



Woodland foray. Photo Ian Day

## CONTENTS

Diary dates	2
Weather	3
Amphibians & reptiles	4
Bats	4
Birds	6
Botany	10
Butterflies	12
Moths	13
Orthoptera	14
Insects & invertebrates	16
Mammals	17
Plant galls	18
Field trips	19
RNHS notices	19
RNHS contacts	20

## WELCOME

**By the time you read this edition of FF you will have been able to join our first zoom meeting with Ben Devine on Fungi**, provided all goes to plan and tecchie demons allowing!

Who would have thought this time last year that our meetings would be available from our own homes without the inconvenience of going out on dark evenings?!

We have been so lucky to have had a lovely summer, making the covid restrictions easier to cope with, and allowing us to enjoy the outdoors. I am enjoying looking through your lockdown wildlife counts and will save announcing results until our December Members meeting.

The summer has flown by and we are now planning a programme for 2021. Who knows what changes may have happened by then, but we are pressing ahead, optimistic that we may be able to have normal member numbers. In the meantime, outdoor meetings will continue to be smaller affairs of one or more groups of 6 with separate leaders, following all Covid regulations. **Make sure we have an up to date email address for each of you and keep an eye on the website in case of changes to planned events.**

Recorders have been busy this autumn, unusual plants seen on a new verge between Empingham and Ketton, new gall species at Shacklewell Hollow and George Henry Wood, and finally, an adult Oak Processionary Moth near Lyndon visitor centre. (See moth report). This is a new record for the area, but the caterpillar of this moth species is a serious pest of oak trees, introduced into the UK in 2005 and a notifiable pest, subject to a control scheme by the Forestry commission. The pest has formerly been restricted to the counties in and around London, so let us hope that no eggs had been laid on the nature reserve!



Many thanks go to Linda Clark who is continuing post lockdown to produce the delightful between fieldfare bulletin, since so many of you liked it! If you have news to contribute, then do send to Linda for inclusion in the next edition.

Fieldfares (the feathered kind!) and redwings will be arriving soon, along with other winter migrants. The leaves are turning to vibrant autumn colours and an abundance of brilliant berries are adorning the bushes. There is a lot to enjoy in the autumn and winter landscape, so do keep on going out to investigate, even if you need to wrap up warmly!

**Linda Biddle, RNHS Chair**

## DIARY DATES



### RNHS Indoor Evening Meetings

**Tuesday 3rd November. 7.30pm.**

**Birds of the water.**

**Underwater filming by Jack Perks.** Jack Perks is a professional wildlife photographer who has appeared on Springwatch and other programmes.

**THIS WILL BE A ZOOM MEETING.** Now No Need to book ahead, but do look out for your invitation which will come with a poster from Peter Scott and will contain a link, meeting Id and password. You may not need the password and Id but we include them just in case! It is very easy to do – just click on the blue link with lots of unintelligible numbers and letters on it follow the instructions on screen and then wait to be invited in.

**Tuesday 1st December. 7.30pm.**

**Members/recorders evening.**

Our annual members/recorders evening with updates on the difficult issues and events of the past year. The evening will include the results of the photographic competition and the availability of next year's calendar.

**THIS WILL BE A ZOOM MEETING.** As before no need to book ahead just look out for your invitation from the society via Peter Scott which will contain the log in details. Most importantly – Wear a fancy hat, bring your own mince pies and fill a glass if you so wish!

**Tuesday 5th January. 7.30pm.**

**Nightingales by Mike Drew of Anglian Water.**

Mike is a Biodiversity Action Plan scientist and ecologist.

**ZOOM MEETING AS BEFORE.**

### RNHS Outdoor Field Trips

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

**If you would like to participate in any of the trips below, you need to pre-book with Linda Biddle or Linda Clark, (Phone number on back contacts page). Keeping to National guidelines, we will be in groups of 6 including the leader. Please wear good footwear and warm clothing with waterproofs when appropriate.**

**Please note that the trip to the Attenborough Nature reserve has been cancelled due to ongoing covid regulations.**

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

**Winter birds at Nene washes.**

Meet at Eldernell. Map ref TZ318 992. This is a lane to the left after you leave Whittlesey and go through Eastrea and Coates. There is a big tractor sales outlet where you turn left down this lane. Go over bridge/hump into the car park

that looks over the washes. It is a reasonable size car park, but it can get busy. The walks, although grassy, can get wet, so wear appropriate footwear and outdoor clothing. There are no local facilities. Binoculars are essential. Good for owls, harriers, cranes, kingfisher etc.

Please book this meeting with Linda Clark. Details on back contacts' page.

**Sunday 10th January 2021. 10.00am.**

**Winter Walk in Morkery woods.**

A beautiful ancient semi-natural woodland with plenty of fungi, squirrels, rabbits or maybe you might spot the odd browsing muntjac.

Meet at Map ref: SK953 191. If you need more information on where exactly we will be meeting, please refer to the website or contact Linda Biddle as above.

**Saturday 13th February 2021. 10.00am.**

**Rutland Water Nature Reserve. Egleton.**

More information on this will be given in January's Fieldfare and on the website. Keep looking at the website: [www.rnhs.org.uk](http://www.rnhs.org.uk)



### A note from our Botany recorder

Since we have been deprived of outings this year, I wondered if members would like to tackle a new event that many botanists now take part in across the country. **A New Year's Day plant hunt**, looking for plants flowering on the day. The BSBI organize such events here and there; there is usually one in Leicester and I think this year's was shown on Countryfile.

Perhaps members could let me know if they would like to take part and if so where do they suggest we do it. The usual thing is to go around a town, I think.

If there are enough people interested, all we will need is decent weather.

Please email John Rodgers at:  
rnhsbotanyrecord@gmail.com

### Other society meetings

#### Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust. Rutland group.

*For events in Leicestershire and Rutland, please go to their website: [lrwt.org.uk](http://lrwt.org.uk) to book your place. The talks are free to join.*

#### Thursday 19th November. 7.30 – 8.30pm.

##### Moles with Derek Crawley.

Hosted by Leicestershire and Rutland Badger Group. Derek Crawley is the mammal recorder for Staffordshire and will present an illustrated talk on the Natural History of the Mole.

The event will be online via zoom. We will provide you with all the details you need to log into zoom and join the webinar once you have registered. Places to the live talk are limited but the webinar will be recorded and made available on youtube afterwards.

#### Monday 14th December. 7.30 – 8.30pm.

##### Red fox.

Dr. Carl Soulsbury from Lincoln University will give a talk about the Red fox. Again, this is via zoom and you will need to register through their website.

---

## WEATHER

### RECORDER Roy Lemmon

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU.

Telephone 01780 762051 E-mail: [roy.lemmon@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:roy.lemmon@yahoo.co.uk)

---

### July 2020

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** Overall a month of low pressures, the lowest I recorded was 1005 mb on the 1st and the highest 1030 mb on the 12th. Winds were W–N on all but 5 days and in the first week were gusty, with 25 mph gusts being recorded at 09.00 on the 5th.

**Temperatures.** A cool July, the overall mean temperature, 17.25 °C, was 7th in the decade 2011–2020; the lowest overnight minimum was 7.1 °C on the 10th–11th and the highest daytime maximum was 35.8 °C on the 31st. Nationally this was the 3rd hottest day on record, with 37.8 °C being recorded at Heathrow Airport.

**Rain.** The total recorded here was 50.6 mm (1.99 inches) which corresponds to 91% of my long-term mean of 30 years.

### August 2020

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** In general, a low pressure month which resulted in changeable conditions and included 2 named storms, Ellen on the 21st and 22nd, followed by Francis 3 days later. This latter lasted until the 26th and at 15.00 on the 25th I recorded gusts up to 36 mph, not necessarily the height of the storm. Winds were NW–N on 17 days and mostly SE–SW for the rest of the month.

**Temperature.** The mean temperature for the month, 19.09 °C, was the warmest August in the decade 2011–2020,

ahead of August 2018 at 18.52 °C. There were 4 days in the first half of the month when I recorded temperatures above 30 °C, the highest being 34.7 °C on the 12th, but the last five days of the month were much cooler and the lowest overnight minimum was 5.1 °C on the 30th–31st.

**Rain.** A total of 80.1 mm (3.15 inches) was recorded here, second in the above quoted decade to August 2014 at 112.2 mm (4.4 inches). The first half of the month was very dry with the second half supplying 88% of the total.

### September 2020

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** Pressures were above 1018 mb up to the 21st, after which they were lower, the lowest of the month being 995 mb on the 24th. This latter part of the month was markedly windy, generally cooler and the majority of the rain fell in this period. Wind directions were SW–W up to the 15th and then NW–NE.

