**Birds of the water – underwater filming by Jack Perks.**

THIS WILL BE A ZOOM MEETING. Jack Perks is a professional wildlife photographer who has appeared on Springwatch and other programmes.

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### RNHS Outdoor Field Trips

*Full details of all these events appear on our website at [www.rnhs.org.uk](http://www.rnhs.org.uk). If the weather is bad, check the website or call the 'Queries' phone number for changes.*

**For all meetings listed below, please wear good footwear and warm clothing with waterproofs when appropriate.**

**If you would like to participate in our Outdoor meetings, please pre-book with Jayne Walker, programme Secretary (details on back of Fieldfare) who will take you through the new risk assessment rules before the day. Places will be limited to 5 plus the leader, with a maximum of 5 groups plus their leaders.**

**Saturday 8th August 11am.**

**Butterfly and Insect walk, Ketton Quarry.**

Multiple leaders. (Map ref: SK978 053. PE9 3SZ).

Queries: Jayne Walker- as above.

**Friday 11th September 7.00pm. Bat Walk.**

Leader: Jenny Harris. RNHS Bat recorder.

Meet at 19.00 at Lyndon LRWT Visitor centre located down a lane from the Manton to Edith Weston road, opposite the turn to Lyndon village. As part of the walk will take place after dark, please wear suitable footwear, bring a torch, warm clothing and a bat detector if you have one.

Queries: Jenny Harris. Tel: 01572 755274.

Email: [jennyharris221@gmail.com](mailto:jennyharris221@gmail.com)

**Friday 9th October 10.00am. Fungal foray.**

Leader: Ben Devine. LRWT conservation officer. Please check website for up to date arrangements. Hambleton Wood Rutland Water. Meet at the LRWT training centre. Right hand turn off the road into Hambleton village. Small sign "VTC" (Map ref: SK883 083).

Queries: Jayne Walker as above.

**Saturday 14th November 10.30am. Winter birds.**

Attenborough Nature Reserve. Meet at the Attenborough Nature Reserve, Nottingham. NG9 6DY. (Map ref: SK516 339). The centre and reserve is situated just off the A6005 between Beeston and Long Eaton.

Queries: As above. Jayne Walker

## January 2020

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** January was a high-pressure month except for the last 6 days. The highest pressure I measured was at 09.00 on the 20th, 1047 mb, and this was also the highest I have ever recorded since I started in 1995. Looking back at these records it is only since December 2016 that highs have been 1040 mb and above. Winds have been predominantly S–SW; on only 4 days in the month have they been otherwise.

**Temperature.** Overall mean, 6.74 °C, places January 2020 first in the decade 2011–2020, ahead of January 2018 at 5.31 °C. Both the mean minimum, 4.20 °C, and the mean maximum, 9.28 °C, were first in the same decade. The relationship with wind direction, mentioned above, is obvious.

**Rain.** Total here of 36.8 mm (1.45 inches) which equates to 76 % of my long-term of 30 years.

## February 2020

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** Markedly low-pressure month except for the 5th–7th inclusive when the pressure rose dramatically to a height of 1038 mb at 09.00 on the 5th and this period saw low wind speeds and some early fog.

It was a noticeably windy month in addition to the three named storms. These were Ciara on the 9th with wind speeds of 38 mph at 09.00 and even higher in the afternoon, Dennis on the 15th and 16th, less extreme but also wet, and Jorge (George) on the 29th. This latter storm, named by the Spanish Met Service, gave the lowest pressure of the month at 983 mb. Winds were predominantly S–W, i.e. 90% of the time.

**Temperature.** Warm February, the overall mean temperature, 6.57 °C, was third in the decade 2011–2020 after the Februaries of 2019 (6.92 °C), and 2011 (6.60 °C). There were 3 overnight frosts on the 3rd–6th and the lowest temperature was –2.0 °C on the 5rd/6th.

**Rain.** Very wet month, the total here was 83.0 mm (3.27 inches), which is 220% of my long-term mean of 30 years. My previous wettest Februaries were those of 2009 and 2010 which each had a total rainfall of 67.1 mm. The Met Office has declared February 2020 the wettest ever for the UK with a mean of 202.1 mm, beating 1990 – which had 193.4 mm.

## March 2020

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** Pressure this month fell almost exactly into two halves: up to and including the 15th it was low, between 987 mb and 1016 mb; and for the remainder of the month between 1020.5 mb and 1039 mb on the 29th. The last two days were also anticyclonic.

Winds, not surprisingly, followed the same pattern. In the first half they were SW–W, and then predominantly NW–E to the end. During this latter period there were several days of unbroken sunshine and drying winds.

**Temperature.** A cool March, the overall mean, 7.02 °C, was sixth in the decade 2011–2020. There were 7 overnight air frosts, mostly in the second half of the month. The lowest was –2.9 °C on the 21st–22nd. The highest daytime maximum was 15.7 °C on the 10th.

**Rain.** Total here of 20.0 mm makes this a dry March. This equates to 0.79 inches and is 51% of my long-term mean of 30 years. However the total rainfall for 2020 so far is still some 10% ahead of the expected.

## April 2020

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** Pressures were high from the 1st to the 25th inclusive due to a series of anticyclones in the North Sea/Scandinavia area, and then much lower to the end of the month. The lowest I recorded was 996.5 mb on the 30th. Winds in the first week were generally S–W and then mostly NE to the end. There were many days of unbroken sunshine in the month, and although I have no data for this it has been generally reported to have been the sunniest April since records began.

**Temperature.** The mean temperature, 11.52 °C, is the second highest in the decade 2011–2020, after April 2011 at 12.68 °C. This is reflected in the mean maximum but the mean minimum, 5.03 °C, was fourth in the same decade. There were no air frosts and the lowest minimum I recorded was 1.1 °C on the night of the 14th–15th.

**Rain.** Total here was 29.1 mm which equates to 68.5% of the long-term mean of 30 years. Of this, 78% fell in the last 4 days of the month.

## May 2020

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** The lowest atmospheric pressure of the month was 998 mb on the 1st. The first half of May saw variable pressures and winds generally NW–E. In the second half pressures were noticeably higher, with the month's highest at 1037 mb on the 28th and winds were generally S–NW. The 22nd to 24th had winds up to 17 mph at 09.00 and much higher gusts, up to 35 mph, in the afternoons.

A feature of the month, in common with April, were the extended hours of sunlight. I have no data, but it was said to be the sunniest May since records began.

**Temperature.** A warm month, the mean temperature, 14.32 °C, was second in the decade 2011–2020 after May 2018 at 14.62 °C. The mean maximum, 21.38 °C, was in prime position in the decade but the mean minimum was fifth. This was due to 8 overnight minima of 4 °C or less, and among these there was one air frost of –0.1 °C on the 10th–11th.

**Rain.** Total here was 1.7 mm (0.07 inches) which is not only the lowest May rainfall I have ever recorded but also the lowest monthly rainfall over the total period of 30 years. The contenders are April 2011, 2.3 mm, and April 2007 at 3.0 mm. May's rainfall is 3.5% of the long-term mean and there was precipitation on only 4 days, two of them being 'trace', i.e. not measurable.

## June 2020

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** There were two brief periods of high pressure this month, the 1st and 2nd and 22nd–24th inclusive. The former saw the highest pressure of the month, 1026 mb on the 1st. As the rest of the month saw low pressures, it meant that conditions were unsettled with often high winds and squally showers.

**Temperature.** Overall mean temperature was 16.47 °C,

which places June 2020 in third place in the decade 2011–2020. The Junes of 2017 and 2018 were higher and the decade has shown a steady increase of temperatures for this month, all except 2019 which was 15.54 °C.

**Rain.** Total was 56.1 mm (2.21 inches) which is 108% of the long-term mean of 30 years. Rainfall so far this year has been erratic, and we have to date had 37% of LTM, although of course this is no indication of the rest of the year.

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# AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

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**RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore**

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*E-mail: chasgall@hotmail.com*

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## January, February, March 2020

January and February are not good months for herps and March was hindered by the Covid lockdown so there are few records to report.

The first frog of the year was seen by the recorder crossing the road in Oakham on 15th February. On 5th March frogs were seen in an Oakham garden pond followed by spawn on 16th. Spawn had also been found in two ponds in Tunneley Wood two days earlier on 14th March. At about the same time spawn was also laid in a Wing garden. On 14th March also toads were seen in amplexus in Tunneley Wood.

A dead Great Crested Newt was found on 10th January by a wall near the recorder's old house in Wing, but reassuringly a live one was found in his former cellar on 1st February.

The only reptile records were of adders at Ketton Quarry on 16th and 23rd March.

*My thanks to A Hill, D Masters, T Mitcham, D Needham, P Speed and J Straubinger who sent these records.*

## April, May, June 2020

Despite the restrictions of domestic confinement imposed upon us, members have sent in records of diverse sightings of all eight indigenous Rutland species of amphibian and reptile, plus one alien of a species that has been seen before.

All records of Common Frog were in May from Prior's Coppice, Oakham and Wing and only one of those records referred to tadpoles – the Wing one. There were half a dozen records of Common Toad from the end of May and throughout June from Exton, Horn and Wing, where numerous toadlets were seen.

Smooth Newts were thriving in Wing in April and May. Barleythorpe was the only place where Great Crested Newts were seen, but there seems to be a healthy population there, although it is nearly 30 years since they were last reported from there.

