



Burnet companion moth. Bloody Oaks. Photo D. Cotter

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Here we are - August already! We have had 2 very enjoyable outdoor meetings at Cossington Meadows in early July and again at Woodwalton Fen at the end of the month. On both occasions the weather was kind to us, and a group of members were lucky enough to see some great wildlife! At Cossington a young sedge warbler entertained us, posing on a fence very close to us, and at Woodwalton we were lucky enough to see a newly emerged Willow emerald damselfly, a beautiful new coloniser of the area. The largest longhorn beetle found nationally, also gave us some good photo opportunities. We are very grateful to our two expert leaders who made the visits very informative and fascinating to us all and at both venues we all agreed that another trip would be a great idea. We are very fortunate to be able to meet once again and enjoy the natural world around us.

As well as the outdoor meetings, your recorders have been busy keeping up with the summer species - this edition of Fieldfare is being prepared very hastily to fit in with everyone's summer activities. We hope that you will find it interesting. If you have contributions you would like to add to any future editions, please email Carolyn Baxter at rnhsfieldfare2@gmail.com.

We had hoped that we should be able to hold indoor meetings at the Community Hub in Oakham from October, but unfortunately that is looking less likely now, and we may have to revert once again to a zoom meeting for October. However, we shall not give up hope, so please keep checking the website. (We will send out emails before this meeting to make sure you all know what is happening).

Sadly, our former Chairman and most enthusiastic naturalist, Phil Rudkin has not been well recently, so we wish him a speedy return to health and look forward to seeing him out and about again before too long. However, Phil assures us that there will be a bumper Orthopteran report in the next issue!

Please continue to send in any records you may have –they are valuable and every one of them counts!

I look forward to seeing you all either in person at the September bat walk with our Bat recorder Jenny Harris, or else at our first indoor talk of the winter season on zoom.

Linda Biddle, RNHS Chair

RNHS NEWS

Birds of the Western Palearctic

You may remember that Richard and Linda Brown (former butterfly recorders) kindly donated to the Society, the book "The Heritage of Rutland Water" which was successfully auctioned at the beginning of the year. Linda has again, with many thanks, donated a beautiful 2 volume boxed set, entitled "Birds of the Western Palearctic". The books are superbly illustrated throughout, contained in their own box slipcover to protect the dustcovers and contain many maps and bird illustrations. The whole set is in almost pristine condition.

Anyone interested and would like more information or would like to view the books, please get in touch with Linda Biddle – contact number on back contact's page.



DIARY DATES



RNHS Indoor Evening Meetings

Tuesday 5th October 7.30pm.

Stonechats on Great fen.

Henry Stanier. Great Fen ecology and monitoring officer for Beds, Cambs and Northants (BCN) Wildlife Trust. An ongoing project about these fascinating birds. **At present this will be a zoom meeting – NOT TAKING PLACE AT VAR, but you will be emailed if this situation changes.**

Tuesday 2nd November 7.30pm.

Recent ramblings of a wildlife photographer (including lots of superb photos of wildlife).

John Tinning. Secretary of the Zoological photographic club. The meeting will take place at VAR unless otherwise stated on the website or you are informed by email.

RNHS Outdoor field trips.

Friday 10th September 7.00pm.

A bat walk with committee member and licenced bat worker Jenny Harris.

Meet at RWNR Lyndon centre car park MK SK 894055. Bring along a torch and some warm clothing.

Saturday 9th October 10.00am.

Fungi walk at Priors coppice.

Lead by expert fungi recorder Ben Devine, with secretary and fungi recorders Linda Clark and Carolyn Baxter. A walk in the woods to see what we can discover.

Other society meetings.

LRWT Events. All the following events are online zoom meetings. Go to events page on LRWT to book your place.

Wednesday 25th August. 7.30 – 8.30pm.

Historical Ospreys (From Aristotle to Mackrill) with Ken Davies.

Thursday 2nd September. 7.30 – 8.30pm.

Un-natural selection. Evolution at the hand of man with Katrina Van Grouw.

Tuesday 14th September 7.30 – 8.30pm.

An Antarctic adventure with Ralph and Brenda Todd.

WEATHER

RECORDER Roy Lemmon

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU.

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

June 2021

Atmospheric pressure and wind. A month without noteworthy pressures, the lowest being 1012 mb and the highest 1024 mb. Winds were between NW and NE except for 5 days when they were S-SW. Wind speeds were generally low to moderate, although there were a few days in the second half when they were blustery.

Temperature. The overall mean, 16.90 °C, was third in the decade 2012–2021 after the Junes of 2017 and 2018. There were 4 nights when the temperature was below 9.0 °C and the lowest was that of 21st–22nd with 5.6 °C. The highest daytime maximum I recorded was 29.0 °C on the 2nd.

Precipitation. A total of 70.3 mm (2.77 inches) is 134% of my long-term mean and is eclipsed by June 2019 at 124.8 mm (4.9 inches), which represented 242% of LTM.

July 2021

Atmospheric pressure and wind. There was a period of high pressure from 14th–23rd inclusive, which included the month's highest pressure of 1030 mb on the 17th. For the rest

of the month pressures were generally low but not markedly so. The lowest was 996 mb on the 6th. There was one named storm, Evert, on the 30th and this was the only named one since Storm Christophe in January. Storm Evert gave us high winds during the day as well as over a half inch of rain but was diminishing as it reached us. Winds generally were very variable but settled down to westerlies for the last 6 days of the month.

Temperature. The overall mean for July was 18.94 °C, which was fourth equal, alongside 2019, for the decade 2012–2021. The highest daytime maximum was 32.5 °C on the 20th, and this day had thunderstorms in the evening. The lowest overnight minimum was 9.4 °C on the 14th–15th.

