

Hazel catkins and flowers.  
Photo Linda Biddle



## Happy New Year and welcome to 2026!

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As editor of Fieldfare, I get to read all the reports and wildlife news before everyone else, and also to see the fabulous photographs sent in by our members from all over the county. If every picture tells a story, then this one sent in by Linda Biddle on Christmas eve, made me look twice. How often do we see those tiny female hazel flowers bursting out at Christmas? Well not surprisingly, we have had snow, wind and rain since then and hopefully our native hazel flowers are resilient to the changing weather patterns we are experiencing these days. It's not only squirrels that love hazel nuts!

A new year begins for us too, and along with January Fieldfare you will find the programme of walks and talks for 2026, put together to lift us out of our "post Christmas" craving to hibernate away the winter months. Two of our indoor talks are in the morning this year - one in April and another in November. If you are not keen to come out in the evenings, why not join us for a "coffee morning" talk? It's free to members. Our speaker for April will be Jack Perks, a superb underwater photographer. You may recognise his face from programmes like Springwatch and Countryfile.

Our outdoor events in and around Rutland are varied and follow the season's calendar - winter birdlife with Terry Mitchum in March, and spring flowers and Orchids in May and June. Andrew Kearsley from Plantlife will be joining us at our county Coronation meadow at Seaton in June. Ian Merrill, VC 55 recorder for Dragonflies will be joining us in August. Our evening walk in September will be with Ann Gleave from the Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group for a bat walk in Ketton - where Jenny often led bat walks for the society.

Remember to look for up-to-date details of events on our website, on Facebook and Instagram, on Rutland and Stamford sound and watch out for our posters in and around the county.

Enjoy the year to come!

# DIARY DATES



## RNHS Outdoor meetings.

The following events are correct at time of publication but may be changed at short notice. Please book your place with the person who will be leading the walk; phone numbers are beside the listing. Make sure you are wearing appropriate clothing for the time of year and if the weather is bad on the day, please check first by ringing the walk leader. Full details of all these events appear in the Annual programme on the website at [www.rnhs.org.uk](http://www.rnhs.org.uk).

**Sunday January 25th. 10.00am. A bracing New Year walk at Eyebrook reservoir.** Once the regular place to visit for it's wildfowl before Rutland Water, it still records some rarities now and again. **Lead: Craig Howat. (07926726055)**  
**Meet:** At the car park at the bottom of Stoke Dry hill. Grid ref: SP 852963. WTW: compiler.stuns.spoon.

**Saturday March 7th. 9.30am. Birdwatching at Eggleton Birdwatching Centre** with our experienced RNHS bird recorder **Terry Mitchum. (01780751268)**. **Meet:** In the Eggleton reserve car park. GR: SK 879071. WTW: spurned.entitle.shorthand.  
There is a car parking charge unless you have a permit.

**Saturday 18th April. 10.00am. Join our woodland walk through Hebe's wood.** Enjoy the sight of the masses of early orchids in bloom and the songs of newly arrived songbirds. **Meet:** Turn down Wood lane from the village and continue down the bridle track to the end. MR SK8278205687. WTW storeroom.liner.range. **Linda (07749636919) or Carolyn (07729298125)**.

**Saturday 2nd May. Our Annual Dawn chorus with Linda and Anthony Biddle.** For details of where and when to meet, please book with Linda (07749636919) (01780762108). Best to bring a fold-up chair and flask of hot tea/coffee

**Dont forget your walk cards.**

## RNHS Indoor morning/evening meetings.

Evening meetings on first Tuesday of the month from January to April and October to December at Volunteer Training Centre (VTC). LE15 8AD. Ref: SK883 083. **Check for day and time for the morning meetings in April and November. No need to book. Just turn up. Visitors are asked for a donation of £2.00.**

**Tuesday February 3rd. 7.30pm.** We welcome **Ann Gleave from the Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group** for a talk on these elusive little mammals.

**Tuesday 3rd March. RNHS Annual General Meeting.** Afterwards with talks and pictures by Peter Scott and Craig Howat.

**Friday morning 17th April. 10.00am. Rivers in crisis. A talk by Jack Perks.** Known as the "fish twitcher", Jack is a freelance underwater wildlife cameraman who has been involved in many wildlife and angling programmes.

## Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

**Monday 16th February, at VTC 7.30 -9.30pm Looking for the Goshawk.The lost raptor.** A talk by **Conor Jameson**, freelance feature writer, author and conservationist.

**Monday 16th March at VTC 7.30 - 9.30pm. Rutland Group AGM** followed by **The underwater World of Rutland Water.** A talk by Senior species and recording officer **Tim Sexton**. Tim will describe the ongoing underwater studies of aquatic invertebrates, fish, and what affects them.

Car park: WTW remote.validated.stitching.  
£2.00pp on evening. No need to book. Just turn up.

Go to the events page on [www.lrwat.org.uk/events](http://www.lrwat.org.uk/events)

## NOTICES.

Tricia our Membership secretary would like to remind those who have yet to pay their subscription for 2026 that it is now due. The subscription for this year is £15.00 per individual and £30 for family.

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## WEATHER

RECORDER Roy Lemmon

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU.  
Telephone 01780 762051 E-mail: roy.lemmon@yahoo.co.uk

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### October 2025.