Reptiles of the order Testudines do not naturally occur in an inland British county, but a Red-eared Slider *Trachemys scripta* was observed and photographed from the bridge at Eye Brook Reservoir on 25th May by Malcolm Dixon. Unfortunately this American species was popular in the pet

trade and they were prone to be released into the wild by their owners when they wanted to be relieved of the responsibility of ownership. One was found in the Oakham Canal in 2014, but more significantly one was observed by Terry Mitcham on 28th September 2003 at Eye Brook only about a hundred yards from where this one was seen. Estimates of size by the two observers suggest the 2020 one was probably larger than the 2003 one and it could well be that this is the same individual but 17 years older. (They live to 30 years old at least).

Almost as exciting (perhaps!) was the first sighting of a Slow Worm in the county since 2015, when one was seen basking in Burley Wood on April 26th. Viviparous Lizards were seen at Ketton Quarry, Bloody Oaks and Stretton in April and May. There were a handful of Grass Snake records from Lyndon, Wing and Rutland Water in all three months plus a road casualty near Morcott. Adders were also seen in separate parts of Ketton Quarry.

*My thanks to the following for their records:- T P Appleton, S. Widdowson, P Bennett, T Caldicott, R Castle, L Clark, M Dixon, M Grimes, A Hill, P Langston, R Lemmon, N Messenger, T Mitcham, P Scott and R & M Smith.*



*N Baxter - Common Toad*

# BATS

**RECORDER Jenny Harris**

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The first activity of a bat worker's year is to survey hibernation sites and this year two visits were carried out to the east Rutland hibernaculum with members of Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group. The results were as follows:

Species		12 January	23 February
<b>Daubenton's bat</b>	<i>Myotis daubentonii</i>		2
<b>Natterer's bat</b>	<i>Myotis nattereri</i>	12	10
<b>Pipistrelle sp.</b>	<i>Pipistrellus sp.</i>	1	1
<b>Brown Long-eared bat</b>	<i>Plecotus auritus</i>		1
<b>Barbastelle bat</b>	<i>Barbastella barbastellus</i>	1	
<b>Total</b>		<b>14</b>	<b>15</b>

This is a good count for this site, with the very pleasing discovery of a barbastelle in a high crevice, the first time we have found one here since February 2015.

One of the features of bat survey work this year has been the cancellation of all the Bat Conservation Trust (and other) survey work because of Covid-19 restrictions. This has included the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) roost counts, the National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project

(NNPP) and partnership events with the Church of England, the Bats in Churches Project (BiC). As lockdown measures eased the NBMP was reinstated where counts could be carried out with social distancing in place. Counts at Braunston, Egleton and Whissendine churches (all current or future BiC project churches) therefore went ahead. (See table and comments below).

## National Bat Monitoring Programme Roost Counts 2020

Site/date	Species	Count	Temperature	Weather
<b>Braunston Church</b>	<b>Soprano pipistrelle</b>			
8th June		638	13 deg. C	Dry
20th June		647	17 deg. C	Dry
<b>Egleton church</b>	<b>Soprano pipistrelle</b>			
7th June		362*	11 deg. C	Dry
18th June		1114	14 deg. C	Dry
<b>Whissendine church</b>	<b>Natterer's bat</b>			
23rd June		60	21 deg. C	Dry

*Temperature refers to the temperature at sunset.*

\*The count at Egleton church on 7th June does not reflect the number of bats present, since the bats emerged from a new access point that was not fully visible from the traditional counting point. During the second count, data from two counters positioned with a better view of the emerging bats provided a more accurate count.

The count of 60 Natterer's bats at Whissendine church is the

largest count since June 2007. Up until then, the church was not illuminated by floodlights and counts had been in the 60s and 70s, with 89 counted on one occasion. Floodlights were installed early in 2008 illuminating part of the exterior and much of the interior of the church; from the June 2008 count onwards there has been a halving of the number of bats using the church. The lights were turned off when churches closed in March 2020 and were not on when the count was carried out in June.

## General Records

The first record of the year was of three small bats seen flying early in the morning between the railway and River Chater at Pilton (SK909035) during a very mild spell, on 8 January. In Exton, along a field boundary on the edge of the village a common pipistrelle was foraging, and from the sound of feeding buzzes, catching insects on 25 March at 6.45pm, SK9281009. In early April, Diane Masters reported her first sighting of the year, with three or four bats flying over Barmstedt Drive on 7.4. There was quite a bit of activity in Langham on 7.4 where Marian Markham made good use of her Echo Meter Touch detector to record up to five Common Pipistrelle flying over the church yard of St Peter and St Paul's church SK843111, (also on 8.4 and 16.4), two Soprano Pipistrelles over a Bridge Street garden and in the church yard (also on 8.4) and a Brown Long-eared bat feeding over a mown area of the grave yard, SK843111. I had a phone call from someone in Main Street, Barleythorpe, (SK849095) at 1.00pm on 13.4, where she had found a bat hanging from the low side of a paddling pool (probably not plastic though I didn't ask). As I talked her through containing the bat, in case it was injured or dehydrated, the bat shook itself and

flew off; there were several droppings below where it had been roosting, suggesting it had been there several hours. A common pipistrelle was found grounded at a house in Springfield Drive, Oakham on 23 April (see table).

In May, Marian Markham recorded common pipistrelle on 7.5 and 23.5 flying over a lawn area at Munday's Close, Langham (SK847112) and a soprano pipistrelle, also on 7.5. On 25 June, one of our very hot days, a bat was seen flying at Barmstedt Drive at 3.30pm; day flying is unusual and is often the sign of a distressed bat, perhaps in this case through dehydration. On 26.6 three or four bats were flying on the edge of the wooded area of Springfield Way and Barmstedt Drive at around 10.0pm. Common and soprano pipistrelle were heard and seen foraging in the churchyard in Wing, and along Bottom Street and Church Street on 13 June; a noctule was also heard briefly.

During this first half of the year, only five bats were recorded grounded, two of them infants from the same roost. One injured, pregnant female from a roost near Stretton gave birth in captivity and it is hoped she and the youngster will be able to return to the roost when the mum's injured tail membrane has healed.

## Grounded bats, January to June 2020

Date	Species	Location	Sex/age	Comments/Outcome
23.4	Common pipistrelle, weight 4.6g	Springfield Way, Oakham SK863097	Male, adult	Probable broken back, died
09.5	Nathusius' pipistrelle Weight 4.3g	Church Street, Langham	Male, adult	Injured elbow, refused food, died
08.6	Common pipistrelle, Weight 5.8g, pregnant	Stockenhall Rd. Stretton (roost)	Female, adult	Injured tail membrane, gave birth in care
28.6	Pipistrelle sp. forearm 22mm	Colley Rise, Lyddington TL872974	Infant, female	Away from roost, returned same day
28.6	Pipistrelle sp. forearm 18mm	Colley Rise, as above	Male infant	Returned to roost same day.

The Nathusius' pipistrelle was a complete surprise, being the first grounded bat found in VC55, although a number of bats have been caught in harp traps during the NNPP surveys around Rutland Water. It may have been a cat victim. Identification of this species, which is similar to the other two pipistrelles, was confirmed by white hairs on its penis, fur extended for more than halfway down its tail membrane and the pattern of collagen bands in its wing membranes.

The infant bats were found indoors, having wandered from their roost under eaves of a house, and were returned the same evening after being given water. There was no sound from the roost which suggested that the mothers had gone, but the babies immediately began to call when put back in the roost and their mothers may have returned

to collect them or at least suckle them, as they did not emerge again. On 30.6 the owner of the roost reported seeing a bat go into the entrance, remain there for a few minutes then fly out again. A mother would be capable of carrying an infant this small and it would not have been visible attached to her.

My thanks to Linda Clark for her help with returning the infants to the Lyddington roost, with care of some of my bats and for a lovely evening in Wing. Linda and Anthony Biddle, and Linda C., helped with roost counts at Egleton and Braunston-in-Rutland in June and Jim Whiteford counted the Natterer's at Whissendine. Thank you also for records from Tim Caldecott, Marian Markham, Diana Masters, Donnie Smalley, and Jayne Walker.

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# BIRDS

Recorder Terry Mitcham

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The year began well with good numbers of wildfowl at the reservoirs; Smew especially numerous at Rutland Water and all five grebes were also present. Wintering Marsh Harriers were regularly seen along with Peregrine. Waders were not noted in great variety owing to high water levels but there were flocks of Golden Plovers at Rutland Water and several overwintering Curlew. Gardens were less exciting during the mild weather with few Blackcaps, Bramblings or Siskins reported. Migration was noted with Whooper Swans passing through in February and March along with the first arriving Ospreys, Sand Martins and Garganey, but the closure of our best sites due to Covid19 has severely curtailed our activities and I guess that many fewer records will be forthcoming in the months ahead. On the positive side, we can all give our garden birds closer attention, noting their breeding activities and changing numbers and perhaps record local birds on our exercise walks. A great feature of bird watching is that birds are everywhere and can be admired in the most unlikely places.

My thanks to the following for their records:

T.Appleton, R.Backer, D.& J.Ball, A.J.& L.Biddle, C.& P.Brown, Caldicott, A.& J.Comber, M.& G.Griffin, T.Land, P.Langston, LROS, R.Lemmon, D.Masters, I.Misselbrook, B.Moore, T.Mitcham, J.W.Nourish, L.Park, J.S.& J.Rodgers, RWNR, P.Scott, J.Walker, S.Williamson-Noble

## January 2020

**Highlights.** Rutland Water had five White-fronted Geese (9th) and six (21st-24th). 15 Great White Egrets roosted regularly at Egleton.

