



Chiff-chaff. Gypsy lane Uppingham

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## WELCOME

**The first swallow** of spring is always exciting and cheering, but for me the real sign of spring is hearing the first willow warbler, as I did yesterday, with lovely liquid notes in a "falling cadence" (as our president would say!). We have had our final indoor meeting of the season, and now have lots of outdoor activities to look forward to - details on the website or in your programme. Look out for emails announcing extra events and don't forget to bring family to the special family day at Ketton on August 5<sup>th</sup>. Have a wonderful summer -it will pass all too quickly- and enjoy our natural world. Please send records or messages about your wildlife sightings to our recorders.

### Chairman's Annual report for 2022.

After the "covid years" of 2020 and 2021, 2022 was a year of gradually returning to normal. Members began to attend indoor meetings, tentatively at first, but by the members evening in December we had up to 40 members attending in person, and a few also on-line. We had an excellent programme of indoor meetings, the highlight being a tribute evening to Phil Rudkin, who became our president at the AGM. Sarah Bedford told us about Islay, John Tinning showed some of his excellent wildlife photographs, and Peter Eeles from Butterfly Conservation spoke about the butterflies of the UK. In the autumn we all learned about spiders from Dr Alan Cann, and our annual ornithological special was given by Professor Pearce Higgins of BTO on Birds and Climate change. The members evening was an opportunity to celebrate Christmas in a social setting, with refreshments, as well as excellent contributions from recorders.

Our outdoor meetings Included visits to an organic farm at Castle Bytham, wildfowl at Eyebrook reservoir, Osprey watching at Lyndon, nightingales at Pickworth wood, The Allerton project at Loddington, butterflies and botany at Ketton quarry and a much delayed visit to Attenborough Nature reserve, led by Tim Sexton. In addition, we held mini bioblitzes at Oakham canal, Hebe's

Wood, two survey days at the Wing Water Treatment works, arranged by Linda Clark and a special survey of Panter's orchard was arranged by John Bristow. These surveys were carried out by our hard working recorders, assisted by Leicestershire and Rutland Entomological Society. Our societies' recorders have contributed a great deal to the information which RNHS has been able to pass to national bodies over the last year, and we thank them all.

Your committee have also worked hard all year. Jeff Wilcox-Smith planned the excellent programme of activities, Trica Marston kept member numbers and subscriptions under control. Peter Scott has done a fantastic job looking after the website and sending out emails to members, as well as distributing Fieldfare to deliverers, and being a steady support to us all. Carolyn Baxter is in charge of editing and producing the newsletter Fieldfare, which is very much appreciated by members and has been a support to many members during the isolation we all felt during the lockdowns of 2020. All the officers are supported by a loyal and reliable committee, and I thank them all most sincerely on your behalf. A special thankyou also to Donnie and Stephen Smalley who took over to provide refreshments at our indoor meetings.

In October an important meeting of committee and

recorders was held to try and find a way to involve a wider and younger demographic in the activities of our society. Several ideas were planned, including giving free membership to members under 25 and opening society social media accounts, and this has begun to be implemented. The idea that a Rutland Natural History Society should try to concentrate on local wildlife was also proposed, and this will be born in mind when planning future activities. Educational visits elsewhere however, will still be on the programme. We remain hopeful that we shall be able to continue as an effective society, but it does very much depend on the willingness of members to be involved in running the society.

Our society has received a number of generous donations over the last two years, and we sincerely thank the members concerned. We intend to use this money to further the work of our society, and help other groups with similar aims. We have purchased a new bat detector and tablet with a display showing the bats sound waves, and have also donated a sum towards the planned MOTUS tower at RWNr, a device which can track bats, birds and also larger insects, using tiny tracking devices. We also propose to contribute towards the cost of a Leicestershire Bat Group flight cage for rescued bats.

*Linda Biddle, RNHS Chair.*

## DIARY DATES



### RNHS Outdoor meetings

The following events are correct at time of publication but may still be changed at short notice. It is **IMPORTANT TO BOOK YOUR PLACE** with Jeff Wilcox-Smith. Details: Mob: 07946733931 or wilcoxsmith@btinternet.com. If the weather is bad on the day, give Jeff a ring beforehand as it may have to be cancelled and make sure you wear appropriate footwear and warm clothing with waterproofs if needed.

**Saturday 6th May. Dawn Chorus with Linda and Anthony Biddle.** This is our yearly "Get up early and immerse yourself" in the best orchestral music you will ever hear in the natural world. For details of place and time, please contact Linda – details on the back Contacts page of Fieldfare.

**Sunday 14th May. A survey of Hebe's wood.** A woodland restoration project. **Meet:** Outside Blue Ball pub. LE15 8QS. Grid ref: SK833 066.

**Thursday 8th June. 5.30pm. An evening at Collyweston quarries Nature Reserve. "The Deeps".** June is the best month to visit this old SSSI quarry, now made up of grassy humps and hollows which contain over 100 types of wildflowers, along with butterflies, day flying moths, birds, and reptiles. If you love the subtle beauty of our native chalkland wildflowers, an evening walk at The Deeps is a must. **Meet:** On the way out of Collyweston towards Stamford, look for Deepside on your left and a long lay-by on the right. Park in the lay-by. Grid ref: TF005 037. Postcode PE9 3NA.

**Saturday 17th June. 10.30am. A visit to Merry's meadows with Jenny Harris.** An LRWT reserve, this is another wildflower gem! Many years earlier the previous owner George Merry left these meadows fertilizer and herbicide free. And what a difference it has made to the diversity of the floral life here. If you are an "Orchidophile", there will be plenty to get your heart rate pumping. **Meet:** Park near T-junction opposite Great lane, Greetham. Postcode LE15 7NG. Grid ref: SK928 155.

**Note -** The reserve is some distance away from parking, at Grid ref: SK937 157.

**Sunday 2nd July. 2.30pm. Stonesby quarry led by Jenny Harris.** At this time of year there is something in this little grassland quarry of interest for everyone, from the biggest colony of Pyramidal orchids in Leicestershire and Rutland to the variety of birds nesting in the scrub surrounding the reserve. Apparently, Turtle doves have even been heard here. It would be a bit of a "coo" if one was actually photographed here. **Meet:** Entrance is to the East of Waltham-on-the-Wolds along Bescaby lane. Postcode LE14 4AB. Grid ref: SK810 25

### RNHS Indoor Evening meetings.

**Evening meetings are finished for this half of the year and will resume again on Tuesday 4th October 2023. Venue is at the Volunteer Training Centre (VTC) LE15 8AD. Car park grid ref: SK883 083.**



## Important subscription reminder from our membership secretary.

For those members who would like to continue their RNHS membership for 2023, and have not yet paid, (or simply forgotten - it does happen!) please can you check and fill out your subscription form as soon as possible and send to Trisha at her address on the Contacts page at the back of this newsletter or get in touch with her at: [rnhsmembers@gmail.com](mailto:rnhsmembers@gmail.com).