Precipitation. The total here was 43.6 mm (1.72 inches) which is 79% of my long-term mean. 57% of this total fell in the last 5 days of the month and the highest daily total was 13.8 mm delivered by Storm Evert referred to above.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore

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

E-mail: chasgall@hotmail.com

June & July 2021

There has been a smattering of records in these two months, the most notable of which was of a lizard in Seaton, which is the first record for that parish. Up to six Common Frogs continued to be present in Phil Langston's pond in Oakham in early June. Frogs were also seen in the recorder's pondless garden in Oakham on several occasions, including a froglet

on 17 June. Froglets were also seen in Wing in early July. Small Common Toads were seen at Leighfield in early June and toads were also seen under refuges at Barnsdale. Wing gardens, allotments and churchyard all had their toads – Linda Clark's garden hosting no less than eight toads under builders' bags! There was also a road casualty in Wing on 7 July. A toadlet was also seen at Rutland Water visitor centre in Egleton in early July.



Baby toad. Photo D. Cotter



Adder. Photo P. Scott

The only newt record was of a Smooth Newt and some efts in a Wing garden pond.

Two Viviparous Lizards were seen at Bloody Oaks on 1 July, and one was also seen by the same observer, Martin Grimes, at Clipsham on 11 July, although none have yet been seen using the refuges placed there in April. Two were seen at Ketton Quarry on 16 July. However a Viviparous Lizard on the hall carpet of a house in Seaton on 19 July was not only a surprise for the owner, Charlotte Tring, but also the first record for this species in Seaton.

There were only two Grass Snake records in these months – one from Barnsdale in June and one from Wing allotments in July.

There was a single Adder sighting at Ketton Quarry on 16 July.

*My thanks to the following who provided me with records:-
T P Appleton, T Caldicott, L Clark, R Edwards, M Grimes,
A Hill, P Langston, D Needham and C Tring.*

BIRDS

Recorder Terry Mitcham

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

E-mail: joterpat@btinternet.com

June 2021

Rutland Water attracted two rarities in June, an American Golden Plover and an Icterine Warbler. Good records there in July were a Gannet and a Honey Buzzard. High water levels at Rutland Water limited feeding areas for returning waders, but attracted many wildfowl in July, especially Gadwall and Tufted Ducks. Away from Rutland Water a Ring-necked Parakeet lingered for several days and a Quail called at Quarry Farm. Fallow land in Exton Park attracted large numbers of Stock Doves – an indication of just how important uncultivated land is for our beleaguered farmland birds. My thanks to the following for their records: -

*T.Appleton, D.& J.Ball, T.Caldicott, T.Collins, M.Griffin,
P.Langston, LROS, S.Lister, Dr.T.Macrill, M.Markham,
D.Masters, T.Mitcham, C.I.Park, R.WNR, T.Sexton*

Highlights. Rutland Water had an American Golden Plover (15th) and a singing Icterine Warbler (29th). There were two Little Terns (10th, 16th and one (12th). A Quail called near Martinthorpe (16th).

Rutland Water. The count (15th) produced 1229 Greylag Geese, two Mandarin Ducks, 24 Wigeon, 505 Gadwall, six Teal, 260 Tufted Ducks and a Goldeneye. Little Egrets increased to 31 and a Great White Egret was present. A Garganey was noted (3rd, 6th) and a Ruddy Shelduck was seen (25th). Waders on (15th) included 21 Oystercatchers, 22 Avocets, ten Little Ringed Plovers, three Ringed Plovers, two Green Sandpipers (one on 28th, 29th) and three Redshanks. Also noted were five Curlew (29th), six Black-tailed Godwits (25th) and a Little Stint (2nd, 3rd). There was a Mediterranean Gull and five Yellow-legged Gulls (both 27th). 72 Common Terns were counted (15th) and a 1st summer Black Tern was at Egleton (13th – 30th) with a second (29th). Cuckoos were at Egleton all month, a Peregrine was seen (27th) and a Siskin flew over Lyndon Centre (3rd).

Other Sites. Mandarin Ducks bred in Exton Park and there were five Gadwall broods at Fort Henry Ponds with 48 there (12th). Four Pochard dropped in (7th). Two pairs of Kestrels fledged young in Exton Park (six and three). Cuckoos were heard at five sites with three over Manton (19th). Barn Owls were at three sites. A Tawny Owl was in an Oakham garden

(1st, 2nd) and Little Owls were at Barrow, Bisbrooke, Teigh and Pilton. Hobbies were seen in Exton Park (12th) and Whitwell (27th). A Ring-necked Parakeet was still at Langham (9th). Six Ravens were at Pilton (7th) and nine at Fort Henry (26th). A Willow Tit was at Beaumont Chase Farm (13th) and a Crossbill flew over Wing (9th).

July 2021

Highlights. Rutland Water had a Spoonbill (13th) and a Gannet (7th). A Honey Buzzard passed through (31st). A Quail called at Quarry Farm (9th).



Little Egrets. Photo D. Cotter.

Rutland Water. The count (27th) produced 11 Mandarin Ducks, 2030 Gadwall, 3069 Tufted Ducks, 48 Little Egrets, seven Great White Egrets and 257 Great Crested Grebes. A Marsh Harrier was seen (12th, 15th). Waders included 19 Oystercatchers, seven Avocets, five Curlews and five Common Sandpipers. Also passing through were Whimbrel (9th, 19th and 30th), 30 Black-tailed Godwits (18th), two Knot (22nd), a Ruff (3rd) and a Sanderling (14th, 21st). A Mediterranean Gull was seen (10th, 11th) and there were five Yellow-legged Gulls (11th, 27th). The 1st summer Black Tern remained all month. A Cuckoo was still present (8th) and a Crossbill flew over (17th).

Eyebrook Reservoir. A Garganey was present (24th-31st) and there were two Common Scoter (17th). There

was a Great White Egret (25th). Black-tailed Godwits were noted (15th 24th and 29th) with a Ruff (24th), four Green Sandpipers and two Common Sandpipers (all 24th). Greenshank were seen (15th, 17th). Three Kingfishers and a Marsh Tit were at the inflow (29th).

