

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING, Tuesday 5th March 2013

Our AGM will be held on Tuesday 5th March, 2013, before the talk for the evening. All officers and other committee members automatically stand down at the AGM. If you would like to nominate someone or offer to be nominated yourself, please contact the Chairman or Secretary as soon as possible. Also let the Chairman or Secretary know before 20th February if you have any other business to raise at the AGM, please.

MINUTES OF RNHS ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2012

The AGM of the Rutland Natural History Society was held on Tuesday 6th March 2012 at the Church of England School, Oakham, with 69 members present and the President, Sir Clifford Boulton, in the Chair.

- 1 **Apologies:** L Biddle, D Needham, T Newton, E Northen, D Perril, N Thurlow.
- 2 **Minutes of AGM 2011:** Circulated in *Fieldfare* January 2012. Proposed Dr C Jones, Seconded R Lemmon, approved and signed.
- 3 **Matters arising:** Nil.
- 4 **Treasurer's Report:** M Grimes circulated Income and Expenditure Account and Reserves for year ended 31.12.2011, checked by G Kirk. Subscriptions were slightly down. Total income was £3601, total expenditure £7982, which included donations of £5400 towards local Wildlife Trust and BTO projects; without these there would have been surplus of £1019. Balance carried forward to 2012 was £8657. Members were asked to let the Chairman or Secretary know if they had suggestions for further donations appropriate to charity status for consideration by Committee. Proposed G Worrall, Seconded G Chiverton, the Report was adopted and M Grimes thanked.
- 5 **Appointment of Independent Examiner:** Proposed J Harris, Seconded P Rudkin, Mr George Kirk was appointed. He was warmly welcomed and gratefully thanked.
- 6 **Chairman's Report:** A Tomlinson reported a busy year. Indoor and Outdoor meetings had healthy numbers present; members were urged to attend more outdoor ones, which were particularly interesting and enjoyable. D Whitefield and all those helping to arrange meetings were thanked. The Society was fortunate that from September 2011 Indoor Meetings were held at the new premises of Oakham Church of England School. The caretaker and his staff were particularly thanked for help with technical matters. At a time of change in Planning and Development policy, the Society had been active in local advocacy work, including responses to national and local consultations and recommencing involvement in the Environmental Theme Group of the Local Strategic Partnership; donations were also made towards local natural history projects. The Committee had considered options to boost the Society's profile and encourage new membership, and members were asked to help with recruitment of like-minded friends and family. The President, Sir Clifford Boulton, now standing down, was thanked for his advice and encouragement over his 11 years of office. Also standing down were Committee member A Lear and long-serving Honorary Secretary L Worrall, who were thanked for their contributions. Appreciation was given for the work of Honorary Officers, the current Committee and the Society's Recorders, also P Scott for Publicity, H Ellis for Editorship and S Hope for masterminding Refreshments. The Membership was also thanked for its support, especially for continued observation and recording of Rutland's wildlife, as this was essential to provide data on which to base efforts to keep our environment diverse and healthy. Proposed R Bakker, Seconded R Lemmon, the Report was adopted.
- 7 **Election of Officers and Committee:** Proposed A Moyce, Seconded R Williams and elected en bloc: Chairman: Ann Tomlinson, Secretary: Linda Biddle, Treasurer: Martin Grimes, Membership Secretary: Graham Worrall, Programme Secretary: Dawn Whitefield, *Fieldfare* Editor: Hendrina Ellis, other Committee Members: Gill Chiverton, Roy Edwards, Jenny Harris, Peter Scott.
- 8 **New President and Vice-Presidents:** Mr Joss Hanbury, long-time friend of the Society and well-known figure in Rutland life, spoke to the meeting and was acclaimed as President. Acclaimed as Vice-Presidents available to assist the President were past Chairmen Dr Clive Jones and Mr P J Rudkin.
- 9 **Any Other Business:** None.
- 10 **Date of next AGM:** Tuesday 5th March 2013.

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS

Full details of all these events can be found on our website at www.rnhs.org.uk.

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Sunday 17 February **NENE WASHES AT ELDERNELL** **10 am**

Winter birding on the Nene Washes – migrant wildfowl are bound to be much in evidence, plus hopefully owl species, and, depending on water levels, wild swans. Led by Ann Tomlinson, RNHS.

Directions: Take the A605 from Peterborough heading towards March. Just past the village of Coates take the turning Eldernell Lane on the north side of the road. Follow this lane until you reach the Nene Washes, where there is a small car park. Map ref TL 318 992.

Saturday 23 March **SIGNS OF SPRING AT DAWN'S Paddock** **10 am**

This lovely piece of Rutland countryside belongs to Dawn Whitefield, our Programme Secretary, who is leading the meeting. Let's hope the weather cooperates! Directions: Meet at SK 841 074. Take the Oakham to Braunston in Rutland road and pull off at the big layby on the east side of the road.