Unfortunately, if we do not hear from you, we will assume that you have decided to discontinue your membership with us.

## WEATHER

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### January 2023

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** Pressures were low for the first 3 weeks and then high to the end of the month. The lowest was recorded on the 16th at 988 mb and the highest was 1039 mb on the 24th. Winds were often gusty in the first period and were generally S-W, but calmer in the latter part of the month when they were W-N. The last 2 days of the month were also quite windy. There were no named storms.

**Temperature** The overall mean was 4.96 °C which places this month fifth warmest in the decade 2014-2023, after January 2016 at 5.20 °C. There was a cold spell, the 16th to 24th inclusive, when night-time minima were all below zero, the lowest being the night of the 20th to 21st which reached - 5.8 °C. The highest daytime maximum was 13.0 °C on the 3rd.

**Precipitation** A total of 38.5 mm (1.52 inches) which all fell as rain and was confined largely to the first half of the month. This equates to 79% of my long-term mean of 33 years and is considerably higher than January 2022 when just 13.9 mm was recorded.

### February 2023

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** A markedly high pressure month, the lowest was 1011 mb on the 22nd and the highest of many highs was 1046 mb on the 5th. This is the second highest I have ever recorded, after 1047 mb on

20.01.2020. Winds from the 1st to the 22nd were W-NW and then N-NE to the end of the month. There was one named storm - Otto - the first of the season, so named by the Danish Met Office, which passed to the north of Scotland on its way to Scandinavia. Winds up to 80 mph were forecast but here I only recorded gusts up to 12 mph at 09.00 on the 17th.

**Temperature.** The mean here was 6.61 °C, which places February 2023 third warmest in the decade 2014 to 2023. There were 7 air frosts, the lowest being - 3.5 °C on the night of 6th to 7th and the highest daytime maximum was 15.5 °C on the 20th.

**Precipitation.** A very dry February here, with total of 8.9 mm, all of which fell as rain. It represents 23% of my long term mean of 33 years and only the Februaries of 1993 and 1998 were drier, with 5.0 mm and 7.4 mm respectively. There were 18 days without rainfall and a further 4 with only a trace. i.e. below 0.2 mm and therefore not measurable with any accuracy.

### March 2023

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** Pressures were high for the first 5 days of the month, then high to the end except for the 27th, 28th and 31st. The lowest was 986 mb on the 31st and the highest was 1031.5 mb on the 14th. This predominantly low-pressure month meant that winds were very variable in direction as depressions moved across the country and wind speeds were often high. There were at least 3 gales but only one was named - Larissa on the 10th, and this by the French Met. Service. I don't have any dates for hours of sunshine but this has been widely reported as one of the dullest Marches since records began.

**Temperature.** The mean 7.75 °C places March 2023 in fifth position in the decade 2014-2023. There were four air frosts, the lowest being - 3.4 °C on the 9th-10th, and the highest daytime maximum was 16.9 °C on the 30th.

**Precipitation.** A total of 89.9 mm (3.54 inches) is the highest since March 2018 when 95.2 mm fell. It represents 224% of my long-term mean of 33 years. There were just 6 days without precipitation and the largest daily amount fell on the 8th-9th. This was 28.1 mm and fell as a mixture of sleet, snow and rain, but was of course measured as liquid. Surface temperatures at the time were around zero Celsius hence it was melting soon after falling and had mostly gone by the 10th.

## AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

**RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore**

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### January, February, March 2023

Not a lot to report this quarter – just frogs lizards and a Grass Snake.

The first **Common Frog** sighting of the year was in a garden in Oakham on 18 February. The first spawn was reported from Quarry Farm on 7 March and spawn was subsequently reported from Wing, Ridlington and Oakham

between March 16 and 24. Four young **Viviparous Lizards** were seen at Bloody Oaks on 30 March and a large **Grass Snake** was seen in Empingham on 23 March.

My thanks to C Baxter, J Harris, A Hill, D Masters, T Mitcham, J Morrell and P Scott for their records.

## BATS

**RECORDER Jenny Harris**

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

### January to March 2023

There were few records of bat activity during the first quarter of the year, although there were reports of bats being seen regularly from other areas of the country, including the Northeast. In our area, this lack of sightings is not too surprising, as bats hibernate in the cold weather when their food source of flying insects is usually scarce. However, Ann Tomlinson did see a small bat foraging around a new housing development at Home Farm, High Street, Ketton on 8 February at around 5.00pm, SK979 047 approx. On 20 March, Ann was driving along the new

quarry road near Wytchley Warren Farm, near Ketton, when she observed two light-bellied bats foraging directly over the road, roughly SK964 054. As the bats flew over her car she estimated them to be around 2m above the road, and in fact they were diving into the light of her headlights, which illuminated many insects over the road. With pale tummies, they could have been brown long-eared bats or one of the *Myotis* species (Daubenton's, Natterer's or whiskered) that we have recorded hibernating in Panter's Pit just to the north of the new road.

The annual hibernation count for the National Bat Monitoring Programme took place in east Rutland in January and February, with the following results below.

| Date                   | 29 January 2023 | 26 February 2023 |
|------------------------|-----------------|------------------|
| External temp at start | 6 deg C         | 6 deg C          |
| Internal temp, coldest | 5.9 deg C       | 5.6 deg C        |
| Species                |                 |                  |
| Daubenton's bat        | 3               | 1                |
| Natterer's bat         | 12              | 11               |
| Common Pipistrelle     | 2               | 3                |
| Pipistrelle sp.        | -               | 1                |
| Brown Long-eared bat   | -               | 3                |
| Myotis sp.             | 2               | 1                |
| Barbastelle            | -               | 1                |
|                        |                 |                  |
| Total bats found       | 19              | 21               |

The pipistrelle and *Myotis* bats were not identified because they could not be seen clearly enough to do so. It was

good to find the Barbastelle, which is one of the UK's rarest species.

One 'grounded' bat was found during the period: a female brown long-eared bat disturbed during building work at a site in Wing on 01 February. At 7.5g she was rather thin, bearing in mind she had to survive probably at least another two months' hibernation. However, the main problem was that two toes on her left foot were broken, perhaps when slates or woodwork were lifted. The local vet checked her foot, trimming off some broken bone in the toes, which began to heal well. She ate well and soon weighed 12.4g, at which point her mealworm intake was reduced, and she was kept cool to try to avoid triggering pregnancy. She flew well in the lounge, using both feet to land on the wall and roost. On 24 March, when the weather was milder and her weight had dropped to 11.5g, she was released back in Wing. To provide her with a sheltered roost, a wooden hibernation-style box was put up on a tree in Linda Clark's Garden. In mid-afternoon, once warmed up, the bat (who was now called Lily) readily popped into the entrance hole of the bat box, which was then temporarily blocked with a cloth. After allowing her time to settle, at 7.00pm, about 40 minutes after sunset, Linda unblocked the entrance. There was no sign of activity, but she was now at liberty to relocate whenever she chose. Somewhere in the village we know there is a brown long-eared bat maternity roost, so we hope Lily will have quickly re-joined fellow colony members.