**Temperature.** The overall mean for the month, 15.31 °C, was fourth in the decade 2011–2020, after 2016, 2011 and 2014. The lowest overnight minimum was 5.5 °C on 24th–25th, and there were 4 daytime maxima over 25 °C, the highest being 29.4 °C on the 15th.

**Rain.** A dry September with a total of 17.8 mm recorded here. My long-term mean of 30 years for this month is 49.4 mm, hence this month's rainfall was 36% of LTM. Some 87% of this month's rainfall was 36% of LTM. Some 87% of this fell in the last 9 days of the month, as mentioned above.

---

## AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

---

**RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore**

*Waterdown, Brooke Road, Braunston, Rutland LE15 8UJ.*

*E-mail: chasgall@hotmail.com*

---

### July, August, September 2020

Members have managed to find a few amphibians and reptiles as some of our freedom has been restored.

I have been surprised by the number of frogs of various sizes, ranging from tiny froglets to full-size adults, that have appeared in my small pondless garden in my temporary abode in Oakham during this period. The only other records of Common Frogs were from near Prior's Coppice and Wood Lane near Braunston. Common Toads were reported from Wing in the churchyard, the allotments and from a Wing garden. Numerous toadlets were also seen in Wood Lane.

The only record of Viviparous Lizard was from near the railway line in Wing. It is reassuring that they are still around in Wing following the development of the Manton Water Tower, where

there was a healthy population and the earlier building of the new water treatment works which eliminated a sizeable population a dozen years ago. There was also a welcome record of a basking Slow Worm in an Uppingham garden in September. This is the first record from Uppingham since 1997 and indeed only the second since the creation of the Society, although there are records in 1947 and 1903. I suspect that they are overlooked in gardens.

There were only three records of Grass Snakes – a dead one at Market Overton in July and a live one in Wing also in July – both described as large, and another one in Wing in early September.

My thanks to the following who sent records:-

*T Caldicott, L Clark, C & P Comben,, T Land, L Park and S Smalley*

---

## BATS

---

**RECORDER Jenny Harris**

*41 Woodland View, Oakham LE15 6EJ.*

*Telephone: 01572 755274 E-mail: jennyharris221@gmail.com*

---

There have not been many occasions during this summer period when I have gone out specifically to observe bats and the same seems to have been true for other members, as I have received no bat records since the last report, so there are few general records from around the county. However, from July to September the changeable weather often triggered a rush of grounded bats with 19 coming into care, particularly in July. By comparison, seven grounded bats were dealt with in the same period of 2019. Several new maternity roosts were found as a consequence of finding infant or juvenile bats and I hope that we convinced the householders that this was no bad thing. My bat rescue and care activities cover an area from south of Kettering to just north of Grantham and during the course of this work, I have met many lovely people and seen sights that I have never seen before in my 35 years of bat care. In all these years I have never had to call upon the out-of-hours vet, but I did so for the little pipistrelle with active fly strike. My deep gratitude to Oakham Veterinary Practice for all their help and support this year.

Linda Clark has been a great help and without her calm response I might have completely lost the plot in July, when sometimes five calls a day were coming in. Thank you, Linda.

Despite some easing of lockdown restrictions, no surveys of the bat boxes at Burley Wood were carried out. Harp trapping for the National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project, carried out since 2014, and which provided records of several other species in Rutland in previous years, were not reinstated, so the species accounts are rather thin.



*Long-eared bat. Photo D. Hargreaves*

Date	Species	Location	Sex/age	Comments/Outcome
03.07	Pipistrelle sp.	Colley Rise, Lyddington (roost) TL872974	u/k	Returned to roost 3.7.20
09.07	Pipistrelle sp.	Colley Rise, as above	u/k	Returned to roost 9.7.20
10.07	Soprano pipistrelle x 3; f/a all 30mm	Manton, (roost) SK879045	All female, Juvenile	Released at roost 12.7.20
11.07	Soprano pipistrelle x 4; no further information	Manton as above	3 female, 1 male	Females Released at roost 12.7.20; male died 11.7.20
15.07	Soprano pipistrelle 3.3g	Manton as above	Female, juvenile	Released at roost, 1.8.20; 4.7g
15.07	Soprano pipistrelle 3.0g	Manton as above	Male, juvenile	Released at roost, 1.8.20; 4.5g
21.07	Common pipistrelle, f/a 24.5mm	Whissendine, SK829142	Male, infant	Roost unknown. Euthanased 22.7.20
31.07	Brown long-eared, weight 4.6g, f/a 37mm	Wing Hall, SK882028	Male, juvenile	Very thin, died 2.8.20
02.08	Common pipistrelle, no further information	Uppingham, SK860000	Male, juvenile	Thin, fly strike, taken for euthanasia
06.08	Common pipistrelle, 3.7g, f/a 30mm	Empingham, (roost), SK948084	Female, juvenile	Trauma around wing bones, euthanasia 8.8.20
13.08	Common pipistrelle, 4.5g, f/a 33mm	Oakham, west, SK849088	Female, adult	Released 24.8.20
18.08	No id, but probably pipistrelle	Stockenhall Road, Stretton (roost)	unknown	Caught by cat but escaped at site
31.08	Common pipistrelle, 3.7g, f/a 31mm	Lyddington Church (roost) SP876969	Male, adult	Caught in cobwebs, released 6.9.20, 5.1g
06.09	Brown long-eared, 7.0g, f/a 37.5mm	Morcott, SK924007	Male, juvenile	Thin, no fur on body, to be overwintered

**Notes:** The weight noted (in grams) in the species column is the weight when the bat was brought in for care; that in the comments/outcome column is the weight when the bat was released.

Where an address or map reference has been omitted, this is to preserve the privacy of a roost in private property.

**Key:** f/a – forearm length in millimetres. A pipistrelle with a forearm length of less than 28mm is unlikely to have begun flying and is unlikely to be weaned.

**Daubenton's bat *Myotis daubentonii*.** The only record was of Daubenton's bats foraging close to the south shore of RW, viewed from Teal Hide near the Visitor Centre on 12 September. They were seen in strong torchlight, with up to three following each other over the reservoir, rarely coming close to shore.

**Noctule *Nyctalus noctula*.** This species was seen and heard foraging over Field 1, close to Gilbert Gorse at Lyndon NR on 12 September. They appeared from south of the reserve and foraged preferentially over this small field; although no more than two were seen at any one time the impression was that there were more bats circling the area.

**Common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*.** In early July it was noticed that bats had returned to the maternity roost in Lyddington; 31 bats were seen leaving the roost one evening. On 22 July, I attempted to return the infant found in Whissendine by placing it in a shallow box (warmed by a hotwater bottle) near where it was found in the hope its mother would hear it and pick it up. This was unsuccessful, but there were regular occurrences of common pipistrelles foraging over the brook beside the road, SK828141. I received a call on 8 July that a bat had been seen in a crevice between a lean-to greenhouse and the house wall in Cottesmore, SK898132. It had been there several days. When I tried to reach it, fearing it might be trapped, it retreated behind the greenhouse frame, out of sight. Droppings below roost site suggested it had been going out to feed, so no need for concern about its wellbeing. The mother found at Stretton in June (see July Fieldfare) and its male juvenile were returned to the roost on 6 July. This was only partially successful, as the mother refused to enter the roost and flew off; the youngster, however, was persuaded to enter and it is hoped it will learn from other juveniles and any adults still present where to find insects. The male found in Lyddington Church had become trapped in and covered by cobwebs; it had cleaned itself by



the time it was collected but as it only weighed 3.7g (very low for the end of August) it was released only when it had gained weight. On 12 September, numerous common pipistrelles were foraging at Teal Hide, Lyndon NR. In fact, as the door and windows had been left open as Covid-19 precautions, several were foraging inside the hide. Spiders and insects had gathered around the windows encouraging the bats to come extremely close to feed on them.

**Soprano pipistrelle** *P. pygmaeus*. A total of nine juvenile bats were found away from their roost at Manton over the course of six days. It is always difficult to know how quickly to return juveniles to a roost if their weight is low, even though they have a full-grown forearm of 30mm. Some seemed reasonably plump and were released at the site quickly; those with a low weight were kept longer to gain weight. When released, they did not fly to the roost but followed other bats that were already emerging. There were soprano pipistrelles foraging at Lyndon NR and around Teal Hide.

**Nathusius' pipistrelle** *P. nathusii*. On 12th September, several passes by this species were heard on Echo-meter

Touch and Ana-bat detectors, foraging along the edge of Field 1 at Lyndon NR. They were not heard at Teal Hide, which has been a regular spot for them in the past.

**Pipistrelle sp.** *Pipistrellus sp.* Pipistrelle bats were recorded by volunteer and professional bat ecologists at Stretton Church. A bat found its way into a bedroom in Preston, ending up under a radiator. It had made its exit through an open window by the time I arrived to 'rescue' it.