INDOOR EVENTS

RNHS indoor meetings are held at the Oakham Church of England School, Burley Road, Oakham; free tea and coffee afterwards.

Tuesday 5 February **THE LIFE OF THE LADYBIRD** **7.30 pm**

With Dr Helen Roy, Coordinator of Zoological Data and Research at the Biological Record Centre, and a very interesting and enthusiastic speaker who you may have heard on Radio 4.

Tuesday 5 March **AGM FOLLOWED BY RAPTORS** **7.30 pm**

The Annual General Meeting, followed by a talk about raptors with Simon Dudhill of the Raptor Foundation.

Tuesday 26 March **WILD GOOSE CHASE** **7.30 pm**

By Lincolnshire fen farmer and ornithologist Nicholas Watts.

LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST RUTLAND GROUP

Rutland Group indoor events are held at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton; admission £1 includes tea/coffee/biscuits. See www.lrw.org.uk, or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours, for other events in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks.

Monday 18 February **Paddock Grazing for Wildlife** **7.30 pm**

Elizabeth Ranelagh will talk about paddock grazing for wildlife. Horses are perceived as bad grazers and damaging to grassland, but with correct management they can safely graze species-rich grasslands and attract wildlife. The talk will look at how both the horse and the habitat can benefit from a wider conservation approach.

Monday 18 March **AGM FOLLOWED BY MOTHS** **7.30 pm**

After the short business section of the Annual General Meeting, Adrian Russell, the County Moth Recorder, will talk about moths.

LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

See www.lincstrust.org.uk, or phone 01507 526 677 in office hours, for details of the LWT Bourne Group's events and other Lincstrust events in Lincolnshire.

WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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November 2012

Atmospheric pressure and winds Pressure started very low on 1st, the lowest reading of the month at 977.5 mb, and then rose steadily until the 8th when it dropped slightly, before reaching the highest reading of the month, 1026.5 mb on 14th. During this first period winds were SW-W, but the second half of the month saw variable pressures over a narrower range but winds much more variable.

Temperature Again a cool month, the mean minimum 3.01 °C was the 8th lowest in the last decade, higher only than 2005 and 2010 which were 2.6 °C and 1.96 °C respectively. The mean maximum, 9.54 °C, was the 9th coolest in the last decade, warmer than 2010 at 8.25 °C. Over England and Wales 43 Novembers were colder, 52 were warmer and 5 had the same mean temperature.

Rainfall The total here was 88.2 mm (3.5 inches) or 157% of my long term mean. The 19th to 27th of the month was a wet period when 64.6 mm or 73% of the month's total fell. This included 25.9 mm (1.02 inches) on 24th and represents a high figure for this station generally, but was eclipsed by 26.9 mm which fell on 4th April in this exceptional wet year. Nationally, i.e. averaged over England and Wales, the rainfall for this month was 5.28 inches or 128% of the average for the standard reference period 1981 to 2010. In the last 100 years only 20 Novembers were wetter.

Sunshine Averaged nationally this was 77 hours or 110% of the 1981-2010 mean. In the past 100 years, 17 Novembers were sunnier. The LTM for RAF Wittering is 72 hours.

December 2012

Atmospheric pressure and winds Pressures were generally variable this month but there were a couple of periods of low pressure which stand out. The 14th to 17th inclusive had pressures below 1000 mb and included the month's lowest

of 988 mb at 0900 on 15th; and there was another brief low period, the 23rd to 25th inclusive. Winds were W-NW from the 1st to 13th, then variable to 25th and finally S-W to the end of the month. Visibility was poor in the early mornings of 11th to 14th inclusive indicating static conditions and the opposite applied from 28th to the end of the month when there were high winds and notably gusts up to 28 knots at 0900 on 31st.

Temperatures A cold start to the month, in the first 13 days there were frosts each night and the month's lowest minimum, -4.9 °C, occurred on 12th. In the rest of the month the thermometer did not go below zero and the highest night-time minimum, 6.5 °C, occurred on 22nd. The highest daytime maximum, 13.0 °C, was also on this date and between 28th and 31st, the daytime maxima were in the range of 11.2 °C to 11.8 °C. Mean minima and maxima were in fifth and sixth positions in the last decade, the mean minimum, 1.64 °C, was well below that of 2011, 2.65 °C, but well above 2010 which was -2.93 °C.

Rainfall A very wet end to a very wet year. The total measured this month was 111.5 mm (4.39 inches) and this equates to 223% of my LTM for December. This is the wettest December since 2002 (96.5 mm) and contrasts with December 2004 when just 19.7 mm fell. (See below for more about 2004.) Nationally averaged over England and Wales the total rainfall was 6.75 inches or 177% of the average for the standard reference period 1981 to 2010. In the last 100 years only five Decembers were wetter.

My yearly total for 2012 is 907.7 mm, the wettest I have recorded in 22 years. This is well above the total for the next wettest which was 2004 (786.4 mm) and works out at 150% of my LTM.