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** Arguably the salient features of the month were the two named storms, **Storm Amy** (MetOffice) on the 3rd. and 4th. and **Storm Benjamin** (MeteoFrance) on the 22nd. and 23rd. Storm Amy passed over Wales and on to Northern Scotland and here it gave us a little rain on the 3rd. and strong winds with gusts up to 23mph. on the afternoon of the 4th. Storm Benjamin passed directly over us going in a westerly direction and gave us twice as much rain as Amy but lighter winds. The month's lowest pressure, 985mb., was also on the 23rd. After this, to the end of the month, pressures remained low and all the days, except one, had rain.



### Temperature.

The mean for the month, 11.61°C., places October 2025 5th. in the decade 2016-

2025, that is, there were 4 Octobers warmer and 5 cooler. The lowest overnight minimum here was 2.9°C and I was reliably told there had been a ground frost in a nearby village but none was seen here. The warmest day was the 6th. at 21.4°C.

**Precipitation.** The total, 69.8mm. (2.75 inches), equates to 106% of my long term mean of 35 years. The first half of the month was relatively dry but the second half contributed 80% of the total. It all fell as rain.  
Photo: Overlooking the Eyebrook.

### November 2025

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** Pressures were all low until the 16th. then mostly low again to the end of the month with just 4 highs occurring at intervals during this period. The highest was 1024.5mb. on both the 17th. and 26th. and the lowest, 993mb., also fell in this period on the 24th. Winds were predominantly S-SW on the 1st.-13th. then W-NW to the 26th. and S-SW to the end of the month. There were many occasions when they were gusty.

There was one named **storm, Claudia**, named by AEMET the Spanish Met. Agency, hence the pronunciation "clowdiah", which having done its worst in Iberia then visited us on the 13th.-15th., being very slow moving. This gave us 55% of the month's rain. Overall a very unsettled month.

**Temperature.** The mean for this month was 8.42°C making it 3rd. warmest in the decade 2016-2025 with 2020 and 2022 above it. The first half of the month was warm with maxima of 18°C on both the 4th. and 5th. and there were 5 air frosts in the latter half, the lowest being -2.2°C on the night of the 18th.-19th.

**Precipitation.** This was a wet November with a total here of 139.9mm. (5.1 inches) which all fell as rain and is 229% of my long term mean of 35 years. This month in 2000 was second with 108.2mm. but the same month in 2021 had just 19.0mm. November 2025 had only 8 days when no precipitation was observed.

### December 2025.

**Atmospheric pressure and wind.** Pressures in the first 3 weeks were low, all below 1020mb. and this meant that this period was basically unsettled, often with gusty winds and rain. Winds were SW-W during this time and therefore it was relatively warm. There was one named storm, **Bram** (Met. Eireann) named after the author of the novel Dracula. This storm happened on the 8th and 9th of the month but passed mainly over the West Country, Wales and on to the NW of Scotland and its effects here were minimal. From the 24th. to the end of the month pressures were high here and winds mostly NE which brought lower temperatures and some frosts. The highest pressure was 1038mb. on the 27th. and 28th.

**Temperature.** The mean for this month was 6.40°C, which makes December 2025 4th. warmest in the decade 2016-2025 after 2024, 2023 and 2018. There were 5 air frosts, the most severe was -2.0°C on the night of the 29-30th and the following night, the last of the month was close at -1.9°C.

**Precipitation.** This all fell as rain and amounted to 66.9mm. (2.63 inches) which is 120% of my long term mean of 35 years.

**2025 in retrospect.** Nationally this year is on track to be the warmest on record, although final figures are not yet available. The tentative average annual temperature is at 10.05°C ahead of the previous warmest, 10.03°C in 2022.

**Our annual rainfall.** The total for 2025 was 604.7mm. (23.81 inches) and this represents 99.9% of LTM. It is interesting to see, that despite the considerable drought we saw in 2025, it equalled out in the end.

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## AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore

Waterdown, Brooke Road, Braunston, Rutland LE15 8UJ.  
E-mail: chasgall@hotmail.com

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### October, November, December 2025

There would have been no report for this quarter had not Tim Caldicott disturbed a **Common Toad** in deep leaf litter

in Wing allotments on December 3rd.

## Notes for October, November and December 2025

It has been an interesting autumn for wildfowl with high numbers at Rutland Water in October, declining in December as the reservoir began to fill, reducing feeding opportunities for some species. Eyebrook fared better with good numbers, especially of Pochard, and several Scaup and Smew along with an American Wigeon plus a good flock of White-fronted Geese at the end of December, part of a large influx from the continent to many parts of the country. Lapwing numbers rose in December at the reservoirs, but few are seen on farmland these days. Gardens provided few records but a Blackcap in Oakham just squeezed in on New Year's Eve. My thanks to the following for their records: - T.P.Appleton, R.F.Baker, A.& L.Biddle, LROS, K.Mathers, T.Mitcham, B.Moore, J.W.Nourish, C.I.Park, J.& J.Rodgers, RWNR, P. Scott, T. Sexton

### October 2025.

**Highlights.** Rutland Water had a Brent Goose (15<sup>th</sup>-21<sup>st</sup>), a Red-breasted Merganser (25<sup>th</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>), a Gannet (13<sup>th</sup>), a Glossy Ibis (10<sup>th</sup>), a Shag (7<sup>th</sup>), a Baird's Sandpiper (7<sup>th</sup>-14<sup>th</sup>) a Pomarine Skua, (25<sup>th</sup>) and a Snow Bunting (26<sup>th</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>). Three Gannets flew over Stamford towards Tinwell (27<sup>th</sup>).