**Brown long-eared bat** *Plecotus auritus*. An ecological survey at Stretton Church confirmed the presence of brown long-eared bats. The ecologist forwarded a video showing a cluster of at least ten bats roosting inside the church on 28 July. The last grounded bat for the period was a juvenile male, found in Morcott near the church. It was very thin, but its main problem at this time of year is that it has no fur on its back or underside. There was no obvious reason for this but in the past Dr Bob Stebbings has suggested this could be caused by malnutrition. The fur will not begin to re-grow until spring; the bat will therefore be over-wintered until next year. It is a good eater and very lively.

---

## BIRDS

**Recorder Terry Mitcham**

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

E-mail: [joterpat@btinternet.com](mailto:joterpat@btinternet.com)

---

The easing of lockdown in July enabled bird recording to step up a gear and more records were received. Herons, egrets and Spoonbills were well reported and wildfowl counts at Rutland Water got underway, reminding us how lucky we are to have this superb site on our doorstep. A good variety of waders, topped by a White-rumped Sandpiper, passed through, whilst unsettled weather brought Gannets, a Manx Shearwater - the latter sadly killed by a Great Black-backed Gull - along with a remarkable arrival of juvenile Shags. A sighting of a Quail during farming operations was a rare sight.

August and September brought Redstarts, Whinchats, Stonechats and Wheatears with flocks of Redpolls and Siskins passing through, along with a few Crossbills. Autumn is well underway with the first Whooper Swans and Redwings already reported. What will the final quarter of the year bring?

My thanks to the following for their records:-

*T.Appleton, R.Baker, D.& J.Ball, A.J.& L.Biddle, T.Caldicott, D.P.Cole, T.Collins, A.& J.Comber, J.Davis, Dr.C.H.Gallimore, M.& G.Griffin, K.Holderness, T.Land, P.Langston, LROS, D.Masters, K.Mather, I.Misselbrook, T.Mitcham, B.Moore, J.W.Nourish, P.Rudkin, J.Wheeler*

### July 2020

**Highlights.** Rutland Water had two Cattle Egrets (6th), two Little Stints (16th and 25th) and a Little Tern (26th)

**Rutland Water.** Garganey were noted (15th, 21st, 30th) with a Common Scoter (29th) Great White Egrets increased

to five (30th). A juvenile Marsh Harrier was present. Waders included three Little Ringed Plovers (25th), 29 Black-tailed Godwits (6th) with 24 (16th), a Knot (6th), five Dunlin (25th), four Common Sandpipers (16th), five Green Sandpipers (25th, 30th), 26 Redshanks (6th) and a Greenshank (10th). Yellow-legged Gulls increased to 17 (28th). There were single Arctic Tern (13th) and Black Tern (4th). Hobbies were regular and there was a Peregrine (30th). 15 Cetti's Warblers were ringed and there were four Grasshopper Warblers. A Whinchat was near Gibbet Gorse (8th) and seven Crossbills flew through (13th).

**Other Sites.** At Morcott 17 Mandarin Ducks were present (two broods). There were three broods of Gadwall and two of Tufted Ducks at Fort Henry Ponds. Tufted Ducks also bred at George Henry Wood and Greetham Valley GC. A covey of 15 Grey Partridges was near Cottesmore Airfield (25th). Six Little Egrets were at Banthorpe GP (26th). A Common Sandpiper was at Fort Henry Ponds (2nd). Curlew flew over Martinthorpe (12th, 14th, 18th) with a Whimbrel (27th), Greenshank (11th) and a Green Sandpiper (31st) over Manton. Little Owls were near Brooke and at Morcott. Hobbies were at Manton (5th, 17th) and Fort Henry (25th). Ravens were at five sites with seven over Eyebrook (19th). Cetti's Warblers bred at a private site. 28 Mistle Thrushes flew over Wing (17th). There were two Redstarts at Martinthorpe (12th, 15th) with one at Manton all month and one in a Stamford garden (20th) and two Wheatears at Luffenham Airfield (21st). 15 Siskins flew over Wing (10th) with a Lesser Redpoll over Manton (26th) and single Crossbills on four dates between (7th - 20th).

## August 2020

**Highlights.** A Quail was at Preston (11th). At Rutland Water there was a Spoonbill (15th-31st) with two (24th). Two Cattle Egrets were at Egleton (2nd-3rd) with one (18th) plus 17 Great White Egrets (17th). A major influx of Shags from (22nd) produced an impressive peak of 29 roosting (31st), mainly around the dam. A White-tailed Eagle was over north arm (1st). A White-rumped Sandpiper was at Egleton (14th). Pied Flycatchers were at Luffenham Airfield (13th) and Manton (17th).

**Rutland Water.** One or two Garganey were present (15th-30th) with two Red-crested Pochard (9th). A Bittern was seen irregularly to (22nd) and 127 Little Egrets roosted (18th). A Marsh Harrier was at Egleton all month. A good wader passage produced 17 Ringed Plovers (20th), 11 Black-tailed Godwits (11th), two Turnstones (16th), 15 Knot over (30th), four Ruff (26th), a Curlew Sandpiper (26th), two Sanderling, (22nd), ten Common Sandpipers (18th), up to nine Green Sandpipers (all month), one or two Wood Sandpipers (9th-30th) and four Greenshanks (14th). Little Gulls were noted (1st, 21st) with Mediterranean Gulls (14th, 29th) and a Caspian Gull (11th). Single Arctic Terns passed through (15th, 17th, 25th) with Black Terns (9th-29th) and four (20th).

**Other Sites.** Gadwall at Fort Henry Ponds peaked at 55 (30th) with five Green Sandpipers also present. Two Shags were at Eyebrook (24th) with one (25th-27th). A Cattle Egret was at Eyebrook Reservoir (5th-17th). Five Green Sandpipers flew over Manton (19th). Three Wood Sandpipers were at Eyebrook (10th-11th) with two to (17th) and one next day. A Barn Owl was at Leighfield (31st) and five Tawny Owls called there on the same date. A Short-eared Owl was at Luffenham Airfield (11th). Little Owls were only noted near Barrow. Kingfishers were at Quarry Farm, Fort Henry, Leighfield and Martinsthorpe. Our latest Swift was over Manton (31st). Hobbies bred at one site with others seen at Banthorpe GP, Exton Park and Fort Henry, Manton, Lyndon, Martinsthorpe and Leighfield. Peregrines were seen at RW, Glaston, Wing and Martinsthorpe. 24 Mistle Thrushes flew over Wing (5th). Redstarts were at Martinsthorpe (1st-28th) and Luffenham Airfield with Whinchats at the latter site and six Wheatears (18th). A Tree Pipit was ringed at Luffenham Airfield (19th) and four flew over Leighfield (24th). A Willow Tit was near Glaston (18th). 20 Ravens were at Leighfield (27th) with three Crossbills over Martinsthorpe (6th) and four at Leighfield (27th). 12 Siskins flew over Leighfield (31st). 150 Linnets were at Martinsthorpe (28th).

## September 2020

**Highlights.** Rutland Water had a Manx Shearwater (4th), the Spoonbill to (13th), 12 Shags (4th) with at least two to (25th). Two Gannets flew over Burley Wood (1st). Three Sandwich Terns were at Rutland Water (17th).

**Rutland Water.** 30 Pink-footed Geese flew over Egleton (29th). There were five Whooper Swans (27th) with one still on (29th). On the count (20th) were 1618 Wigeon, 1397 Gadwall, 831 Teal, 78 Pintail, two Garganey (to the end of the month), 302 Shoveler, two Red-crested Pochards, 4907 Tufted Ducks and three Goldeneye. A Bittern was seen (13th). There were 24 Great White Egrets (21st), 1228 Cormorants and 459 Great –crested Grebes. Black-necked and Red-necked

Grebes were present all month. The last Osprey left (14th) and there were one or two Marsh Harriers all month. Peak wader counts included six Ringed Plovers (20th), six Curlew (20th), eight Black-tailed Godwits (20th), two Knot (6th, 20th), a Curlew Sandpiper (1st-7th) and seven Dunlin (20th). Also noted were two Little Stints (6th-9th), two Wood Sandpipers (2nd) and 11 Green Sandpipers. There were six Yellow-legged Gulls (13th) with Arctic Terns (20th, 29th two) and a Black Tern (15th). Hobbies were noted to (30th). There was a Whinchat at Egleton (5th) and a Yellow Wagtail at the dam (15th).