Other Sites. Two Mandarin Ducks and two Shoveler were at Fort Henry Ponds (25th) with an Osprey there (17th). 150 Stock Doves fed on fallow in Exton Park (10th). Little Owls were at Manton and Bisbrooke (14th). Early migration at Luffenham Airfield saw Redstarts (16th, 21st), a Wheatear (28th) and a Whinchat (29th). Spotted Flycatchers were noted at three sites.

June and July 2021 Wildfowl Counts

	RW 15.06.	RW 27.07.	FHP and Exton 12.06.	FHP and Exton 10.07.	Banthorpe GP 10.06.	Banthorpe GP 17.07.
Canada Goose	899	1130	1			
Greylag Goose	1229	1009	9	9	47	2
Mute Swan	354	415	7	6	2	2
Egyptian Goose	42	63				
Shelduck	9	4				
Mandarin Duck	2	11	1	2		
Shoveler	4	3	1			
Gadwall	505	2030	48	18		
Wigeon	24	12				
Mallard	532	710	71	135	10	1
Teal	6	31				
Pochard	14	10				
Tufted Duck	260	3069	27	20		
Goldeneye	1					
Little Grebe	4	28		1		
Great Crested Grebe	156	257				
Grey Heron	10	14	1			
Great White Egret	1	7				
Little Egret	31	48			1	
Cormorant	149	266	1			
Moorhen	28	50	3	6	2	1
Coot	256	991	17	21	4	1
Kingfisher				1		
TOTAL	4516	10158	187	220	66	7

British summers don't change very much; we've still got the usual mixture of sun and rain, along with the heat, cold and wind. Fortunately, we haven't been subject to some of the extremes suffered elsewhere. It all makes the grasses grow as can be seen on our road verges. They haven't been massacred this year, as the Council are following the Plantlife policy and trimming edges, except where there is a potential safety hazard. This is good news, and we can begin to see the fruits of it already. There is plenty of Meadowsweet, Meadow Cranesbill and Ox-eye Daisy along our roads, as well as more unusual plants. A Pyramidal Orchid was seen growing on the verge of the Oakham bypass on the railway bridge. Unfortunately, a planned survey of the new road between Ketton and Empingham had to be cancelled, because it had been harrowed and seeded. When we asked that the verge be left untouched, after finding some exciting plants, everybody had forgotten that one of the conditions of planning permission was the maintenance of the verges. It's a shame, but perhaps there will be enough seed in the soil for plants to recover at a future date.

We have received plenty of records since June, numbers swollen a little by a group of our colleagues from BSBI doing a survey at Seaton Meadows. It's good to see the continued enthusiasm of our members. Amongst the less common plants were Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil in Clipsham Park Woods and in Seaton Meadows, and Sainfoin at Exton and in Wardley Woods. This can be grown as a fodder crop, so perhaps the plants found were escapees. Lesser Sea-spurrey turned up at the junction of the A1 and the Tinwell Road. This is one of the

salt-liking plants that are now populating our roads as a result of salting in winter. There were records of orchids in the usual places as well as on the bypass. Bee Orchids and the Wasp Orchid variant were at Bloody Oaks Quarry, Common Spotted in Clipsham Woods, Early and Southern Marsh Orchids on the marshy meadow at Empingham on the road to the A1 and quite a number of Pyramidal Orchids on the verge of the A1-Tinwell junction. Spiny Restharrow, which isn't very common, grew close to Common Restharrow near Braunston, and two "Saxifrages" were reported, neither of which are saxifrage at all. Pepper Saxifrage was found at Seaton Meadows (it was also at Cribbs Meadow which was the site of a Society outing, but that is in Leicestershire). The other plant was Greater Burnet Saxifrage in Clipsham Woods. They are both Apiaceae, the umbellifers.

There are not many open water areas in Rutland, (discounting the reservoir!) so we don't receive many records of water plants, but a few have come in this time. A number came from Seaton Meadows from the ditches around the fields, Pink Water Forget-me-not, Common Water-starwort, Watercress, and Celery-leaved Buttercup. There was Marsh Marigold at Empingham and Seaton Meadows and Ragged Robin in the same areas. Perhaps more such plants are overlooked because not so easily approached; but "Take care" if you try!

Records were received from Jane and Duncan Ball, Carolyn Baxter, Martin Grimes, Roy Lemmon. Dave Needham, JSR and the BSBI group, Geoffrey Hall, Steve Woodward and Helen Ikin. Many thanks to all.



Flowerhead. Sainfoin. Wardley woods



Spiny restharrow. Braunston. Photo C. Baxter

BUTTERFLIES

RECORDER Martin Quinlan

4 Bayley Close, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9TG

Telephone: 01572 820337

The first half of June was warm and mainly dry. The second half was cooler and wetter with the 18th very wet and cold. July was warm and from the 12th until the 26th, high pressure dominated and was hot and dry. Great butterflying weather!

The final record of DINGY SKIPPER for June was at Ketton Quarry (KQ) on 3rd. SMALL SKIPPER was first recorded at KQ with 2 on 5th July and then recorded throughout the month at many locations. Sharples Meadow at Rutland Water (RWSM) was especially good, and Tim Caldecott found a meadow at Lyndon (SK9032 0591) which contained about 200 SMALL SKIPPERS on 16th July and again about 150 on 19th July!

LARGE SKIPPER was first recorded on 14th July at KQ with 4 there the next day, 3 at Rutland Water (RW) on 16th and one at Manton (M) also on 16th. Records continued with "several" at Bloody Oaks Quarry (BOQ) on 25th and 29th June. July saw 6 at KQ on 1st July and 5 at RWSM on 2nd. Final records were 4 at Stretton Wood (SW) on 14th July and 4 at KQ on 16th July.

ORANGE TIP. This lovely Spring butterfly faded away with just 3 records in early June - at Oakham Arboretum (POA) on 1st and 2 records from Exton (EX) on 7th and 12th.