Sunshine The total averaged over England and Wales was 61 hours or 115% of the 1981-2010 mean. In the past 100 years 10 Decembers were sunnier and the rest duller.

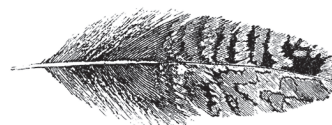
I am indebted to Philip Eden's Weatherwatch in the *Sunday Telegraph* for the national figures.

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

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Your recorder is away; please continue sending in your records.





November and December 2012

The wet weather dispersed many wildfowl to smaller water bodies but a good variety was still recorded including Common Scoter, Red-breasted Merganser, Smew and a Ring-necked Duck. Waders found little mud to feed on and numbers remained low. A very obliging Hawfinch attracted much interest at Eggleton, whilst garden bird watchers noted Bramblings and Nuthatches, the latter often for the first time as the species continues its expansion. Waxwings visited a number of sites in varying numbers but rarely lingered and were seen by relatively few people. My thanks to everyone who has submitted records in 2012 and my best wishes for good bird watching in 2013.

The following provided records for these notes: N Barlow, P Bennett, M A Branston, P & C Brown, A Burdett, T Caldicott, J & A Comber, J Foster, Dr C H Gallimore, M & G Griffin, A L Lawrence, LROS, R Lemmon, S Lister, R Mackay, P Mann, I Misselbrook, T Mitcham, G Panter, L Park, P Rudkin, Jill Stapleton, J Tabberer, A R & M A Thorp, M Tyler, D Whitefield, M Winslow, L & G Worrall.

Whooper Swan. There were three at RW(Eg) on 07.11.

Egyptian Goose. Six flew over Martinthorpe on 02.11. Pairs were at Martinthorpe, WFL and LFP on six dates to 18.12.

Mandarin Duck. Three males were at FHP on 11.11 and a male was at RW(EW) on 17.11.

Mallard. Away from the reservoirs there were 40 on the Oak canal at Oak on 08.11, whilst Banthorpe Gravel Pit had 86 on 15.12 and 91 on 30.12.

Teal. There were 34 at Banthorpe Gravel Pit on 15.12 and 37 on 30.12.

Red-crested Pochard Noted at RW(Eg) between 06.11 and 18.12 with a max of six on 18.11.

Pochard. Eight were at Banthorpe Gravel Pit on 30.12.

Ring-necked Duck. A male at RW(Lr) on 02.11 was relocated at EBR on 18.11, where it was seen until 08.12 before making a final visit to RW on 11.12.

Scaup. Up to three were at RW from 02.11 to 08.12. Two were at EBR on 22.11.

Long-tailed Duck. A female was at RWNA from 11.11 to the end of the year.

Common Scoter. Noted on six dates at RW and two dates at EBR between 07.11 and 06.12, with a max of eight at RW on 08.11. All birds were females.

Smew. Present at RW(Eg) from 25.11 to the end of Dec with a max of nine on 28.12. At EBR up to seven were present between 01.12 and 31.12.

Red-breasted Merganser. A female was at RW from 06.11 to the end of the year.

Goosander. Three were at EBR on 14.11 and three were at RW(Norm) on 26.11.

Red-legged Partridge. Nine were seen at EBR on 03.12 – perhaps the remainder of the hundreds released there in summer.

Grey Partridge. Singles were calling near Prest on 23.11 and 21.12.

Great Northern Diver. One was at RW between 13 and 18.11, and from 06.12 to the end of the year. One was at EBR between 18.11 and 23.11.

Bittern. Present at RW(Eg) from 10.11 with three noted on 02.12.

Slavonian Grebe. One was at RW(NA and SA) from 29.11.

Black-necked Grebe. One was at RW from 02.11 to the end of the year.

Red Kite. Six over Bden on 17.12 was the peak count received.

Marsh Harrier. One was at RW on 23.12.

Sparrowhawk. Noted at Ext, FHP and an Oak garden (30.12).

Kestrel. Regular at FHP with others at Ward, Tick Park, Shacklewell and Rid.

Merlin. One was at Luff Airfield on 11.11.

Peregrine. A female, on an Osprey perch at RW(Eg) on 30.11, provided excellent prolonged views. One was at WFL on 15.12.

Golden Plover. On 18.11 there were 42 at EBR and 240 at RW. 760 were at RW on 16.12.

Lapwing. RW had 699 on 18.11 and 541 on 16.12. There were 550 at EBR on 18.11 and 70 on 16.12.

Dunlin. Present at RW in varying nos throughout both months with a max of 35 on 30.12. Six were at EBR on 17.11, with one on 16.12.

Ruff. Singles were at RW on four Nov dates and two Dec dates. 22 were present on 30.11 and three on 16.12.

Jack Snipe. Singles were at RW on 2.12 and 12.12.

Snipe. The soggy conditions must have suited this species but few were reported. 20 were at EBR on 18.11, when 30 were at RW. 14 were at RW on 16.12. In Dec singles were flushed at FH, LFP and Banthorpe Gravel Pit.