**Other Sites.** 45 Pink-footed Geese flew over Manton (29th). Fort Henry Ponds had 40 Shoveler and 64 Gadwall (19th), four Green Sandpipers (5th) and a Mandarin Duck (26th). Grey Partridge coveys were at Cottesmore Airfield, Exton Park and Quarry Farm. A Marsh Harrier flew south at Martinsthorpe (2nd). 73 Collared Doves fed near Quarry Farm (28th), where there was a Hobby (11th). Kingfishers were at Fort Henry Ponds (12th) and Leighfield Fishponds (18th). Peregrines were in Exton Park and at Ridlington. A Willow Tit was at Leighfield Fishponds (18th) 182 House Martins flew SW at Brooke (12th). The first Redwings were 27 over Manton (27th) and 19 Mistle Thrushes flew over Wing (6th). There was a Redstart at Luffenham Airfield (2nd) with one or two at Martinsthorpe (1st-22nd) and one at Leighfield (4th). Five Whinchats were at Luffenham Airfield (2nd) with singles in Exton Park (5th) and Martinsthorpe (13th). Two Stonechats were in Exton Park (26th) with one next day, one at Leighfield (18th) and two at Quarry Farm (30th). Two Wheatears were at Cottesmore Airfield (9th) and one in Exton Park (27th). Three Tree Pipits flew over Martinsthorpe (1st). Three Crossbills were over Exton Park (19th) with singles over Martinsthorpe (21st) and Quarry Farm (23rd, 30th). 120 Linnets were at Ridlington (10th) and 45 Lesser Redpolls flew over Manton (23rd). Flocks of 75 (10th) and 72 (23rd) Siskins over Manton may herald a better winter for this species than the last one.



Kestrel. Photo D. Cotter

## Wildfowl Counts – July - September 2020

	Rutland Water 10.07	Rutland Water 26.08	Rutland Water 20.09	FHP and Exton Park 04.07	FHP and Exton Park 20.08	FHP and Exton Park 19.09
Canada Goose	931	530	651			
Greylag Goose	1121	482	828			
Mute Swan	468	465	243	7	12	12
Egyptian Goose	54	63	43			
Shelduck		4	4			
Mandarin Duck	7	8	3			
Garganey		3	2			
Shoveler	27	132	302	1		40
Gadwall	1744	1462	1397	18	39	64
Wigeon	5	18	1618			1
Mallard	842	1162	1236	96	122	102
Pintail		1	78			
Teal	42	269	831		8	50
Red-crested Pochard		2	2			
Pochard	27	58	57			
Tufted Duck	1478	4724	4907	44	7	5
Goldeneye			3			
Little Grebe	58	162	100		1	2
Red-necked Grebe			1			
Great Crested Grebe	381	677	459			
Black-necked Grebe			1			
Spoonbill		1				
Grey Heron	10	20	29	1	2	1
Great White Egret	3	15	23			
Little Egret	59	70	80			
Shag			1			
Cormorant	368	723	1228	1		1
Water Rail	8	10	6			
Moorhen	62	152	134	7	25	39
Coot	797	1387	2256	47	56	41
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>8492</b>	<b>12600</b>	<b>16523</b>	<b>222</b>	<b>272</b>	<b>358</b>



	EBR 20.09	Holywell Lake 24.09	Banthorpe GP 02.07	Banthorpe GP 20.08	Banthorpe GP 18.09
Canada Goose	196	2			
Greylag Goose	824				
Mute Swan	114	2	2	4	4
Egyptian Goose	2				
Shelduck	1				
Shoveler	25				
Gadwall	64				
Wigeon	218	4			
Mallard	344	62	2	28	12
Pintail	47				
Teal	216	1			20
Pochard	107				
Tufted Duck	45				
Little Grebe	5	22			
Great Crested Grebe	109				
Grey Heron	3	1		1	1
Little Egret	3	2	2	5	5
Cormorant	26	1		1	3
Moorhen	3	14	1	3	5
Coot	480		4	1	
Kingfisher		1			1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>2833</b>	<b>112</b>	<b>11</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>51</b>



---

# BOTANY

**RECORDER John Rodgers**

8 Summerfield, Oakham LE15 6PZ. Telephone: 01572 757278

E-mail: [rnhsbotanyrecord@gmail.com](mailto:rnhsbotanyrecord@gmail.com)

---

## July, August, September 2020

### John Rodgers

What a strange summer it has been. Restrictions on going out or meeting; wide variations in weather, contact only by internet, it is not one that we would want to repeat. Now it is running down, and autumn is here. Plants escape the problems of Covid-19, but they are affected by the weather and the changing climate. Do these changes explain why I discovered a Cowslip in flower near Tinwell last week or is this just a rogue plant wanting to express its independence?

The number of records received between July and September reflect the current situation in the main. Even most of our regular contributors haven't sent in as many, but there has been a boost from survey work done by our colleagues from Leicester who, after the work on the National Atlas last year, have been trying to update local records. They have covered the Northern shore of the reservoir and done some work in and around Oakham. There is still more to be done and I have, from Steve Woodward, lists of plants not recorded since 2000 for the two tetrads that include Oakham. I hope we will be able, from the Society, to cover this area next year.

We did do one survey in early September. One of our members asked about the new road between Ketton and Empingham. There is a new diversion of the old road built to

enable the quarry at Ketton to extend, and the verges have been self-seeding. A small group met with Geoffrey Hall, the county botany recorder, and covered about half of the verges, working North to South. It turned out to be a fruitful exercise. We recorded 82 species. Amongst these were Dwarf Spurge and Night-flowering Catchfly which are both designated "Vulnerable" on the England Red List and thus of national importance. We also found Hare's-foot Clover, and Bugloss for which there have been few records in Rutland over the last 20-30 years. This is obviously an important site which we should try and preserve and which we should survey regularly.

The County Council have been informed of our survey and asked to ensure that it is protected.

Among the other plants found across the county, were Brooklime from Empingham marshy meadow and from Shacklewell Hollow, Alsike Clover near Oakham and also on the Ketton-Empingham road, Ploughman's Spikenard at Oakham and by the A1 at Tinwell, both Blue and Pink Water Speedwell on the North Shore of Rutland Water, Tutsan in the cemetery at Uppingham, and Dwarf Spurge at Pickworth Drift. Common Cudweed and Common Calamint were found on the land by the south-bound slip road of the A1 at Tinwell.

*Many thanks to J&D Ball, A&L Biddle, C Baxter, G Hall, M Grimes, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, D Needham, R Parry, JS&J Rodgers, J Walker and S Woodward for submitting records.*

---

## Elusive plants of Oakham (east)

After our successful expedition to the west of the town (reported in Fieldfare 327), Helen Ikin and myself returned on 24 July to see which old records we could refresh in the east of the town (tetrad SK80U). The BSBI database (<https://database.bsbi.org/>) reported that 458 species had ever been found, a respectable total, but only 65% had been seen since 1999. The way I tackle this kind of recording is to print out the full list, having put a grey background on the species that do not need to be re-found, a white background on those we do need, and a pink highlight on those that we really should re-find, such as Scarlet Pimpernel *Lysimachia arvensis* and Common Poppy *Papaver rhoeas*. Then in the field, I cross through the species I find and doodle the additions into the margin. A ny unusual finds get a grid reference too.

From the Burley Road car park by the castle, we passed the library and headed out of town on Stamford Road, over the by-pass roundabout. Keeping to the Old Stamford Road, we made a brief diversion along Church Lane towards Egleton, then a little further along Old Stamford Road to the boundary of the tetrad. Turning around, we headed back towards Oakham and took the public footpath to the sewage works, then to Dog Kennel Cottage and along the drive onto the by-pass (Burley Park Way). We followed the by-pass anti-clockwise to the disused canal at the north of the town, then worked our way south past the industrial site onto Kilburn Road. We were out of our tetrad for a while until we reached the Police Station.



**Giant hogweed near by-pass at north of Oakham.**  
**This is a stunted plant. Giant hogweed can grow to 5 metres! Steve Woodward**

The first part of Stamford Road has tidy verges and many shady conifers, nonetheless we soon found one of our target weed species, Common Poppy *Papaver rhoeas* along with Cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata* and Redshank (the plant, not the bird) *Persicaria maculosa*. Towards the roundabout, more open conditions provided a home for Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*. This is one of the easiest willowherbs to identify, with its tall, long-haired stems and big flowers with cross-shaped stigmas. In the hedge, Helen found the twining climber with little white flowers that she calls "Mile-a-minute" on account of its growth-rate. Officially it is Russian-vine



*Fallopia baldschuanica*. Despite having eye-catching, blue flowers, Meadow Crane's-bill *Geranium pratense* had not been reported here for 20 years. Somebody must have seen it, but a record had not reached the BSBI, where records need to be for inclusion in national and county atlases.

Near the roundabout we found Goat's-beard *Tragopogon pratensis* (in fruit now, like a big dandelion-clock) and the umbellifer with rough, wiry and often dark stems: Upright Hedge-parsley *Torilis japonica*. Approaching the stream, a few wetland plants began to appear, including Indian Balsam (alias Policeman's Helmet) *Impatiens glandulifera*. The fruits are explosive, so that some seeds disperse upstream. This species has spread a little since Messenger's *Flora of Rutland* (1971) but not as dramatically as it has done in Leicestershire.