**Rutland Water.** The count (14<sup>th</sup>) produced three Whooper Swans, 708 Shoveler, 1816 Gadwall, 4142 Wigeon, 1411 Mallard, 221 Pintail, 2051 Teal, three Red-crested Pochards, 36 Pochards, 1109 Tufted Ducks, a Goldeneye and eight Goosander. There were also 160 Little Grebes, 414 Great Crested Grebes, 46 Grey Herons, 65 Great White Egrets and 72 Little Egrets with 1098 Cormorants and 1471 Coot. Other wildfowl were 17 Whooper Swans (8<sup>th</sup>) and two Common Scoter (17<sup>th</sup>).

Some wader counts included 428 Lapwings (14<sup>th</sup>), a Grey Plover (18<sup>th</sup>), 35 Ringed Plovers (11<sup>th</sup>), two Curlew (14<sup>th</sup>), 13 Black-tailed Godwits (11<sup>th</sup>), a Knot (19<sup>th</sup>), a Ruff (11<sup>th</sup>, 14<sup>th</sup>), four Jack Snipe (19<sup>th</sup>) and 15 Snipe (12<sup>th</sup>). Up to three Marsh Harriers were regular at Egleton. A Caspian Gull was regular, there were seven Yellow-legged Gulls (14<sup>th</sup>) and a Mediterranean Gull was seen (11<sup>th</sup>). 12 Fieldfares and 147 Redwings flew over (13<sup>th</sup>). Three Stonechats were at Egleton (10<sup>th</sup>) with Rock Pipits (11<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>).

**Eyebrook Reservoir.** (See also Wildfowl Count.) Other wildfowl included 11 Whooper Swans (26<sup>th</sup>), five Red-crested Pochard (22<sup>nd</sup>-26<sup>th</sup>) and two Scaup (22<sup>nd</sup>-23<sup>rd</sup>). Waders included 311 Lapwings (12<sup>th</sup>), up to 600 Golden Plovers (18<sup>th</sup>), a Grey Plover (18<sup>th</sup>), three Ringed Plovers (12<sup>th</sup>), a Knot (18<sup>th</sup>, 20<sup>th</sup>) and a Redshank (19<sup>th</sup>, 26<sup>th</sup>). There was a regular Yellow-legged Gull and a Caspian Gull (19<sup>th</sup>). A Peregrine hunted Golden Plovers (19<sup>th</sup>). Four Stonechats were seen (11<sup>th</sup>) and Rock pipits (20<sup>th</sup>, 22<sup>nd</sup>).

**Other Sites.** Fort Henry Ponds had 54 Shoveler (10<sup>th</sup>), 31 Gadwall (5<sup>th</sup>), 148 Mallard (18<sup>th</sup>), 95 Teal (10<sup>th</sup>), 37 Tufted Ducks (18<sup>th</sup>), a Great White Egret (5<sup>th</sup>) and a Water Rail (18<sup>th</sup>) with two Green Sandpipers (5<sup>th</sup>), a Stonechat (10<sup>th</sup>) and a Cetti's Warbler from (5<sup>th</sup>). A Kingfisher was at Quarry Farm (6<sup>th</sup>) and eight Crossbill were over Burley Wood (11<sup>th</sup>). Great White Egrets were also at Rygate Lake (5<sup>th</sup>) and Banthorpe GP (22<sup>nd</sup>)

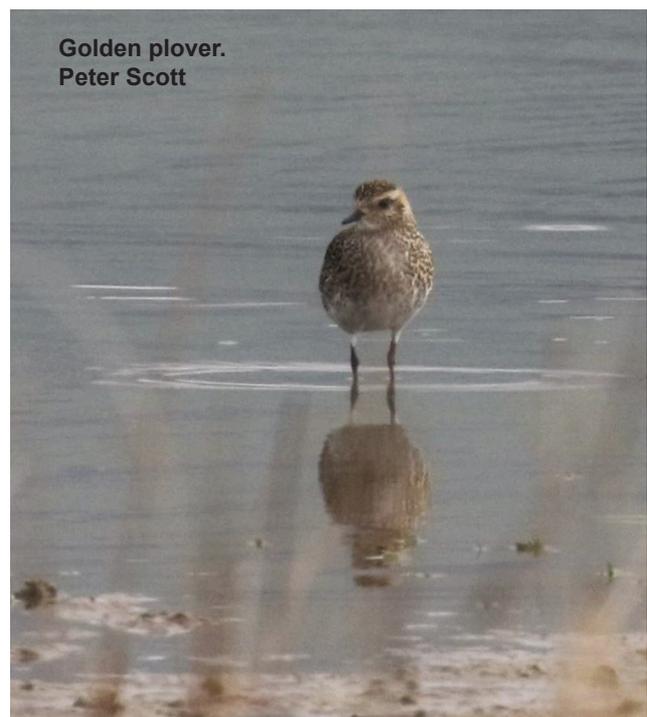
### November 2025.

**Highlights.** Rutland Water had six Whooper Swans (8<sup>th</sup>), a Common Scoter (16<sup>th</sup>), a Great Northern Diver (23<sup>rd</sup>), a Slavonian Grebe (19<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup>) and a Purple Sandpiper (8<sup>th</sup>). Nine Crossbills were over the dam (7<sup>th</sup>). Eyebrook Reservoir had a Brent Goose (30<sup>th</sup>), an American Wigeon (23<sup>rd</sup> – 29<sup>th</sup>) and the American Golden Plover (to 11<sup>th</sup>).