Woodcock. Singles were flushed between 02.12 and 30.12 at RW, PGW, TunnW, CPW, Leigh and Little Haw Wood. Five were at the latter site on 19.12.

Curlew. Eight were at RW on 18.11 with five on 16.12.

Green Sandpiper. One was at LFP on 11.11. At RW there were up to four between 08.11 and 16.12.

Redshank. 21 were at RW on 18.11 and just ten on 16.12.

Little Gull. One was at RW between 02 and 15.11.

Mediterranean Gull. A 1st winter bird was at RW(Eg) on 30.12.

Great Black-backed Gull. 350 were counted at RW on 18.11.

Common Gull. c.1,100 flew west at Leigh on 11.11. At RW 20,000 were estimated in the roost on 18.11.

Herring Gull. 1,000 were counted at RW on 18.11.

Yellow-legged Gull. One was at RW(Dam) on 17.11

Azorean Yellow-legged Gull. One of this race roosted at RW on several Nov evenings from 03.11.

Caspian Gull. Three were at RW on 13.11, with two on 18.11.

Glaucous Gull. Singles were noted at RW from 06.11 to 17.12, on eight dates involving a 1st winter bird, a 3rd winter bird and an adult. An adult was at EBR on 17.11 and 21.12.

Woodpigeon. c.1,200 flew south at Martinthorpe on 06.11.

Collared Dove. Up to seven frequented an Oak garden in Nov. Have other members noted a decline in this species over the past two years ?

Barn Owl. All records were in Nov and involved singles at Lynd, LFP and RW. Two hunted near Ryll on 29.11.

Little Owl. The only records were at Bden on 03.11 and Tick Park on 30.11.

Tawny Owl. Up to three called regularly at Bden in Nov and one was heard at TunnW on 13.12.

Short-eared Owl. Seven were at Cottess Airfield on 01.11, one was at RW(Eg) on 07.11 and three were at Luff Airfield on 11.11.

Kingfisher. In Nov there were singles at Dawn's Paddock, RW and Oak Canal. One was at Holywell Lake on 15.12 and one flew over a pond at QF on 17.12.

Green Woodpecker. Regularly seen and heard at RW, Ext Park and FH. Two were at QF on 17.12.

Great Spotted Woodpecker. Most records were of birds at feeders, TunnW, Tick Park, Norm and Wg, usually singles but 2 or 3 at Norm in Dec. Drumming was heard at Kett Priory on 31.12.

Maggie. Four visited a Bden garden on 26.11.

Jay. It was interesting to receive garden records of two birds in Emp in mid-Nov and throughout both months in Oak.

Jackdaw. c.500 were at a RW roost on 16.11. 39 were noted at Belt on 25.12.

Raven. One or two were noted over Lynd, LFP and Leigh in Nov.

Coal Tit. Three or four fed in an Emp garden in Nov. Regular in small nos at TunnW feeders in both months.

Willow Tit. Noted at Leigh on 02.12 and Martinthorpe the following day.

Marsh Tit. One or two visited TunnW feeders, mainly in Nov, and were also at Dawn's Paddock. Pairs also noted at Norm on 28.11 and Man on 23.12.

Long-tailed Tit. An impressive 22 gathered in an Oak garden to feed on fat balls on 22.11. Others were less fortunate with up to 14 at Stam, Norm and another Oak garden. 45 were noted at GGorse on 22.11.

Chiffchaff. Singles were noted at RW on 03, 22, and 28.11, with two at RW(Eg) on 30.11.

Blackcap. A female was in a Man garden on 24.11. An Oak garden attracted up to two males and two females between 12 and 31.12.

Waxwing. The first record was of nine west at RW on 06.11, with two at Eg car park next day. Double figure counts were 15 at Bden on 26.11, and 38 at Mor on 01.12, declining to 14 on 03.12. There were eleven at Caldecott on 04.12. Smaller nos were at Luff Airfield, Stam, Wild's Lodge, NLuff and Ess, where there were seven on 30.12.

Nuthatch. Birds visited feeders at TunnW, Norm, Tick Park and Man regularly. There were first records for gardens in Emp and Wg with one also at an Oak feeder on 29.11.

Blackbird. There were counts of 43 at Leigh on 23.11, 50 at RW(Eg) on 24.11 and c.90 around Wg on 15.12.

Fieldfare. 400 flew south at Martinthorpe on 04.11, 300 were at LFP on 07.11, and 300 around Wg on 13.11. Four took Cotoneaster berries at a Bden garden on 11.12. with 50 in the same area next day. 50 were at RW(Eg) on 29.11.

Song Thrush. Full song was heard at Ext on 18.11 and Bden on 23.11.

Redwing. c.50 were at RW(Eg) on 29.11.

Mistle Thrush. Five frequented a Norm garden in Nov and full song was heard at KQ on 26.11.