### National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project

Following the bat box checks at Rutland Water and trapping of Nathusius' Pipistrelles around the site for the National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project (NNPP) in 2022, I am now able to provide details for these surveys that were not reported in the October issue of Fieldfare. These results have been recorded by Tom Bennett, who is the NNPP licence-holder for trapping, handling and ringing this species in Derbyshire, Leicestershire and Rutland. Only the Nathusius' Pipistrelles were ringed.

**6 May, Whitwell watersports area. (SK923 084) Harp trapping and mist netting (evening) at RW.** 21 soprano

pipistrelles, 2 common pipistrelles, 1 Daubenton's.

**7 May, Barnsdale Wood**, bat box checks (daytime): 3 male Nathusius' were ringed; 82 soprano pipistrelles were also recorded.

**7 May, harp trapping (evening). Berrybut spinney.** 2 male Nathusius' pipistrelles; one soprano and one common pipistrelle; 11 Daubenton's.

**3 September, Barnsdale Wood** bat box checks (daytime): 2 male Nathusius'; 68 soprano pipistrelles.

**3 September, Lyndon Nature Reserve, Manton Bay**, evening harp trapping and mist netting: 2 Nathusius' pipistrelles ringed; 8 soprano and one common pipistrelle, one Daubenton's, 2 whiskered bats.

**17 September, Lax Hill** daytime bat box checks: 4 male Nathusius' ringed; 2 soprano pipistrelles recorded.

Date unsure, possibly **17 September, Lax Hill** evening trapping: one Nathusius' pipistrelle ringed; 4 soprano pipistrelle and 8 whiskered bats also recorded.

**7 October, RW site unspecified**, evening trapping: 8 soprano pips, one common pipistrelle and one Daubenton's recorded but none ringed.

The trapping of eight whiskered bats at Lax Hill was a very unusual record for Rutland. This species is thought to be common nationally, but currently no maternity roosts are known in our area, and they are rarely found grounded throughout VC55 (Leicestershire and Rutland). This record suggests, however, that there is a roost nearby, possibly even in one of the old trees on Lax Hill.

My thanks to Ann Tomlinson for records, to Linda Clark for help with the bat release and to the Professional Ecologist who brought Lily to me for care and for the purchase and loan of the hibernation box. Special thanks to Oakham Veterinary Hospital for treating the bat's toes.

## BIRDS

**Recorder Terry Mitcham**

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### January

**Highlights.** 120 Pink-footed Geese flew over Ryhall (6<sup>th</sup>). Rutland Water had a Velvet Scoter (7<sup>th</sup>-9<sup>th</sup>), a Kittiwake (14<sup>th</sup>-15<sup>th</sup>) and a Caspian Gull (21<sup>st</sup>).

**Rutland Water.** The count (22<sup>nd</sup>) produced 2886 Wigeon, 825 Gadwall, 1388 Teal, 95 Pintail, 1214 Tufted Ducks, five Scaup, 294 Goldeneye, nine Smew and 36 Goosanders. There were also five Great White Egrets. Two Great Northern Divers were present with a Slavonian Grebe all month. There were four Red-crested Pochards (28<sup>th</sup>-29<sup>th</sup>). Some wader counts included 500 Golden Plovers (9<sup>th</sup>), 535 Lapwings (22<sup>nd</sup>), ten Snipe (27<sup>th</sup>), two Curlew (22<sup>nd</sup>) and ten Redshank (22<sup>nd</sup>). One or two Marsh Harriers were regular with a Peregrine (22<sup>nd</sup>). There were three Stonechats at Egleton (21<sup>st</sup>) and ten Lesser Redpolls (27<sup>th</sup>). 400 Linnets and three Corn Buntings were along Hambleton peninsula.

**Eyebrook Reservoir.** Smew were present all month with 15 (26<sup>th</sup>). There were three Scaup (8<sup>th</sup>) and a Common Scoter (23<sup>rd</sup>). Five Great White Egret were present (6<sup>th</sup>).

**Other Sites.** There were 143 Greylag Geese in Exton Park (29<sup>th</sup>). Fort Henry Ponds had 115 Tufted Ducks (20<sup>th</sup>) and a Great White Egret (15<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>). There were five Woodcock in Tunneley Wood (29<sup>th</sup>). Exton Park had two Stonechats and two Tree Sparrows (28<sup>th</sup>).



## February 2023.

**Highlights.** Rutland Water had two White-fronted Geese (6<sup>th</sup>) and a Bittern (23<sup>rd</sup>). Seven Whooper Swans flew over Wardley Wood (27<sup>th</sup>) and a Hawfinch was over Barnsdale Gardens (6<sup>th</sup>).

**Rutland Water.** The count (19<sup>th</sup>) produced 97 Shoveler, 272 Gadwall, 2521 Wigeon, 23 Pintail, 112 Teal, 48 Pochard, 602 Tufted Ducks, 294 Goldeneye, 55 Little Grebes and five Great White Egrets. The Slavonian Grebe and Great Northern Diver remained all month. Two Scaup were present throughout as were Smew with seven (12<sup>th</sup>). Wader counts (19<sup>th</sup>) were 29 Oystercatchers, 2045 Lapwings, 1197 Golden Plovers, seven Curlew, 65 Snipe and 11 Redshank. A Caspian Gull was seen (4<sup>th</sup>). One or two Marsh Harriers were regular along with Barn Owls. A Peregrine was seen (19<sup>th</sup>). A pair of Stonechats were at Egleton Centre with eight Siskins noted (24<sup>th</sup>).

**Eyebrook Reservoir.** Scaup were present all month with three on (5<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup>). There were up to five Smew (6<sup>th</sup>, 12<sup>th</sup>). There were 24 Lapwings (19<sup>th</sup>) and a Kittiwake and a Mediterranean Gull (22<sup>nd</sup>).

**Other Sites.** Fort Henry Ponds had 160 Wigeon, 64 Gadwall and 98 Tufted Ducks (20<sup>th</sup>) and there were 130 Wigeon on a flooded field at Cottesmore (27<sup>th</sup>). Little Egrets were at Fort Henry and Banthorpe (20<sup>th</sup>). Seven Woodcock were at Tunneley Wood (4<sup>th</sup>). Little Owls were at Normanton and Langham. A Stonechat was at Quarry Farm (22<sup>nd</sup>) with ten at Luffenham Airfield (24<sup>th</sup>) and two in Exton Park (25<sup>th</sup>). There were six Bramblings and three Tree Sparrows in Exton Park (5<sup>th</sup>).