**Rutland Water.** (See also Wildfowl Count.) One or two Marsh Harriers were regular. Wader counts included an Avocet (20<sup>th</sup>), 736 Lapwings (9<sup>th</sup>), 1525 Golden Plover (9<sup>th</sup>), 17 Curlew (8<sup>th</sup>), 11 Black-tailed Godwits (9<sup>th</sup>), 30 Dunlin (20<sup>th</sup>), a Jack Snipe (15<sup>th</sup>), five Green Sandpipers (9<sup>th</sup>) and 14 Redshanks (9<sup>th</sup>). A Mediterranean Gull was seen (8<sup>th</sup>) and a Caspian Gull (9<sup>th</sup>). A Peregrine was seen (2<sup>nd</sup>). There were up to four Stonechats at Egleton. A Rock Pipit was at the dam (7<sup>th</sup>). There was a Brambling (16<sup>th</sup>) and 50 Siskins (15<sup>th</sup>).

**Eyebrook Reservoir.** (See also Wildfowl Count.) There were eight Red-crested Pochards (23<sup>rd</sup>), A Common Scoter (7<sup>th</sup>) and a redhead Smew (10<sup>th</sup>-11<sup>th</sup>). Waders included 517 Lapwings, 62 Golden Plover and eight Dunlin (all 9<sup>th</sup>). A Short-eared Owl was flushed (23<sup>rd</sup>) and there were two Stonechats (26<sup>th</sup>).

**Other Sites.** Fort Henry Ponds had a Mandarin Duck (11<sup>th</sup>), 41 Shoveler (1<sup>st</sup>), 43 Gadwall (8<sup>th</sup>), 78 Teal (23<sup>rd</sup>), 93 Tufted Ducks (23<sup>rd</sup>), two Water Rails (8<sup>th</sup>) and three Green Sandpipers (1<sup>st</sup>). Three Woodcock were in Tunneley Wood (30<sup>th</sup>). A Marsh Harrier was at Fort Henry (30<sup>th</sup>). Barn Owls were at Exton (2<sup>nd</sup>) and Beaumont Chase (3<sup>rd</sup>). Peregrines were at Beaumont Chase (3<sup>rd</sup>) and Ketton (5<sup>th</sup>). There was a pair of Ravens at Quarry Farm (28<sup>th</sup>) and Marsh Tits were in Tunneley Wood (13<sup>th</sup>, 30<sup>th</sup>). A Cetti's Warbler remained at Fort Henry to (8<sup>th</sup>).



Golden plover.  
Peter Scott

**December 2025.**

**Highlights.** Rutland Water had a White-fronted Goose (25<sup>th</sup>) with four on (31<sup>st</sup>). One was at Fort Henry Ponds (27<sup>th</sup>). Also at Rutland Water was a Great Northern Diver from (6<sup>th</sup>) with two from (25<sup>th</sup>) and a Slavonian Grebe (25<sup>th</sup>). A Shag was near Normanton (28<sup>th</sup>). A Merlin was at Egleton (28<sup>th</sup>) and a Hawfinch at Whitwell (3<sup>rd</sup>). 26 White-fronted Geese were at Eyebrook Reservoir (26<sup>th</sup>) with 13 still on (31<sup>st</sup>).

**Rutland Water.** (See also Wildfowl Count). Other wildfowl were a Scaup (8<sup>th</sup>) and a Smew (14<sup>th</sup>). Wader counts included 100 Golden Plover, 1471 Lapwings, 20 Dunlin, nine Curlew, two Green Sandpipers and ten Redshanks (all 7<sup>th</sup>). At least one Marsh Harrier was regular and Peregrines

were seen occasionally. Up to 50 Siskins were at Egleton.

**Eyebrook Reservoir.** (See also Wildfowl Count.) Three Red-crested Pochard remained to (17<sup>th</sup>) and there were eight Scaup (17<sup>th</sup>) with Smew regular all month and nine on (31<sup>st</sup>). Waders included 1650 Lapwings, 530 Golden Plover and a Snipe (7<sup>th</sup>) with two Knot (26<sup>th</sup>) and two Dunlin.

**Other Sites.** Fort Henry Ponds had 40 Gadwall, 39 Teal and 111 Tufted Ducks (all 6<sup>th</sup>) with 73 Wigeon (14<sup>th</sup>) and a Barnacle Goose (27<sup>th</sup>). There were three Pochard (6<sup>th</sup>) Two Woodcock were in Tunneley Wood (11<sup>th</sup>). A Barn Owl was at Luffenham Heath, and a Blackcap was in and Oakham garden (31<sup>st</sup>).

**Rutland Wildfowl counts - October to December 2025**

	FHP and Exton Park 10.10.	FHP and Exton Park 08.11.	FHP and Exton Park 06.12.	Banthorpe GP 13.10.	Banthorpe GP 07.11.	Banthorpe GP 05.12.
Greylag Goose	30	63	13			
Mute Swan	13	7	7	7	7	
Egyptian Goose	6	7	9			
Mandarin Duck	2					
Shoveler	54	27	16			
Gadwall	32	51	69			
Wigeon	4	19	59	25		
Mallard	109	66	107	5	10	57
Teal	95	75	31	7	13	2
Pochard			3			
Tufted Duck	32	51	113		2	
Little Grebe	10	6	12	1		
Grey Heron	2	3	1	1	1	
Great White Egret			2		1	
Little Egret		1		1	1	
Cormorant	4		3	9	6	
Water Rail		2				
Moorhen	54	33	14	2	1	
Coot	106	106	129			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>553</b>	<b>517</b>	<b>588</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>59</b>

	Holywell Lake 08.10.	Holywell Lake 10.11.	Holywell Lake
Canada Goose	5	29	
Greylag Goose	30	20	
Mute Swan	2	2	
Shoveler		5	
Gadwall		8	
Wigeon	7	24	
Mallard	62	73	
Teal	4	22	
Pochard		1	
Tufted Duck	7		
Little Grebe	11	17	
Grey Heron	1	2	
Great White Egret	1		
Little Egret	1	2	
Cormorant	2	1	
Moorhen	19	24	
Coot	1		
Kingfisher	1	1	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>154</b>	<b>231</b>	

Rutland Wildfowl Counts October - December 2025 cont.

