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## NOTICEBOARD

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FOR 2012

This is due promptly on 1st January 2012. Thank you if you have already renewed by personal payment, or have made arrangements with your bank to pay by Standing Order. If you wish to use a Standing Order, please see the Society website [www.rnhs.org.uk](http://www.rnhs.org.uk) or ring Graham Worrall on 01572 747302. **The form at the foot of page 2 is only for those who want to continue to renew annually by personal payment.** If you are using it, please do so as quickly as possible, even before 1.1.12 if you can.

**Please note:** If you have only just joined this autumn, you are not due to renew your membership until 1st January 2013.

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### Farne Islands visit May 18th, 19th, 20th (2012)

As many of you already know, we are going to the Farne Islands next spring, and in view of the popularity of the area we need to make accommodation bookings as soon as possible. It is an experience not to be missed, with up close encounters with thousands of breeding seabirds, and the excitement of the associated action, sounds and smells! We are based in the village of Beadnell, about one mile south of Seahouses on the coast. The programme (provisional) is as follows:

**Friday Evening meal** at the Beadnell Towers Hotel. Early arrivals may explore the local coastline in the afternoon.

**Saturday all day** (weather permitting) Boat trip to the Farne islands, to see breeding birds, including Sandwich and Arctic Terns, Puffins, Guillemots, Shags, etc. (Approx. cost £35 pp.) If weather is bad we have the option to explore locally and visit the following day. Evening meal at the Beadnell Towers Hotel.

**Sunday** Outing to Amble Seabird centre and possibly Coquet Island to see Roseate Terns. Some members may choose to return home from Amble.

**Monday** Optional outing to Lindisfarne (timing dependent on tides) followed by return home.

**To book a place** please contact me at [abiddle21@talktalk.net](mailto:abiddle21@talktalk.net) or phone 01780 762108 with name, phone no., address and email, so that I can update on booking information.

**Accommodation** – see next page.

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#### Chairman

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01933 228855

**Either** (1) Beadnell Towers: Standard room B+B £89 per couple per night (£45.50 pp)  
Premium room B+B £100 per couple per night (£50 pp)

I will block book, so if you wish to stay there **please let me know as soon as possible.**

**Or** (2) I have an accommodation list of local B+B's which I will send on request if you wish to make your own arrangements, but these get booked up early, so don't leave it too long.

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## RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS

### OUTDOOR EVENTS

**Sunday 4 December**      **WELNEY WWT RESERVE**      **12.00 pm**

*Details in September Fieldfare, page 4.*

**Sunday 8 January**      **WALK AT MORKERY WOOD**      **10.30 am**

*A winter woodland walk with Linda Biddle, our mammal recorder, to blow away the Christmas/New Year cobwebs and look for mammal signs and other wildlife.*

*Directions: take the A1 north from Stamford. Meet at the entrance to the wood on the minor road between South Witham and Castle Bytham. Grid ref: SK 954 192.*

**Sunday 19 February**      **RUTLAND WATER**      **10.30 am**

*Exploring the new lagoons at Rutland Water Nature Reserve, accompanied by reserve staff.*

*Directions: meet at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton, just outside Oakham on the shore of Rutland Water. Grid ref: SK 879 072*

### INDOOR EVENTS

RNHS indoor meetings are held at the Oakham Church of England school, Burley Road, Oakham. For directions to the new hall, see September's *Fieldfare*, page 1.

**Tuesday 6 December**      **FRIENDLY FLIES**      **7.30 pm**

*The secrets of Hoverflies and other fly species with Dr Duncan Sivell of Buglife.*

**Tuesday 3 January**      **REINTRODUCING WATER VOLES AT RUTLAND WATER**      **7.30 pm**

*An insight into this new project, with a member of Rutland Water Nature Reserve staff.*

**Tuesday 7 February**      **RE-WILDING THE SOAR VALLEY**      **7.30 pm**

*Michael Jeeves, head of conservation at the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust, will tell us about this successful 'Living Landscape' project.*

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**RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FOR 2012 NOT USING STANDING ORDER**

To G R Worrall, 6 Redland Close, Barrowden LE15 8ES

I/We wish to renew membership and enclose cheque for £   
£10 for each adult

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Post code \_\_\_\_\_

## LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST

Indoor events are held at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton; admission £1 includes tea/coffee/biscuits. See [www.lrw.org.uk](http://www.lrw.org.uk), or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours, for other events in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks, for which it is often necessary to book.

**Monday 16 January      SOUNDS OF NATURE      7.30 pm**

*Sounds of the wild with RNHS Orthoptera Recorder Phil Rudkin.*

**Monday 20 February      REINTRODUCTION OF RAPTORS      7.30 pm**

*By Tim Mackrill, Project Officer of the Osprey Trust.*

## WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU. Telephone: 01780 762051

### September 2011

**Atmospheric pressure and winds** Pressure was variable this month, and up to the 19th apart from the 14th to 16th, pressures were low, after which they picked up and the month ended with pressures of 1022–1027 mb on the last three days. This anti-cyclone also gave us higher than normal temperatures for this month. Winds were predominantly SW and nationally this was the sixth most south-westerly September in 139 years of recording.

**Temperatures** This was the second warmest September in the last decade, following the exceptional September of 2006. The mean minimum for this month was 10.7 °C (2006: 12.48 °C) and the mean maximum was 21.16 °C (2006: 22.98 °C) and the lowest night time minimum was on 14th (6.5 °C) and the highest was 14.0 °C on 25th. There were no particularly cool days and the month finished with the anti-cyclone referred to above which gave us the month's daytime maximum of 29.0 °C on 30th.

**Rainfall** After a couple of wetter than normal months September reverted to what has been the norm this year; a month with a total rainfall of 24.2 mm (0.95 inches) which represents 48% of my LTM. Averaged over England and Wales the total was 57 mm (2.24 inches) which is 69% of the average for the standard reference period 1971–2000.

**Sunshine** Averaged over England and Wales this amounted to 155 hours or 108% of the LTM. The LTM for RAF Wittering for this month is 142 hours.

*I am indebted to Philip Eden's weather watch column in the Sunday Telegraph for the sunshine national figures, for both months.*

### October 2011

**Atmospheric pressure and winds** This month's air pressures have been mostly relatively high with just one period, 23rd to 28th inclusive, when they fell to between 1001–1008 mb, and predictably there was rain on four of those days. Winds were generally SE-W and only on four days was a NW wind recorded.

**Temperatures** In the present decade there have been three warmer than expected Octobers recorded at this site and they were 2005, 2006 and this year 2011. The mean maximum for the month this year (17.7 °C) is markedly above those of 2005 (17.0 °C) and 2006 (17.2 °C) but the mean minimum (8.3 °C) is lower than the other two, 2005 (9.5 °C) and 2006 (8.8 °C). Therefore the overall mean temperature for October 2011 is below 2005 (13.3 °C) but equal to that of 2006 (13.0 °C). This state of affairs was repeated nationally and all six warmer Octobers occurred in the past 100 years, five in the past half century and four in the past sixteen years.

**Rainfall** The total recorded here was 27.0 mm (1.06 inches) which is 51% of my LTM of 21 years. It was the driest October since 1995 when 20.0 mm (0.79 inches) was recorded and it is the second month in a row when around 50% of the expected rainfall fell. Averaged over England and Wales rainfall was 68 mm or 94% of the LTM of the standard reference period, but rainfall varied enormously with East Anglia and the East Midlands seeing less than one-quarter of the average. Here there was no rain recorded on 21 days of the month.