Little Egret RW Egleton

## March 2023.

**Highlights.** There were seven Whooper Swans (27<sup>th</sup>) at Rutland Water where the Great Northern Diver remained to (26<sup>th</sup>) and the Slavonian Grebe was present all month. A pair of Garganey were at Normanton (16<sup>th</sup>). A Bittern was at Egleton (17<sup>th</sup>). Eight Woodcock were in Tunneley Wood (6<sup>th</sup>). The first Osprey returned to Rutland Water (14<sup>th</sup>) and there was a Merlin at Rutland Water dam (15<sup>th</sup>).

**Rutland Water.** The count (12<sup>th</sup>) produced 76 Shoveler, 124 Gadwall, 1858 Wigeon 16 Pintail, 164 Teal, 39 Pochard, 740 Tufted Ducks, 335 Goldeneye, five Smew, seven Great White Egrets and 555 Coot. Smew peaked at eight (6<sup>th</sup>, 11<sup>th</sup>). A Marsh Harrier was regular. Wader counts included two Avocets from (14<sup>th</sup>), 26 Oystercatchers (12<sup>th</sup>), 193 Lapwings (12<sup>th</sup>), four Little Ringed Plovers (24<sup>th</sup>) two Ringed Plovers (24<sup>th</sup>), four Curlew (12<sup>th</sup>), 20 Snipe and nine Redshanks both (12<sup>th</sup>). A Mediterranean Gull was seen (30<sup>th</sup>). The first Sand Martin was on (13<sup>th</sup>) with a House Martin (25<sup>th</sup>) and two Wheatears at the dam (24<sup>th</sup>). Five Stonechats were seen (12<sup>th</sup>). A Brambling was at Lyndon (23<sup>rd</sup>).

**Eyebrook Reservoir.** A White-fronted Goose was present (6<sup>th</sup>-7<sup>th</sup>) with Smew to (12<sup>th</sup>). Ospreys were noted from (19<sup>th</sup>). There was a Kittiwake (26<sup>th</sup>-31<sup>st</sup>) and a Caspian Gull (11<sup>th</sup>). A Wheatear was seen (16<sup>th</sup>) and a Swallow (17<sup>th</sup>).

**Other Sites.** On (11<sup>th</sup>) there were 61 Gadwall, 185 Wigeon, 21 Teal, 55 Tufted Ducks and 45 Coot at Fort Henry Ponds. A Goosander was on the R. Gwash near Ryhall (14<sup>th</sup>). A Water Rail was at Fort Henry (19<sup>th</sup>). Little Owls were at Normanton and Edith Weston. Ravens were at four sites and Marsh Tits were in Tunneley and Pickworth Woods. A Wheatear was at Luffenham Airfield (16<sup>th</sup>) with ten there (18<sup>th</sup>). There were two Stonechats at Fort Henry (11<sup>th</sup>) with 11 at Luffenham Airfield (16<sup>th</sup>).

My thanks to the following for their records:- T.P.Appleton, R.F.Baker, D.&J.Ball, A.J.&L.Biddle, T.Collins, A.Comber, M.&G.Griffin, P.Langston, LROS, M.Markham, D.Masters, K.Mather, I.Misselbrook, T.Mitcham, T.Mitchell, B.Moore, J.W.Nourish, C.I.Park, J.&J.Rodgers, P.Scott, T.Sexton.

## Great white Egret. RW Egleton



### Wildfowl counts for Jan to March 2023

|                      | <b>RW<br/>22.01</b> | <b>RW<br/>19.02</b> | <b>RW<br/>12.03</b> | <b>EBR<br/>22.01</b> | <b>EBR<br/>19.02</b> | <b>EBR<br/>12.03</b> |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------|----------------------|
| Canada Goose         | 279                 | 349                 | 187                 | 59                   | 65                   | 33                   |
| Greylag goose        | 154                 | 162                 | 476                 | 29                   | 16                   | 100                  |
| Mute swan            | 300                 | 212                 | 123                 | 82                   | 43                   | 56                   |
| Egyptian Goose       | 30                  | 22                  | 9                   |                      | 2                    |                      |
| Shelduck             | 5                   | 5                   | 3                   | 2                    | 10                   | 2                    |
| Shoveler             | 30                  | 97                  | 76                  |                      |                      |                      |
| Gadwall              | 825                 | 272                 | 124                 | 39                   | 10                   | 3                    |
| Wigeon               | 2886                | 2521                | 1858                | 695                  | 453                  | 269                  |
| Mallard              | 459                 | 319                 | 298                 | 379                  | 108                  | 68                   |
| Pintail              | 95                  | 23                  | 16                  | 5                    | 12                   |                      |
| Teal                 | 1388                | 112                 | 164                 | 321                  | 120                  | 238                  |
| Red crested pochard  | 7                   |                     |                     |                      |                      |                      |
| Pochard              | 33                  | 48                  | 39                  | 60                   |                      |                      |
| Tufted Duck          | 1214                | 602                 | 740                 | 431                  | 256                  | 184                  |
| Scaup                | 5                   |                     | 2                   |                      | 3                    |                      |
| Goldeneye            | 294                 | 294                 | 335                 | 21                   | 62                   | 17                   |
| Smew                 | 9                   | 2                   | 5                   | 6                    | 3                    |                      |
| Goosander            | 36                  | 1                   |                     |                      | 1                    | 1                    |
| Great northern diver | 1                   | 1                   | 1                   |                      |                      |                      |
| Little grebe         | 123                 | 55                  | 24                  | 5                    |                      | 2                    |
| Great crested grebe  | 276                 | 91                  | 99                  | 39                   | 18                   | 8                    |
| Slavonian grebe      | 1                   | 1                   | 1                   |                      |                      |                      |
| Grey heron           | 14                  | 12                  | 7                   | 1                    | 1                    | 1                    |
| Great white egret    | 4                   | 5                   | 7                   | 3                    | 3                    | 2                    |
| Little egret         | 1                   |                     | 1                   |                      |                      | 1                    |
| Cormorant            | 116                 | 101                 | 233                 | 40                   | 70                   | 24                   |
| Water rail           |                     | 2                   | 8                   |                      |                      |                      |
| Moorhen              | 21                  | 29                  | 17                  | 1                    | 2                    | 1                    |
| Coot                 | 1071                | 839                 | 555                 | 88                   | 3                    |                      |
| Kingfisher           | 1                   | 2                   | 1                   |                      |                      |                      |
| <b>TOTAL</b>         | <b>9678</b>         | <b>6179</b>         | <b>5409</b>         | <b>2306</b>          | <b>1197</b>          | <b>1010</b>          |