**Rutland Water.** 52 Pink-footed Geese flew west (10th) with one (15th) and three (19th-23rd). The count (12th) produced 3786 Wigeon, 214 Gadwall, 17 Pintail, 113 Shoveler, 2457 Tufted Ducks, 11 Scaup, a Common Scoter (to at least 26th), 332 Goldeneye, 12 Smew and 22 Goosander. There were also 3159 Coot and ten Water Rails. Red-crested Pochards peaked at six (26th). Present all month were single Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes and two Black-necked Grebes.

Marsh Harrier and Peregrine were regular. Waders (12th) included an Oystercatcher (two on 28th), 823 Lapwings, 190 Golden Plovers, nine Curlews, single Sanderling, Dunlin and Green Sandpiper and five Redshank (15th). There were Mediterranean Gulls (2nd, 24th) and one or two Caspian Gulls (11th-24th). A Kingfisher was seen (27th). A Chiffchaff was along the south shore (27th). A Willow Tit and two Tree Sparrows were at Lyndon feeders (19th) and Stonechats were at Egleton Centre all month and along the south shore (15th-27th). 300 Linnets were on Hambleton peninsula (10th) and 22 Siskins at Berrybut Spinney (27th).

**Other Sites.** 250 Pink-footed Geese flew over Stretton (19th). 132 Wigeon were on a flooded field at Cottessmore (10th) when a Goosander was on Rygate Lake, Exton Park. 12 Grey Partridges were at Greetham (7th). 45 Golden Plovers were over Pilton (7th). There was a Jack Snipe at Banthorpe Gravel Pit (8th), a Green Sandpiper near Wing (18th), four Woodcock in Tunneley Wood (26th) and singles at Pilton (7th) and Wing (24th). 25 Collared Doves were at a Pilton roost (7th). Barn Owls were noted at four sites. Little Owls were at Pilton and Wing and a Willow Tit was near Wing (13th, 18th). A Chiffchaff was at Geeston STW (17th) and Blackcaps were in three Oakham gardens. One or two Bramblings were in Exton Park and at Geeston, Wing and Pilton. 300 Linnets were at Pilton (5th).



C Baxter - Greylag Goose / Chiff Chaff

## February 2020

**Highlights.** 24 Whooper Swans flew over Rutland Water (6th) with 11 there (8th). A Merlin was near Tinwell Lodge (8th).

**Rutland Water.** The count (8th) produced 3324 Wigeon, 411 Gadwall, 1479 Tufted Ducks, seven Scaup, 16 Smew and 30 Goosander. There were also 15 Great White Egrets and 14 Water Rails. Three Black-necked Grebes and single Red-necked and Slavonian Grebes were present all month. Waders included 14 Oystercatchers, nine Curlew, three Green Sandpipers and four Redshanks along with three Kingfishers. A Marsh Harrier was present all month with a regular Peregrine. Three Ravens flew over south arm (14th). Five Cetti's Warblers were at Egleton and a Chiffchaff at Berrybut Spinney (6th, 25th) with a Stonechat along south arm (5th – 25th). Three Grey Wagtails were along south shore on (8th). Single Bramblings were in south arm (6th) and north arm (21st) and 12 Siskins were at Berrybut Spinney (3rd).

**Other Sites.** At Fort Henry Ponds there were 293 Greylag Geese (2nd), 44 Gadwall (2nd) and 75 Tufted Ducks (27th). Four Mandarin Ducks were on Rygate Lake, Exton Park (7th) with a Great White Egret there (2nd). Two Shoveler were on a flooded field at Cottesmore (2nd) with 31 Teal there (8th). There were 26 Dunlin at Eyebrook Reservoir (8th). Seven Red Kites were near Glaston (8th). Barn Owls were at six sites and Little Owls near Barrow. Kestrels were noted at six widespread sites and a Peregrine was noted at a regular site. Ravens were regular at Fort Henry and in Exton Park and in Cottesmore a Sparrowhawk took on a Rook! A Marsh Tit was regular at Tunneley Wood feeders and Blackcaps were in a North Luffenham garden (5th) and in two Oakham gardens (all month). 40 Redwings near Oakham (21st) was the only record of this winter visitor. A male Stonechat was at Fort Henry (7th) with a pair in Exton Park (21st). Two Lesser Redpolls, scarce this winter were at two garden feeders in Oakham (10th).



## March 2020

**Highlights.** Before closure, Rutland Water had six Whooper Swans (21st), a male Garganey (22nd), two Bitterns (2nd) with one (4th), a Merlin (11th) and a Black Redstart (6th). The first Osprey returned (13th) and a Kittiwake dropped in (14th). A Jack Snipe was at Banthorpe GP (6th).

**Rutland Water.** The count (8th) produced 1809 Wigeon, 225 Gadwall, seven Pintail, 65 Shoveler, 1621 Tufted Duck, 265 Goldeneye and 20 Smew with 11 Goosander. There were eight Great White Egrets and 13 Little Egrets. There were two Mandarin Ducks at Normanton (6th, 20th) and a peak of eight Scaup (14th). A female Ruddy Duck was at Egleton (15th). The Red-necked Grebe was reported to (12th) and the Slavonian Grebe to (8th) with three Black-necked Grebes to (11th).

Two Marsh Harriers were noted (21st). Waders on (8th) were 20 Oystercatchers, 96 Golden Plovers, ten Curlew, two Dunlin, three Green Sandpipers and six Redshanks. There were six Avocets (14th), a flyover Ringed Plover (16th) and a Little Ringed Plover (21st). A Caspian Gull was seen (10th) and a Mediterranean Gull (21st). One or two Barn Owls were regular at both reserves as was a Peregrine at Egleton. A Willow Tit was at Gibbet Gorse (11th). The first two Sand Martins appeared (14th) with a Stonechat along south shore (6th-13th) and a Rock Pipit in north arm (14th). 275 Fieldfares flew north-west (21st) and 72 Meadow Pipits (20th).

**Other Sites.** Mandarin Ducks were around Wing, Exton Park (five on 6th) and Tunneley Wood. Grey Partridges were near Cottesmore Airfield (25th). Two Ospreys visited Horn Mill (24th). Displaying Lapwings were at Exton Park and Wing. Curlew were at Cottesmore Airfield (25th) with two Woodcock in Westland Wood (4th) and Tunneley Wood (14th). A Green Sandpiper was at Fort Henry Ponds (20th). Barn Owls were at an encouraging nine sites with a Little Owl at Wing (26th-27th). Peregrines were at Martinshorpe (23rd) and over Exton (30th). Ravens were at five regular breeding sites with two over Barrow. Wheatears were at Luffenham Airfield (16th) with four (17th).



## Wildfowl Counts – January, February and March 2020.

Rutland Water and Eyebrook Reservoir (No January Count at Eyebrook Reservoir).

	Rutland Water 12.01.	Rutland Water 08.02.	Rutland Water 08.03.	Eyebrook Reservoir 08.02.	Eyebrook Reservoir 08.03.
Canada Goose	609	336	276	64	16
Greylag Goose	424	537	323	134	59
Mute Swan	151	154	227	116	86
Whooper Swan		11			
Egyptian Goose	34	18	15		
Ruddy Shelduck	2				
Shelduck	13	26	24		1
Shoveler	113	74	65	5	
Gadwall	214	411	225	41	4
Wigeon	3786	3324	1809	613	440
Mallard	360	314	250	157	51
Pintail	17	10	7	16	5
Teal	417	365	250	886	176
Pochard	138	144	36	5	5
Tufted Duck	2457	1479	1621	479	35
Scaup	11	7	2		
Common Scoter	1				
Goldeneye	332	315	265	70	19
Smew	12	16	20		
Goosander	22	30	11	1	
Little Grebe	98	71	30		
Red-necked Grebe	1	1	1		
Great Crested Grebe	295	211	155	43	17
Slavonian Grebe	1	1			
Black-necked Grebe	3	3	3		
Grey Heron	17	37	20	1	
Great White Egret	15	15	8		
Little Egret	22	21	13		
Cormorant	232	295	206	27	12
Water Rail	10	14	10		
Moorhen	43	63	38	3	
Coot	3159	1408	605	19	1
Kingfisher		3	2		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>14041</b>	<b>9714</b>	<b>6517</b>	<b>2680</b>	<b>927</b>

**Fort Henry Ponds/Rygate Lake, Banthorpe Gravel Pit and Holywell Lake.**

	FHP and Rygate Lake 10.01.	FHP and Rygate Lake 07.02.	FHP and Rygate Lake 06.03.	Banthorpe GP 08.01.	Banthorpe GP 06.02.	Banthorpe GP 06.03.	Holywell Lake 12.01.	Holywell Lake 08.02.	Holywell Lake 06.03.
Canada Goose							7	36	26
Greylag Goose	37	243	48	42	2	16		44	65
Mute Swan	13	14	18		3	2	2		2
Egyptian Goose	2								
Mandarin Duck		4	5				1		
Gadwall	56	40	37	2		1	11	16	8
Wigeon	90	155	129				26	36	56
Mallard	100	109	59	58	6	8	92	69	22
Teal	11	24	8	34	26	25	5	3	6
Tufted Duck	105	56	84	1	2		13	20	32
Goosander	1								
Little Grebe	3						19	11	17
Grey Heron					2				
Great White Egret			1						
Little Egret	1	1	1	1			1	3	1
Cormorant	4	2	1	1					
Moorhen	4	7	12		1	1	25	6	15
Coot	67	62	51			1		2	8
Kingfisher							1		
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>494</b>	<b>717</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>139</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>54</b>	<b>203</b>	<b>236</b>	<b>258</b>