**Sunshine** Averaged over England and Wales this was 122 hours or 109% of the 1971–2000 mean. The LTM for RAF Wittering for this month is 107 hours.

## AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE REPORT compiled by Dr C. H. Gallimore

The Stone House, Reeves Lane, Wing LE15 8SD. Telephone: 01572 737343



### July, August, September and October 2011

Although this report covers four months there are relatively few records. The only amphibian records in the first two months concerned Common Toads, many of which were out on the road on a wet night in early July in Exton and two that were seen in Wing at the end of August, although one of these was dead.

In early September froglets were reported from Prior's Coppice. Common Toads were seen at the end of September at Stocken and in Wing and on 3rd October in Exton. The only newt record was a Smooth Newt at Stocken at the end of September.

All four reptiles were reported in July and August. Two Viviparous Lizards were seen at Bloody Oaks at the end of August and a young Slow Worm was seen at Clipsham in early July. Two dead Grass Snakes were found in different sites in Wing in July and two live ones were seen in Oakham by the canal and on allotments in late August. An Adder was seen at Ketton in early August.

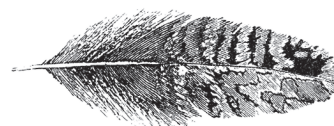
On 2nd September a Viviparous Lizard was seen at Luffenham Heath Golf Club, and a Grass Snake was seen at Prior's Coppice on 1st September.

*My thanks to the following who sent records: J Crosby, J Harris, P Langston, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, D Parker and A & M Thorp.*

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## BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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



### September/October 2011

Two months of excellent records from the reservoirs and around the county culminated with an American Wigeon and a White-rumped Sandpiper at Rutland Water. There was a good showing of waders and raptors, with Hen Harrier a good find. Autumn migration was noted at several sites. Winter thrushes, though, have not yet arrived in force, perhaps because of milder weather on the continent. When they do, a good berry crop will have made the journey worthwhile.

*My thanks to the following for their records: T Appleton, P Bennett, M A Branston, P & C Brown, T Caldicott, A & J Comber, J Crosby, Dr C H Gallimore, M Grimes, J Harris, D Holman, Dr C Jones, A L Lawrence, LROS, R Lemmon, E M Mann, I Misselbrook, T Mitcham, D Needham, J W Nourish, G Panter, D Perril, K Potterton, RWN, P Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, M Winslow, G R & L Worrall.*

**Mute Swan.** A good brood of eight young was noted on the R.Welland at Barrowden on 15.10.

**Pink-footed Goose.** 167 passed east at Stocken on 13.10.

**Barnacle Goose.** The 13 regular birds had returned to RW by 03.09.

**American Wigeon.** A male was at RW from 15.10 into Nov – presumably the one seen here earlier in the year.

**Teal.** c.20 were at Banthorpe Gravel Pit (BGP) throughout Sept.

**Pintail.** One was at FHP from 03.10.

**Garganey.** At RW there were two on 01.09, one on 18.09, three on 06.10 and one on 25.10.

**Red-crested Pochard.** Present at RW in both months, with a peak of 37 on 31.10.

**Goosander.** Six females were at LFP on 30.10.

**Manx Shearwater.** One was at EBR on 08.08 but was found dead, entangled in weed, the next day.

**Little Egret.** One was at LFP to 18.09. Two flew south over George Henry Wood (GHW) on 10.09. Three were at FHP on 17.09 and five at EBR on 3.10.

**Grey Heron.** One or two flew west over Stocken between 15 and 17.10 – possible migration?

**Spoonbill.** Singles were at RW on 09.09 and 23–24.09.

**Red Kite.** Peak counts were five near Tixover on 02.09, six over Barrowden on 30.09 and seven at Horn Mill on 01.10. A tagged juvenile at EBR on 03.10 had been ringed near Stanwick Hall, Raunds on 22.06.11. One was feeding on a road kill Badger near Barrowden on 21.10.

**Marsh Harrier.** Juveniles were at RW and EBR on 01.09 and LFP on 10.09.

**Hen Harrier.** A ring-tail was at RW(Eggleton) on 22.10.

**Sparrowhawk.** Garden records were received from Stamford and Oakham with others at Belton-in-Rutland, Hambleton and Morcott.

**Buzzard.** There were eight over Priors Coppice on 18.09, five over Langham on 22.09 and seven over Stocken on 30.10.

**Osprey.** The final RW bird migrated on 10.09. One flew south over Burley Wood on 19.09.

**Kestrel.** Reports were received from Lyddington, Uppingham, FHP, Belton-in-Rutland, Stocken and RW.

**Hobby.** Singles were at six sites in Sept, with the last near Caldecott on 28.09, where it was feeding on dragonflies.

**Peregrine.** One hunted regularly at RW throughout Sept. At EBR there was a male on 02.10 and a female on 22.10.

**Water Rail.** Single were at RW(Eggleton) on 15.09, LFP between 13 and 16.10 and RW(Burley Fishponds) on 19.10.

**Little Ringed Plover.** At RW there were two on 01.09 and six on 18.09. One was at EBR on 28.10.

**Ringed Plover.** Present at EBR throughout both months with a max of 17 between 14 and 22.09. Regularly noted at RW with ten on 18.10.

**Golden Plover.** There were just three at RW on 18.09 but nos increased rapidly with c.2000 present by mid-Oct. There were 153 in Exton Park on 03.10 and 206 at EBR on 29.10.

**Grey Plover.** Up to three were at RW(Eggleton) between 10 and 31.10.

**Lapwing.** There were 1079 at RW on 18.09 and 667 on 17.10. 95 were at EBR on 02.10.

**Knot.** Seven were at EBR on 07.09, with one there on 18.09. At RW singles were noted between 08 and 25.09.

**White-rumped Sandpiper.** An adult of this North American species was at RW from 15.10 into Nov. It is the fourth county record, all of which have been at RW.

**Curlew Sandpiper.** Up to three were at EBR between 01.09 and 23.09. A max of six were at RW to 08.09, with one there on 30.10.

**Dunlin.** Regular at both reservoirs in both months with peak counts of 44 at RW on 28.10 and six at EBR on 18–19.09. Away from the reservoirs, one was at LFP on 18.09 and four flew over Stocken on 28.10.

**Ruff.** Peak counts were c.60 at RW on 04.09 and 13 at EBR on 11.09. Present to 27.09 at EBR and to the end of Oct at RW.

**Jack Snipe.** One was at RW (Eggleton) on 30.10.

**Snipe.** 12 were at RW on 18.09 and 22 on 17.10. Eight were at LFP on 13.10 and two flew over Stocken on 26.10.

**Black-tailed Godwit.** Up to four were seen regularly at RW throughout both months. Two were at LFP on 01.09, an unusual location, and two were at EBR on 08.09.

**Curlew.** Four were at RW on 18.09 and six on 18.10. One flew over LFP on 24.09.

**Common Sandpiper.** One was at EBR to 08.09 and there were two at RW on 18.09.

**Green Sandpiper.** Very well reported with birds at BGP, FHP and LFP throughout the period as well as RW, where there were 12 on 18.09 and three on 18.10. Two were at FHP on 07.10 and three at LFP on 10.09 and from 25.10. Migrants were heard or seen over Braunston on 20.10 and Oakham on 25.10.