There were numerous records of LARGE WHITE and SMALL WHITE from many locations. There were slightly fewer records of GREEN VEINED WHITE with the final record from Uppingham (UPP) on 31st July. The "whites" do seem to be abundant this year.

BRIMSTONE was recorded at Marshy Meadow Empingham (SK 956 091) with 4 there on 10th June and 1 at RWSM on 2nd July and 2 at KQ on 1st July with the last at OA on 26th July.

SPECKLED WOOD was first seen at Exton (EX) with 4 there on 12th June. There were further records from Egleton (EG), RWSM, Empingham (EMP), KQ, OA and the last one, George Henry Wood (GHW) on 16th July.

SMALL HEATH was first seen at RW on 2nd June with 5 at KQ on 10th June and 4 there on 1st July. There were 2 at RWSM on 6th July with the last ones being 5 at GHW and 1 at KQ on 16th July.

MEADOW BROWN first appeared on 14th June with records from EMP and EG. There were 3 at KQ on 15th June and 10 at RWSM on 16th June when there was also one at Manton (MAN). Lots of records followed from many locations mainly KQ and BOQ but there was a count of about 130 at RWSM on 9th July. The last record was 15 at RWSM on 29th July. 65 RINGLET were at Lyndon Meadow in July. (SK9032 0591) and 2 were at KQ with an outstanding 110 counted at the Lyndon Meadow on 21st July and 100 there on 26th July. Other records came from gardens in Oakham and Uppingham throughout late July. 10 at KQ on 31st July was the last record. RINGLET was under-reported I think with only a single record of 65 at the Lyndon meadow (SK 9032 0591)

The GATEKEEPER was not seen in June and first appeared at the Lyndon meadow on 9th July. An outstanding 110 counted at the Lyndon Meadow on 21st July and 100 there on 26th July. Other records came from gardens in Oakham and Uppingham throughout late July. 10 at KQ on 31st July was the last record.

MARBLED WHITE had a good year with most records from KQ and BOQ. The first was on 17th June at KQ. There were six at BOQ on 25th June and many there on 29th July. Other records were 19 at KQ on 1st July, 2 at RWSM on 2nd, 12 at KQ on 5th, 4 at RW on 6th, 7 at BOQ on 7th, a maximum count of 42 at BOQ on 10th, with 15 at RW and 10 at Wing (W) also on 10th, 12 at KQ on 13th, 3 at KQ on 16th, between 10-20 at GHW also on 16th, 17 at RW on 16th, a single at Wing on 18th, 2 at RW and 2 at M on 26th and the final record was 6 at KQ on 31st July.



Brimstone in Bloody Oaks quarry. Photo C. Baxter

It may well be that numbers of SILVER-WASHED FRITILLARY are increasing as the range is expanding northwards. The first were 2 at KQ on 5th July followed by singles at OA on 14th and KQ on 16th. Then 8 were counted at KQ on 23rd with 5 there on 31st being the final record. It was seen at OA on most hot and sunny days.

DARK GREEN FRITILLARY also seems to be increasing in number with the first at KQ on 10th June, followed by 8 there on 13th, 15 at BOQ with many there on 29th June. July saw 18 at KQ on 1st, 15 at KQ on 5th, an impressive number at BOQ on 7th where 2 separate pairs were observed mating. 26 were counted at BOQ on 9th July with 12 at KQ on 13th and the last being 4 at KQ on 16th July.

David Needham saw and photographed a PURPLE EMPEROR in the valley at KQ on 19th July. This was the only record and what a record!

The RED ADMIRAL was first seen on 9th June at OA and on 15th June there were singles at OA and KQ with one the next day at RW. One at M on 22nd June with one in Oakham the next day. Singles were seen at OA and KQ on 1st July and one at RWSM on 2nd July. The final record was one at RWSM on 16th July.

PAINTED LADY was first seen at OA on 3rd June. On 7th June there were singles at O, OA and 2 at EX. Another at OA on 12th with singles at OA and Barnsdale (B) on 13th. July started with 2 at KQ on 1st and finished with a flurry of records between 21st and 31st July at RWSM, KQ and M.

The PEACOCK was first seen at EX with 2 on 7th June and another there on 12th with 2 there on 26th. 50 caterpillars on nettles were seen at Gunthorpe. The last was at OA on 26th July.

SMALL TORTOISESHELL was seen at lots of locations

throughout both months with the first at OA and RW on 16th June. The maximum was 9 at the Lyndon Meadow on 11th June and the final record was at O on 30th July.

There were no records of COMMA in June with the first at KQ on 5th July, then further records at OA on 12th, KQ on 13th and SW on 14th. Finally, there were 2 records at the end of July at RWSM on 29th and GHW on 30th.

SMALL COPPER was seen at KQ on 8th June with 5 at Empingham (Marshy Meadow at SK5956091) on 10th and 5 again at the same place on 14th June. One in O on 29th June. July saw singles at RW on 28th and 2 at KQ on 31st.

PURPLE HAIRSTREAK was only reported at one site - the eastern edge of Gibbet Gorse next to the meadow at Lyndon (SK9022 0586). A single was seen on 15th July with 7 high up in the oaks on 19th July. Another was seen on 29th July.

There were NO reports of GREEN HAIRSTREAK, WHITE-LETTER HAIRSTREAK and BLACK HAIRSTREAK.

There were a few records of HOLLY BLUE. In June there were 2 at OA on 1st, singles in O on 4th, 5th and 7th. In July there were singles at OA on 14th, O on 29th and KQ on 31st.

Finally, the COMMON BLUE was first seen at Empingham on 10th June with 3 males. On 12th June a single was at EX with 7 at KQ. Singles then seen at KQ on 14th, BOQ on 25th with 2 there on 29th. In July 3 were seen at BOQ on 7th with 3 there on 9th. At KQ there were singles on 13th and 3 on 31st July.

I would like to thank the following for sending in their records: Alistair Lawrence, Robin Ingall, Tim Caldicott, Jenny Harris, David Needham, Jayne Walker, Roy Lemmon, Diana Masters and John Rodgers.