	RW 14.10.	RW 09.11.	RW 07.12.	EBR 12.10.	EBR 09.11.	EBR 07.12.
Brent Goose	1					
Canada Goose	643	562	335	28		157
Barnacle Goose		2				
Greylag Goose	320	645	202	38	88	316
Mute Swan	467	440	355	84	96	82
Whooper Swan	3				1	
Egyptian Goose	22	19	14	22		
Mandarin Duck	2	16	2			
Shoveler	708	612	104	33	18	8
Gadwall	1816	1386	401	105	46	81
Wigeon	4142	5150	1391	272	300	414
Mallard	1411	1189	788	184	185	226
Pintail	221	281	56	7	10	3
Teal	2051	3356	2296	525	399	615
Red-crested Pochard	3	1		3	12	6
Pochard	36	9	4	21	358	125
Tufted Duck	1109	644	533	501	830	903
Scaup		1		1	1	1
Goldeneye	1	71	212		1	
Smew					1	1
Goosander	8	11	4			
Little Grebe	160	115	178	3	2	2
Great Crested Grebe	414	270	126	27	25	34
Grey Heron	46	30	23	1	5	2
Great White Egret	65	57	19		1	4
Little Egret	72	24	7	2	4	3
Cormorant	1098	525	189	42	115	5
Water Rail	4	1	1			
Moorhen	88	34	41	1		1
Coot	1471	1405	845	360	381	393
Kingfisher		2				1
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>16382</b>	<b>16858</b>	<b>8126</b>	<b>2260</b>	<b>2879</b>	<b>3383</b>

## BOTANY

**RECORDER John Rodgers**

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

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

### Oct – Dec 2025 and January 2026

It's not really the season for records of flowering plants and there haven't been any since October 2025. It's the time of year when keen botanists review their year and make plans for expeditions next year. Some go out to hone their skills on identifying plants from the winter vegetative parts. There was an article about this in the recent edition of BSBI news, but even so, it's not an easy task without lots of practice. I'm afraid I have given it a miss.

Members of the society have taken part in the nation-wide

New Year Plant Hunt. This year didn't quite work out as other years. It was probably a result of the cold weather at New Year and the many coughs and colds, but the only person braving all and taking part in the survey was our Chair, Carolyn Baxter. She found 21 plants in flower ; the usual **Annual Meadow Grass**, **Groundsel**, **Daisy**, **Dandelion** and **Shepherd's Purse**, but also **Mexican Fleabane** and **Red Valerian** which both looked as though they had spread from nearby gardens. One plant counted was a **Cyclamen** in the churchyard. This had rounded

leaves and could be *Cyclamen coum* but this needs to be verified. It is tell if this is an from somewhere deliberately the churchyard. To be added **Winter** which I noticed usual spot by the Canal on the Langham road as I'm sure a of members read Wildlife. It is interesting read and introduces the reader to numerous types of wildlife. One article I thought worth recording here was that on Teasels. I suppose we all know that Teasel



difficult to escapee or a plant planted in these can **Heliotrope** in its Oakham Ashwell-drove past number British always an

heads were used in the wool trade, not for teasing out wool fibres, or carding, but for raising the nap of finished cloth. The plant heads used however weren't the plant which we all know, Wild Teasel, but a cultivated variety whose origins are unknown. The bracts on the Wild Teasel are straight but those on the cultivated Teasel end in fine hooks, which are much better at picking up fibres and thus creating a soft surface on the cloth. This plant used to be grown in Britain, the last known site being in Somerset, but has now disappeared. There are, however, two other species of Teasel that might be found in the UK. These are Small Teasel and Cut-leaved Teasel. the former can be found in Rutland, but I have no records of the Cut-leaved variety.

Many thanks to Carolyn Baxter for providing records for the New Year Plant Hunt.

## BUTTERFLIES

**RECORDER Martin Quinlan**

4 Bayley Close, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9TG

Telephone: 01572 820337

### Butterflies April/May 2025

The following April 2025 records from Tim Caldicott and Alistair Lawrence were omitted from the April-May 2025 Report in Fieldfare Issue 352.

For some unknown reason their emails had gone into my SPAM folder and I failed to discover them.

My sincere apologies to you both and to all readers of Fieldfare.

**GRIZZLED SKIPPER** 2 were seen at Ketton Quarry (KQ) on 22nd April.

**ORANGE-TIP. (Below)** 3 were seen at Egleton (EG) on 4th April. A female was at Manton (M) on 11th April and 7 were recorded at Egleton on 17th April. Finally 3 were at KQ on 22nd.



**BRIMSTONE** males were seen at EG on 4th April, 5 were at EG on

17th April with another 5 at KQ on 22nd April. Finally a single was seen at Martinthorpe (MT) on 27th April.