## Wildfowl count Jan - March 2023 cont.

|                   | Exton<br>20.01 | Exton<br>20.02 | Exton.<br>11.03 | Banthorpe GP.<br>23.01 | Banthorpe GP.<br>21.02 | Banthorpe GP.<br>14.03 |
|-------------------|----------------|----------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Canada Goose      |                |                |                 |                        | 2                      | 2                      |
| Greylag Goose     | 154            |                | 12              | 23                     | 26                     | 8                      |
| Mute Swan         | 10             | 14             | 7               | 2                      | 2                      | 2                      |
| Egyptian Goose    | 2              | 2              | 2               |                        |                        |                        |
| Shelduck          |                | 1              |                 |                        |                        |                        |
| Shoveler          | 14             | 12             | 4               |                        |                        |                        |
| Gadwall           | 52             | 64             | 61              |                        |                        |                        |
| Wigeon            | 94             | 160            | 185             |                        |                        |                        |
| Mallard           | 182            | 65             | 67              | 2                      | 5                      | 7                      |
| Teal              | 70             | 18             | 21              | 11                     | 3                      | 2                      |
| Tufted Duck       | 115            | 98             | 55              | 1                      | 3                      | 2                      |
| Little grebe      | 9              | 4              |                 |                        |                        |                        |
| Grey Heron        | 2              | 2              | 2               |                        |                        |                        |
| Great White Egret | 1              |                |                 |                        |                        |                        |
| Little Egret      |                | 1              |                 |                        | 1                      |                        |
| Cormorant         | 1              | 1              |                 |                        |                        | 1                      |
| Moorhen           | 13             | 20             | 9               |                        | 2                      | 1                      |
| Coot              | 70             | 59             | 45              |                        |                        |                        |
| <b>TOTAL</b>      | <b>789</b>     | <b>521</b>     | <b>470</b>      | <b>39</b>              | <b>44</b>              | <b>25</b>              |

## BOTANY

**RECORDER John Rodgers**

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

E-mail: rnhsbotanyrecord@gmail.com

### Jan to April 2023

Sunny days in this week before Easter! There's Blackthorn and Cherry Plum blossom in the hedgerows and it will not be long to wait until the Bluebells are filling the woods. The little spinney at the top of Ashwell Road has several patches of White Sweet Violet as well as lots of Lesser Celandine. Both seem to be all over Rutland at the moment. Coltsfoot too is reported from several sites; at Oakham Canal the number of flowers increased by 600% in the space of two days. The flowers of this plant appear well before the leaves. Wild Daffodils were in flower in Ashwell Churchyard and several plants not yet in flower on Barrowden Lane at Ketton. Stinking Hellebore was found near Tixover. This is not a common plant but has been found in about 5 sites over the last 8 years.



**Stinking  
hellebore  
near Tixover  
C. Baxter**



**Flowerhead  
of Stinking  
hellebore**

Butterbur was growing by the side of the River Gwash at Ryhall in mid-March. Its relative, Winter Heliotrope, which is a regular by the Oakham canal, flowers much earlier in the year. The first Common Stork's-bill of the year has just been recorded at Ryhall.

I have just ordered "Farm to Fork" by Joe Stanley of the Allerton project. He did a fascinating talk on Tuesday, on the role of farming in preserving biodiversity in the UK, and in maintaining sustainability whilst trying to modify due to climate change. He showed how many environmental activists and in particular journalist's, misuse statistics and present a misleading picture of agriculture. He was persuaded to confess that he has just written a book about this, hence my order. I have too, just read Annie Proulx's book, "Fen Bog and Swamp" which was read on Radio 4's Book of the Week recently. She wrote the book as a way of



helping her to understand about the wetlands that are so important to the control of climate change.

"They hold the peat, that in turn hold in the greenhouse gases, methane and carbon dioxide".

She looks at "how humans have interacted with them over the centuries". She talks about wetlands in the USA mostly but not exclusively so; Scotland and Ireland feature in the bits about Bogs whilst most of the chapter on Fens

is concerned with the English Fenland. It is a very detailed ecological and historical account but also depressing when you learn how much has been destroyed and how much natural history and culture have vanished. The result is a very interesting book.

Records have been received from Duncan and Jane Ball, Carolyn Baxter, Roy Lemmon, Terry Mitcham and Donnie Smalley.

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## BUTTERFLIES

**RECORDER Martin Quinlan**

4 Bayley Close, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9TG

Telephone: 01572 820337

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**Jan - March 2023**

### THE EFFECTS OF SUMMER 2022 ON UK BUTTERFLIES.

Apologies for starting off with some worrying but important news.

The latest results from the annual UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS) led by Butterfly Conservation, the UK Centre for Ecology & Hydrology (UKCEH), British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) and Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC), show that the extreme heatwave combined with the drought of summer 2022 had a major negative impact on some UK butterfly species.

A spell of heatwaves in Summer 2022 led to the UK experiencing its fourth hottest summer on record with the Met Office having to issue its first-ever red warning for extreme heat. Temperatures broke the 40°C mark for the first time with a new UK record of 40.3°C recorded nearby at Coningsby in Lincolnshire on 19<sup>th</sup> July. Scientists fear that there will be severe negative impacts on UK butterfly species when they start to emerge in 2023. For some of the UK species that have more than one generation in a year, the resulting major decline in numbers has already been seen. However, for others, the next generation isn't on the wing until this summer, meaning there could be noticeably fewer butterflies around in 2023.

Data already gathered by the UKBMS has shown serious negative impacts of droughts on butterflies in the past in 1976 and 1995. Some species never recovered their former abundance levels after the 1976 drought. The difference in 2022's drought compared to 1976 is that nowadays most UK butterfly species are ALREADY in decline. With droughts predicted to become more frequent and severe in the UK as climate change continues, some butterfly species may be pushed towards extinction.

Warm or hot sunny weather is good for butterflies.

However, drought impacts the offspring of the butterflies that are flying during the hot dry weather, by causing the plants that caterpillars rely on for food to wither and die. Put simply, it means female butterflies struggle to find anywhere to lay their eggs, or there is not enough food for the caterpillars when they hatch. Without sufficient food, many caterpillars will fail to survive, leading to fewer butterflies in the next generation.

Last year was actually a very good year for some species including Purple Emperor, Large Blue, Chequered Skipper and Dark Green Fritillary. However, these 4 species have been the focus of targeted conservation work and the result of the 2022 drought on these species has yet to be seen because the next generation will not emerge until this summer.

Sadly, the Red List of Butterflies in Great Britain, published last year, showed that half of Britain's butterfly species are "Threatened" or "Near Threatened" because of their decreased abundance or distribution since 2010.