**Spotted Redshank.** Two were at EBR on 01.09. At RW one was noted on 01.09 and up to three were present from 28.09 to the end of Oct.

**Greenshank.** A max of four was at EBR with the last on 22.09. RW had a peak of ten on 04.09 with the last bird noted on 18.09.

**Wood Sandpiper.** Singles were at EBR on 01.09 and RW on 08.09.

**Redshank.** One was at RW on 18.09 with 12 on 18.10.

**Turnstone.** Singles were at EBR and RW on 07.09 and at RW on 10.10.

**Red-necked Phalarope.** A juvenile was at RW(Eggleton) on 04.09.

**Great Skua.** One was at RW(North Arm) on 15.09.

**Little Gull.** Singles were at RW on 08 and 10.09.

**Mediterranean Gull.** An adult was at EBR on 03.09, with a juvenile there on 14.10. Two adults were at RW on 25.09.

**Black Tern.** One or two were at RW to 10.09. A notable influx on 25.09 brought 70 to RW (Dam) and 50 to EBR. Six were at RW on 28.09.

**Sandwich Tern.** One was at RW on 09.09.

**Common Tern.** Eight at RW on 18.09 were the last reported.

**Arctic Tern.** One was at EBR on 07.09. Up to three were at RW to 18.09.

**Stock Dove.** 17 flew west at Stocken on 12.10.

**Woodpigeon.** c.500 flew south at Leighfield on 23.10.

**Collared Dove.** The peak garden count was eight in Oakam on 20.09. Double figure counts would be very welcome.

- Barn Owl.** Late broods of three, four and five were ringed in Sept. There were sight records from Leighfield and Barrowden.
- Little Owl.** Numerous records for this period with birds seen or heard near Brooke, FHP (two), Barrowden/Wakerley Bridge, Normanton, Leighfield and Hambleton.
- Tawny Owl.** Another well reported owl species, with birds calling to establish winter territories. Records were received from LFP (three), Stocken (three), Barrowden (two), Langham, Tunneley Wood, Priors Coppice and Little Haw Wood.
- Short-eared Owl.** One was at RW(Egleton) from 23.10 into Nov.
- Swift.** September records came from three sites with the last over Oakham on 15.09.
- Kingfisher.** One was at Wakerley Bridge regularly in Sept. There were two at RW on 18.09 and three on 18.10 with one there on 28.10.
- Green Woodpecker.** A noisy and popular species with records from Normanton, Ketton Quarry, EBR, FHP, Quarry Farm, Belton-in-Rutland, Barrowden and Stocken.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** Noted regularly at a Barleythorpe garden in Sept with others seen at FHP, Oakham and Stocken.
- Rook.** c.200 were noted on arable land near Stocken on 21.09.
- Raven.** Single birds or pairs were reported from Brooke, Burley Wood, Horn Mill, FHP and Leighfield. Four were over Wing Hall on 02.10.
- Goldcrest.** One was in a Stamford garden on 04.10.
- Willow Tit.** Two were at LFP on 15.10.
- Skylark.** Migration over Stocken was observed with 19 on 21.09, 17 on 07.10, 56 on 12.10 and 159 the following day.
- Swallow.** There was an extended and well recorded passage with 100 at Stocken on 02.09 and 150 the next day. c.300 were at LFP on 07.09, declining to 165 on 10.09. Up to four were noted at four sites in Oct with the last at Stocken on 15th, RW on 22nd and LFP on 25th.
- House Martin.** c.250 were at Stocken on 02.09, with a mass departure there on 04.09. Reduced nos were noted to 26.09, when the final 26 passed through. At Braunston there were c.100 on 02.09 and c.140 passed south-east at Leighfield on 10.09. Eight were at FHP on 26.09.
- Long-tailed Tit.** Several flocks were reported, the largest of c.20 at Ketton Quarry on 01.09.
- Chiffchaff.** Sept birds, some in song, were noted at seven sites with 33 still at Burley Wood on 22.09. Garden reports came from Barrowden and Barleythorpe. Twelve were counted around Brooke on 04.10 and one sang at FHP on 07.10.
- Willow Warbler.** Braunston, Burley Wood, LFP, RW(Egleton) and Stocken all hosted passage birds, with one at Stocken on 30.09 the last sighting.
- Blackcap.** Sept records were from Burley Wood (18 birds) and GHW on 4th and Exton Park on 17th. One at GHW on 03.10 was the last record.
- Lesser Whitethroat.** One was at GHW on 04.09. Noted at Leighfield on three dates, with the last on 24.09.
- Whitethroat.** Reported from Braunston, FHP and Leighfield in Sept, with the last there on 15.09.
- Sedge Warbler.** Last noted at LFP on 21.09.
- Reed Warbler.** Singles were at LFP on 01 and 18.09, and two were at RW(Egleton) on 23.09.
- Starling.** Autumn migrants were counted at LFP and Stocken. At Stocken 120 flew west on 14.10 and 822 on 23.10. c.570 moved west at LFP on 16.10.
- Fieldfare.** 60 west at Stocken on 13.10 were the first arrivals with 394 counted to the end of the month. 30 were over RW(Egleton) on 17.10 and c.120 were at BGP on 21.10. On 23.10 c.480 passed over LFP and there were c.50 near Ryhall on the following day.
- Song Thrush.** 15 noted moving through Burley Wood on 27.09 were possible migrants.
- Redwing.** The first birds were noted on 09.10 when c.800 flew over LFP and three were over Stocken. 2267 were counted passing over Stocken to the end of the month. Subsequent records came from Normanton and FHP.
- Spotted Flycatcher.** One was at Braunston on 05.09. Noted on three dates in Burley Wood with the last on 25.09.
- Robin.** 14 territories were estimated around Stocken on 27.09.
- Redstart.** A female was at LFP between 21 and 26.09.
- Whinchat.** Up to three were at RW(Egleton) to 07.09. Singles were at LFP on five dates to 24.09, and a male was near Greetham on 04.10.
- Stonechat.** A male was at RW (Egleton Centre) on 22.10.
- Wheatear.** Two were at Luffenham Airfield on 03.09 with one or two at RW, EBR, Preston and LFP. Last noted at RW(Dam) on 27.09.
- Tree Sparrow.** c.37 were noted near Brooke on 12.10.
- House Sparrow.** There was a max of 54 at Stocken on 17.10.
- Yellow Wagtail.** Noted in Sept. at Lyddington

Crossing, FHP and GHW. The largest counts were at LFP, 38 on 24.09 and 27 on 26.09, the last date.

**Grey Wagtail.** Very scarce this autumn – one was heard regularly in central Stamford throughout both months and singles were at FHP on 10.09 and EBR on 02.10.

**Pied Wagtail.** Nos roosting at Stocken increased from c.90 on 11.09 to a remarkable 217 on 21.09. A total of 65 flew south at LFP between 21 and 26.09, and 35 were counted around the clubhouse at Greetham Valley GC on 01.10. 43 flew south at Leighfield on 11.10.

**Meadow Pipit.** There was a strong passage with 35 at LFP on 01.09 and flocks of 90, 80 and 70 noted there and over Burley Wood from mid-month. 190 were counted passing over Stocken from 05 to 30.09, and 50 were at GHW on 03.10. 70 flew south at LFP on 05.10.