**LARGE WHITE** was recorded at KQ on 22nd April with another 2 at Wing (W) on 29th April.

**SMALL WHITE** was seen at EG on 4th April with 4 present there on 17th April. Another 4 were at KQ on 22nd April.



**GREEN-VEINED WHITE (Right)**

was seen at MT on 20th April.

**SPECKLED WOOD** was seen at EG with 2 there on 4th April and a single seen at Gibbet's Gorse (GG) at Rutland Water on 12th April.

**RED ADMIRAL** was seen M on 27th April.

**PEACOCK** was reported from GG on 3rd April, EG on 4th April and 4 were seen at KQ on 22nd April.

**A SMALL TORTOISESHELL** was seen at EG on 17th April.

**A HOLLY BLUE** was seen at Oakham (O) on 17th April.

I would like to thank Tim Caldicott and Alistair Lawrence for all their records.

Many thanks and again my apologies to you both and to all readers of Fieldfare.

### August/September 2025

The UK had a very warm and very dry summer in 2025 and August was exactly that - warm and dry. September - the first month of Autumn - was cool and windy and these conditions clearly had an impact on butterflies with all sightings reduced in number.

One record of **BRIMSTONE** came from KQ with 1 on 15th August.

**LARGE WHITE** was yet again under-recorded as the only records were a single at Stretton Wood (SW) on 5th August, 3 in Uppingham (UPP) on 7th August and 4 at KQ on 25th August.

**SMALL WHITE** was seen at SW with 1 on 5th August and at KQ with 6 there on 12th August. September saw a maximum count of 14 at UPP on 6th.



There were just 2 records of **BROWN ARGUS (left)** - a single at Langham (L) on 2nd August and 1 at KQ on 15th August.

There were a good number of records of **COMMON BLUE** with singles at L on

2nd, 4th and 11th August.

Singles were in UPP on 5th, 8th and 12th August and a maximum of 6 were seen at KQ on 12th August with the last 2 also at KQ on 25th August.

**SMALL COPPER** singles were seen at L on 11th August, KQ on 15th and 25th August and Essendine (ESS) on 31st August.

The last record was a single in UPP on 2nd September.

**SPECKLED WOOD** was first reported from SW on 5th August and then at L on 11th August.

A maximum count of 5 were at KQ on 12th August.

There was only 1 record of **SMALL HEATH (Below)** - a single at KQ on 25th August.



**GATEKEEPER** has not been as plentiful as last year and again declined in August with no records in September. In August there were 3 at KQ on 15th and singles in UPP on 7th, 14th, 20th and finally on the 23rd.

**MEADOW BROWN** had also been seen in good numbers in summer but also declined in August with no records in September.

In August there was a single at SW on 5th, 10 at KQ on 12th, 7 at UPP on 15th, 12 at KQ on 15th and finally 2 at KQ on 23rd.

So a total of only 10 species were seen in the period.

I would like to thank the following for their records: David Needham, Roy Lemmon, Marian Markham, Martin Grimes and John Rodgers. Many thanks to you all.

### October to December 2025

Technical problems with acquiring the records from the Naturespot website has meant that it was not possible to include them in this month's Fieldfare.

Hopefully they will be published in the next issue.

The year ended with only 2 records in the final quarter - though the awaiting Naturespot records may improve on that.

Two species were recorded in October with none in November and December.

A single **RED ADMIRAL** was seen at UPP on 4th October.

A single **PEACOCK** was seen in UPP on 12th October.

Thank you to anyone who sent in their records to Naturespot.

## FUNGI

**RECORDER K Fortune Jones**

56 Queens walk, Stamford. PE9 2QE

Mob: 07929 895021

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

### October to December 2025

As we all know Autumn is peak time for Fungi and all things mycological, so as the fungi recorder for the RNHS I should have been out and about all over Rutland scouring woods, meadows and coppices. Unfortunately this was not the case, as work and art commitments kept me heavily occupied and away from my walking boots. So this report could have been somewhat lean. However I have my trusted recorders to feed me exciting sightings and I did eventually build up a pretty decent list myself, beyond Autumn, right up until late December.

This season happily, was a long one, due to the mild weather, and greedily we amateur mycologists took advantage of this.

**October** as always, brings UK Fungus Day and this year the Leicestershire Fungi Study Group visited the Eggleton Reserve and set up a display and microscopy workstation with Tim Sexton, the LRWT Senior Recording Officer, at the Birdwatching Centre. Sadly it was a day of severe

gales, so Tim and the leaders of LFSG decided on a much edited foray away from the big woods. A cluster of **Bulbous Honey fungus** greeted us at the wooden entrance gate, and further along the hides path, the chunky **Silky Rosegills**, which had impressed us back in August, had generously produced a second fruiting for us to admire. Apart from a robust **Deer Shield** and a sizeable **Rooting Shank**, most of our findings were of the diminutive variety, so the hand lenses were at the ready. A good range of **Bonnets** were counted:



**Frosty, Orange, Clustered, Nitrous, Winter and Bark. Fairy Inkcaps, Small Staghorn, Lemon Disco, Yellow Jelly Brain** (see previous photo) and **Orange Mosscap** provided sprinkles of colour. Several Crusts and Mildews were found, with **Oak leaf mildew** being taken back to the 'lab' for microscopic examination. Which turned out to be quite a bit more spectacular than it sounded, as the microscope revealed a whole other dimension to fungal form and colour. In all, around **40 specimens were counted that day.**

Further around Rutland a wealth of interesting fungi were recorded and photographed by Tim Caldicott, who regularly surveys Lyndon Wood, Manton pastures, and Fox Covert



woods, to name a few. The rare and very lovely **Wrinkled Peaches (Left)** made a couple of appearances, and keeping on a fruity note, the attractive mushroom, **Plums and Custard** was a surprising find

for Rutland. Other notables were **Weeping Widows, Clustered Domecaps** and **Pale Oyster** Mushroom. In fact it's been a good year for the Oyster family in Rutland, with Tim's

**Olive Oysterling** and dainty **Smoked Oysterling (Right)** added to the **Flat and Round Spored Oysterling**



found on UK Fungus day. Plus my uncommon **Lilac Oysterling** spotted in the grounds of Launde Abbey in September.