**So here is an important request to you all for every record of butterflies seen in 2023 to be sent in so a true picture of the impact of the extreme heat and drought can be assessed.**

The full data from UKBMS can be accessed at Butterfly Conservation.

### JANUARY - MARCH 2023.

This first report for 2023 has very few records. No butterflies were seen in January and February.

In March the first **BRIMSTONE** was seen at Great Casterton on 18th followed by 3 at Ketton Quarry (KQ) on 23rd, 1 at Oakham on 23rd and 3 at Bloody Oaks Quarry (BOQ) on 30th.

There were 5 **PEACOCK** at KQ on 23rd and a **SMALL TORTOISESHELL** also there too on 23rd with another at Barrow on 30th.

Finally, a **COMMA** was at KQ on 23rd.

As I write this on 7th April I am yet to see a butterfly this year.

I would like to thank Diana Masters, Duncan and Jane Ball and David Needham for their records.



Small tortoiseshell  
on Goat willow.

## January - March 2023

Fungi can be found in all months of the year, but with very cold temperatures and frosts, only the hardiest of fungi cling on throughout the winter months. Our winter walk to Lyndon Nature reserve January 7<sup>th</sup> (reported in January Fieldfare), resulted in a walk through Gibbets gorse wood where (once we had all got our eye in) plenty of brackets, crusts and jelly fungi were to be found, and these are typical of the kinds of specimens you are likely to find in these chilly months. Included in the jelly fungi were Crystal brain, Jelly ear, Yellow brain, common jelly spot. These are called the ascomycetes as opposed to the gilled fungi – the basidiomycetes, which we usually find throughout the warmer, wetter autumn and spring months. The brackets will be found wherever there are standing or dead trees and rotting wood and eagle eyes have found a few in some of our woods. Turkey-tail (*Trametes versicolour*) is very common throughout the year and is one you really can't miss in the woods when not much else can be seen. It is a beautiful fan shaped bracket with many variations in its concentric bands of colours - hence its latin specific epithet – “versicolour”.

### Below - Colour variations of Turkeytail.



Of the crusts, Hairy curtain crust ( *Stereum hirsutum*) is often recorded in the woods in a similar habitat to the Turkeytail – fanning out along dead and rotting branches and twigs amongst the woody floor debris. They can be a little difficult to tell apart though, so peel one off the wood and look at the underside. If it is whitish and porous, it is possibly the bracket – Turkeytail. If it is yellowish and smooth without pores – it will be a crust and may be Hairy curtain crust.



Porous underside of Turkeytail

## Species found in this first quarter were:

|          |               |                     |                             |
|----------|---------------|---------------------|-----------------------------|
| 02/02/23 | Wardley woods | King Alfred's cakes | <i>Daldinia concentrica</i> |
|          |               | Scurfy twiglet      | <i>Tubaria furfuracea</i>   |
|          |               | Turkeytail          | <i>Trametes versicolour</i> |
| 07/02/23 | Pilton woods  | C.Stagshorn         | <i>Xylaria hypoxylon</i>    |
|          |               | Green elf-cup       | <i>C. aeruginascens</i>     |
|          |               | Turkeytail          | <i>T. versicolour</i>       |
| 14/02/23 | Wardley woods | Blushing bracket    | <i>D. confragosa</i>        |
|          |               | Turkeytail          | <i>T. versicolour</i>       |
| 21/02/23 | Uppingham     | Ganoderma sp.       |                             |
|          |               | King Alfred's cakes | <i>D. concentrica</i>       |
|          |               | Tukeytail           | <i>T. versicolour</i>       |
| 24/02/23 | Langham       | Hazel woodwart      | <i>Hypoxylon fuscum</i>     |
|          |               | Phellinus sp.       |                             |

### Below, A species of Phellinus found on Langham footpath beyond the cemetery. SK850 114.



With winter behind us, the next few months will see more of the gilled grassland fungi appearing, such as St George's mushrooms or the Inkcaps, although you may be lucky enough to find some of the Morels which are not gilled but are Ascomycetes, like the jelly fungi. In the woods, look out for the Puffballs, Sulphur tuft and Bracket fungi. Keep a look out and please send in your records.

## INSECTS & INVERTEBRATES

RECORDER Jayne Walker

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Telephone 01572 868624. E-mail Jayne8586@hotmail.com

### Jan – March 2023

Records have been limited to a few species so far, with records of Coleoptera and Hymenoptera below as a summary of the records received. I am looking forward to receiving your records and any that are received after the 9th April will be included in the next Fieldfare report. The earliest Coleoptera record submitted was for an Orange Ladybird which was recorded in Stoke Woods on the 26th January. A record has also been received in March from Oakham of 7-spot Ladybird. Interesting bark boring beetle patterns were photographed by Carolyn Baxter in Stoke Woods and these were attributed to the Ash Bark Beetle which are shown in the photograph opposite.



| January         |                       |             |                          |             |   |            |
|-----------------|-----------------------|-------------|--------------------------|-------------|---|------------|
| Orange ladybird | Halzia sedecimguttata | Stoke woods |                          | SP845 978   | 1 | 26/01/2023 |
| Ash bark beetle | Hylesinus varius      | Stoke woods |                          | SP845 978   |   | 26/01/2023 |
| March           |                       |             |                          |             |   |            |
| 7-spot ladybird | Coccinella 7-punctata | Oakham      | Barmstedt drive Le15 6RG | SK8609 2852 | 1 | 22/03/2023 |

As the result of a few warm days at the end of March, bees have become more active with a single record of many Honey Bees taking advantage of garden flowers in Exton.

|           |                |       |              |             |      |            |
|-----------|----------------|-------|--------------|-------------|------|------------|
| Honey bee | Apis mellifera | Exton | Vicars close | SK1278 1098 | Many | 30/03/2023 |
|-----------|----------------|-------|--------------|-------------|------|------------|

There has been a total of 4 records received for January to March and I would like to thank the following members who have submitted records since the start of the year: Diana Masters, Carolyn Baxter and Peter Scott for David Perril's submission.

**For the first quarter of this year, there were no Moth, Orthoptera or Glow-worm reports or sightings for this issue.**

## MAMMALS

RECORDER Linda Biddle

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Tel: 01780 762108 Email: ajbiddle21@talktalk.net

### Jan – April 2023

**Red foxes** have been seen in 5 separate locations during the last 3 months. It is pleasing that fox reports have increased during this quarter. In January at RWNr one was observed from Harrier hide, and another from Snipe hide. In March at dusk on lagoon one, a fox was seen and at Cottesmore another fox was observed in a garden. The single regular visitor to Marian Markham's garden in Langham was caught on a trail camera most nights during January, and on 29<sup>th</sup> and 30<sup>th</sup>, male and female were seen together. In February there were fewer visits, just one animal, and during March

the single fox came to visit only 3 times.