FUNGI

RECORDER Linda Clark
14 Top Street, Wing LE15 8SE

Although Autumn is the season when fungi are most noticeable, at least to the casual observer, they are around throughout the year if one keeps looking.

The first record for June 2021 was for St George's Mushroom *Calocybe gambosa*. This fungus is edible and is found in Spring and Summer, reputedly first fruiting on 23rd April, St George's Day. These fungi occur in groups and were found in Cribbs Meadow Reserve and outside the Oakham Co-Op around the same date.

A Peziza species was seen fruiting in a pot of old garden compost. There are over 50 species in the Pezizaceae family in the UK, so for amateurs they are almost impossible to identify to species level. Carolyn and Linda have spent many hours poring over the books and trawling the internet to be confident of species, but for now, family level will have to suffice. Pezizas are usually disc or cup shaped and release their spores when rain for example hits the fertile surface. A bracket type fungus, found growing at the base of a post in

a garden in Oakham, was reported by one of our members. The photo shows a dark charcoal at the upper surface with a rusty and white frilly margin. The underside looks waxy and has a rusty hue. I have looked through my guides but have been unable to identify this with the photo the best I can come up with is Many-zoned Polypore *Coriolus versicolour*. I have submitted this report to Naturespot in the hope that someone will be able to give a positive ID.

Other records for June & July are:

Milky Conecap *Conocybe apala* in grass at Uppingham.

Oyster Mushroom *Pleurotus ostreatus* on the same standing dead tree as a previous specimen which fruited at the end of March. Wing.

Agaric sp. Field/Meadow Mushroom *Agaricus campestris* Cluster of mushrooms found in a damp ditch in woodland which isn't typical for this fungus. In the same family is



Agaricus arvensis the Horse Mushroom, these turn a dull yellow when handled and smell strongly of aniseed which the specimen above lacked. Horse mushrooms turn a dull yellow when handled. There was a slight yellow tinge to the Field Mushroom which was noted when photographed so the above ID is to be confirmed. Wing Hollow.

Hare's foot Inkcap *Coprinus lagopus*. Found on the Uppingham playing fields in grass.
Petticoat Mottlegill *Panaeolus papilionaceus* *Psathyrella typhae*. On typhus reeds in lagoon 8 Rutland water. Spotted by Tim Sexton Monitoring & Survey Officer for LRWT.

Micro-fungi.

Roy Lemmon is our expert on microfungi and has been out and about recording the smaller species including Rusts, Smuts and Powdery mildews.

All his records have been recorded and added to June July spreadsheet. If you are interested to see the full spreadsheet, I am willing to send it electronically on request.

An example of a rust is *Gymnosporangium clavariiforme*

which was found on Hawthorn.

An example of a Smut is *Microbotryum lichnidis-dioiae* which was found on Red Campion.

An example of a Powdery Mildew is *Erysiphe diphitoides* found on Oak.

Personally, I have found 4 gilled fungi and a resupinate which I have been unable to identify at the present time. The spore print of 3 of these has been brown which rules out, according to my Collins guide, the *Mycena* (The bonnets) and the *Marasmius* (The Parachutes) as fungi from these families have a white spore print.

References:

Phillips R. Mushrooms and other fungi of Great Britain and Europe.

O'Reilly P. Fascinated by Fungi.

Collins complete guide to British Mushrooms and Toadstools.

My thanks to Roy Lemmon, Carolyn Baxter, Tim Sexton and Diana Masters.

GLOW WORMS

RECORDER Linda Clark

14 Top Street, Wing, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8SE.

Telephone 01572 737300 E-mail: lindaclark_888@yahoo.com

I have no sightings reported but made enquiries to a Barrowden resident, who had previously informed me of Glow Worm numbers along Back Lane and The Drift in Barrowden, to ask if he had had any sightings. He reported that numbers appear to be down this year, in Barrowden at least.

Due to circumstances beyond my control, I have been unable to get out and search personally for these beetles despite my best intentions.

I have checked ukglowworms.blogspot.com which has sightings reported with numbers seen and dates in 2021.

Larvae were first reported as being seen in Worcester on 9th March the most, 43, being seen in East Kent on 3rd June.

An adult, 1 glowing female, was first seen on 9th June in Surrey. The highest number of adults reported were 53 females in Derby on 16th June.

The last reported sighting this year as I write, was on 23rd July in Gosport Hampshire, where 13 females were glowing.

It has been reported that glows can still be present until August but according to past Rutland records this is quite rare locally.

Like so many other species, Glow Worms are threatened by loss of suitable habitat, preferring open grass and hedges on unimproved land, so populations tend to be isolated. The beetles do not move very far between and therefore are unlikely to mix with neighbouring colonies even if there happens to be one nearby.

I hope to compile a list of sites within Rutland where Glow Worms have been seen in the past. Next year I may have more to report. I hope to search for the larvae at these sites looking under logs and rocks and stones in suitable habitat where there are plentiful small snails which are the larvae's prey.

MOTHS

RECORDER Paul Bennett

90 Kesteven Rd, Stamford PE9 1SR. Telephone: 01780 754569

E-mail: p.bennett569@btinternet.com

After the worst start to a year that I can recall for moth recording, conditions finally started to improve by the middle of June and to make up for lost time, many species appeared on the wing in larger numbers than normal by the end of the month, with some still being seen as fresh specimens after the normal duration of their flight period. This meant high totals on humid nights, with moths of different seasons being seen in the same trap.

The first trap of the season was not set out until 2nd June at Lyndon with a modest return of 17 species from 2 traps, with Green Carpet being the most recorded moth. The site was trapped on a further 3 occasions with that on 27th June being most noteworthy for 5 species of Hawk-moth, including the less common Eyed and Small Elephant. On 10th July and coinciding with National Moth Weekend, 183 moths were identified with numbers evenly spread between the common early summer species, while 347 moths of 88 species were recorded on 19th July from just the one trap that was set out, which is easily the highest total for the site from a single trap. Disappointingly, Large Emerald was the only macro moth to be added to the site list

but with 21 other species totalling 5 or more with 9 of these being double figure counts, including unusually high numbers of Coronet and Clouded Border.