These have been strange months for we naturalists but not entirely unproductive. Deprived by lockdown of the possibility of visiting our accustomed sites, we have paid greater attention to places we might have otherwise overlooked. Despite missing out on the spring migration at Rutland Water, some interesting sightings have been made, topped by a juvenile White-tailed Eagle from the Isle of Wight reintroduction project. It was good to hear of calling Quail, along with a report of a Corn Bunting. An elusive Golden Oriole sang at Ketton. Nightingales returned to Rutland Water and Pickworth Wood, with a belated record from Stocken Hall. A Redstart on territory at Beaumont Chase Farm was a pleasant surprise, whilst totally unexpected were a Whooper Swan over Wing and a Fulmar over Quarry Farm wood. Curlew were well reported from known breeding sites – perhaps next year we will be able to check other sites for this scarce breeder. My thanks to the following for their records:

*T. Appleton, D. & J. Ball, P. Bennett, A. & J. Biddle, T. Caldicott, J. Clark, L. Clarke, T. Clarke, M. Collins, A. & J. Comber, M. Eaton, Dr. C.H. Gallimore, M. & G. Griffin, M. Grimes, Dr. C. Jones, A. Lambert, T. Land, P. Langston, A. Law, LROS, T. Mackrill, M. Manson, K. Mather, D. Masters, T. Mitcham, J. & M. Nourish, C. Park, L. Park, P. Rudkin, J. Walker*

**April 2020**

**Highlights.** A White-tailed Eagle from the Isle of Wight reintroduction was at Rutland Water (2nd- 4th) and again at Ketton Quarry and Empingham (19th). A Ring Ouzel was at Pilton (20th) and a Black Redstart at Quarry Farm, Great Casterton (16th). A Stone Curlew was at North Luffenham Airfield (23rd).

**Rutland Water.** Two Mandarin Ducks were at Normanton (4th). A Little Gull was present (16th) with seven (19th) when there were six Common Terns and four Arctic Terns with three Black Terns.

**Other Sites.** Mandarin Ducks were regular near Wing, at Horn Mill (4th) and Quarry Farm (13th). Two pairs of Shoveler were at Fort Henry Ponds (11th). Grey Partridge pairs were noted at Exton Park, Quarry Farm and Cottesmore Airfield with a Curlew at the latter site (25th). Curlew were also over Wing (3rd) and near Ashwell and Merry's Meadows. A Whimbrel flew over Quarry Farm (30th). A Great White Egret flew over Wing (24th) 13 Buzzards and six Red Kites followed ploughing near Stoke Wood. The first Cuckoo was near Wing (8th) and Little Owls were at Wing and Manton. A singing Willow Tit was at Wing Fishing Lakes (1st). A Cetti's Warbler called near Pickworth Wood (1st) and a Grasshopper

Warbler was at Fort Henry (11th,18th). The last Redwing was over Wing (10th) and the last two Fieldfares were also there (26th). Two Nightingales sang in Pickworth Wood from (16th). Redstarts were at Burley-on-the-Hill (12th), Manton (15th) and Beaumont Chase Farm, a singing male on (27th). Wheatears were near Pickworth (6th) and Quarry Farm (17th, 20th). Grey Wagtails visited an Oakham garden early in the month. A Brambling flew over Wing (2nd) and a Siskin (25th).

## May 2020

**Highlights.** A Green-winged Teal was at Eyebrook Reservoir (from 30th). Rutland Water had a Cattle Egret (12th) with one at Eyebrook (20th-23rd). Temminck's Stints were at Rutland Water (13th, 22nd). Quail called at Quarry Farm (26th) and near Great Casterton (27th). A Corn Bunting was south of Uppingham (21st).

**Rutland Water.** There were nine Turnstones and four Sanderlings (24th). A Wood Sandpiper was in north arm (8th).

**Other Sites.** Mandarin Ducks were at Fort Henry Ponds, Westland Wood, Wing and Normanton. Four Shovelers were at Fort Henry (30th). Grey Partridges were at Quarry Farm near Mounts Lodge and Cottesmore Airfield. Curlews were at three likely breeding sites and a Whimbrel was over Preston (17th). Cuckoos were heard at seven sites. Hobbies were at Exton Park (2nd), Quarry Farm (11th), Manton (13th) and Tinwell (24th). Raven families were at two sites (17th, 30th). A Cetti's Warbler sang at Geeston (31st) and a Grasshopper Warbler at Fort Henry (30th). Reed Warblers sang at Quarry Farm and Geeston. Spotted Flycatchers were at five sites from (7th) with four Nightingales in the north-east(19th). The Redstart remained on territory at Beaumont Chase Farm (to 27th), there was a Whinchat at Luffenham Airfield (6th) with a Wheatear at Quarry Farm (5th) and two at Cottesmore Airfield (9th). Two

pairs of Yellow Wagtails were in Exton Park all month with light passage over Wing (2nd – 29th) and Grey Wagtails over Wing (4th) and at Tinwell Pumping Station (17th).

## June 2020

**Highlights.** A Whooper Swan flew over Wing (4th). A Green-winged Teal was at Eyebrook Reservoir (3rd – 8th). A Quail sang near Empingham (15th) with three near Great Casterton (25th). A Fulmar flew over Quarry Farm (6th) and a Golden Oriole sang at Ketton (17th).

**Rutland Water.** A female Garganey was at Egleton (28th). There were three Common Scoter in south arm (11th) and 18 (13th) with one in north arm (29th – 30th). A Great White Egret was at Egleton (25th, 28th). Waders included a Ruff (25th), four Green Sandpipers (28th) and a Wood Sandpiper (22nd). A Mediterranean Gull was at the dam (23rd) and a Yellow-legged Gull at Egleton (27th-28th). A Little Tern was in Manton Bay (4th) and there were six Black Terns (24th) with three (26th). Hobbies were fairly regular.

**Other Sites.** A Mandarin Duck was at Fort Henry Ponds (27th) with 62 Gadwall there (13th). Ospreys flew over Wing (12th) and Quarry Farm (29th). Five Curlew were over Bussack Water (14th) with singles over Fort Henry (27th) and Wing (29th, 30th). A Kingfisher was at Wing (30th). Cuckoos were active at Quarry Farm all month. Little Owls were at Wing (30th) and Barrowden, where they bred. Hobbies were over Quarry Farm (6th) and Wing (9th – 24th). Willow Tits were at Wing (23rd, 25th) and a MarshTit in Pickworth Wood (26th). The Cetti's Warbler continued to sing at Geeston. Spotted Flycatchers were at Manton, Quarry Farm and Wing (bred) and there were 13 Crossbills over Ketton Quarry (22nd). Early migration over Wing saw 40 Swifts (27th), ten Mistle Thrushes (26th), up to five Siskins between (19th- 30th) and up to nine Crossbills on five dates (19th -27th).

## Wildfowl Counts – April, May and June 2020

	FHP and Exton Park Lake 11.04.	FHP and Exton Park Lake 09.05.	FHP and Exton Park Lake 06.06.	Banthorpe Gravel Pit 24.05.	Banthorpe Gravel Pit 05.06.
Canada Goose	4	2			
Greylag Goose	3	6	2	16	
Mute Swan	14	7	9	1	1
Egyptian Goose	1				
Shelduck		1			
Shoveler	4	2	1		
Gadwall	26	20	38		
Wigeon	5				
Mallard	40	49	66	7	1
Tufted Duck	64	32	36	2	
Little Grebe	1				
Grey Heron			1		1
Cormorant	1	1	1		
Moorhen	13	14	5	1	2
Coot	33	30	37	5	7
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>209</b>	<b>164</b>	<b>196</b>	<b>32</b>	<b>12</b>

The lockdown restrictions came just at the point when spring flowering got into its stride, and since certain popular sites, like the woods bordering Rutland Water were out of bounds, we might have expected fewer records than we received.

Overall, all the expected flowers have been seen, starting with Dog's Mercury in mid- January with Primroses by February 2nd. Strangely, nobody reported Cowslip until the first week of April, by which time the Cherry Plum and Blackthorn was in full bloom, with Hawthorn not far behind. There were Green-winged Orchids on Merry's Meadows by the last week of April, Common Spotted Orchids and Common Twayblade at Ketton Quarry at the same time, Bee Orchids on April 4th and Pyramidal Orchids at Bloody Oaks Quarry by the 12th June.

Amongst the less common plants was Sanicle on Barnsdale Avenue, together with a lot of Woodruff, also at Ketton Quarry, whilst Star of Bethlehem was at Empingham and Ketton. Moschatel (Townhall Clock) was growing at Ketton Quarry; its usual haunt in Barnsdale Woods was out of bounds. Shining Cranesbill and Hedgerow Cranesbill grow in Wing Churchyard and I'm sure everybody has noticed Meadow Cranesbill in profusion in the roadside verges.