**Badgers** as usual appeared on the trail camera at Langham, only once in January, then 5 times in February and 12 in March. A live badger was observed on the Hambleton road near the VTC on 20<sup>th</sup> February. Sadly 2 road casualties were seen in Langham, one on 1<sup>st</sup> January, the other on 31<sup>st</sup> March. Another dead badger was seen just outside Stamford on the A606.



An **otter** was seen from Fishponds Cottage swimming across Burley fishponds in mid-January. Another otter was observed on Lagoon 2 RWNr in late March, and otters continue to make their presence felt all over the reserve, prints and piles of spraint appearing everywhere! You will all have seen the photograph taken in the cold spell, of 3 otters, an adult with two cubs on the ice. It will be interesting to see whether the large population of otters disperses during the spring and summer months. We suspect there are at least 3 or 4 family groups on the reserve.

Numbers of **water vole** signs surveyed in March were the lowest yet, causing some concern that they are possibly being affected by otter predation.

There were no stoat or weasel reports, but **rabbits** or evidence of their presence were seen at Exton, Barrow, Preston and Quarry farm Great Casterton. **Brown hares** are reported from Pickworth, Exton, Barrow, Market Overton, and Great Casterton.



Hare in field. C.Baxter

At Barrow, a **bank vole** is still occasionally seen on the patio at the Willows, and another one was discovered under a corrugated sheet on a south facing bank at Exton. Brown rats were recorded from tree sparrow hide at RW and footprints found in clay of mink raft near Fishponds cottage.

**Grey squirrels** are commonly seen, but not very often reported – appearing on camera at Langham, and recorded at Oakham, Barrow, Great Casterton, and Lyndon. The first hedgehog recorded this year in Rutland (others seen earlier in Leicestershire) was on 30<sup>th</sup> January, at Langham, but then there were no reports until March, from Langham, Barrow, and Oakham. A long-tailed fieldmouse was star of the show, appearing at Langham on camera throughout January and February but less frequently in March, and a dead one was found at Eggleton.

**Molehills** have been reported from numerous locations, seen at RWNr Grebe hide, near the old Badger hide, Lyndon, also at Market Overton, both sides of the Ashwell road Cottesmore on the North side for several hundred metres, behind Preston church, and in the Willows garden Barrow, and lastly in the garden at Langham.

**Fallow Deer** are reported often from the Pickworth area, both near the wood and on Walk Farm footpath, the largest group being 24, but normally in ones and twos. **Muntjac** are present over the whole of Rutland. They have been seen at Quarry farm Great Casterton, near Wing Grange, at Barrow, and at RWNr one at the car park and 4 around lagoon 1, one at Field 16 ponds and another near Mallard hide. At Langham they appeared regularly on camera, sometimes a lone male, sometimes a lone female, and occasionally both together.

A special thankyou to those few members who continue to send in reports.

J+D Ball, C Gallimore, M Markham, Terry Mitcham, Diana Masters and Peter Scott

## PLANT GALLS

**RECORDER Roy Lemmon**

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU.

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Jan - ,March 2023

**There were no reports for January, February or March so far this year.**

The issue long awaited, of the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of British Plant galls, by Redfern et al, has been announced by the Field Studies Council for the 6<sup>th</sup> April. The current edition (2011)

has been excellent but there have been a large number of galls new to the UK since then, hence the importance of the new book. I have ordered my copy!

## FIELD TRIPS

**Frampton Marsh. 11<sup>th</sup> February 2023**

On a very mild morning with temperatures around 10 degrees, 17 members of the society gathered in the car

park of the RSPB reserve at Frampton Marsh. We were pleased to find that the new visitors centre was open and

the much-improved catering facilities were also fully open.

Whilst we were all putting on our boots and coats, we scanned the wet marsh in front of us and soon put together a good list of birds; Wigeon, Shoveler, Teal, Gadwall, Shelduck, Mallard were in the company of Ruff, Black-tailed Godwit and numerous Lapwings, whilst out in the distance we could also see Curlew. While looking at the Curlew, we spotted not one but two Peregrine Falcon out on the fence posts. Also flitting about quite near was a lovely Pied Wagtail. A brief fly past by a Common Buzzard was also noted.

After a good time examining the marsh, we set off down the road and headed for 360 hide. Passing the main mere in front of the visitors centre, we added to our growing list with Pochard, Tufted Duck, Moorhen, Greylag and Canada Goose together with Black-headed Gull. The islands were also occupied by large numbers of Starlings.

On our way down the path to 360 hide was a small group of Greenfinch perched in one of the few leafless bushes.

From the hide we found many more Wigeon and Lapwing, among which was a small party of Avocet. We also saw Sky Lark, Linnet, Goldeneye, Pintail and a Common Redshank was added to the wader list. Close in to the hide was a Little Egret. A solitary Fieldfare was seen, perhaps a

good omen that we were to continue having a good trip.

On leaving the hide we spotted Common Kestrel hovering on one side of the path and a Sparrowhawk circling on the other side.

As time was catching up on us we decided to return to the road and head down towards the bank that separates the reserve from the saltmarsh. On our way down we found Stonechat, Reed Bunting, Dunlin and numerous Golden Plover, which were occasionally disturbed and flew up en-mass.

Having reached the top of the bank and looking out over the saltmarsh it took a few moments to focus on what was out there, but close examination revealed large flocks of Brent Geese, Meadow Pipits, and eventually sightings of Marsh Harrier. As it was noticeably colder on top of the bank we did not linger for too long before heading back down the road towards the visitor's centre and lunch.

Back at the car park we managed to locate some additional geese at the far side of the wet marsh, almost hidden behind a small fence; Pink-footed Goose, White-fronted Goose and Barnacle Goose, giving us 6 goose species for the day. A nice ending! Thankyou to everyone who turned up on the day and for your contributions. Peter Scott.

|                     |                     |               |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------|
| Cormorant           | Tufted Duck         | Wood Pigeon   |
| Little Egret        | Goldeneye           | Skylark       |
| Grey Heron          | Marsh Harrier       | Meadow Pipit  |
| Mute Swan           | Sparrowhawk         | Pied Wagtail  |
| Pink-footed Goose   | Common Buzzard      | Dunnock       |
| White-fronted Goose | Common Kestrel      | Robin         |
| Greylag Goose       | Peregrine Falcon    | Stonechat     |
| Canada Goose        | Pheasant            | Blackbird     |
| Barnacle Goose      | Moorhen             | Fieldfare     |
| Brent Goose         | Avocet              | Magpie        |
| Shelduck            | Golden Plover       | Carrion Crow  |
| Wigeon              | Lapwing             | Starling      |
| Gadwall             | Dunlin              | House Sparrow |
| Teal                | Ruff                | Greenfinch    |
| Mallard             | Black-tailed Godwit | Goldfinch     |
| Pintail             | Curlew              | Linnet        |
| Shoveler            | Common Redshank     | Reed Bunting  |
| Pochard             | Black-headed Gull   |               |

**Avocet. Photo P. Scott**



**Brent geese. Photo P. Scott**



## Visit to Anglian Water Reserve Egleton. 11<sup>th</sup> March 2023

The day started off bright and sunny, if not a little chilly after a frosty night. It was a bit touch and go if the visit was going to go ahead at all after the heavy snow falls of the previous couple of days. Ten members led by Linda and Anthony Biddle set off to enjoy what the reserve had to offer and were not disappointed. We set off for Lagoon Four and planned to visit some of the other hides on the way back and within the first five minutes walking we had clocked up twelve species of birds.