Stonechat. A male was at RW(Eg) from 02.11 to 28.11.

Wheatear. A very late bird was at Cott Airfield on 08.11.

Grey Wagtail. The only record was of one at EBR on 14.11.

Chaffinch. 36 were at Martinsthorpe on 02.11 and 50 near Rid on 26.12. The largest counts were from a Leigh roost where nos increased from c.490 on 18.11 to c.800 on 16.12.

Brambling. One or two visited feeders at Emp, Norm and RWLr from 11.11. Ten flew south at Wild's Lodge on 15.11 and up to 92 were at the Leigh finch roost between 18.11 and 16.12.

Goldfinch. 16 were in an Oak garden on 13.12.

Siskin. The largest flocks noted were 10 at RW (EW), 56 at RW(Eg) and 90 at RWLr on 25.12.

Lesser Redpoll. Three fed at WG feeders

throughout Nov and into early Dec. 35 were at RWLr on 17.12, with 40 flying over there on 25.12. One took nyger seed in a Man garden on 26.12.

Common (Mealy) Redpoll. Three were reported feeding on seed heads near FH on 08.12.

Common Crossbill. Four males were in a conifer near Wg on 08.12.

Bullfinch. c. 18 were in the Wg area on 08.12.

Hawfinch. A very confiding bird was at RW(Eg) carpark regularly between 29.11 and 18.12, with a report of it nearby on 30.12.

Yellowhammer. The largest flocks noted were c.60 at Martinsthorpe on 03.12 and a similar number south of LCast on 25.12.

Reed Bunting. 25 were at the Leigh finch roost on 30.12.

Rutland Breeding Bird Atlas 2008-2011 by Terry Mitcham (Spiegl Press £10.00)

Between 2008 and 2011 seventeen members of the Society were involved in fieldwork for the BTO atlas project. The results for Rutland have now been written up and mapped with accounts of 105 species. Line drawings and colour photographs are by John Wright and the Atlas is due to be published by the end of January. This publication updates the Rutland Breeding Bird Atlas 1988-1990 and illustrates how the birdlife of the county has changed over the last twenty years.

November and December 2012 Wildfowl Counts

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir		Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park		Holywell Lake	
	18.11.12	16.12.12	18.11.12	16.12.12	16.11.12	13.12.12	17.11.12	15.12.12
Mute Swan	402	235	66	51	8	7	6	5
Pink-footed Goose	1	1						
Greylag Goose	346	322	172	188	17	3	8	67
Canada Goose	826	786	14	32	1		191	120
Barnacle Goose	8	7						
Egyptian Goose	61	50						
Shelduck	4	5	1					
Mandarin Duck		3						
Wigeon	1388	1869	181	372	31	115	3	1
Gadwall	620	382	14	35	183	127	60	48
Teal	823	675	508	434	15	27	48	36
Mallard	636	537	122	113	83	104	146	103
Pintail	42	5						
Shoveler	176	28	7		4	2	2	
Red-crested Pochard	5	4						

(continued)

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir		Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park		Holywell Lake	
	18.11.12	16.12.12	18.11.12	16.12.12	16.11.12	13.12.12	17.11.12	15.12.12
Pochard	63	92	4					1
Ring-necked Duck			1					
Tufted Duck	2558	3496	592	397	24	38	62	41
Scaup	3	6						
Long-tailed Duck	1	1						
Common Scoter	1			3				
Goldeneye	136	392	45	37				
Smew		5		9				
Red-breasted Merganser	1	1						
Goosander	12	16	6	2				
Little Grebe	71	70	6	1	10	17	11	11
Great Crested Grebe	184	150	71	21				
Slavonian Grebe		1						
Black-necked Grebe	1	1						
Cormorant	141	121	21	27	3			
Little Egret	31	14	1					
Grey Heron	19	14	5	2				
Water Rail	14	20						
Moorhen	89	86	2	1	26	13	28	5
Coot	2237	2117	104	162	67	76	35	34

BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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November/December 2012

One location for November – Ketton Quarry Valley, where Roy Lemmon saw **Daisy**, **Bristly Ox-tongue**, **Red Campion** and **Dandelion** in flower. For December, Max Winslow saw

in Quarry Farm, Little Casterton, **Daisy** and **Creeping Buttercup** in flower.

Let us hope the early months of 2013 are better for botanizing.

Verge Surveyors

We always need more people to survey - three times a year between March and August - the verges mainly in the eastern half of Rutland. Will previous surveyors please contact Graham Worrall (01572 747302) to confirm their willingness to continue, and anyone else interested also contact Graham.

BUTTERFLY NOTES compiled by Alistair Lawrence

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November/December 2012

Happy New Year to you all.

In view of the cold, damp weather of the past few weeks it is not surprising that there are only a few butterfly records. What is surprising though

is that **Painted Lady** was seen in a Barrowden garden on 23 November, a late record for the species. In the same place on the same date a single **Comma** was also observed.