**Rock Pipit.** One was at RW(Eggleton) and two at the Dam on 21.10. Two were at Eggleton the following day.

**Water Pipit.** One was at RW(Eggleton) on 22.10.

**Chaffinch.** 206 were counted migrating over Stocken between 09 and 26.10.

**Goldfinch.** c.120 were at Stocken on 02.09, rising to 150 between 09 and 16.09. The highest garden count was 20 at Oakham on 09.10. c.30 were at Ketton Quarry the following day.

**Siskin.** Passage was noted from 07.09, with flocks of 14–70 passing south over FHP, Braunston, Burley Wood and LFP to 27.09. Ten were at RW(Lyndon) on 16.10.

**Linnet.** Some large autumn flocks were reported – 40 were near Tixover on 02.09 and at Braunston on 08.09, increasing to 60 on 14.09 and 120 on 20.09. 80 were in Exton Park on 03.10 and 60 at Digby Farm on 26.10. 90 flew south at LFP on 11.10 and a similar number near Brooke on 12.10.

**Lesser Redpoll.** One flew west at FHP on 03.10, and 76, in small flocks, flew over LFP on 13.10.

**Crossbill.** One or two flew over the west of the county on seven dates from 14.09 to 12.10. Four were at RW(Burley Fishponds) on 22.10.

**Bullfinch.** Six were noted near Belton-in-Rutland on 18.10.

**Yellowhammer.** Flocks of 20–30 were noted near Tixover, LFP and Stocken.

FOR WILDFOWL COUNTS, SEE NEXT PAGE.

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**Used Postage Stamps for the RSPB Albatross Appeal.** *Many members no doubt save used stamps for a favoured charity. The RSPB welcomes stamps to help fund their appeal to reduce the deaths of albatrosses caught by fishing operations in the Southern Ocean. Their work is already paying dividends. I am happy to accept and pass on any stamps members wish to bring to indoor meetings. Please do all you can to support this worthy conservation initiative.*

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## **BOTANY NOTES** compiled by Graham Worrall

6 Redland Close, Barrowden LE15 8ES. Telephone: 01572 747302

### **September/October 2011**

The dry year persisted but enough rain was had throughout the year to prevent the grasses browning off and the flowering of plants continued.

The most notable flower in September was the **Autumn Gentian** at both Bloody Oaks Quarry and near the top lake at Fort Henry. **Small Scabious** was seen on Verge 8, and a single plant at Bloody Oaks Quarry – the first flower seen there for at least three years. The rabbits normally graze them away, but this plant was protected

by some cut branches, allowing taller growth underneath.

I had two last Verge Survey reports – a good number of flowering plants seen.

October had fewer records, but the notable one was recorded in Ketton Quarry in the area of rocky rubble west of the bat cave constructed some years ago at the north of the Reserve: the flower was a **Primrose**, the question is, is it the last of 2011 or the first of the 2012 season?

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*Thanks to: G Chiverton, M Grimes, J Harris, C Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, D Needham, J Mallett and T Mitcham.*

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## Wildfowl Counts – September and October 2011

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir		Fort Henry Ponds /Exton Park		Holywell Lake	
	18.09	17.10	19.09	16.10	17.09	18.10	18.09	14.10
Mute Swan	542	489	77	75	12	12	9	9
Greylag Goose	833	470	309	306			103	6
Canada Goose	756	1012	58	328			8	113
Barnacle Goose	14	13						
Egyptian Goose	122	101						
Shelduck	3	5						
Mandarin Duck	3	1						
Wigeon	2187	6541	145	440	1	2		2
American Wigeon		1						
Gadwall	1537	2417	115	118	21	18	4	4
Teal	720	1172	177	160	22	26	2	11
Mallard	1808	1823	146	87	115	96	122	117
Pintail	51	104				1		
Garganey	2		1					
Shoveler	402	703	25	21	19	28	2	2
Red-crested Pochard		12						
Pochard	50	70	14	24				
Tufted Duck	7692	6624	88	25	2		7	8
Scaup		7						
Goldeneye	2	57		10				
Little Grebe	106	140	19	11	3	2		
Great Crested Grebe	462	357	41	36				
Cormorant	266	204	41	41	2	1		
Little Egret	55	48	8	2	3			
Grey Heron	29	14		8		1		
Water Rail	12	10						
Moorhen	95	130	3	1	41	45	16	14
Coot	4186	5177	290		16	5	26	52

## BUTTERFLY NOTES compiled by Alistair Lawrence

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### September/October 2011

The results from the second year of the Big Butterfly Count indicate that it has been a poor summer for butterflies with the 'blues' and common 'whites' faring badly, as did the migrant species such as Painted Lady. However, for the Red Admiral this has been a very good year, which is reflected in the recent records received.

There is one report of a single **Small Heath** at Ketton Quarry on 1st September. At the same site

on the same day a **Common Blue** was observed, whilst on the 28th a late specimen was seen at Lyddington. On the 5th September two members were fortunate to see a **Painted Lady** in pristine condition at Ketton Quarry.

There have been few reports of **Peacocks** with one being seen at Ketton Quarry on 1st September; but at Stocken they were observed throughout the month with a maximum of six being seen at



any one time. A single specimen was also seen on 2nd October. Sightings of **Small Copper** came from Lyndon reserve on 27th September and 2nd October with three being seen on the former occasion. A single specimen was seen nectaring on hawkbit flower at Lyddington Meadow on 20th September whilst two were recorded at Lyddington Fishponds on the 28th. On the 20th September a Small Copper was also recorded at Merry's Meadow reserve and the latest sighting of this species was at Lyndon on 16th October.

Reports of **Commas** came from a variety of sites across the county with three being seen at Ketton Quarry on 13th September and a similar number at Panters Orchard, Ketton, on the same day. More than four were seen at Lyndon reserve on 27th September.

**Small Tortoiseshell** were seen regularly at Stocken throughout September with a maximum of 4 being seen on one occasion. On 11th October a single specimen was observed at Stocken. This species was also observed at Ketton Quarry on 14th September.

Records of **Brimstone** came from four locations, with a female being seen at Stocken on 13th September and a male a fortnight later. Single specimens were seen at Ketton Quarry on 1st, a male observed near Whissendine on 24th and a female at Lyndon on 2nd September. A single specimen was also recorded at Lyndon reserve on 2nd October.

At Stocken on 15th September three **Large Whites** were observed and a similar number were recorded at Lyndon reserve earlier in the month. Single sightings on 1st September were noted at Priors Coppice and Ketton Quarry.

**Small Whites** were seen frequently in Oakham and Uppingham gardens during September, whilst in excess of 5 were recorded at Lyndon on 2nd September. Other sightings were at Caldecott and Barnsdale Gardens, where two were noted on 9th October. At Ketton Quarry four were recorded on 11th of that month.

Reports of **Green Veined Whites** came from three locations in September, namely Priors Coppice, Ketton Quarry and Lyndon reserve, where four were seen on the 2nd.

Sightings of **Red Admiral** have been the most numerous of any species during this period. They were observed frequently throughout September in Oakham, Uppingham, Ketton Quarry and Stocken, with a maximum of 7 being seen at the latter location. This species was also noted at Caldecott and Lyddington on the 28th of the month. In October records of sightings came from Lyndon and Egleton reserves, Ketton Quarry, Merry's Meadows, Belton in Rutland and Barnsdale Gardens where 4 were seen feeding on the 9th of the month. At Stocken this species was seen regularly throughout October. On 14th October several Red Admirals were observed flying over the south shore of Rutland Water in a north-south direction, and were probably on late summer migration southwards. The latest sighting was a single specimen at Bloody Oaks Quarry on 26th October.