*Records were received from Jane and Duncan Ball, Carolyn Baxter, Anthony and Linda Biddle, Tim Caldecot, Martin Grimes, Jenny Harris, Roy Lemmon, Terry Mitcham, Dave Needham, Joe Nourish, Donnie Tang and Jayne Walker.*

## Wild flowers in Oakham – plenty more to be found

**Compiled by Steve Woodward. Loughborough Naturalists Club. BSBI Joint County recorder.**

My botanical walk around Oakham on 6 July 2020, accompanied by Helen Ikin, covered the west half of the town; the 2 x 2-kilometre grid square or tetrad SK80P. It was an enjoyable walk and productive from the point of view of species recording. A few of our finds were common and widespread species (such as Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*) that were missing from the list of previous records (see below). Other plants in this category were Field Wood-rush *Luzula campestris* and Small-flowered Crane's-bill *Geranium pusillum*. I doubt that these are recent arrivals, so I conclude that the town has not been thoroughly searched by previous botanists. The total for the tetrad, according to the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland database on 6 July, is 352, which seems low for a mixed urban and rural tetrad in Rutland. Furthermore, only 65% of plants on that list had been recorded since 1999, so the focus of our search was the remainder, (of which we re-found 29) and also species that had never been recorded (we added 34 to the list). I will mention a selection of these in this article. All record details have been sent to the RNHS Botany Recorder and will be sent to the BSBI County Recorder.

Our walk started from the car-park opposite the All Saints Church, then onto Barlow Road, Dean's Street, Melton Road, over the level crossing, up Barleythorpe Road then right onto Land's End Way, past the allotments, into the industrial estate along Pillings Road and back, then back across Barleythorpe Road onto the lawns and meadows with ponds near Catmose College. After lunch we went back over the level crossing and along Northgate to the car where we drove to the cemetery on Kilburn Road.

In Guy Messenger's era, planted street trees and most garden escapes were not considered "wild" enough to include in wild flower surveys, but modern practice is to include them. The street trees we noted include Broad-leaved Cockspurthorn *Crataegus persimilis* in the car park and Juneberry *Amelanchier lamarckii* near the Pillings Road junction. The daisy-like Mexican Fleabane *Erigeron karvinskianus* had escaped from a garden onto the pavement edge on Northgate, and Narrow-leaved Everlasting-pea *Lathyrus sylvestris* turned up near the railway station.

On a verge near the station entrance on Barleythorpe Road we noticed Dwarf Mallow, *Malva neglecta*. It is a smaller plant with paler flowers than the common species *Malva sylvestris*. We frequently add this to tetrad lists in Leicestershire and Rutland, perhaps it really has been neglected, but I suspect it is increasing. On other verges we recorded Autumn Hawkbit, *Scorzoneroides autumnalis*, a dandelion look-alike with narrow leaf lobes, a branched stem and a flowering head that tapers gradually into the stalk. Pavements and kerbs are the preferred habitat for Slender Pearlwort *Sagina filicaulis*, a small bushy annual with sepals that spread outwards below the fruit.

Industrial estates are always worth exploring for unusual plants and Pillings Road did not disappoint. A few erect but short plants on the roadside had us puzzled until we found one in bud, which we recognised as Ploughman's Spikenard *Inula conyzae*. Messenger (1971) maps it only in the east of the county. On the verge near the junction with Lands End Way, a scruffy, very short plant was inspected to check for prickly fruits – sure enough they were there,



L Biddle - Sweet Briar Rose

confirming Knotted Hedge-parsley *Torilis nodosa*. This is a little umbellifer that has been turning up more often in the past few years, mostly in east Rutland but with a scattering in Leics.

The large pond opposite Mallard Court added these to our list: Common Spike-rush *Eleocharis palustris*, Spiked Water-milfoil *Myriophyllum spicatum*, Broad-leaved Pondweed *Potamogeton natans*, Greater Spearwort *Ranunculus lingua*, Common Club-rush *Schoenoplectus lacustris* and Pink Water-speedwell *Veronica catenata*. In the surrounding grassland, Yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus minor* had been planted (we presume) to suppress the vigour of the grass so that more herbs will survive. The lake between Catmose College and the Main Road sustained yet more wetland plants that were new for the list: Flowering-rush *Butomus umbellatus* with its beautiful pink flowers, Water-soldier *Stratiotes aloides*, Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima* and the bright yellow Monkeyflower *Mimulus guttatus* agg. The meadow around the lake was spectacular with a range of colourful flowers, but they were all species previously seen. These are clearly planted and I expect the variety will diminish over the years due to competition.

Finally, we made a short visit to the cemetery on Kilburn Road. Like most cemeteries and churchyards, it is managed as a lawn, rather than a valuable grassland habitat that can support a range of wildlife. Short grass does encourage some small species, and we were pleased to see the tiny pink stars of Field Madder *Sherardia*

*arvensis* to add to our list. Some tall species had escaped the mower, allowing us to refresh a pre-2000 record of Rough Hawkbit *Leontodon hispidus*. This is another dandelion look-alike, but with one flower head on a conspicuously fuzzy stem and leaves with forked hairs. A few small plots, however, had been deliberately left uncut, including the grave of William Tomblin Keal (d. 1874). Here we refreshed another old record, for Sweet Vernal-grass *Anthoxanthum odoratum* and we added two plants new to the tetrad: Field Wood-rush *Luzula campestris* (just the dead heads remaining) and Quaking-grass *Briza media* (also gone over). The latter seems somewhat thinly dispersed in west Rutland.

Despite our numerous finds, there are still plenty of old records that need to be refreshed. Some are “easy” species such as Large Bindweed *Calystegia silvatica*, Agrimony *Agrimonia eupatoria* and Common Toadflax *Linaria vulgaris*. Four species of Melilot *Melilotus* are listed, not one of them seen since 1999! I encourage Oakham members who are unable to travel far to look out for these and make a useful contribution to botanical recording. I can provide lists on request.

#### Reference

Messenger, K.G. 1971. *Flora of Rutland*. Leicester Museums.

#### Steve Woodward

Loughborough Naturalists' Club, BSBI Joint County Recorder

## BUTTERFLIES

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**January - March 2020** Compiled by Richard Brown former butterfly recorder.

#### Local observations

Although relatively mild, the first three months of 2020 have been very wet, and thus Rutland's first appearance dates have been later than usual and the number of observations fewer.

A startling exception was the observation of a peacock on 19th January in Clipsham, the earliest sighting of any species in Rutland in the last five years. However, our surprise at this early sighting for us must be put in perspective against the

earliest national sightings of Peacocks in 2020, at three sites in Conwy, Somerset and Yorkshire, all on 1st January!

By the end of February 2020 we had only recorded sightings of two species, Peacock and Red Admiral, compared to five species by end February 2019. Indeed, we only reached five species for 2020 by mid-March. The Red Admiral seen on 4th February, again draws attention to the increasing habit of this species to overwinter in the U.K. rather than coming in later in the season as an immigrant.

#### First dates of sightings 2017 – 2020

2017	2018	2019	2020
<b>Small tort.</b> 03-Feb	<b>Brimstone</b> 16-Mar	<b>Peacock</b> 13-Feb	<b>Peacock</b> 19-Jan
<b>Brimstone</b> 03-Feb	<b>Comma</b> 16-Mar	<b>Small tort.</b> 14-Feb	<b>Red Admiral</b> 04-Feb
<b>Red Admiral</b> 04-Feb	<b>Small tort.</b> 16-Mar	<b>Brimstone</b> 16-Mar	<b>Small Tort.</b> 13-Mar
<b>Peacock</b> 07-Feb	<b>Peacock</b> 21-Mar	<b>Comma</b> 23-Feb	<b>Brimstone</b> 16-Mar
<b>Comma</b> 09-Mar	<b>Large White</b> 19-Apr	<b>Red Admiral</b> 24-Feb	<b>Comma</b> 16-Mar

Observers: Thanks to J & D Ball, L&A Biddle, R Ingall, Diana Masters, D Needham, Jenny Pearce, P Scott



## April - June 2020

The weather throughout April and May was remarkable and had a big effect on our butterflies. A high-pressure system became fixed over the UK from 20 March until 25 April. The dry, sunny weather enabled lots of butterflies to emerge earlier than usual and May was even more remarkable! I recorded no rain in Uppingham at all in May as the high pressure returned for most of the month and the warm, sunny days allowed lots of observations. June, however, was very mixed.

The only report of ESSEX SKIPPER was one photographed at America Lodge on 14 June. The first report of SMALL SKIPPER came from Ketton Quarry (KQ) on 9 June. Other Small Skippers were reported from Bloody Oaks Quarry (BOQ) on 20 June and Stoke Dry on 29 June. First reports of LARGE SKIPPER were on 28 May, GRIZZLED SKIPPER on 16 April and DINGY SKIPPER on 23 April and all came from KQ. Grizzled and Dingy Skippers were reported throughout May from Bloody Oaks and Ketton Quarries. The highest number was 12 Dingy Skippers at BOQ on 21 May and 6 Grizzled Skippers at KQ on 7th May.

BRIMSTONES were first seen on 16 March and then regularly at many locations until mid-June

The first LARGE WHITE was seen at Whissendine on 10 April and then at many locations until mid-June.

SMALL WHITE was first seen in Oakham on 8 April and at many locations until mid-June.

GREEN-VEINED WHITE was first seen at Langham on 12 April and was reported from a variety of locations mostly in ones and twos with three at Quarry Farm, both the maximum and the last on 15 May.

ORANGE TIPS first emerged at Langham, Oakham and Whissendine on 8 April and were a common sight around the county throughout.

GREEN HAIRSTREAKS were first seen at KQ on 7 May with an excellent maximum of 10 found on 21 May at BOQ. Also 2 were at Oakham Arboretum on 21 May.

A single report of BLACK HAIRSTREAK at KQ on 9 June is an excellent record.

SMALL COPPER was first seen at Exton on 26 April, then at Pickworth on 9 May and finally at Merry's Meadows on 15 May.

The only reports of BROWN ARGUS came from BOQ in May on 9 and 21 with a maximum of a "few". Also, a single record from KQ on 1 June.