Earlier in November a single **Red Admiral** was observed near Verge 7 on the 4th; whilst on the

18th another singleton was seen sunning itself in a Barrowden garden. There have been two sightings of **Brimstone**, both on 23 November: a single male at Wing and another singleton in Barrowden.

Finally in late November a hibernating **Peacock** was observed amongst the flower pots at Rutland Water garden nursery.

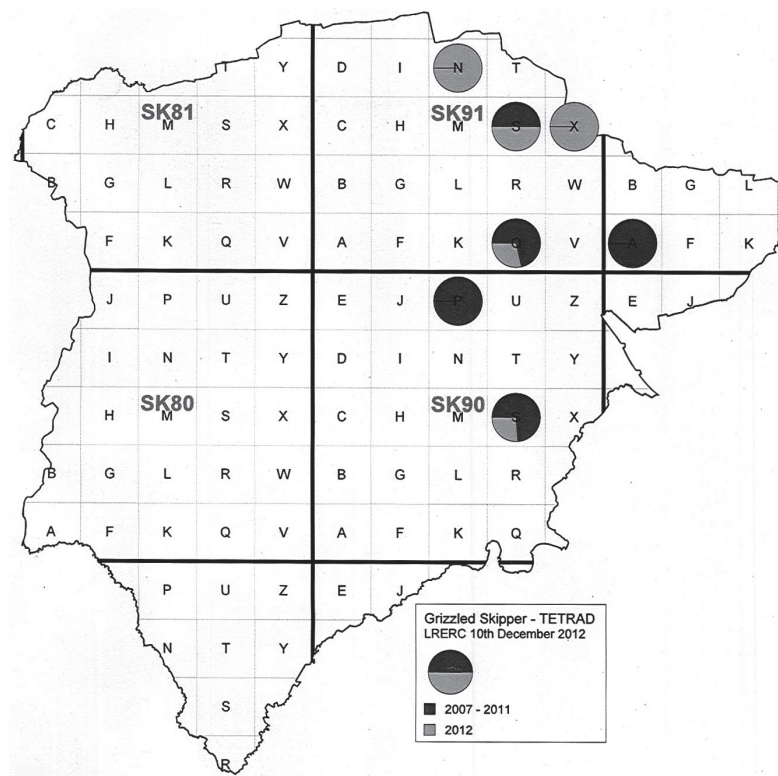
Many thanks to the following contributors: G Chiverton, C Gallimore, A Lawrence and L & G Worrall.

Grizzled Skippers

This is perhaps an appropriate moment to publish the Grizzled Skipper sightings in Rutland over the past 5 years, which included the results of the 2012 survey.

Annexed is a Rutland Distribution Map for the butterfly and the sites where this species have been recorded. I am greatly indebted to Elaine Connor of the Leics & Rutland Environmental Records Centre for producing the map and lists from the records supplied.

A Lawrence



Location	Tetrad	Date
Empingham V4	SK90P	17/06/2010
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	22/04/2011
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	03/05/2007
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	24/05/2008
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	24/05/2008
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	09/06/2008
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	09/06/2008
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	20/05/2010
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	21/05/2010
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	03/06/2010
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	29/06/2010
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	23/04/2011
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	25/04/2011
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	27/04/2011
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	05/05/2011
A1/Pickworth Road	SK91Q	20/06/2010
Bloody Oaks Quarry	SK91Q	19/05/2010
Bloody Oaks Quarry	SK91Q	20/05/2010
Bloody Oaks Quarry	SK91Q	22/05/2010
Bloody Oaks Quarry	SK91Q	04/05/2011
Clipsham Quarry	SK91S	06/05/2011
Great Casterton	TF01A	27/05/2010
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	10/05/2012
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	23/05/2012
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	26/05/2012
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	26/05/2012
Ketton Quarry	SK90S	19/06/2012
Bloody Oaks Quarry	SK91Q	24/05/2012
Bloody Oaks Quarry	SK91Q	26/05/2012
Clipsham Quarry	SK91X	23/05/2012
Bidwell Lodge Quarry	SK91S	26/05/2012
George Henry Wood	SK91N	10/06/2012

MOTH NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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November/December 2012

Another year is over and unfortunately the weather has dominated the trapping season in 2012, being 'the wettest year since records began'. It will be interesting to see what effect if any the conditions will have had on moth numbers in 2013.

We trapped at Eyebrook Reservoir on 14 occasions between March and October and were able to add 9 micro and 4 macro species to the total for the site. After 13 years of regular visits the totals

for the site are currently 167 micro and 310 macro species, giving a grand total of 477. Amongst the new micro species were Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner (now found all over the country!) and Codling Moth (a known pest on fruit trees but only caught occasionally). The new macro species were Triple Spotted Pug, Freyer's Pug, White Pinion Spotted and Square Spotted Clay.