Finally, **Speckled Woods** have been recorded in good numbers from three sites. At Lyndon reserve more than 12 were observed on 2 September, whilst several were still seen there a month later. At Ketton Quarry at least 10 were recorded on 5th September and a similar number noted at Panters Orchard, Ketton, on the 13th of that month.

*My thanks to the following contributors: J Crosby, M Grimes, J Harris, C Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, D Needham, P Rudkin.*

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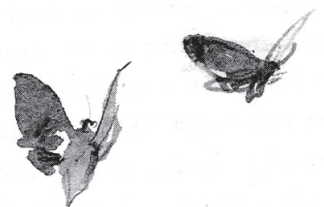
## MOTH NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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### September/October 2011

We trapped at Eyebrook Reservoir on two dates in September. On the 15th we caught 27 species and on the 29th, 32 species. On this latter occasion, some of the autumn moths appeared in very good numbers, e.g. 130 Beaded Chestnuts and 115 Lunar Underwings BUT the highlight was a Delicate which is a rare migrant in this area. I knew that one had been caught in the Barrowden

garden trap on 19.10.2001 and singles were in the Lyddington garden trap on 25.9.2006 and 17.10.2006, so I contacted Adrian Russell (County Recorder VC55) for more information. From him, I learned that there are only 11 recent records in total (post 1950) and of these 8 being in 2006. The 2 sites quoted above are the only ones in Rutland so we did indeed catch a very rare specimen!



The Delicate is a migrant frequently recorded along South Western coastal areas having come across from the Channel Islands. The larval food plants are various grasses.

Another unusual recent occurrence is the fact that all the record cards I have received for this issue relate to one species of moth, i.e. the Humming Bird Hawk Moth. This is incidentally another immigrant and it has obviously had a good season as it has been reported from several local areas. In both September and October specimens have been seen nectaring on Nicotiana flowers at Stocken. In Uppingham, a sighting was noted on Valerian in the Falcon Hotel garden and in another part of town others were on Geranium and also Valerian. A report came from Barleythorpe where one was

observed on Verbena in both late September and early October. Another record was of one feeding in Barnsdale Gardens on October 9th.

The report received for recent results from the garden trap at Barrowden showed that numbers caught have been at a higher level than seen for a while. This is probably due to the warmer weather at the end of September. Two migrant species recorded there were Dark Sword Grass and Silver Y.

The trap in the reed beds at Rutland Water has been operated for 9 sessions and both species and moth numbers have been good for the time of year.

*My thanks for recent records go to : C Avanti, J Crosby, R Follows, C R Jones, D Perril, P Rudkin and A Russell.*

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## **ORTHOPTERA REPORT** compiled by Phil Rudkin

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### **September/October 2011**

Very mixed weather for these two months, with a dreary September keeping the orthoptera quiet and largely unseen. October picked up somewhat, but two small frosts locally, on the evenings of 14th and 15th October, did no harm to the crickets, which perked up considerably in October. One last push (this time to the south), was rewarded with new squares for some species. In the nick of time! at last, a record of Short-winged Conehead, away from the central core at the Rutland Water complex. This was on the southern tip of Rutland. Delighted to discover the colony, this will be included in the forthcoming National Orthoptera Atlas.

There were no new species appearing in Rutland this season, which reminds me of a conversation I had with Brian Eversham, Director of the BCNP Wildlife Trust, last spring. Brian said that I was fortunate when I took on the post of Rutland Water orthoptera recorder in 2001, that I had come in at a very important time for insects in this country. There were many new species expanding throughout the UK at that time. That set me thinking, yes, we had Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, 1997, Roesel's Bush Cricket, 2001, Long-winged Conehead, 2003, followed by Short-winged Conehead, 2007, appearing in Rutland. Since those heady days, we have monitored the Rutland orthoptera well indeed, and had hoped to have new species, such as: Great Green Bush Cricket, Stripe-winged Grasshopper and Mottled Grasshopper. But this has not happened yet. However, we now have comprehensive knowledge of the ecology and distribution of our own. Superb coverage has been achieved by our team since 2001.

The data for September/October 2011 will be sent to the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, which will complete this season's sightings (unless something extraordinary happens in November). Bjorn Beckmann and Val Burton have again kindly offered to input the results into the National Data Base. Bjorn will send a copy to RNHS, and to Gareth Price, the Community Support Ecologist, at Leicestershire County Council. Hopefully, Gareth will then publish the final maps for the Rutland Orthoptera. At this moment in time, if the budget at Leicestershire allows, Gareth has suggested there may be a chance to publish a booklet on the Orthoptera of Rutland, and has asked me to be the author. If the budget is not possible, then Bjorn has offered a similar opportunity. If this comes to fruition, it would be a massive boost for RNHS, with a County Orthoptera added to our CV. Fingers crossed!!

*Footnote: Don't forget, that with the completion of the data input, the Rutland Orthoptera will be part of the National Orthoptera Atlas, to be published in the near future.*

## BUSH CRICKETS

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

Two stridulating in Burley Woods, 27th September (SK 890 097). Final sighting of two stridulating males in small nettle patch, beneath dry stone wall, in farm gateway, Verge 7, on 29th October. This was at 3.45 pm, cold, force 3, cloudy and dry. The stridulating started when the sun briefly came out (SK 999 098).

### **Roesel's Bush Cricket** *Metriopectera roeselii*

One, observed, west of the Eight Riding Tree, in Burley Woods, 25th September (SK 890 097). 'A cacophony of sound', near the Nature Trail Sign board, as described by MG, of this species, on the Lyndon reserve, 27th September, west of the Interpretive Centre (SK 892 055). At 1.10 pm, on a hot afternoon, 22 °C, a large colony was discovered in grass verge, along the minor road, west of Lyddington, 28th September (SP 863 971). At 3.15 pm, another large colony was located in grass verge along footpath next to Presley Hill, Lyddington, one male caught (SP 877 974). Small numbers of stridulating males, in regular areas of Wing Fishing Lakes, 29 °C, hot and clear, on 2nd October (SK 889 023). Nearby, in dried up ditch in pasture field, four stridulating males heard (SK 889 022).

On a dull, dismal cool afternoon, at 2.50 pm, along the Pickworth Road, at Essendine, one slow, purring stridulating male, located in rough vegetation, under the fence line of the railway track (TF 043 127, new square).

MG continued his observations on the Lyndon Reserve, at Rutland Water, during October, when on the 2nd, he heard one stridulating male, west of the Interpretive Centre (SK 892 055). And in the same area, two were still heard on the 23rd. Five stridulating males, heard in grass verges, at the top of the Hambleton Peninsular Road, and later, eight more, in the verges at the bottom end, also in the Fisherman's Car Park entrance, both sightings on 14th October (SK 899 078).

DN and PR carried out the final survey on the Egleton Reserve, Rutland Water, on 14th October, with the following results: starting at 2.0 pm warm and dry, clear and sunny, four males heard in grassy corner near the Badger Watching Hide (SK 879 073); two males, heard in the rough vegetation (SK 880 074). Two, heard in rough grass strip, at the junction of the Summer/Winter Trail (SK 882 075). At 3.25 pm, two stridulating males, at the edge of small pond, south of lagoon 3 (SK 881 077). Finally, at 4.0 pm, as they were

walking back along the service track, towards the car park, two males located in nettle ditch (SK 878 073).