On the Old Stamford Road, at the edge of the tarmac, we recognised a fine, stiff, bluish grass as Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass *Puccinellia distans*. Old botany books will tell you to look for it in salt marshes, but now it is very common along the kerbs of salted roads in land-locked counties. It usually occurs with its coastal companion Lesser Sea-spurrey *Spergularia marina*, as indeed was the case here. This halophyte has fleshy, linear leaves and little pink flowers. Along this road verge were many examples of Mugwort *Artemisia vulgaris*, with white, felty undersides to the leaf. We found a single plant of its scarcer relative Wormwood *Artemisia absinthium*, which is furry on both sides of the leaf and is more fragrant. The latter is a new tetrad record.

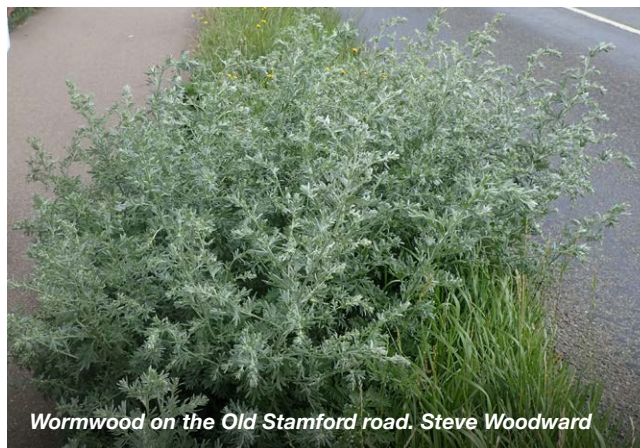
The footpath past the sewage works approached another stream, where we added Common Club-rush *Schoenoplectus lacustris*, Branched Bur-reed *Sparganium erectum*, Winter-cress *Barbarea vulgaris* and Hard Rush *Juncus inflexus* to our tally. The grazing sheep seemed to be ignoring Meadow Barley *Hordeum secalinum*. It is similar to the Wall Barley



*Ploughman's spikenard on the by-pass. Steve Woodward*

*Hordeum murinum* (whose heads used to be thrown as darts by children) but Meadow Barley has shorter, neater bristles on its flowering head.

Turning right onto the by-pass, we were impressed by the wide verges with a strip of unmown vegetation by the hedge. Hairy St John's-wort *Hypericum hirsutum* was fairly frequent in the unmown margin, this St John's-wort has noticeably fuzzy stems. I mentioned Ploughman's-spikenard *Inula conyzae* in my account of west Oakham, but here it was again as a new tetrad record, this time five large plants in flower near the sports field at SK865098. Nearby we found a plant of Lucerne



*Medicago sativa* ssp. *sativa* and another of Musk-mallow *Malva moschata*. A planted London Plane tree *Platanus x hispanica* near the Ashwell Road roundabout was another first record. Before the distinctive flaky bark develops, the tree could be overlooked as Sycamore, but the fruits are totally different, like pom-poms.

Just east of the canal at SK863099, is an impressive stand of Giant Hogweed *Heracleum mantegazzianum* that can be identified at 40 mph from the by-pass! Reassuringly, this had been recorded previously, nonetheless we could not resist having a close look (taking care not to touch) and to take yet more photographs. The story of the misguided introduction of this "Royal beast" is set to music by Genesis on their Nursery Cryme album from 1971 (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J5MZzGCunB8>). A section of the disused canal that still holds water can be seen from the footpath on the south side of the by-pass (but not from a car). It seemed somewhat overgrown and inaccessible but we recognised Water Mint *Mentha aquatica*, Water-cress *Nasturtium officinale* agg., Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga* and a stand of Reed Sweet-grass *Glyceria maxima*.

By the Police Station a couple of garden plants had escaped onto the pavement, a Tobacco Plant *Nicotiana* (species unidentified) and Garden Lobelia *Lobelia erinus*. Finally, another street tree was added to the tetrad list: Italian Alder *Alnus cordata*.

By the end of the day, we had re-found 62 and added 19 species (subject to validation, of course, by the County Recorder), sufficient to raise the coverage score above 75%. Records will be copied to the RNHS Botany Recorder.

As for Scarlet Pimpernel, and the numerous other "common" species that eluded us, we leave it up to RNHS members to find them. There is more to this exercise than simply plugging anomalous gaps on distribution maps – the fieldwork brings attention to bear on an under-recorded area and will inevitably discover more significant species. I can provide lists of elusive species here or in other parts of Rutland if anyone wants to take up the challenge.

I thank Helen Ikin and Geoffrey Hall for their assistance.

## Reference

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

## Steve Woodward

Loughborough Naturalists' Club, BSBI Joint County Recorder  
grobysteve@talktalk.net



## July, August, September 2020

July 2020 was generally cool and wet with rain recorded in 17 days here in Uppingham, and just two warm spells in the middle and at the end of the month. However, the first half of August was completely dry with an exceptionally hot week from 6th - 14th with 5 days over 30 degrees.

The second half of August was very different with two named storms - Eileen and Francis. Storm Francis was unusually violent for August, so most of the final two months of summer were not especially good for butterflying. It would appear that many butterflies were early this year.

We did however, have some good butterflying conditions in September.

SMALL SKIPPER was first seen at Sharples Meadow at Rutland Water on 2nd July and then at Pickworth Drift, Ketton Quarry (KQ) and Quarry Farm (QF). It was last recorded on 20th July. The only record of ESSEX SKIPPER was at KQ on 16th July.

LARGE SKIPPER was widely reported in July. BRIMSTONE was reported from a variety of locations with the last at Barrow on 29th September.

LARGE WHITE, SMALL WHITE and GREEN VEINED WHITE were regularly seen from many locations. There appears to have been a large number of "WHITES" this year. The final record for G.V. WHITE was at Caldecott on 18th September. LARGE and SMALL WHITES were still flying in Uppingham on 30th September.

I did not receive a single report of WHITE-LETTER HAIRSTREAK this year, but PURPLE HAIRSTREAK was recorded in Pickworth Wood with two on 22nd July. The second generation of HOLLY BLUE was found at a number of locations - Oakham Arboretum (OA), Barrow, Whissendine, Oakham and KQ - with the final record from OA on 17th September.

Records of BROWN ARGUS came from Barrowden Road RVNR on 20th July, KQ, Martinthorpe and four at Bloody Oaks Quarry(BOQ) on 24th August. The final record was one at KQ on 22nd September.

COMMON BLUE records came from the usual places - BOQ and KQ - with a good record being a male and two females at BOQ on 24th August. Final record at KQ on 22nd September.

A superb male CHALKHILL BLUE was photographed by David Cotter at BOQ on 6th August in the very hot spell.

SMALL COPPER was widely reported at Manton, Barrow, Pickworth Wood, Wing and Martinthorpe but pride of place goes to a "Blue-spotted" form "caeruleopunctata" seen by Alistair Lawrence on 14th September at Sharples Meadow (Field No. 33), Egleton Rutland Water. Final record was on Gypsy Lane, Uppingham on 28th September, and at Manton on the same date.

The continued successful increase in numbers of DARK GREEN FRITILLARY continues. I was so pleased to see the

word "abundant" used to describe the numbers at Bloody Oaks Quarry on 6th July. The two places in Rutland to see this beautiful butterfly are definitely KQ and BOQ in the months of July and August.

SILVER-WASHED FRITILLARY was first seen at KQ on 5th July and then at Oakham Arboretum, Wardley Wood and BOQ. The distinctive female form "Valezina" was seen by David Needham at KQ on 23rd July. The last record was on a RNHS trip at KQ on 6th August 2016.

PURPLE EMPEROR is a butterfly everyone loves to see and amazingly two records came from Rutland this year. Both were seen on 12th July and 30th July by Linda and Anthony Biddle at Pickworth Wood. Well done!

RED ADMIRAL was seen at Oakham Arboretum on 1st July and then regularly throughout the period. Last seen at Oakham Arboretum on 30th September.

The lovely immigrant PAINTED LADY appeared in August at KQ on 8th and 23rd and at Manton on four dates between 20th and 30th September.

SMALL TORTOISESHELL was seen throughout the period in gardens and the usual quarries with the last in Uppingham on 30th September.

PEACOCK were very common with many reports on garden buddleia throughout the period with the last in Uppingham on 30th September.

COMMA was first reported from KQ with eight there on 5th July. Regular reports through July but only one report in August with one in Uppingham on 6th. Last seen at Rutland Water on 11th September.

MARbled WHITE seems to be doing very well in Rutland with KQ and BOQ having very large numbers. It was also recorded at Sharples Meadow Rutland Water, Pickworth Drift, Empingham, Quarry Farm, Pickworth Wood and Walk Farm.