I recently sent a final list of all records I had received from members during 2012 to Adrian Russell (Recorder for VC55). In his reply, he

singled out Common Heath seen in Clipsham Quarry in May and June and stated 'this is a first for that site though it was recorded from Big Pits Quarry in 2005. It is also the first record of this species anywhere outside of Ketton Quarry since 2005.'. I relayed this news to Barbara Parker and she subsequently looked up some old records made by the late George Sellars in 1984 and

85, when Common Heaths were found on the Clay Bank and North Bank at Clipsham Quarry. She has now forwarded this information to the County Recorder for it to be added to his records.

In conclusion, may I wish all members a happy New Year and let us hope that it will be a much better one for Natural History activities!

My thanks for this information go to R Follows, B Parker and A Russell.

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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November/December 2012

At the time of writing, it has been declared that 2012 was the wettest year for a century.

After the hard frosts of 3rd and 6th November and into early December, it was therefore no surprise to receive nil reports for the Rutland Orthoptera for the period under review.

This gives me the opportunity to reveal some exciting news! Rutland Natural History Society has made history with the publication of the full distribution maps for the Grasshoppers and Crickets of Rutland, with the records up to the end of the 2011 season. This is the first time this has happened in the history of the society! The maps were produced by Elaine Connor, the Ecology Enquiry Officer of the Leicestershire Rutland Environmental Records Centre, Leicestershire County Council. The records that Elaine used were extracted from the mammoth excel spread sheet for VC 55, provided by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology. Elaine then sent the revised sheet for the Rutland Orthoptera to me, which I edited and checked for verification. The sheet was then sent back to Elaine, and the fabulous maps were completed for our thirteen species. Elaine very kindly did one set using tetrads, then another set, using 1KM squares. The maps are colour coded for each species, and were produced importing excel spreadsheets into Mapinfo, which is the mapping software used.

All this was made possible, firstly through the excellent help received from Bjorn Beckmann and Val Burton, through the CEH, with co-operation from Sue Timms, and to the final expertise of Elaine Connor, at the LRERC.

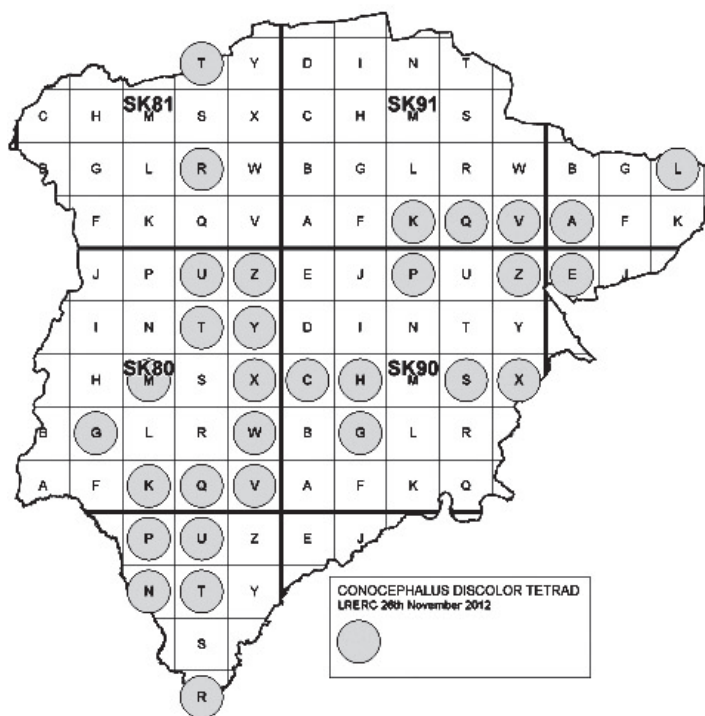
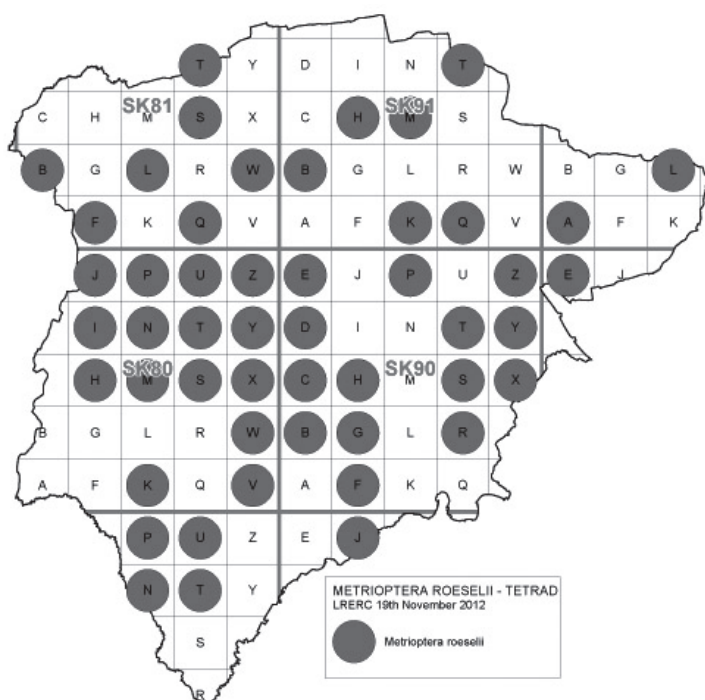
Perhaps, in 10 years' time, new maps will be published, and the fortunes of the orthoptera will be monitored.