### **Long-winged Conehead** *Conocephalus discolor*

On the Lyndon Reserve, 'several heard stridulating in long grasses' west of the Interpretive Centre, on 27th September (SK 892 055).

CJ, DN and PR trekked down to the south, and to the border at Caldecott, on the morning of 28th September, 19 °C, warm, clear and dry. In the field entrance to the Caravan and Camping Club, two stridulating males were located. Further along they came to the Eye Brook stream, and in rough vegetation on the banks, 10 males were heard (SP 863 935, new square).

On 2nd October, hot and dry, small numbers were heard in the usual stronghold areas of Wing Fishing Lakes (SK 890 022). After a small frost on the evening of 14th October, the day after was clear and dry, with the temp at times 19 °C, I visited Quarry Farm, Stamford, and in the first field were large numbers of stridulating males along the sides of the grass paths (TF 018 084). In the wildflower meadow of the second field, large numbers of stridulating males were located, and also in the rough vegetation around the pond on the hill, two males were caught, 15th October (TF 015 084).

Finally, on a cold, windy, and dry afternoon, 29th October, 3.45 pm, 14 °C, I visited Protected Verge 7, Great Casterton, and was delighted (when the sun shone briefly), to hear two stridulating males, in grass tufts under a dry stone wall just inside the farm field (SK 999 098).

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

With the season moving on, I was beginning to think that we would not be expanding this species outside of the Rutland Water complex, and our final complete Rutland Orthoptera maps would reflect this. Therefore, it was with surprise and delight, that at last! a large colony of stridulating males could be heard at the other side of a small stream, in a rough field, with a young Oak tree plantation. The site was inaccessible, so there was no chance of a capture and identification. So, I had to concentrate hard on the sounds, but after a few minutes, had no hesitation in naming this species as Short-winged Conehead. The sighting was on 28th September, 11.45 am, in the Caldecott Camping and Caravan Club fields. 19 °C, warm,

clear sky. This was on the south-west tip of Rutland, and just inside the border (new square, SP 863 935).

Finally, on the 14th October, 11.25 am, warm, blue sky and dry, DN and I investigated the regular site on North Arm 1, the south shore of Rutland Water, Hambleton, to assess the situation there. We were pleased to find at least four stridulating males, in a clump of juncus/thistles (SK 903 079). From there, we went to the Egleton reserve, and at 2.0 pm, it was still warm and dry. We visited one regular site, a rough field of tall grasses/thistles, near the Badger Watching Hide (north of the Bird Watching Centre), where three stridulating males were located (SK 880 074).

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

On the Lyndon reserve, Rutland Water, MG (using his bat detector), located several males, in a south facing hedge, just west of the Interpretive Centre (SK 892 055). Next, Martin headed east of the centre, and located more males in hedges, near Swan Hide (SK 901 058). Both sightings on 27th September. On the 2nd October, Martin was again at the west side, and stridulating was still on-going.

Finally, on the 11th October, 2.50 pm, on an overcast and dull afternoon, I made my way to the Pickworth Road at Essendine, and heard seven males (using the bat detector), in Hawthorn hedgerow. This was about 50 yards along from the start of the road (TF 044 125). At 3.55 pm, I stopped on a minor road, behind Tolethorpe Grange, near the Ryhall Road, Great Casterton, and heard four stridulating males in Blackthorn hedgerow (TF 018 106).

## **GRASSHOPPERS**

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

Only one report for this period, which was a good count of four adults, observed on the Oakham Brooke Road Allotments on 10th September by TC (SK 860 081).

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

All the following sightings took place on 28th September. Two stridulating males, in rough vegetation, near the farm gate entrance to the Caravan and Camping Club, Caldecott, followed by two adults observed in field near the village, at 11.0 am (SP 865 936, new square). Later at 1.10 pm, two stridulating males in grass verge, on minor road, west of Lyddington (SP 871 969). At 2.15 pm, two stridulating males in grass verge

### **News from over the border, from Roy Frost, Notts and Derbyshire Orthoptera Recorder:**

On 1st August, I heard from Roy that Roesel's Bush Cricket and Short-winged Conehead have reached North-East Derbyshire. On leaving the Bird Watching Fair on 19th August at noon, Roy travelled around Rutland, hearing Roesel's Bush Crickets, and on his way home, and over the border, he encountered Roesel's Bush Crickets everywhere, including: two areas near Teigh Green, and south of the village. In, and around Garthorpe village and the parish, mostly in grass verges. Roesel's Bush Cricket and Long-winged Conehead, in the parish of Stonesby. At Eastwell, one Roesel's Bush Cricket in verge next to stubble fields. Roy reached Langar, and stopped at the Naturescape Wildflower Farm, where he observed a Long-winged Conehead, and a Field Grasshopper. A final stop near the Trent, he found a Short-winged Conehead, which was a second record for Nottinghamshire. All this in an afternoon's travelling, stopping off in likely looking habitats. Most of Roy's sightings were in Leicestershire, so he submits these to Helen Iken, for vice county 55 (Leics and Rutland). A recent email from Roy on 4th October mentions how well the Long-winged Conehead is doing in North-east Derbyshire, with several new 10k squares.

I hope the above will give our members a flavour of the orthoptera over the border, and a good opportunity to compare the fortunes of those species with ours.

of field, near the old fishponds, Lyddington (SP 876 971). Finally, two adults and one nymph, observed in grass verge along footpath, next to Presley Hill, Lyddington (SP 877 974).

From Stocken, notes for September from JC: on the 5th, one observed basking on the compost heap. On the 7th and 8th, four seen on the western perimeter fence. But very quiet for the rest of the month (SK 957 174).

Finally, MG reports, only one found at Lyndon reserve, Rutland Water, on 2nd October, near Tufted Duck Hide, west of the Centre (SK 887 053). Photograph supplied.

**Lesser Marsh Grasshopper** *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Two adults, observed on the Oakham Brooke Road Allotments, on 10th September (SK 860 081).

The following sightings were all on 28th September: six adults and two nymphs, observed in rough vegetation, near farm gate entrance to Caravan and Camping Club, Caldecott, 11.0 am (SP 865 936). Five courting pairs, at edge of fields, near village, Caldecott (SP 865 935, new squares). Later, at 1.10 pm, large colony, observed,

and adults heard, in grass verges, on minor road, west of Lyddington, new square (SP 871 969). At 2.15 pm, four adults and two nymphs, seen in grass verge along footpath, Presley Hill, Lyddington (new square, SP 877 974). Photograph supplied from MG, on the Lyndon reserve, taken on 2nd October, one adult observed near Tufted Duck Hide (SK 887 053). Final record of this grasshopper goes to TC, with one adult observed on the Brooke Road Allotment, 11th October (SK 860 081).

*A very big thank you for all the efforts that everyone has put in, for their observations and digital photographs: T Caldicott, J Crosby, R Frost, M Grimes, C Jones, D Needham, P Rudkin.*

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**PLANT GALLS REPORT** compiled by Roy Lemmon

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**September 2011**

A total of 58 species this month from no less than eight sites. There were noticeably more than usual reports of galls on Oak, it seems that these become more obvious later in the season. Most of these are caused by various species of gall wasp and commonly occur on leaves, buds, catkins and acorns, but are also found on roots, trunks and branches; it seems no part of the host is exempt!

Priors Coppice on 1st had Knopper galls, the Cola Nut gall, Common Spangle gall, all on Oak as well as the large gall on Creeping Thistle mentioned earlier in the year, caused by a gall fly.