Brackets of note have been the **Red Banded Bracket, (Left)**, a **Conifer Blueing** and the **Lacquered, Willow and Cinnamon Brackets** all

recorded by Tim Caldicott In mid October, I was pleased to see my **Red listed Coral Tooth Fungus** had appeared again for the third year running, across the border at Burghley.

Grassland fungi – particularly the Waxcaps, for some reason have not had a good year with the usual spots being very sparse. (Interesting to note this followed a Waxcap bonanza year in 2024). A possible find of the uncommon **Skinny Club** fungus, *Clavaria incarnata* was recorded and photographed by Tim, but needs further confirmation.

**Possibly Skinny club.**  
**T. Caldicott**



On Saturday 8th of November RNHS had a Fungi foray to Wakerley Woods led by yours truly. (See Field trips page 11 for list). We explored a tiny fragment of these ancient woods, starting out in the Larch plantation, moving into more mixed Oak, Beech and Birch areas, recording a decent 39 specimens which did not include crusts, tar spots and mildews. Highlights were the yellow stockinged **Winter Chanterelles**, a large gang of **Elfin Saddles**, several **Brittlegill varieties** including **Birch, Ochre and Charcoal Burners** and the rather elegant **False Deathcaps**. It was late for the Bolete family, but Wakerley boasts a good variety, of which we saw the very yellow and slimy **Larch Bolete, Bay Bolete** and an enormous **Birch Bolete**.

Fungi fruiting continued well through **November**, with healthy records still being made until late **December**.

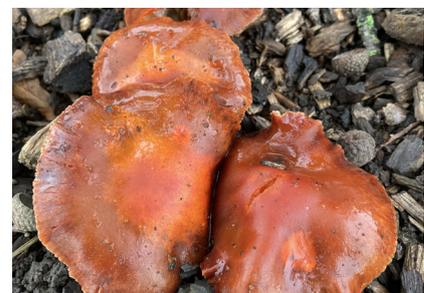
**Outside of Rutland Borders** I made some exciting finds, the first being the strange **Arched EarthStar, Geastrum fornicatum**, which

appears to raise itself off the ground. A first for me and an unusual find. On a very rainy day in Burghley deerpark I found all manner of impressive fungi in the woodchip mulch around some of the veteran oaks. Big numbers of large **Stubble Rosegill** erupting from their silvery eggs, the most enormous **Orange Peel Fungus** I've ever clapped eyes on and big 'families' of **Verdigris Agarics**, all in different stages of growth, presented an amazing splash of shiny turquoise amidst the earthy tones. The related **Redlead Roundheads**, (photo below) once a rare mushroom, were up in abundance, alongside sways of **Conical Brittlestems, Wood Blewits** and **Common Inkcaps**. An uncommon **Purple Brittlestem** was also present, **Psathyrella bipellis** in the woodchip. However it was a crowd of about 50-60 **Magpie Inkcaps** (See



outside back page).all standing together in various stages of deliquescing, (degrading into inky puddles) nodding in the breeze, that was the most arresting sight of the day for me and possibly of the whole season.

Thank you for all your records.



## October to December 2025

This has been a quiet period for recording. At RWNr the mammal camera trapping project has continued through October, November and early December, now in Cherry Wood at RWNr quite near to the Hambleton Road. As we would expect in woodland, there have been fewer species recorded, mainly **Wood mice**, with occasional **Field voles** and **shrews**. We did find one *Water shrew*, when the camera was sited close to a pond, and only one **Brown rat**, which was far fewer than we had expected. As the weather became more and more wet and miserable we decided to have a break until after Christmas, and we are soon to resume putting out the camera in further areas of woodland, so there should be more records during early 2026

There have been few reports from members, and even though we ourselves have been out almost every day, very few chance sightings have been recorded. A **Badger** was seen by one member as it scuttled into the hedgerow near Uppingham in October, and another as it crossed the Brooke to Ridlington road in December. Much evidence of badger scuffling and snuffling in the grassy verge alongside the track at Walk Farm was present during November and December. Just one badger road casualty was seen near Empingham. There have been no reports of otters this time for the first time in 2025.

At least one **Hedgehog** has regularly visited the garden of our botany recorder, John Rodgers, during the summer months and up until November. A **Red fox** has also been a visitor there, caught on camera somewhat unexpectedly in November. On our way to the local trust group meeting on

November 20th, a fox was feeding determinedly on roadkill on the verge at the bottom of Barnsdale Hill, and made no move as we passed.

**Brown hares** have been seen during October and November at Walk Farm near Pickworth, and another crossed the A606 close to Burley Fishponds. There was only one report of **Grey squirrel**, seen at RWNr, but they have been very regular visitors to our bird feeder in Stamford, rapidly clearing out the peanuts, and other members must have had similar experiences, so please do let me know what you see, even though they are a common sight. **Rabbits** too are very under recorded, seen recently near the gate at VTC Rutland water.