COMMON BLUE started to emerge in mid-May with records from KQ and BOQ up to the end of June. The maximum was 6 at BOQ on 21 May.

HOLLY BLUE sightings started with the first at Whissendine on 5 April and continued throughout April and May with plenty of records especially from Oakham.

There were 5 reports of RED ADMIRAL between 16 April and 14 June and the only record of PAINTED LADY came from Priors Coppice on 23 June.

Single SMALL TORTOISEHELLS were seen throughout April with a few records in early May and late June. The maximum was 3 at KQ on 5 April.

Four PEACOCKS at KQ on 5 April were the maximum with small numbers being seen at a variety of locations with the last at Oakham on 26 May.

The COMMA emerged at 2 locations on 5 April with singles in Oakham and at KQ. Maximum of 3 in Oakham on 20 April and the last in Uppingham on 27 June.

DARK GREEN FRITILLARY has increased in the last few years and this year continues in that vein. After the first sighting at KQ on 27 May, a superb 22+ were counted at KQ the next day on 28 May. Records continued throughout June with "plenty" being reported from both BOQ and KQ.

The first SILVER-WASHED FRITILLARY emerged at KQ on 1 June when it was still hot and sunny but the sudden onset of a cold wet 10-day spell put a stop to further records. It was 13 June before the next appeared - at BOQ. No further records were received.

Records of SPECKLED WOOD began with the first in Oakham on 10 April and the last at KQ on 1 June. No large numbers were reported, just singles.

An early sighting of GATEKEEPER, 3 at Whissendine on 23 June.

MARbled WHITES were first observed at KQ on 9 June with 2 seen rising to “plenty” here and at BOQ throughout the month. They were also seen at Quarry Farm and North Brook Valley.

MEADOW BROWN first emerged at KQ on 1 June with “plenty” on view. This common butterfly was then seen in good numbers in lots of locations.

The first RINGLETS were out early at KQ on 9 June with further records at Priors Coppice and BOQ.

SMALL HEATH was first seen at KQ on 7 May and by the end of May there were “plenty” at BOQ with records also from Merry’s Meadows and Ashwell.

## CHEQUERED SKIPPER Re-introduction Scheme 2018.

I have not had an update since last year regarding the scheme in Rockingham Forest in Northamptonshire. The 2019 news was excellent so confidence should be high for 2020. This site is not far from Rutland so fingers crossed that they may one day soon be breeding here too.

Finally, I suspect that the opportunity to get out and bird/butterfly/nature-watch was especially welcome to all of us in this extraordinary Spring. My sincere thanks to all of you who did so and sent in your records.

My thanks for all the above information go to the following:  
*D & J Ball, C Baxter, L Biddle, R Brown, T Caldicott, L Clark, J Harris, R Ingall, D Masters, T Mitcham, D Needham, J Pearce, J Rodgers, P Scott, N Webb*

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## MOTHS

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This report covers the first half of this year and with restrictions on our movements from the middle of March, recording has been largely restricted to day-flying moths.

A trap was put out for a couple of hours at Lyndon on the evening of 7th March and on our return, only 4 moths were inside, although of these, March Moth was a first site record and Satellite only a second, both common late winter/early spring moths. These early moths are struggling not just in Rutland but throughout Britain with Butterfly Conservation’s recently published Atlas of Britain’s larger moths showing many species declining by up to 50% since 1970, including most of our regular Rutland species. One of the main reasons for this is surely milder and wetter winters in recent years, making larvae vulnerable to drowning or their early feeding activity, leading to predation.

While Lyndon was closed to visitors from mid-March until mid-June, Shacklewell near Empingham was available more often than usual due to closure for outdoor groups and a battery trap was put out there on 4 occasions, with the highest count being 50 moths of 15 species on 27th May with Treble Lines being the most commonly recorded. Bloody Oaks was similarly trapped on 30th June and 16 species included Pine Hawk-moth, Brown-tail and Yellow-tail.

Garden trap records included Frosted Green and Small Ranunculus in Empingham where the recorder also mentioned a Toadflax Brocade and Netted Pug from 2019 which are highly desirable moths in most people’s traps. Brindled Beauty and Early Thorn were both trapped in Oakham and Uppingham gardens while 2 Elephant Hawk-moths were recorded in Oakham on 24th June. There were good numbers of day-flying records with the 2 highlights being a flava Six-spot Burnet Moth (an aberrant with yellow spots and underwing instead of red) seen by a few observers at Ketton Quarry and a rare county record, and 2 Hornet Moths in Pit Lane, Ketton on 9th June. Both Hornet Moths and Clearwings, or at least the males, can be lured down from treetops by pheromone lures but otherwise these moths are rarely seen. It seems to have been a good year

locally for Scarlet Tiger, with records from Edith Weston and Manton as well as members living outside Rutland seeing them in their gardens. There was also one in my trap in Stamford. Another rarer moth was a Least Black Arches on an Empingham wall. Of the regular spring day moths Burnet Companion was the most regular, being seen from 5 locations. Chimney Sweepers were at 3 locations including an impressive 200+ at Merry’s Meadows in mid-June enjoying Pignut their larval foodplant, and some were seen near Horn Mill where Exton Estates have planted a wildflower area along the path leading to Fort Henry. Orange Underwing were seen at Pickworth Wood in mid-April but not in the numbers of 2019. Other single species records included Silver-ground Carpet and Hummingbird Hawk-moth at Barrow, 2 species of Yellow Underwing and Diamond-back Moth in Wing, Beautiful Plume in Oakham and Common Carpet at Bloody Oaks. Also, Mullein caterpillars from both Wing and Gypsy Hollow Lane near Uppingham.

With Lyndon now open it is hoped to resume trapping there for the next few months in the new normal.

Many thanks to the following for their records:- *V Arnold, D & J Ball, C Baxter, P Bennett, T Caldicott, L Clark, A Dejardin, R Edwards, Dr C Gallimore, M Grimes, R Lemmon, D Needham, P Scott, M Skevington, P Stevens.*



*R Edwards - White Ermine*

## May/June 2020

Nymphs feature strongly in this report for May and June. Due to the Covid-19 Lock-Down, I was unable to get into the field to do my bit. Therefore, I am grateful indeed for the species reported from those who have allotments and good Orthopteran habitat near their homes.

The Wing village allotments are very rich in wildlife and two members have an allotment near each other; Tim Caldicott and Linda Clark. Furthermore, we do have some reasonable scatterings of other areas in Rutland in this report.

I was contacted (via Nature Spot), by a non-member who wished me to identify some images he had taken of Grasshoppers. He is Craig Mabbett, who is carrying out surveys around the Eye Brook Reservoir region. I was delighted to help with the ID. In conversation with Craig, I mentioned if he would consider venturing over the border, into the Rutland side (Near Stoke Dry village), and send me his sightings for the RNHS records since, it is some years ago since we had any reports from this area. Craig agreed and he is not only sending me reports, but also some excellent photographs of the species.

It is pleasing to say that all these month's sightings from our members have been accompanied by splendid images of the orthopterans. It was also important that Bloody Oaks Nature Reserve was covered, by Marian Markham.

There were no reports yet of any stridulating heard. So I am looking forward to getting the bat-detector 'on the job', for the months ahead!



C Baxter – Male Dark Bush Cricket

## Species list

### Crickets

**Oak Bush Cricket, *Meconema thalassinum***

One nymph, on hedge. Wing Hill, SK888028, **17 June**.

**Roesel's Bush Cricket, *Roeseliana roeselii***

Eight nymphs, found, in vegetation, Eye Brook Reservoir, Rutland, (Stoke Dry end). **15 June**, SP851964.

**Long-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus fuscus***

One nymph, on roadside verge, Wing Road, Manton. **22 June**, SK882035.

**Speckled Bush Cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima***

Six nymphs, in Wing Hill allotment. **24 May**. Four, on **16 June**. SK889028.

One, male nymph. Hambleton Woods, **8 June**. SK905071.  
Three, female nymphs, Eye Brook Reservoir, Rutland, (Stoke Dry end), SP851964.

### Groundhoppers

**Slender Groundhopper, *Tetrix subulata***

Two adults, Wing Hill Allotment. 28 and 29 June, SK 889028

### Grasshoppers

**Field Grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus***

Four nymphs, Wing Hill Allotment, **26 May to 31 May**. SK889028.

One nymph, Wing Allotment, **28 June**. SK887025

**Meadow Grasshopper, *Chorthippus parallelus***

Nine plus nymphs, in grass verges, Eye Brook Reservoir, Rutland, (Stoke Dry end). **15 June**, SP851964. Described as a "healthy population".

One nymph, Wing allotment, **26 June**, SK887025.

**Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, *Chorthippus albomarginatus***

One, nymph on grass stems, The Valley, Ketton Quarries. **31 May**, SK977053.

One female, late instar nymph, Bloody Oaks Nature Reserve, **5 June**. SK970109

One, nymph, Bloody Oaks Nature Reserve, **13 June**. SK971108

Many thanks to the contributors for their sightings:  
*Tim Caldicott, Linda Clark, Craig Mabbett, Marian Markham, David Needham, Jayne Walker.*



# INSECTS & INVERTEBRATES

**RECORDER Jayne Walker**

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**It has been a challenging time for us all during the lockdown period, resulting in access to places that we would normally love to visit, being out of bounds. However, more of our time appears to have been spent watching our gardens or green spaces closer to home and appreciating what we have on our doorsteps. The insect records that have been submitted during the months of April, May and June reflect this and it is amazing what we find close to home.**

The weather has been incredibly good for insect spotting, with the dry warm spring encouraging insects out that would not normally be about this early in the year. So there have been a good number of records sent in and in addition, some excellent photographs too, some of which are included with this report.