Eye Brook on the 8th had a total of 16 galls, 4 on Oak as well as a Nail gall on Lime and a fungus which galls Shepherds Purse.

On 15th Lyndon Centre and Gibbet Gorse between them yielded galls, five of them on Oak and three days later I received a gall on Red Goosefoot which MG had found at Eggleton. This was different from the one reported in August from Sykes Lane and turned out to be caused by a fungus which produces pustules on both surfaces of the leaf. This gall, and I think the fungus, are both new records for the County.

Barnsdale Wood and the nearby Barnsdale Lodge Wood on 22nd produced a total of 15 galls, one on Elm caused by a gall midge, three on Oak and two on Alder as well as another Nail type gall on Beech caused by a gall midge.

**October 2011**

A much quieter month as the season winds down, a total of 17 records from just three sites.

Bloody Oaks Quarry on 6th yielded six galls, four of them rusts which at this time of the year are entering their telial or overwintering stage, and the other two were mite galls on Spindle and Buckthorn. The 6th was a busy day for cecidologists as there was a report of a midge gall on Alder at Lyndon and Ketton Quarry produced a total of 9 records on that same day. Among these were a mite gall and a midge gall both on Beech and a mophead gall on Hawthorn, where the leaves at the very top of a shoot are distorted and bunched together, hence the name. This is caused by a midge that lays its eggs on the plant which is then induced to produce the gall as the larvae develop. Rarely for a gall it has a common name, the hawthorn button-top gall.

At the end of the month on 23rd came a report from the Lyndon area of an acorn gall on English Oak. This is caused by a gall wasp as so many galls on Oak are and this particular one *Andricus grossulariae*, as well as the acorn gall mentioned, also galls Oak buds as well as catkins. It seems to be a very successful parasite.

*Thanks to G Chiverton, M Grimes, R Lemmon*

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# INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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*During September and October insects get noticeably less active but RNHS members were still out there in the field and we again received some interesting records. It's November as I am writing up these notes and there are still insects busy in the garden; so I'm looking forward to receiving records for November at least!*

## September 2011

**ODONATA** – An **Emperor Dragonfly** *Anax imperator* was seen at the beginning of the month and again near the month end at Barrowden; two were also noted near the month end at Stocken.

At least 2 **Brown Hawkers** *Aeshna grandis* were noted 'hawking' along Eyebrook and over ponds at Caldicote, and one was seen over the pond at Stocken – both records at the month end.

**Migrant Hawkers** *Aeshna mixta* were seen in good numbers in the conservation area at Caldicote, including mating pairs. Many **Common Darters** *Sympetrum striolatum* were noted, again at Caldicote. **Ruddy Darter** *Sympetrum sanguineum* records came from Barrowden and Stocken.

**HEMIPTERA** – A **Hawthorn Shield Bug** *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* was recorded at Lyndon NR. Two **Sloe Bugs** *Dolycoris baccarum* were noted at Stocken.

**DIPTERA** – Two **Lesser Banded Hoverflies** *Syrphus vitripennis* were recorded on Verge 8. Seven **Long Hoverflies** *Sphaerophoris scripta* were also noted on Verge 8; two mating in flight before coming to rest on a dogwood leaf. **Yellow Dung-flies** and **Greenbottles** were noted at Stocken.

**HYMENOPTERA** – An **Ichneumon** *Ichneumon suspiciosus* was recorded in a kitchen at Wing. A **Sabre Wasp** *Pimpla hypochondriaca* was recorded at Stocken. A large queen **Buff-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus terrestris* and three **Common Carder Bees** *Bombus pascuorum* were recorded on Verge 8. The following records all came from Stocken: **Honey Bees** *Apis mellifera*, several were seen on two occasions; a single **White-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lucorum*; and a single **Red-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lapidarius*.

**COLEOPTERA** – The **Ground Beetle** *Badister unipustulatus* was seen in abundance at Stocken. Also recorded there were a **Ground Beetle** *Harpalus affinus*, a **Devil's Coach-horse** *Staphylinus olens*, and two specimens of a **Rove Beetle** *Philonthus marginatus*.

Ladybirds are still being well recorded – **7-spot Ladybirds** *Coccinella 7-punctata* were recorded regularly over the month in an Oakham garden, >100 were noted in a garden at Barleythorpe,

15 noted on Verge 8, and 140 were counted on a conifer hedge at Stocken. **Two-spot Ladybird** *Adalia 2-punctata* – 3 were found on the inside of a window frame at Barleythorpe. One **Harlequin Ladybird** *Harmonia axyridis* was noted outside at Barleythorpe. Seven **Cream-spot Ladybirds** *Calvia 14-guttata* were found on nettles at Barrowden. One **Orange Ladybird** *Halyzia 16-guttata* was recorded at Egleton reserve. One **22-spot Ladybird** *Psyllobora 22-guttata* was noted on Verge 8. **Pea Weevils** *Sitona lineatus* were recorded at Stocken.

**GASTROPODA** – Good numbers of dead, empty shells of the **Great Pond Snail** *Lymnaea stagnalis* were found washed up on the shore-line at Eye Brook, Rutland shore.

## October 2011

**ODONATA** – An **Emperor Dragonfly** *Anax imperator* was seen on the 14th at Stocken.

**HEMIPTERA** – A **Hawthorn Shield Bug** *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* was found in a kitchen at Wing. A **Parent Bug** *Elasmucha grisea* was recorded on nettles at Egleton reserve. A **Bronze Shield Bug** *Troilus luridus* was recorded at Lyndon reserve. A **Green Shield Bug** *Palomena prasina* was noted at Ketton Quarry. A **Capsid Bug** *Miris holsatus*, a **Leafhopper** *Euscelis incisus* with very spiny hind legs, and a **Froghopper** *Philaenus lineatus* were all recorded in Lyndon churchyard. Many **Common Backswimmers** *Notonecta glauca* were recorded in the ponds near the visitor centre at Egleton reserve.

**DIPTERA** – A **Leaf Miner** *Phytomyza ilicis* was recorded on holly at Ketton Quarry. Holly leaf miner is host specific and feeds on no other plant. The leaf miner larva will develop into a leaf miner fly *Agromyzidae* sp. **Blue Bottles** and a **Drone Fly** were noted at Stocken.

**HYMENOPTERA** – A **Ruby-tailed Wasp** *Chrysis ignita* was noted on ivy flowers at Lyndon churchyard. **Common Wasp** *Vespula vulgaris* – 4 queen wasps were found dormant in a nestbox, 2 wasps were noted on flowers, and 7 wasps were found dying in the gardens, all at Stocken. **Mining Bee** *Halictus tumulorum* – one female, 'absolutely pristine', was

noted at Lyndon churchyard; site of a very active colony in spring. The recorder wrote that female bees have been noted to emerge in September before going straight into hibernation. **Honey Bees** *Apis mellifera* were abundant on ivy flowers at Lyndon churchyard. A queen **Red-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lapidarius* and a worker Red-tailed Bumblebee were noted at Stocken, as were a **White-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lucorum* and a **Buff-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus terrestris*.

**COLEOPTERA** – A **Beetle** *Anthocomus rufus* was found at Egleton reserve – this attractive beetle

has a metallic green and red colouration and is a species specialised to living in a wetland habitat. **Seven-spot Ladybird** *Coccinella 7-punctata* – at least a dozen were noted in a garden at Oakham and up to 10 were found clustered under a leaf at Ketton Quarry. A single **Water Ladybird** *Anisosticta 19-punctata* was recorded at Egleton reserve. **Flea Beetles** *Apthona euphorbiae* were plentiful on nettles and thistles at Egleton reserve.