SPECKLED WOOD was widely reported throughout the period from numerous sites. GATEKEEPER was seen at many sites in July and August as was MEADOW BROWN. Alistair Lawrence found a very unusual aberrant MEADOW BROWN at The Seek, Oakham which had white markings instead of orange (see photo on back page).

RINGLET was first reported from KQ on 5th July and subsequently from many locations with the last at Eyebrook on 1st September.

SMALL HEATH was reported from three sites: BOQ on 16th July, Quarry Farm on 2nd August and finally KQ on 7th August and 22nd September,

Thank you to everyone who sent in their records:  
*Anthony & Linda Biddle, David Cotter, Peter Scott, Nigel & Caroline Webb, Ann Tomlinson, Tim Caldicott, Robin Ingall, John & J S Rodgers, Jenny Pearce, Duncan Ball, David Needham, Alistair Lawrence*

## July, August, September 2020

This has mainly been a good summer with only short spells of inclement weather which prevented trapping from taking place. Lyndon has been recorded as usual but this year Bloody Oaks and Shacklewell Spinney near Stamford have been utilised on a more regular basis, the latter site offering a rare opportunity to trap in the summer months when it is usually taken up by large outdoor groups staying there but this year prevented by covid restrictions. Both sites were also better recorded by a repositioning of the battery trap closer to woodland areas. One pleasant change from last year has been more settled late summer/early autumn weather which has enabled all sites to be recorded regularly during this time giving good numbers of Sallow and Chestnut species.

Lyndon was trapped on 8 occasions with all but one of these involving both the mains trap set out in the meadow and the battery trap set between the centre and Gibbet Gorse. The most prolific sessions were on 30th July and 7th August respectively which each produced over 300 moths and over 70 species. By contrast, and to show how unpredictable totals can be, 31st August yielded just 12 moths of 4 species! A cool clear night and a full moon were no doubt a contributing factor. One feature of the season has been that while the number of species recorded has been at or above average there have been no large individual species totals of note with even common species such as Large Yellow Underwing and Setaceous Hebrew Character never exceeding 30 moths in one trap. Also with lockdown preventing any recording until late June hawk-moth sightings have been very low with only Poplar Hawk-moth recorded in any quantity. 4 new macro moths were recorded for the site – Antler Moth, Waved Black, Tree-lichen Beauty and Oak Processionary Moth, this being a first record for Leicestershire & Rutland. The latter moth seems to have been part of a swarm that came into the country that night (30th July) and while welcome as a first record its larval habit of both feeding in sometimes plague numbers on broadleaved trees potentially killing them and shedding its hairs causing severe and maybe permanent skin irritation makes it a notifiable pest species in any quantity. Efforts to eradicate it prove difficult with checks on foreign trees before importation seeming to be the best method. Tree-lichen Beauty is a much more welcome record indicative as its name suggests of good air quality which we have already seen in Rutland with good numbers of Footman species. The moth was also recorded in Shacklewell and is another species that is maybe showing a northerly movement in its distribution, a trend that has continued again this year with regular recording of Square-spotted Clay and Least Carpet.

Shacklewell was trapped on 5 occasions with the highest count being 168 moths of 56 species on 16th July. Black Arches was recorded on 3 occasions with Vapourer seen on the edge of the trap on 20th September. This moth, so named because of the scented pheromone sent out by the flightless immobile female, is both a day-flyer and occasionally attracted to light. A day sighting was also observed in Pickworth Wood in late July on one of the rides.

Bloody Oaks was trapped 4 times with 180 moths of 54 species on 5th August being the highest count. Many of the records will have been from the adjacent woodland than from the site itself nevertheless conifer trees are present at the far end of the reserve and may well have produced Tawny-barred Angle and Grey Pine Carpet with each moth recorded on 2 occasions. Other moths on site would have been Antler Moth and Feathered Gothic which are both larval grass feeders. Another notable recording here was Pale Eggar which has Silver Birch as its main foodplant, 3 male moths were trapped on 26th August with a single smaller female on 4th September.

Other records received of note have been Hummingbird Hawk-moths at Manton and Barrow and a dead Scarlet Tiger near Market Overton church. Silver Y's have seemed thin on the ground this year like most immigrant species and only two records were received. One general item of note is that the wildflower field edges on the Exton Estate have created potential sightings for future years so it will be interesting to see what emerges there over time.

Thanks to the following for their records:- V Arnold, D & J Ball, P Bennett, T Caldicott, L Clark, M Grimes, P Scott, A Russell.



Oak processionary moth. Photo Adrian Russell



---

# ORTHOPTERA

---

**RECORDER Phil Rudkin**

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

E-mail: phil.rudkin@talktalk.net

---

## July, August, September 2020

I am delighted to report, that I have received several casual records from a variety of members for the above period, and many accompanied by photographs, for identification. This adds to my regular and biggest contributor's records, Tim Caldicott. Five of the eleven photograph reports were from members' gardens, and in their house and garages.

Un-surprisingly, Speckled Bush Crickets feature; this flightless species is found in most Garden-Centres, (Rutland included! Furthermore, this is how they appear in our gardens, when new shrubs, trees etc. are purchased and planted.

Roy Edwards again, found a Speckled Bush Cricket, (after a few years), in his kitchen in Oakham. Diana Masters noticed a male in her garage at Oakham. The Society's Secretary, Linda Clark observed a female "in her Diner" in Wing. Jayne Walker, our Programme secretary, spotted a female in her garden in Exton. Roy Edwards reported an Oak Bush Cricket on his kitchen window in Oakham.

Out in the countryside, more photographs supplied: Carolyn Baxter our 'Fieldfare' editor, found a pair of Dark Bush Crickets in the verges at Luffenham Road, Barrowden. Linda Clark reported a Meadow Grasshopper nymph, whilst working at Cribbs Meadow.

Peter Scott, RNHS Vice Chairman and Web-Site Manager, was at the Bloody Oaks nature reserve, Empingham, on 13 July and photographed a Meadow Grasshopper nymph and a nymph of Lesser Marsh Grasshopper. Linda and Anthony Biddle spotted Dark Bush Crickets in Pickworth Woods during their daily dog walk.

Now, I am not trying to 'get round' the committee and officers, but it proves that they got 'stuck in' this period. Good for them!

We are blessed with two of our members renting adjacent plots in the Wing Hill allotments, Tim Caldicott and Linda Clark. Furthermore, this means that this part of Wing village is well recorded.

Because of Lock-Down, I did not manage to visit the Rutland Water reserves until David Needham and I carried out the Lyndon reserve Orthoptera Survey on 1ST September. I followed this up with a lengthy seven and half hour Orthoptera Survey on 9th September (with a break for a snack), at the Egleton reserve.

Off the record: A short piece about my back garden, (just inside Lincolnshire). My expanding small colony of Speckled Bush Crickets continues to thrive: On the 12 August I found a first instar nymph, sitting on my Green Bin. So, I knew they were breeding. During the third week of August usually at dusk, I switched on the bat-detector at 35 kHz, and approximately 15 males were stridulating, lovely! At the time of writing (8.00pm) 7th October, a warm evening and overcast, males were still stridulating.

Many thanks for everyone's reports and images:

*Carolyn Baxter, Linda and Anthony Biddle, Tim Caldicott, Linda Clark, Roy Edwards, Diana Masters, David Needham, Lloyd Park, Phil Rudkin, Peter Scott, Jayne Walker.*



*Field grasshopper. P. Rudkin*



*Male Rosels Bush Cricket. 15.8.10. Lyndon*



*Speckled bush cricket. Photo P. Rudkin*



## Species list

### Crickets

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

First sighting: One male, Noted in the kitchen, of Windsor Drive, Oakham.

Photograph received by email. 12 August.

New site: SK854083.

Two, found dead under Oak trees, in regular site: Lyndon village Top, 15 August.

#### **Dark Bush Cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoptera***

One Pair, found in rough herbage, on the Barrowden Verge, Luffenham Road. Photographs received by email. 13.7.200.

New site: SK946004

Large colony located in the extensive nettle-bed, in front of the Badger Watching Hide, Egleton Reserve, Rutland Water, Orthoptera Survey, 9.9.2020, new site: SK879073

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

First stridulating heard at Quarry Farm, Stamford, 26 July.

Small colony (circa 58), stridulating males, in grass verges, in the lane leading up to Preston Village, 30 July, New site: SK873024. The Egleton Orthoptera Survey was carried out on, 9 Sept. All regular sites were investigated; and numbers were high everywhere. Away from the water, numbers were well noted at the usual strongholds, including: Wing allotments, Martinthorpe, Quarry Farm Stamford, Wing Burrows, Crown Well Bridge Manton, and the Lyndon reserve, Rutland Water Survey of 1st September.