At the end of April an early Glyphopsyche irrorate, which is a species of northern caddisfly was recorded in Wing, a migrant Hoverfly Eucephala corollae was also recorded in the local area to Oakham.

Oakham Canal (NGR SK 865 110) has proved to be a particularly good spot to observe damsel fly, with four species recorded on one visit, along with Banded Demoiselle Calopteryx splendens. Broad-bodied Chasers Libellula depressa, were recorded in May and a member reported seeing a newly emerged one resting on foliage at the edge of a garden pond.

Garden log stores proved to be good places for finding beetles with Greater Thorn-tipped Longhorn Beetle, Pogonocherus hispidulus, Rufous-shouldered Longhorn Beetle Anaglyptus mysticus and Rhinoceros Beetle Sinodendron cylindricum being recorded in Exton. Swollen-thighed Beetle Oedemera nobilis has been recorded at several locations and unluckily for vegetable growers, the Broad-bean Beetle Bruchus rufimanus was seen in a garden in Wing. Another gardener's nightmare, the brightly coloured Lily Beetles Lilioceris lillii were recorded in several Exton gardens.

As the warm, dry weather continued, records of shieldbugs

started to come in, especially Green Shieldbugs Palomena prasina along with Hairy Dolycoris baccarum and Bronze Shieldbugs Troilus luridus respectively. We have also had a record of Common Water Boatman Corixa punctata being spotted in a garden pond.

Pollinators have been very active, with hover and drone flies being recorded in gardens and the wider countryside, post the relaxation of the lockdown rules. The Drone Fly Eristalis tenax has been seen in many gardens.

Bees have been out and about early, with a good number of species being noted. Some of the names are fabulous! Who could not want to see a Hairy-footed Flower Bee Anthophora plumipes or an Ashy Mining Bee Andrena cineraria? Both these species were recorded in gardens in Wing. There have been many Tree Bumblebee Bombus hypnorum records coming in from members across the area and one record of a queen photographed mating in June.



<b>Red legged shield bug</b>	Pentatoma rufipes	Kitchen floor Oakham	16/01/20
<b>Harlequin ladybird</b>	Harmonia axyridis	Manton	28-29/01/20
<b>7-spot ladybird</b>	Coccinella septempunctata	manton	13/01/20
<b>22-spot ladybird</b>	Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata	Manton	30/03/20
<b>Bee fly</b>	Bombylius major	Ketton and Oakham	25-27/03/20
<b>Common wasp</b>	Vespula vulgaris	Manton	02/01/20
<b>Buff tailed bumble bee</b>	Bombus terrestris	Rutland	10-26/03/20

I would like to thank the following members, who have submitted records since the start of the year: *Tim Caldicott, Dave Needham, Charles Gallimore, Roy Lemmon, Peter Scott, Phil Rudkin, Tricia Marston, Linda Clarke, Linda Biddle and Becky Howard.*

## Jan- March 2020

The most noticeable observation during the last 3 months has been the amazing amount of badger activity alongside paths and tracks. The wet weather of the early spring meant that there were worms in every inch of soil it seems, so edges of paths have been mined extensively, and badger snufflings made it look as though wild boar had been excavating. Now of course the ground is much drier and hard, so the badgers will have to look a bit further for their sustenance! Two badgers have been visiting the Whissendine garden of the Pearces regularly, and others appeared in 2s and 3s in a garden off Stockerston road Uppingham. Badgers were also seen on the thermal imaging survey at RWNr, 3 seen in early January and 2 at the end of the month. Another was observed as it ran alongside the fence near Heron bay at the end of January. There have been 8 road casualties reported (and I'm sure numerous others). Two of these were on the Oakham bypass, and Marian Markham has raised this with RCC as there were supposed to be adequate badger underpasses provided when the road was built.

Otters have been seen as usual at Rutland water. It is amazing to be writing that – for many years there were no reports of otters at all in Rutland, not until the 1990s when the odd report came in, and then a very gradual colonisation took place so that now if we don't have at least one otter seen it is a worrying sign. One confirmed report came from Bittern hide at RW in January, and several other reports of up to 3 animals at one time have been passed on. All the mink rafts monitored during these three months have shown signs of otters, and some showed smaller footprints, meaning that young ones are around too.

A stoat in full ermine, except for a little around the face was observed on March 14th at Tunnely wood Exton, "it lolloped towards me along the ride, stopped 20yards ahead of me and dashed off into the ditch – stunning views!" A stoat was seen on 2 occasions at Brooke Road Braunston, and another at Catmos park - all in January, and one crossed the road at America Lodge at the beginning of February. Sadly, a stoat was a road casualty at Whitwell in March. Two weasels have been seen, both at RWNr, one inspecting gabions, and another at Lyndon car park.

On Gypsy lane Uppingham a fox was seen in mid- January, and nearby later in the month two foxes were seen resting in a frosty field. They were photographed, one curled up sleeping and the other keeping watch. A fox was observed from Crake hide at RWNr. At Whissendine a fox is a regular garden visitor, feeding on food put out for the birds. During January and February, a dog fox was a frequent performer on the trail-cam at Bridge Street Langham, but then disappeared, and a much darker animal then turned up at the end of March.

On New Years eve an adult and a juvenile hedgehog appeared on the trail camera in Langham, and through January, February and March 2 or 3 were seen, either separately or occasionally together, making several appearances during every night. In mid-March two were observed, circling one another, and then later in the month one pushing another around as it rolled into a ball on four separate evenings. In Victoria road Stamford, the first hedgehog was seen on 8th January. In Barmstedt Drive Oakham the first hog to appear in 2020 was on 17th March and afterwards they appeared regularly. In Whissendine, the first hog was seen on the 19th, and evidence of visits to The



Photo - D Cotter



D Cotter - Muntjac

Willows in Barrow was observed on 23rd and 24th March. No hedgehog road casualties were reported.

Molehills have been reported from Stockerston road Uppingham, Cottesmore – Market Overton, Wing, Barrow and Whitwell, and at RWNR in the field near Fishponds cottage, where one was observed busily pushing up soil through its hole!

In the thermal imaging survey at Lax Hill, RWNR in early January a total of 12 brown hares were seen, and at the end of the month over 10 were observed. Also in January, 3 were seen at Exton and one from Uppingham. Through February and March they were also reported from Teigh, Market Overton, Barrow, Brooke Road Oakham and Pickworth. Rabbits are also reported from Barrow, Burley, Great Casterton, Ryhall, Pickworth and Whitwell. Grey squirrels were recorded, appearing on the trail-cam at Bridge Street Langham on 6 occasions, numerous individuals

at Wing, a constant presence at Barrow, and at Pasture Lane, Barleythorpe. In January a brown rat was observed at Shacklwell, and one was an occasional visitor to the garden at Bridge Street Langham, where it became a regular through February and March.

A single long tailed field mouse was regularly seen on camera at Bridge street Langham, but there were no other reports, nor were there any reports of shrews during the first three months of this year. At field 15 RWNR, a bank vole was disturbed from a log-pile as the observer sat down for a rest. A single bank vole visited the patio of "The Willows" Barrow, eating seeds put out for the birds in January and March, and voles, probably field voles, were seen on the thermal imaging survey at Lax hill during January. Water vole footprints were found at RWNR at Fishponds and wet meadow, and on the RNHS field meeting on March 14th two food piles were clearly seen at the foot of a tree by the Badger hide footbridge, the reeds nibbled off at the characteristic 45 degree angle.

Three reports of roe deer came from Leighfield, Martinsthorpe and on the Ketton road from North Luffenham. Muntjac are reported from RWNR, Uppingham, Ryhall Heath, Manton and Barrow.

Large numbers of fallow deer were once commonly recorded, but it was unusual to see a group of 24 fallow running across a field at Pickworth in January. Since then 2 were observed running to East Wood Pickworth, and singles reported from Exton and RWNR.

Thankyou to all recorders this time.

*D+J Ball, C Baxter, A Biddle, T Caldicott, L Clark, C Gallimore, M Manson, M Markham, D Masters, T Mitcham, L Park, J+A Pearce, P+G Scott*

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## GLOW WORMS

**RECORDER** Linda Clark

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**Due to the retirement of our previous Glow Worm recorder, Linda Worrall, I have now taken over the task of recorder. As I am trying to learn as much as I can about these little creatures, the records I have for this issue are possibly not indicative of the status of this taxa in Rutland.**

**So, by kind permission of Linda Worrall I have reproduced, in part, an article she wrote for the May 2007 RNHS journal. Hopefully this will explain how to go about discovering these beetles and new records from our members will come flooding in:**

"Please always park carefully so as not to obstruct passing traffic, but **don't park or walk on the verges** as you could squash the very thing you are looking for. You may have to park a short distance away from the verges. You need to be on foot to spot the green glows; take a torch for safety but don't keep it on all the time or you could miss them. **Never touch any glowing female.** You can shine a torch on one briefly, but then you may not see the glow.