**ARACHNIDA** – The red-coloured variant of the **Garden Spider** *Araneus diadematus* was recorded at Lyndon reserve.

Many thanks to the following recorders: G Chiverton, J Crosby, C Gallimore, M Grimes, C R Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, T Newton, D Perril and L & G Worrall.

## MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

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### September/October 2011

I am pleased to report that evidence has been found showing the presence of an **Otter** on the North Brook at Fort Henry, for the first time in 2011. Other less common reports this month include 5 **Short Tailed Field Voles** disturbed in September in a garden compost bin at Stocken Hall, where the recorder mentions that they are commonly seen in the long grass, and runs are easily found. A **Common Shrew** (not commonly seen at all) was found dead on the footpath in Ketton Quarry in early October.

Two **Stoats** have been reported, one in September crossed the Egleton Road going into the RW reserve by lagoon 4, carrying a small mammal; the other spent about 15 minutes hunting around Dr Gallimore's garden wall, ignoring the presence of rabbits and grey squirrels, in search of easier bank vole prey! **Foxes** have been seen in September in Burley Wood on two occasions, and in October at Chapel Lane Barrowden, and another 'flew' over the Wing to Morcott road in Wing parish.

Sadly a total of 15 **Badgers** have been reported as road casualties over the two months, though there is consolation in a new sett being reported in the North Luffenham area. A live badger was seen by one member in the approach to his front garden, on returning from the October RNHS meeting!

A lone **Hedgehog** was noted in the garden of part of Stocken prison, during September, often under the bird table, attracted by scraps put out for it, and worms from the garden's wormery, hopefully the well fed specimen will enter hibernation in good condition. In Oakham Jenny Harris has had

regular visits from hedgehogs, in front and rear gardens, a smallish one seen in the back garden, and another by the front door. In Barrowden the Worralls have fed around 8 each night throughout September, all sizes, eating squashed peanuts and drinking. An injured animal rescued earlier (see previous mammal notes) had to return to the vets to treat infection in a wound at the back of its head, and since it is unlikely that spines will regrow it will probably be kept in a safe environment. In October a sudden cooling of the weather reduced the number of visitors to the Worrall's garden. By the end of the month hardly a nut was being taken or a dropping found. Linda believes the old nest box was occupied, and another nook too, so they are hopefully tucked up warmly for the winter. Four road casualties were reported, one in Ketton, and three in Barrowden.

Recent **Mole** workings were seen at Fort Henry and on the Rutland shore of Eyebrook reservoir. **Grey squirrels** were recorded in September from Presley Hill woods, Lyddington, and in October, on a peanut feeder in Barleythorpe, in Edith Weston, and two in Barrowden.

A **Brown hare** was disturbed, as was the tractor driver when mowing a patch of thick weeds and tall grass in Stocken prison grounds. The driver hit the brakes hard, and the hare cantered off over the new sports field, and out of the gate! Other hares were seen in Wing Burrows, and Wing Tunnel. **Rabbits** were seen in Ketton Quarry and Presley Hill woodland.

**Fallow Deer** were heard rutting at Clipsham, Little Haw, Morkery and Pickworth Woods, the roaring and occasional clash of antlers travelling

quite a distance through the autumn air. Fallow were seen in all the above woods in September and October, numbers much lower than before. Fallow Deer were also reported from Fort Henry, where 5 were seen, including one very pale, and one very dark, Tunnely Wood 5 more, and in

fields south of Pickworth wood two does, one very pale, and one buck ran west towards the A1 and out of sight. Two **Muntjac** were recorded in September, in Burley and Morkery woods, and a muntjac was seen on two occasions in Digby Farm conifer plantation, North Luffenham in October.

*Thankyou all for your records: P. Bennett, J Crosby, C Gallimore, J Harris, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, D Perril, P J Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, L & G Worrall*

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## **BAT REPORT** compiled by Jenny Harris

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### **September/October 2011**

There are often few records at this time of year, although bats are still likely to be about on fine nights, of which there were quite a number in September and October, although of course we also had several nights of frost. Two bats, probably pipistrelle, were seen following one another over a garden in Barrowden on 11.9, a breezy, mild evening. In September an unidentified bat was found grounded just outside automatic doors at Catmose College, Oakham; the finder placed it under a bush in the garden, from whence it had disappeared when checked later. In October, at HMP Stocken, a small dark bat was seen flitting erratically in G Wing garden, in light rain, at 6.40 am on 27.10; the following evening a bat was seen briefly over the Stocken Education Garden before flying off.

**Pipistrelle species: (common pipistrelle *Pipistrellus pipistrelles*, soprano pipistrelle *P. pygmaeus* and unconfirmed *Pipistrellus* sp.)**

Common pipistrelles continued to frequent a garden in Oakham regularly in September and up until 18.10; a single soprano pipistrelle was recorded in the same garden on 1.10 and 29.10. On 29.9 during a survey looking for *Nathusius'* pipistrelle along the north shore of Rutland Water, several common pips were heard near Barnsdale Country Club. A group of sopranos were foraging round willows at the bottom of the road leading to Barnsdale Wood; 20 minutes later they had all gone. No *Nathusius'* were heard. On 1.10 pipistrelle bats were still present at The Stone House, Wing, emerging from the roof soon after 7.00 pm. On 30.10 a single common pip was foraging over allotments next to Burley Road, Oakham; several feeding buzzes were heard when the bat flew under an oak tree, so there were still insects for it to find. Two grounded pipistrelles were recorded during the period.

On 23.9 in Oakham, a bathroom light fitting was dismantled to facilitate redecoration, whereupon a dead infant male pipistrelle fell out. On 4.10, a male common pipistrelle was flying about in the Land's End factory off Pillings Road, Oakham. When it landed it was gently captured. It was in fine condition and was released nearby that same evening.

### **Brown Long-eared *Plecotus auritus***

The only record for the period was of a female that ended up roosting in the front porch of the Whipper Inn hotel on Market Street, Oakham. A resident saw it flying to and fro in front of the glass doors at about 7.30 am, before it perched in the darkest spot it could find. This was on 15.10, one of several frosty mornings in mid October. The bat weighed 8.5 gm, a reasonable weight for a long-eared, so it was released in the evening, and disappeared towards the Castle grounds.

### **Noctule *Nyctalus noctule***

1st October was an unusually hot day, and at 6.45 pm Charles Gallimore, sitting outside his house in Wing, saw 4 high-flying bats that were much larger than pipistrelle or long-eared bats, with which he is very familiar. The bats, flying purposefully at about 50 ft, appeared to be foraging over a sheep-grazed field to the north of the village, with fairly frequent dives. At 45 kHz the bat detector registered only short bursts of a few quiet clicks. With binoculars the bats appeared pinkish underneath; noctules have very short golden-brown fur which can be slightly paler on the belly. The description of physical appearance and characteristic high, direct flight with frequent dives, points very strongly to these being noctule bats. After about 20-25 minutes they disappeared, but shortly after the pipistrelles began to emerge from the roof, giving a good opportunity for comparison of size and flight pattern.

*My thanks to the following for records: J & A Comber, J Crosby, Dr C H Gallimore, J Harris, L & G Worrall*