**Muntjac** are present in Pickworth wood, seen skulking in the undergrowth, and at Braunston a fawn was seen on Dr Gallimore's drive illuminated by security lights in October. In December an adult was seen by the roadside on Ridlington Road, Brooke and a dead muntjac fawn was seen on the roadside at Braunston. **Fallow deer slots** along the Walk farm path were obvious during October and November. There have been three reports of **Roe deer** this time, two seen in the Gwash valley Martinthorpe in October, and a lovely photograph of a sleeping Roe fawn found at RWNr Lyndon reserve in November. Dr Gallimore also saw one as it dashed in front of his car at Brooke Hill Oakham. Very many thanks for all your records during 2025. I look forward to seeing lots more in 2026!

Recorders A+L Biddle, Tim Caldicott, G. Chiverton, Dr. C Gallimore, J&J Rodgers and S Smalley.



Baby Roe Fawn.  
Photograph Tim Caldicott

# FIELD TRIPS

## Saturday 8th November 2025. Fungi foray in Wakerley woods.

### Species list

<b>Fungi</b>		
Common fibrecap	Buttercap	Amethyst deceiver
False chanterelle	Rooting bonnet	Candlesnuff
Larch bolete	Hairy Curtain crust	Common bonnet
Ochre brittlegill	Curry milkcap	Birch brittlegill
Brown rollrim	Yellow stagshorn	Blusher
Charcoal burner	Bay bolete	Turkey tail
False deathcap	Common puffball	Lilac bonnet
Winter chanterelle	Birch bolete	Blushing bracket
Elphin saddle	Wood blewit	Trooping funnel
Birch milkcap	Fragrant funnel	Slender club
Goblet(?)	Woodtuff(?)	Large milkcap(?)
<b>Birds</b>		
Jackdaw	Crow	Goldcrest
Robin	Gt. Spotted woodpecker	Marsh tit (?)
<b>Butterflies</b>	<b>Red admiral</b>	<b>Peacock</b>

## Sunday 23rd November 2025. Visit to Deeping lakes. A LWT Nature reserve.



Deeping Lakes, now a Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust reserve, began life as a series of flooded gravel pits created by quarrying on the site since the 19th century, following an earlier phase as a brickworks. The main lake, long known locally for recreation and fishing, was joined in the 1990s by two newer quarry lakes at Welland Bank, restored in partnership with the extractive industry. In 2003, the Trust purchased the original lake—supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and the Aggregates Levy Sustainability Fund—and formally opened the expanded reserve in 2004. Since then, Deeping Lakes has been transformed from an industrial landscape to a thriving wetland through volunteer-led restoration, island re-profiling and careful habitat management, forming part of the nationally significant Deeping Gravel Pits SSSI.

After heavy early-morning rain, we followed the clearing weather eastwards. We arrived to find Deeping Lakes bathed in late-autumn sunshine, with large puffy cumulus clouds racing overhead on a warm but brisk westerly wind.

As we gathered in the car park, three **Bramblings** flew over to greet us. We walked first along the Welland Bank in the hope of seeing a family Otters that had frequented the Welland that week. Although none appeared during the visit, they were photographed again later in the afternoon. The reserve's otters thrive on the large shoals

of Roach and Bream that graze on the decaying beds of submerged macrophytes. The riverbank here is lined with handsome pollarded stools of **hybrid white willow**, now a characteristic feature of the landscape.

From there we headed into the blocks of planted woodland and along the edge of the original 19th-century gravel pit. Excavation here famously unearthed the remains of a Straight-tusked Elephant dating to the Ipswichian Interglacial, around 120,000 years ago.

The visit produced an excellent range of late-autumn birds. Star of the morning was undoubtedly the **Long-eared Owl**, roosting at close range in the ivy-clad tree beside the hide, giving superb views. Raptors were well represented too, with a male **Marsh Harrier** quartering the reedbeds and a **Red Kite** drifting overhead. Winter thrushes were on the move, including 19 **Redwing** and 11 **Fieldfare**, while finches added colour with 3 Brambling, 8 **Greenfinch** and small numbers of **Redpoll** and **Goldfinch**.

On the water, good flocks of wildfowl were present, especially 50 **Shoveler** and 45 **Gadwall**, along with 6 **Goldeneye**, 25 **Tufted Duck**, 15 **Teal** and 21 **Mallard**. **Gulls** included 30 **Black-headed**, with single **Herring** and **Great Black-backed Gulls**. A scattering of other species, including **Green Woodpecker**, **Skylark**, **Stonechat**, **Meadow Pipit** and **Goldcrest**, rounded out a productive and varied list for the time of year.

Craig Howat



## RNHS CONTACTS

**Chairman/Fieldfare editor.**

37 Stockerston Crescent, Uppingham LE15 9UA  
 Mob: 07729298125 Email: rnhsfieldfare2@gmail.com

**Carolyn Baxter**

**Recorders:**

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

**Secretary**

**Vacant**

**Treasurer.**

**Vacant**

**Membership secretary**

42 Church Street, Braunston, Oakham LE15 8QT  
 Tel: 01572 756 870 Email: rnhsmembers@gmail.com

**Tricia Marston**

**Programme secretary**

21 Waverley gardens, Stamford. PE9 1BH  
 Mob: 07749636919 Email: abiddle21@talktalk.net

**Linda Biddle**

**Website editor**

Mob: mr.nickgibson@gmail.com

**Nick Gibson**

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