Shacklewell Spinney was only visited on one occasion with 63 moths of 22 species on 8th June, with the highlight being Gem, an annual immigrant but in low numbers nationally, on average 250 per year, and with very few records in VC55 in recent years.

Bloody Oaks was trapped 3 times and not for the first time, was shown to be a site that can punch above its weight for interesting sightings. Green Carpet and Treble Lines were the most recorded on 10th June. 21st July produced an impressive 127 moths of 57 species from the single 20watt battery-operated trap including 4 Muslin Footman, a lichen feeder that is more common on stones and rocks than vegetation, so it is a little surprising that it hasn't been seen before at a site that seems well suited to it. The other moths of note were micro moths. *Ethmia dodeceea*, also recorded there on 30th June, is a small white moth with black dots resembling an ermine micro but much rarer than those as its only foodplant is Common Gromwell



Canary-shouldered thorn. Photo R. Edwards



Cinnabar moth caterpillar on ragwort



Least carpet moth. Photo T. Caldecott



The Gem moth. Photo. M. Grimes

which grows in small areas on the open side of the reserve close to where the trap is sited. There was also a rarer county record of *Sitochroa verticalis* whose primary foodplant is believed to be Perennial Wall-rocket, a plant of the cabbage family that grows in waste ground areas or maybe in this instance, the adjoining arable field. 4 Ringed China-marks also appeared, which like all China-marks are aquatic moths but which have a propensity to wander to sites situated far from water.

Cherry Wood, near the Volunteer Training Centre, was utilised on 2 occasions. Several traps were run on National Moth Weekend, with 262 moths of 86 species which was a reasonable if unexceptional return for what was a cool and clear night. Among these, were 17 Smoky Wainscot, 6 Common Emerald and 7 Round-winged Muslin, the latter of particular interest, being part of the group of footman moths with records only thinly scattered in counties to the north of Rutland, making this species something of an outlier and a good climate change indicator as well as being a sign of clean air. On the night of 29th July, a moth bio-blitz was organised by the Rutland Water monitoring and recording officer with numerous generator run traps put out in areas between and including Cherry Wood and Sharples Meadow as far as Dunlin bird hide. As yet, the results have not been finalised but the hoped for 200 plus species may not materialise due to the cool night and the arrival of the rain shortly after midnight which brought a premature end for all but the hardiest participants. Dark Umber was recorded from 2 sites, several species of Wainscot from the reed bed traps, but the interesting records so far have been high numbers of second generation prominent moths with Pale Prominent being especially prevalent. The first generation is supposed to be the most numerous but were almost non-existent this year which is another quirk of the year's weather.



White ermine moth. Photo J. Walker

A welcome number of garden moths, day-flying moths and caterpillar records were received, and it appears from the former, that gardens have replicated the wider countryside with later sightings than is usually the case with many of our common species. A Scarlet Tiger was seen in a Manton garden, only one record of Hummingbird Hawk-moth was received from an Oakham garden while there were several sightings of Chimney Sweepers and Cinnabar Moths and caterpillars feeding on Pignut and Common Ragwort respectively. 6-spot Burnets and Burnet Companions were recorded from many sites. Caterpillar records of Mullein and Vapourer were received from Manton, Oakham and Wing.

With thanks to the following for their records: - D & J Ball, P Bennett, T Caldicott, L Clark, D Cotter, R Edwards, G Finch, Dr C Gallimore, M Grimes, R Lemmon, M McLoughlin, D Needham, A Russell, P Scott, T Sexton, S Smalley, J Walker.

INSECTS & INVERTEBRATES

RECORDER Jayne Walker

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

It looks as if we are having a typical summer, with every element being thrown at us over the last two months (except for snow!), which may have impacted on the insect species numbers being recorded. However, over the last two months members have reported many interesting sightings. Below is a précis of the records that have been received.

No dragonfly or damselfly records were received up to the end of May, however, the first was a Broad-Bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*, recorded on the 5th of June in Wing. Ketton Quarry (SK 980 060) provided records of Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator*, Brown Hawker *Aeshna grandis* and Common Darter *Sympetrum striatum* at the end of June. Damselflys were also recorded towards the end of June with White-Legged Damselflys *Platycnemis pennipes*, seen at Thorpe-by-Water (SP 891 960) along with numerous Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx demoiselle*. Records in July include Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*, in Wing with Emerald Damselfly *Lestes sponsa* and Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*, near Rutland Water (SK 9022 0586).

There were lots of lovely sounding bugs and beetles recorded, with Nettle Ground Bug *Heterogaster urticae*, in Wing (SK 8891 0288), Woundwort Shieldbug *Eysarcoris*



Blowfly. Photo. D. Cotter



Four-barred Major. Photo. T. Caldecott



Shieldbug. Photo. D. Masters

venustissimus, Leighfield fishponds (SK 8281 0410) and Brassica Bug/Crucifer Shieldbug *Eurydema oleracea*, in Chater Valley (SK 8687 0444). A Hawthorn Shieldbug *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*, was recorded in a garden in Oakham on the 1st June. A photograph of this Shieldbug is shown below, courtesy of Diana Masters.

Cardinal beetles, have been recorded in abundance over the last couple of months, with lots of members sending in records for this species including *Pyrochroa coccinea* and *P.serraticornis*.

Hoverflies have been well recorded throughout the County with species such as *Volucella inanis*, *Volucella inflata*, Pied Hoverfly *Scaeva pyrastris*, *Chrysotoxum verralli*, *Eristalinus sepulchralis*, *Helophilus trivittatus* and Four-barred Major,

Oxycera rara being spotted. A photograph of the latter has been kindly provided by Tim Caldicott.