Look for glows in May, June, July and early August, but Midsummer's Night (June 22nd) is often the high point. You cannot guarantee seeing a glow on any night, and several visits may be involved. Start looking around twilight (10.30pm onwards) as the wingless adult female will not be glowing green until it's dark enough for a male to find her. He can fly but does not glow. She can glow for about 3 hours a night for up to 10 days but switches off if and when mated, then lays eggs and dies, as does the male. Neither adult has mouthparts and cannot eat, so they die whether mated or not. These adults will have just emerged from their short pupation. Glow-Worm larvae do not glow. They hatch from eggs after about a month and live for 2 years, potentially scuttling up to 120m a night seeking snails to eat or hiding under stones or down holes in very cold or hot weather. They pupate in summer when each one is fat enough, and what we call a 'glow-worm' is just the last stage, the final flourish of a whole lifespan of the common, or European glow-worm beetle *Lampyrus noctiluca*."

*Linda Worrall*

## Records for April, May, June.

Barrowden. Back Road - North and South verges. Drift Close. Luffenham Road. 1st glow June 2nd. Maximum number 7 on any one night. Reports are that Glow-Worms have advanced further along the northern verge of Back Road and there have been more sightings on the southern verge compared to previous years.

The grass on the verges has been left uncut this year which may be of benefit to the beetles as they climb up the stems

to display. RCC is also aware of the population there and will delay any roadworks until after the peak season.

My thanks to Ronald Fraser for these records.

Ketton Quarry. 29.06.20 car park area of reserve. One only seen displaying. Reports from previous years show a population in this area.

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## PLANT GALLS

**RECORDER Roy Lemmon**

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No reports for **Jan/Feb/ March**

### April/May 2020

A slow start to the gall season due, of course, to Covid-19. The 23rd April saw just 2 reports from Bloody Oaks Quarry, one a mite on Spindle and the other the rust on Dog's Mercury.

May 13th saw two more reports from BOQ, and also another three from Ketton Quarry on May 16th. These were mites on Sloe and Hazel (big bud), and the rust on Dog Rose. May 19th had a report of Choke on grass, the only one so far this year, from Wing. Barrowden Road Ketton had the mite gall on Cleavers on the same date, together with a smut gall on Goat's Beard. This is only the second report we have for the county for this species.

Prior's Coppice on May 21st was productive as usual, with a total of 11 species; and Clipsham rounded off the month with 2 rusts from Yew Tree Avenue and a further 17 taxa from Clipsham Park Wood.

### June 2020

The total this month was 72 species of gall reported from some 8 sites around the County. Naturally, the commoner ones appear several times in this total but there were some that we don't see very often.

Among these were mite and midge galls on Lime, from Exton and Wing respectively, mite galls on Elm from Ketton Quarry and Wing, and a sawfly gall which manifests as leaf curl on Grey Willow, from Stretton Wood.

On a less positive note there does seem to be, as last year, a marked lack of galls on Oak. It is still early in the season for this species, but it is noticeable that the early galls one would expect to find are very few. In our case there were two in Wing on **June 9th** and one in Ketton Quarry on the **June 6th**.

Robin's Pincushion galls are appearing on Rose and as previously noted the early ones are usually on very small seedlings which are presumably easier for the gall wasp to lay her eggs on.

*Thanks are due to L Clark, M Grimes and R Lemmon for their input.*



Photo - L Biddle

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# COMMUNICATION BY WEBSITE AND FIELDFARE

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**RNHS is always trying to move forward in the way that it communicates with current members and with possible new members. As I am sure many of you are aware, we have a very colourful and informative website.**

What we would like to try and do is encourage everyone to look at it on a regular basis and use it as a means of communication.

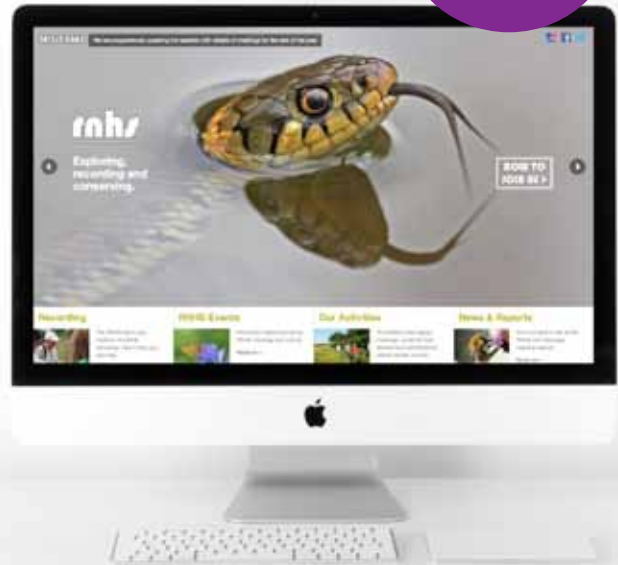
**The site includes: -**

- Back copies of Fieldfare and Annual Reports.
- Details of forthcoming events, with up to date information to supplement the programme issued at the beginning of the year.
- A page on how you can get involved in recording your sightings, with forms you can complete and submit to the recorders.
- Information on current news items and reports of past meetings.
- Click on the “How to join us” box and another list appears which includes access to links for other relevant organisations, plus the two archive sections.
- This section also includes the “Sightings map” to show recent sightings and then an “Add sighting” section to add your recent sighting. **(This does not replace the need to submit your sightings to the recorders though.)**

If you have a smart-phone, i-pad, computer or any other form of tablet, or even access to the computers in the library, you should be able to get onto the RNHS website. I would like to ask everyone that can access the website, to have a good old mooch around to see what is there. I am sure you will enjoy the experience.

For those of you who currently receive a paper copy of Fieldfare, would you like to receive this electronically? You will then have a copy in **full colour throughout** and as a bonus - a few days before paper copies are mailed out. It will also save on printing and posting costs and help us towards a more environmentally friendly Society. To change your delivery method, please get in touch with either Margaret Conner or myself (or see Fieldfare for contact details) and we will change it for you. It's as simple as that!

[www.rnhs.org.uk](http://www.rnhs.org.uk)



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## LRWT MEETINGS

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**All will most likely to be zoom meetings, so booking is essential. Details are on the Trust website so please do look up before you try to attend.**

**19th October.** Bats in Leics and Rutland. Nathalie Cossa of LRWT

**16th November.** Ulverscroft and Charnwood Nature Reserves. Neil Pilcher LRWT.

**14th December.** The Red Fox. Carl Soulsbury. Lincoln University.

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# RNHS PHOTOGRAPHIC COMPETITION AND 2021 CALENDAR

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***This article was written before the recent coronavirus outbreak. Please see note at bottom of article.***

**This will be our Fourth RNHS wildlife calendar! The previous three have been brilliant and we are looking to carry on in a similar manner for 2021.**

**Whilst 2021 seems a long way off, we still need to be out there snapping away at the local wildlife. This will ensure we have a wide selection of seasonal photographs to choose from.**

The photographs will hopefully form part of our Members/Recorders evening on 1st December 2020. Our 2019 evening was a great success and I would like to thank everyone who contributed.

When all your photographs have been received, a selection process will then take place to choose the best ones for the 2021 calendar. This process is of course subjective and hopefully the photographs will cover a wide range of topics, so that we have a good balance within the calendar. As with any "competition" there must be rules, so: -

- 1) DEADLINE August 31st**
- 2) Maximum of three entries per participant**, with a short description and /or caption for each including **date and place**. Recent photos preferred to reflect recent sightings (2019 and 2020).
- 3) High resolution photos** to support quality printing in the calendar. Please send these as attachments to email me at:- [peter.scott27@btopenworld.com](mailto:peter.scott27@btopenworld.com)

**4)** Please, only send your entries as **landscape** as we cannot use portrait for the calendar.

**5) Content:** Can be general views of Rutland, or wildlife photos ideally taken in Rutland. We will also accept photos taken whilst out of county i.e. on a RNHS outing, or wildlife that can also be found in Rutland, in order to broaden the possibilities.

**Please remember to be sympathetic to the subject matter and do not disturb nest sites, roost sites etc and be careful not to tread on those small creatures and plants that we want to protect.**

It is hoped that many members will have a go – and remember – the wider the subject matter we cover, the better. If you would like to discuss any of these details further, please feel free to send an email or call me on my mobile 07535 508932. Thankyou. Peter Scott.

## How to purchase your RNHS calendar

In the past, most of the calendars have been bought at our winter indoor meetings before Christmas, but due to restrictions this is not an option now. To get around this hurdle we are asking if you would like to **pre-order your calendar** by getting in touch with either **Peter Scott** or **Margaret Conner (details at back of Fieldfare)**, so that we have an idea of how many calendars to print. Unfortunately, if it turns out there is a lack of demand and it is not cost effective to print just a few copies, we will create a digital copy of the calendar to include the winning photographs instead.

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# RNHS FILMING AND PHOTOGRAPHY POLICY

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We would like to advise all members that filming and/or photography may take place at indoor or outdoor meetings.

If you do not wish to appear in any images captured please tell us so that we can take appropriate steps to ensure you are not included.

The film/photographs may be used by the Society for news and promotion purposes in local, regional or national media sources who, together with the recorder/photographer and the Society will have access to the film/photographs.

They may also be included in the Society publications or in Society promotional materials and may also be published on the Society website and social media platforms such as Facebook etc.

Images will be held in accordance with the Data Protection Act/General Data Protection Regulations.

Images captured in the video recordings and/or photographs will be the copyright of the Society and any other intellectual property which arises in the recordings will also belong to the Society.

You can ask the Society to stop using your images at any time, in which case they will not be used in future publications but may continue to appear in publications already in circulation.

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## PHOTOS FROM AROUND THE COUNTY

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Many thanks to the following for their pictures: *L Biddle, D Needham, R Edwards, P Bennet, S Widdowson, D Cotter*





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Fieldfare and on the RNHS website.

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