Birds seen and heard as we walked between the hides included Cettis Warbler, which was in full song and a delight to hear and the hides provided us with excellent views of some really smart looking birds such as Smew (male and female), Pintail, Shovellers and Shellduck. More heavily camouflaged Snipe were also spotted, and we were lucky enough to have great views of Little and Great



Shellduck. Egleton  
C. Baxter

White Egret which were within 10 metres of each other, so you could get a good idea of both the difference in size and beak colour.

Signs of Otter were also recorded during the morning, with Linda Biddle pointing out tracks and spraint from these elusive mammals and she also showed us the location of some of the rafts which have been placed at the reserve specifically for monitoring water vole signs. These are checked on a regular basis.

The visit ended at 12 noon for the majority of the members, with others staying on. A total of 49 birds were either seen or heard. I'm sure we all agree that we had a very enjoyable visit to Egleton and many thanks to Linda and Anthony for leading it.

A list of the birds (seen and heard) is as follows:

Reed Bunting, Jackdaw, Rook, House Sparrow, Blue Tit, Chaffinch, Great Tit, Carrion Crow, Blackbird, Wood Pigeon, Pied Wagtail, Teal, Graylag Geese, Moorhen, Wigeon, Robin, Redwing (flock 30+), Mallard, Cettis Warbler (heard), Black Headed Gull, Dunnock, Wren, Song Thrush, Magpie, Grey Heron, Canada Geese, Coot, Cormorant, Redshank, Gadwall, Mute Swan, Tufted Duck, Great Crested Grebe, Pintail, Herring Gull (immature), Shoveller, Oystercatcher, Red Kite, Great White Egret, Little Egret, Shellduck, Goldeneye, Smew (3 males, 1 female), Pochard, Snipe, Little Grebe, Long Tailed Tit, Starling and Tree Creeper.

## Visit to John Leefe's woods.



On Saturday 18<sup>th</sup> February a small group of us went to survey the winter birdlife of two small woods in the Stretton area. These woods are not open to the general public, but various groups and societies have been given access by arrangement, eg. Scouts, Cubs, Dementia groups, "Church in the Woods".

We started exploring Hooby Lane Wood (7 hectares) first. Although it was somewhat drizzly, we heard plenty of birdsong including chaffinch, robin, great tit, wren and dunno. We also saw or heard carrion crow, magpie,

woodpigeon, goldfinch, blue tit, jackdaw and black-headed gull. There was evidence of moles, rabbits and the sight of a grey squirrel. Coltsfoot and Green alkanet were in flower, and we were interested to see masses of glandular globe thistle seedheads.


The drizzle stopped and it brightened up somewhat at Stocken Lane Plantation (2 hectares). Again, we saw or heard 13 species, and we found evidence of song thrush in the presence of snail shells. It was great to see 5 members of the tit family; blue, great, coal, long-tailed and marsh tits. Others were robin, dunno, blackbird, jackdaw, wren, goldcrest, woodpigeon and black-headed gull. As well as swathes of naturalized aconites and snowdrops, we found dog's mercury in flower. We were only in each wood for about an hour, so our records are a snapshot, but there is great potential for wildlife here, especially given the 2000 recently planted trees and shrubs (in 18 varieties) and also the ponds. In addition, there are also some beautiful and precious old trees in both woods. We hope to return in June perhaps, to do a summer bird survey.

Duncan and Jane Ball



**Rutland Natural History Society**  
**Income and Expenditure Account for year ended 31/12/22**

| 2021         |   | 2022         |
|--------------|---|--------------|
|              | <b>Income</b>   |              |
| 2,402        | Subscriptions for Year  | 2,413        |
| 352          | Gift Aid tax refund   | 348          |
| 87           | Donations   | 2,585        |
| 345          | Calendar sales  | 386          |
| 23           | Interest Received   | 43           |
| <b>3,209</b> | <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>5,775</b> |
|              | <b>Expenditure</b>  |              |
| 242          | Hall hire & refreshments  | 380          |
| 515          | Speakers & visit leaders  | 460          |
| 144          | On Line events (Zoom)   | 144          |
| 600          | Fieldfare printing  | 847          |
| 256          | Publications Distribution   | 205          |
| 0            | Leaflets  | 279          |
| 101          | Insurance   | 101          |
| 50           | L&RWT membership  | 50           |
| 1,310        | Website   | 310          |
| 200          | Book sponsorship  | 0            |
| 380          | Calendars production  | 384          |
| 0            | Trees guards and canes  | 439          |
| 0            | Echo Meter  | 203          |
| 0            | Tablet  | 145          |
| 0            | Motus project   | 500          |
| 91           | Others  | 193          |
| <b>3,889</b> | <b>Total expenditure</b>  | <b>4,640</b> |
| <b>-680</b>  | <b>Surplus/Deficit</b>  | <b>1,135</b> |
|              | <b>Reserves</b>   |              |
| 9,445        | Balance brought forward   | 8,765        |
| -680         | Surplus for year  | 1,135        |
| <b>8,765</b> | <b>Balance carried forward</b>  | <b>9,900</b> |
|              | (includes £2000 Insurance Reserve)  |              |
|              | Reserves include £245 (£320 - 2021) from legacy received                          |              |
|              | to be utilised for ornithological lectures over time £75.00 to Peter Eels in 2022 |              |
| 5,583        | Melton Mowbray Building Society   | 5,626        |
| 3,725        | Lloyds Bank current account   | 4,304        |
| 22           | Petty Cash  | 32           |
| -565         | Less Subs received in advance   | -62          |
| <b>8,765</b> | <b>Total</b>  | <b>9,900</b> |

  
 Peter Scott  
 2/4/23 Date

The above accounts are in accordance with the records produced to me

  
 Douglas Matthew CA  
 2/4/23 Date

More photo's from the trip to Frampton Marsh on 11th February. (See page 12 -13)  
With thanks to Peter Scott



Above Peregrine falcon



Above. Barnacle geese



Above. Brent geese



Above. Barnacle goose.

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Fieldfare and on the RNHS website.

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