A type of Blow Fly, *Cynomya Mortuorum* was spotted at Bloody Oaks nature reserve the 13th of July. On Nature Spot it's listed as uncommon in Leicestershire and Rutland. A photograph taken by Dave Cotter can be seen below.

European Wool-carder Bee, *Anthidium manicatum*, Tree Wasp, *Dolicho Vespula sylvestris*, Tree Bumblebee, *Bombus hypnorum* and numerous White-tailed Bumblebees *Bombus lucorum* have been sighted within the County.

I would like to thank the following members who have submitted records for these months: Diana Masters, Tim Caldicott, Dave Needham, Roy Lemmon, Linda Clarke, Carolyn Baxter and Dave Cotter.

PLANT GALLS

RECORDER Roy Lemmon

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU.

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

June 2021

There have been good numbers of galls reported this month with entries from 10 sites. It is noticeable how good Rutland Water is for galls, with Lyndon on the 7th and Egleton on the 14th, each producing 25 species of gall. Another single report from near Bittern Hide on the 29th had Pocket plums on Sloe, where the fruit is much larger than usual and much softer. This is caused by an ascomycete fungus. Gibbet Gorse on the 7th had mophead galls on Male and Broad-leaved Buckler ferns and this is caused by a dipteran which causes the top of the fern shoot to distort into a mophead.

It seems to be so far, a good year for rust galls. Egleton on the 14th, referred to above, had 5 of these including one on a Marsh Thistle which we don't see very often. On the other hand, few have been reported on Bramble so far, perhaps they will appear later.

Thanks to Linda Clark, Martin Grimes, and Roy Lemmon for their reports.

July 2021

The season is now in full swing and there have been reports from 13 sites around the County, with the most productive being the LRWT paddock in Aldgate, Ketton, on the 23rd, with 41 species of gall. Noticeable this season is the 'choke' gall on grasses. This is an ascomycete fungus which grows as an orange collar, up to 5 cm long, on the stems of grasses, and both restricts their upwards growth and prevents them from flowering. Most years we get 1 or 2 reports but this year we have received 6 so far and increased the number of different species in the genus from 2 to 4.

Other productive sites have been the A1/A6121 southbound intersection, which on the 9th gave us 16 species, the problem here being the traffic noise! George Henry Wood, on the 16th, produced 19 different galls and is a good site in that it has both well-established trees as well as more recent plantings. Finally, on the 29th, Mount's Lodge produced 25 species including 6 each of midge and wasp galls. These latter are now coming into their own.

Thanks to Martin Grimes, Geoffrey Hall (BSBI recorder VC55) and Roy Lemmon for their reports.

BATS

RECORDER Jenny Harris

41 Woodland View, Oakham LE15 6EJ.

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

June & July 2021

Our main activity in June relating to bat recording is to carry out the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) counts at maternity roosts. The roosts that are counted in Rutland are now all confined to churches.

Site/date	Species	Count	Temperature	Weather
Braunston church	Soprano Pipistrelle			
11 June		330	18.5 deg.	Dry, calm
21 June		585	12 deg.	Light rain, breezy
Egleton church	Soprano Pipistrelle			
9 June		949	20 deg.	Dry, light breeze
19 June		903	14 deg.	Light rain, breezy
Whissendine Church	Natterer's bat			
Counts carried out by ecologist, not yet to hand				

The Bats in Churches Project is ongoing at all these churches, although not all will get funding from the Lottery, other than funding of the extensive survey work by the expert ecologists and the resulting plan for managing any bat issues. Counts were carried out by the ecologists at Greetham, where it was discovered that Natterer's bats were breeding, something that had not been discovered before. At Cold Overton church, which is just over the border, there are breeding colonies of Soprano Pipistrelle and a smaller colony of Natterer's bats. I hope to receive counts for both churches in future.

Common Pipistrelle Bats were recorded foraging in my front garden and Barmstedt Drive in Oakham, in Wing and Exton. Grounded bats were recorded in a new housing estate in Barleythorpe and Ketton.

Soprano Pipistrelle Bats in flight were recorded in Oakham and Wing. There were grounded bats in a Barleythorpe

housing estate and in Egleton Church. At Egleton Church it is thought that the unusually hot weather forced dehydrated juveniles to retreat from the roost site and end up inside the church on 21 June; 16 on the floor, two inaccessible on the nave wall. Three of the juveniles on the floor were still alive, but one died later. The two surviving juveniles (a male and a female) are in care with JH, where it is hoped they can be released once they can fly and reach a suitable release weight (at least 4.5g).

Brown Long-eared bat A male was found in a house on Stamford Road, Oakham (see table). On 28 July, I went to Toilethorpe to see Loves Labours Lost. As the second act started the spotlights were suddenly turned on, illuminating what appeared to be a very confused long-eared bat flying round the stage. They have vision that is extremely sensitive to light, much more so than ours, so it could well have been



temporarily blinded. It soon flew off into the dark area behind the stage. On 22 July, Monty the brown long-eared bat, his fur fully restored, was released by Linda Clark and myself in the churchyard at Morcott. He had a last hurrah by escaping in Linda's kitchen as we tried to take his photo; he flew round for 10 minutes before we caught him. At Morcott, he seemed to know exactly where he was: good luck Monty.

Natterer's bat Two roosts were counted for the NBMP (see above) and a new colony recorded at Greetham Church. The bats were not counted at Stoke Dry this year.

Nathusius' Pipistrelle. The National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project was cancelled for a second year due to Covid-19 because of the potential risk to the bats from the close contact with humans that is required for this survey!

There will be a bat walk at Lyndon Nature Reserve on Friday 10th September, where we hope to hear Nathusius' Pipistrelle, and to add Daubenton's and Noctule bats to our records for the year.