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

First stridulating heard at Quarry Farm, Stamford, 26 July. No new sites reported for this Conehead for 2020! Numbers maintained, on the Lyndon, 1st September, and Egleton 9th September, reserves surveys. Away from the water, regular strongholds were visited: Martinthorpe, Quarry Farm Stamford, Crown Well Bridge Manton. Numbers well up, and no notable reductions.

#### **Short-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus dorsalis***

First stridulating heard on 9 September, during the Egleton, Orthoptera Survey. The reserve was well covered: with seven large colonies of stridulating males, found in the usual haunts, including: Fran's Pond in the wet meadow, the lush grasses, next to Snipe Hide, and, in wet vegetation near Harrier Hide. Sadly, the small colony found on the Lyndon reserve a few years ago, has disappeared; and not been found in the last two years.

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

First stridulating (Bat-Detector) at 35kHz, 11 August, Glaston Bridge, 14 plus males, regular haunt!

One, female, found in member's garden, Exton, 29 July. New site, SK925109. Photograph received by email.

One, male, found in member's garage, Oakham, 31 August. New site, SK864096. Photograph received by email.

Rutland Water, Lyndon reserve, Orthoptera Survey, on 1st September, (the stronghold), had enormous numbers of stridulating males, picked up on the Bat-Detector, at 35 kHz. This common species is everywhere on the Lyndon reserve; amazing colonies!

Other regular locations visited: Wing allotments, Quarry Farm Stamford, Crown Well Bridge Manton, Windsor Drive, Oakham. Photographs from Wing, and Windsor Drive received by Email.



Dark bush cricket. male. P. Rudkin

### True Cricket

#### **House Cricket, *Acheta domestica***

One, stridulating on a single-story extension, at Lamma's Close, Braunston. At 9.30pm, on 24 August. Still heard there on 2 September. New site, SK833066

### Groundhoppers

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

One, found in Wing Village allotments, on 4 July, and one, on 4 September. This species does not stridulate!

#### **Common Groundhopper, *Tetrix undulata***

One, found in Wing Village Allotments, 4 September. New site, SK889028. This species does not stridulate!

### Grasshoppers

#### **Field Grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus***

No new records for this period! The only sightings were all in the Wing Village Allotments. Nymphs were noted all the Month of July, and adults appeared in two adjacent allotment plots; belonging to two members of RNHS, on 5 and 30 August. And more adults observed, on the 4th and 20th September. Photograph received by Email!

#### **Meadow Grasshopper, *Chorthippus parallelus***

First stridulating heard on 26 July, at Quarry Farm, Stamford. One nymph, observed in Cribbs Meadow, on 19 July, new site, SK899188. Photograph received by Email! Large colonies in meadows, Quarry Farm, Stamford.

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

First stridulating heard on 26 July, at Quarry Farm, Stamford. August and September, had small numbers at Quarry Farm, Stamford. Martinthorpe had 10 stridulating males on 4 August. Nymphs observed at Bloody Oaks reserve, on 13 July. Photograph received by Email.

Thankyou to all who sent in their records.

# INSECTS & INVERTEBRATES

**RECORDER Jayne Walker**

11 Vicars Close, off Empingham Road, Exton LE15 8 AW.  
Telephone 01572 868624. E-mail Jayne8586@hotmail.com

Well summer has been and gone and autumn is here. I find it difficult to believe we will soon be turning the clocks back and the days are drawing in.

The beautiful weather that we enjoyed in spring was followed by much needed rain and variable conditions including high winds, which were very uncharacteristic for the summer period, didn't seem to stop our members making the most of the good weather (or even the damp weather) to get out and about on their local patches and record interesting insects. In August, the Society held its first outdoor meeting since the Covid restrictions were lifted at Ketton Quarry; and it proved very successful, with dragonflies, damselfly, bugs, bees and hoverflies to name a few being recorded.

In July we had records coming in for a variety of insect species with a number of excellent records including one from a member in Wing who luckily decided to take a photo of an unusual looking insect on her windowsill. I am so glad that she did, as it turned out to be a Wasp Nest or Wedge Beetle *Metoeus paradoxus*. It is the only beetle of this species found in the UK. Despite being widespread, they are not common in Britain and are seldom seen. According to Naturespot, the VC55 Status in Leicestershire and Rutland, states that 'there were only seven records for this species up to March 2015'.

There were also another two records of note for beetles in July, a Tortoise Shieldbug instar was recorded at Ketton Quarry at the end of July. According to Naturespot, the VC55 status is 'unknown' in Leicester and Rutland. This beetle was previously 'uncommon' but is expanding northwards from its previous range in the south of England. This species has been reported at the Quarry in 2016, but there have been no records since. An adult Tortoise Beetle was recorded in a garden at Exton in August. The same member also recorded a Tawny Longhorn Beetle *Paracorymbia fulva* at Bloody Oaks Quarry which is stated as 'rare' in Leicestershire and Rutland with the UK status as 'uncommon nationally'.

An *Ophion obscuratus* egg was recorded in a garden in Wing. This brightly coloured insect was identified from its yellow



*Tortoise beetle (adult)*



*Dock bug instar*



*Tortoise shieldbug*

face and pale leaf to the pterostigma. There are quite a few species in the Ophion Group and hymenopterists are looking at splitting *O. obscuratus*.

The first record of the year for a weevil was received in August, which was recorded in a garden in Stamford. Unluckily for the gardener, this was a Nut Weevil, *Curculio nucum* and it was making a meal of a hazelnut.

From the records received from members and non-members Ketton Quarry and the Oakham Canal have proved excellent locations for spotting dragonfly and damselfly, with beautiful species such as Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*, Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma najas* and Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator* to name just a few. There was also a record for a Black-Tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum* from the Rutland Garden Centre. It just shows you that you can record brilliant insects where ever you go!



Willow Emerald Damselfly *Lestes viridis* was recorded at Eyebrook Reservoir which is a rare immigrant and was first recorded at this location in 2019. Three singletons were seen in August at SP 844 970, which is an excellent record for VC55.

As with bees, some of the hoverflies we see have interesting nicknames due to their body patterns. A *Heliophilus pendulus* AKA 'The Footballer' was recorded at Eyebrook in August and at Ketton Quarry, *Episyrphus balteatus* 'The Marmalade Hoverfly'.

There have only been a few Hymenoptera records over the summer and these have included, the Big-headed Digger Wasp *Ectemnius cephalotes*, which was recorded at Rutland Water. There are still plenty of pollinators making the most of the flowering plants, so maybe we will get some late records for these species.

And finally, whilst cleaning out a cupboard I can across a spider that I had not seen before. I'm not normally bothered by spiders but this one looked like it meant business. From the shape, colouration (shiny dark reddish-brown abdomen) and markings it has been identified as a member of the false widow spider species. I sincerely hope I do not have to report one again!

I would like to thank the following members who have submitted records in Spring and summer:

*Tim Caldicott, Dave Needham, Carolyn Baxter, Charles Gallimore, Roy Lemmon, Peter Scott, Phil Rudkin, Tricia Marston, Linda Clarke, Marion Markham, R C Brown, Linda and Anthony Biddle.*

---

## MAMMALS

---

**RECORDER Linda Biddle**

21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford PE9 1BH.

Tel: 01780 762108 Email: [rnhsmammals@talktalk.net](mailto:rnhsmammals@talktalk.net)

---

Thankyou to the regular cohort of trusty recorders who have continued to send in their sightings. It has been a very strange summer in many ways, and we have been lucky to be able to observe our wildlife in such turbulent times. Please do let us know what you see – no matter how unimportant you may think. All information is valuable.

A lovely record was received of a family of 5+ weasels crossing the road between Exton and Cottesmore in July, and one September afternoon a smaller family – one adult and 2 young emerged from the edge of the track at RW in front of Phil Rudkin, and crossed to disappear into scrub on the other side. A stoat was seen on two occasions bounding across a ride in Pickworth wood at the same spot, first in July and again in August. There has been only one Otter report during the last 3 months, lockdown having restricted our monitoring visits to RW, but they have been active for certain in the absence of human disturbance.

Badgers have been active in many areas, causing havoc by digging setts in people's gardens at the outer edge of Uppingham, regularly visiting Marian Markham's garden in Langham, at Martinsthorpe, crossing roads near Cottesmore

and Exton, as well as in setts away from human habitation, and sadly as usual, the evidence of a number of road casualties has been reported.

Foxes have regularly been seen on the trail camera at Langham, 3 or more different individuals being identified, and others reported from Whissendine, Cottesmore and Pickworth. Hedgehogs have been regular visitors too, to Marian Markham's garden and in Whissendine they were also regular until a fox seems to have taken over, eating their food, and marking the food bowl by squatting over it after eating. Hedgehogs are also reported from gardens in Oakham, Barrow and Cottesmore.