Grounded bats in Rutland, June, July 2021

Date	Species	Location	Age/sex/etc.	Cause for grounding/outcome
1 June	Common Pipistrelle	Barleythorpe, SK857094	Not recorded	Broken left forearm. Euthanised by vet 02/06/21
13 June	Soprano Pipistrelle	Barleythorpe, SK851101	M. Ad. 4.3g	Thin, dehydrated. Released 23/06/21
15 June	Common Pipistrelle	Aldgate, Ketton, SK984044	M. Ad. 4.0g	Released 23.06/21
8 July	Brown Long-eared bat	Stamford Road, Oakham, SK863086	M. Ad. 5.5g	Found indoors, thin. Released 19/07/21
10 July	Pipistrelle sp.	Barnsdale Avenue, Exton	Infant, f/a 19mm,	Found indoors, roost not accessible for return. Euthanised by vet,
21 July	Soprano Pipistrelle	Egleton church, SK876075	15 dead juveniles	Wandered away from roost during very hot conditions.
21 July	Soprano Pipistrelle	Egleton church SK876075	3 live juveniles	One died, two still in care.

Key: M – male; Ad. – adult; f/a – forearm.

Weight quoted is the weight of the bat when admitted to care.

MAMMALS

RECORDER Linda Biddle

21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford PE9 1BH.

Tel: 01780 762108 Email: ajbiddle21@talktalk.net

I have fewer reports than usual this time, possibly due to confusion over when the next edition of Fieldfare was due, and when to send in reports. I apologise if this was the case.

Thank you to those of you who have managed to send in your interesting sightings. As usual we have been busy at RWNr surveying the water vole and mink rafts, fighting our way through the overgrown vegetation which I am sure is much more vigorous than usual this year, on many occasions' greenery, nettles etc reaching over our heads! Our daily walks have resulted in quite a lot of records too, so there is no shortage of information!!

Sadly, the first report is of an **otter** found dead on the road where the Oakham canal crosses the Ashwell to Langham road in June. It was a very healthy juvenile female, almost certainly from Rutland Water, searching for a territory away from its mother, probably having been pushed away by the parent which may have been expecting another litter of cubs. It is always a tragedy to report the death of such a beautiful animal, but it does indicate that otters are breeding successfully at RW. All other otter records come from RW surveys, with evidence such as spraint on mink rafts, or prints in the clay, seen in both June and July. There are often verbal reports of otters seen, but unless I receive a written record, I cannot use them here.

A **badger** and a **hedgehog** arrived simultaneously in front of Marian Markham's garden trail camera in Langham, but apart from a brief glance there was no interaction between them, both animals continuing with their foraging. Badgers have had an easier time since the wet spell made the ground softer and easier to dig in search of food, after the very dry spell earlier this year. Evidence in the form of latrines and digging have been seen in several areas, such as Pickworth and RWNR.

A **fox** was observed in a ride at Pickworth wood, but very soon slid into the undergrowth – the only report this month. No **stoats** have been recorded, but a **weasel** was seen at Lyndon on the road down to the visitor centre, blackbirds sounding the alarm, possibly having a nest and young nearby.

Hedgehogs have been seen regularly in Wing, Barrow, and one was seen in Oakham walking boldly on the road at 4.30 one afternoon in June, apparently healthy and unconcerned. A **mole** was found dead in the churchyard at the end of June in Wing, but fresh molehills were found in Linda Clark's garden in July. At Barrow in The Willows a "solar molar" has been used to discourage the moles from digging up the lawn, and they are now confined to the "wild" area at the bottom of the garden.

Brown hares are reported from Wing, Gunthorpe, Lax hill RW, between Cottesmore and Greetham, and also at the Greetham valley golf club, where a **brown rat** was also recorded. At Wing, **rabbits** have been seen around the maze, and they have appeared at Greetham valley golf club, Quarry farm Great Casterton and the plantation near Clay Hill on Pickworth Drift.

Grey squirrels are commonly seen, including reports from Wing, Pickworth, Pickworth wood, Barrow and Greetham valley Golf club. A **bank vole** still frequents the patio at The Willows in Barrow, picking up food dropped from the birdfeeder, and two **common shrews** have been found dead, one at quarry farm, the other near Wing, where a **short tailed field vole** was found in Linda Clark's garden.

The **water voles** at Oakham Canal are doing well at the moment, in spite of some disturbance from work installing new fishing platforms, and at other areas at RW they are definitely holding their own.

The only deer seen was a **muntjac** at Greetham valley Golf club, but lots of **Fallow deer** slots and droppings are frequently seen in and around Pickworth wood.

Many thanks to our contributors,
*D+J Ball, A Biddle, T Caldecott, L & D Clark, M Grimes,
 P Langstone, R Lemmon, M Markham, J Merrell, T Mitcham,
 D & S Smalley and J Walker.*



Rabbit. Photo D. Cotter

Condolences

Members will be saddened to hear of the death of Julie Comber after a recent illness. The Society would like to offer our heartfelt condolences to Alan and his family at this time. Julie and Alan were familiar members at many of the indoor talks and meetings and when time permitted, they also joined the various outdoor field trips in the summer months.



RNHS CONTACTS

Chairman

21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford PE9 1BH
01780 762108

Linda Biddle

abiddle21@talktalk.net

Website Editor/Calendar

12 Tees Close, Oakham, LE15 6SP
07535 508932

Peter Scott

peter.scott27@btopenworld.com

Secretary/Mycology Recorder

14 Top Street, Wing, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8SE
01572 737300

Linda Clark

lindaclark_888@yahoo.com

Fieldfare Editor

37 Stockerston Crescent, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9UA
01572 823397

Carolyn Baxter

rnhsfieldfare2@gmail.com

Treasurer

24 Burrough Rd, Somerby, Melton Mowbray LE14 2PP
01664 454532

Margaret Conner

mjconner100@gmail.com

Membership Secretary

32, Church Street, Braunston, Oakham. LE15 8QT
01572 756870

Tricia Marston

rnhsmembership@gmail.com

Programme Secretary

The Jetty, Wing, Rutland. LE15 8RX
Mob: 07946 733931

Jeffery Wilcox-smith

wilcoxsmith@btinternet.com

Wildlife Recorders

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

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