Bank Voles were seen in Langham, and Barrow, while the only reports of short tailed field vole were of dead animals found on paths during August. Common Shrews were seen in Langham by MM, and 3 dead ones were found on the walk farm path at Pickworth, as well as 1 dead pygmy shrew at Quarry farm Great Casterton – all those during August!

Only 5 reports of brown hare were received, from Langham, Uppingham, Market Overton, Oakham, Pickworth and rabbits from Uppingham, barrow, Quarry farm and RWNr, where myxomatosis was evident. Wood mice (long tailed Field mice) were caught in live traps at Langham and were seen regularly in an Oakham garden.

Evidence of mole activity was seen in the garden of the Willows in Barrow, on the playing fields at Uppingham school during lockdown, and also on Seaton Meadows during July after cutting.

Fallow deer are much less commonly seen than in the past, the only reports coming from Pickworth wood and areas around it. Strangely there have been no reports of muntjac during the last three months – perhaps members now think they are so common, that they no longer need to be reported!!

Thanks for records received from:- *Jane and Duncan Ball, C Baxter, T.Caldecott, C. Gallimore, G. Griffin, P. Langstone, Marian Markham, D. Masters, T. Mitcham, J&A. Pearce, P.J. Rudkin, P. Scott and D& S. Smalley*



*Squirrel popping in and out of fallen tree trunk. GL*



---

# PLANT GALLS

---

**RECORDER Roy Lemmon**

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU.

Telephone 01780 762051 E-mail: roy.lemmon@yahoo.co.uk

---

## July 2020

The plant gall season is now in full swing and there were 137 reports from 9 sites. George Henry Wood on the 2nd gave us two new species, one on Clover where the flowers are green and leafy instead of white and another, a mite gall, on leaves of Hornbeam, a tree not often found locally. Cherry Wood, just beyond the VTC at Rutland Water, on the 16th saw the first record this season of the swollen stem gall which is so pronounced on Creeping Thistle. It was also reported from another part of RW on the 31st and the Seek on the 29th.

Powdery mildews are rarely gallers but one that is, and obviously so from the distortion it produces on Meadowsweet, was at Lyndon reserve on the 23rd. The Seek referred to above also turned up the rust gall on Cultivated Pear, another on a willowherb and some 6 species of wasp galls on Oak. These latter seem to be recovering from a poor season in 2019 and are present in larger numbers per leaf than formerly.

A midge gall on Perennial Sowthistle which appears as purplish swellings on the leaves was reported from Wing allotments on the 30th.

*Thanks to L Clark, M Grimes and R Lemmon for their contributions.*

## August 2020

At what is possibly the height of the gall season, there were reports from 12 sites giving a total of 132 different galls. Tinwell Meadows on the 5th was the source of the Mossy Willow gall caused by a virus or a phytoplasma, and which can be a problem where willow is grown commercially.

A so-called 'white rust' on Shepherd's Purse was noted at Ryhall Heath and Ketton on the 6th and 9th respectively; and Shacklewell Hollow on the 13th gave us a new record for the County of a fungal gall on Fool's Watercress.

Wing on the 18th had a report of the swollen stem gall on Creeping Thistle, and Great Casterton on the 26th had the first record this year of a psyllid gall on Box. This is quite a common gall on Box but the plant itself is not all that common. Bloody Oaks Quarry on the 29th had a wasp gall on Ground Ivy, this again being the first record for this gall this year.

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

## September 2020

A busy month with a total of 163 separate galls from 8 sites, among them were 3 new species to add to the County list.

The LRWT paddock at Aldgate on the 9th had Mistletoe, a gall, as always on cultivated Apple but also on Ash, and in addition 2 of the new species. These were a mite gall on Walnut, and a midge gall on Robinia, false acacia.

The new road at Wytchley Warren Ketton on the 10th had some excellent plants that seemed to have come from the seedbank rather than from deliberate seeding, and in addition had 7 galls, which is not bad for a brand new site.

Merry's Meadows on the 15th had 19 galls including a rust on Ladies' Bedstraw, which was the third of the new discoveries.

Gibbet Gorse on the 19th had a total of 18 galls and included the only record this year of the Mop Head gall on Broad Buckler fern.

The walk from Pickworth village to PGW on the 22nd brought 30 galls and included the so-called 'white rust' on Shepherd's Purse, which seems to have been more common this year.

The month concluded with a look at some 4 sites in the parish of Tinwell on the 28th which produced 29 galls.

*Thanks to M Grimes and R Lemmon for their reports.*



*Mossy willow catkin gall. Caldecott.*

---

## FIELD TRIPS

---

### Autumn walk at Hambleton woods

Well, we finally managed to organise our 2nd RNHS outdoor walk since the walk at Ketton quarry on 8th August. All agreed it was good to get out into the woods and enjoy the brisk breezy weather around the shores of the Hambleton peninsula. With two teams of six, each group armed with a trug for our expected haul of fungal specimens, we set off at ten minute intervals (to keep to the "Rule of 6") to see what we would find. Fortunately for all of us, Roy Lemmon, our plant gall recorder, having some knowledge of Mycology, helped to keep us on track, and after some while getting our "eye in", we emerged out of the woods two hours later, a little more knowledgeable than when we went in.

It is a credit to all who took part in the walk, that we did not wander from the task in hand, despite our limited expertise and came back with a passable record of the fungal species to be found in Hambleton woods – though I note – not one looked remotely appetizing enough to turn into a mushroom risotto.

Since we do not at present, have a Mycology recorder in the Society, there were very few fungi in the trugs that we could properly identify on the spot. We were able to identify some of the more common species like Jelly ear, Common coral spot, Beech black spot and Witches butter on various rotting stumps and logs and Roy held up Common bramble rust, powdery mildew on Herb Robert, a rust on Ground ivy and interestingly, told us that every rust and mildew is host

specific – that is – a rust can be identified to its exact species if you know what plant it is found on. Not so with other fungi though, as a couple of us have found out when we took our specimens home to identify. Watch this space! We may soon have a Mycology expert in our midst!



*Mycena sp. Frosty bonnet. Photo Ian Day*

---

## RNHS 2021 CALENDAR

We are pleased to say that we have enough orders to go ahead with printing the RNHS calendar for 2021. If you have not yet ordered yours, there is still time to do so. Please email Margaret at [rnhsmembers@gmail.com](mailto:rnhsmembers@gmail.com) with your details. We are printing a small number in excess of confirmed orders, which will be sold on a "first come, first served" basis. The price will be £8.00 per calendar and you will be able to collect your copy from designated people, with your payment. If we need to post out your calendar, note that there will be an additional charge to cover cost.

---

## MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS NOTIFICATION



**Your membership subscription for 2021 is due at the end of the year.** Although our activities have had to change this year, we hope you agree it is still good value and that you will renew your membership.

Unfortunately, we will not be able to take payment at indoor meetings for the foreseeable future, but you can still pay your subscription by cheque, bank transfer or set up a standing order so that your payment is made automatically every year. Details on how to pay are on the form enclosed.

If you are a taxpayer and gift aid your subscription, this benefits the Society at no cost to yourself. Many thanks to the members who have already signed a gift aid declaration. If you wish to gift aid your subscription, please contact Margaret for the form, or download it from the website.





*Meadow brown butterfly seen near the Seek on 16th August by Alistair Lawrence. Note the colour aberration having white markings instead of the usual orange.*



*Brown long-eared bat. Photo Lynne Byrdon-Graham*



*Photos of Muntjac at Luffenham heath. By D. Cotter*



*Bee nest or Wedge beetle*

## RNHS CONTACTS

### **Chairman**

21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford PE9 1BH 01780 762108  
abiddle21@talktalk.net

### **Linda Biddle**

### **Secretary/Mycology recorder**

14 Top Street, Wing, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8SE  
01572 737300 lindaclark\_888@yahoo.com

### **Linda Clark**

### **Treasurer/Membership**

24 Burrough Rd, Somerby, Melton Mowbray LE14 2PP  
01664 454532 rnhsmembers@gmail.com

### **Margaret Conner**

### **Programme Secretary**

11 Vicars Close, Off Empingham Road, Exton,  
Rutland LE15 8AW Tel: 01572 868624.  
Mob: 07957340545 jayne8586@hotmail.com

### **Jayne Walker**

### **Website Editor/Calendar**

12 Tees Close, Oakham, LE15 6SP  
07535 508932 peter.scott27@btopenworld.com

### **Peter Scott**

### **Fieldfare Editor**

37 Stockerston Crescent, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9UA  
01572 823397 rnhsfieldfare2@gmail.com

### **Carolyn Baxter**

### **Wildlife Recorders**

Contact details can be found at head of reports inside  
Fieldfare and on the RNHS website.

**Fieldfare:** Is published five times a year from January 2021.  
It is free to members, and available online or printed.

Printed at Lonsdale Direct, telephone 01933 228855

RNHS is a Registered Charity: Number 514693