Over the next few *Fieldfares*, I hope to include the distribution maps, which will give our membership a full picture of where our grasshoppers and crickets are located. Following standard procedure for distribution maps for wildlife species, the maps will show the locations in tetrads.

I would like to start with two of our recent colonists, the Roesel's Bush Cricket (first Rutland record, at Eggleton reserve, 2001); followed by Long-winged Conehead (first Rutland record at Eggleton reserve, 2003). These two crickets made a very swift and wide expansion all over Rutland, and we have followed their course over the years. Nationwide they have spread in other counties in recent years, and have been very successful. If members cast their minds back to *Fieldfare* September 2011, page 13, I wrote that we had studied the provisional maps of the Rutland orthoptera, and had discovered that there were large gaps that had not been covered, mainly in the north of the county. Therefore a big push that season resulted in the majority of those squares being covered. The final maps show this coverage well (see opposite).

I am impressed with what we (our regular contributors) have achieved over the last few years in building up a comprehensive record of the Orthoptera in Rutland. We have done it, and have made history. Following on this, the Society's records will be published in the National Orthoptera Recording Scheme Atlas, scheduled for 2013. Another piece of history!

My thanks to everyone involved over the years, for this tremendous effort!



PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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November and December 2012

In autumn, once the leaves have fallen from the trees and frosts have had the same effect on smaller herbaceous plants, there are very few galls left to be reported. Those that remain are survivors in the sense that they were formed earlier in the season and are still there because their hosts have not yet fallen prey to the weather. Such was the case with the three records received for this report, all from Ketton Quarry on the 15th November. Two of these were rusts, on Bramble and Ground Ivy respectively and both were in their teliospore or overwintering stage. Rusts have a life cycle that can contain up to five different

stages and this stage is designated III, despite being the fourth in the series!! This anomaly is explained by the stages being numbered 0, I, II, III, and IV, all part of a fiendish plot to keep you on your toes.

The third record was the Mophead gall on male fern, which is a plant that generally keeps its fronds more or less intact throughout the winter. During the summer a Dipteron *Chirosia betuleti* lays its eggs on the developing tip of a frond and stimulates the fern into abnormal growth which resembles a mophead, hence the name. Galls of a similar format are also found on Hawthorn and Willows.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the members who have contributed records of plant galls this season, it hasn't been conducive to field work so their records have been extremely welcome.

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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I would like to take this opportunity to send New Year Greetings to everyone and to say a big Thank You to anyone who contributed to RNHS insect records in 2012. There are lots of insects in Rutland and they are not all 'really difficult to ID'. So I am hoping for a bumper contribution to Insects and Others in 2013!

There were very few records to report for the November/December period – a few insects recorded in November and no records at all for the month of December. See overleaf.

November 2012

DIPTERA

Two **Common Drone Flies** *Eristalis tenax* were recorded near Verge 7 on the footpath to Walk Farm. Also recorded were two other hoverflies which the recorder was unable to identify. All the flies were around a few last mallow flowers and a second growth hogweed flower in a sunny and sheltered spot.

Thanks to recorders G Chiverton and T Newton.

COLEOPTERA

Five **Ground Beetle** *Loricera pilicornis* were recorded in a sheltered position and under stones in Lyndon Churchyard. Three **Rove Beetles** *Stenus clavicornis* were found under a plank, also in Lyndon Churchyard. A single **7-spot Ladybird** *Coccinella 7-punctata* was found low down on vegetation near Verge 7. Lastly, a single **Tortoise Beetle** (a leaf beetle) *Cassida rubiginosa*, also found in Lydon Churchyard and apparently in hibernation under a log.

MAMMAL REPORT

compiled by Linda Biddle

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A HAPPY New year to everyone and a big thankyou to all of you who have sent in reports during 2012. I look forward to receiving lots of interesting records during 2013, and hope that the weather is kinder to us all than it was in 2012!

At Rutland Water signs of **Otters** have been found regularly during November and December, spraint and paw prints found on mink rafts from Dog Kennel stream to Burley Fishponds, reed beds on Lagoon 3 and as far west as Manton bridge. Another report of a female seen swimming with young was received in November. In one report carried over from October an otter was seen briefly at Leighfield fishponds. Following our report at Banthorpe in August a **Mink** was seen swimming at RW in November, and we have begun to find Mink footprints in clay on the rafts and the banks of the reserve, in both November and December. A mink was trapped at Gunthorpe by the gamekeeper, but the signs on the reserve are still present. This is very bad news for the population of **Water Voles** in the area, but the presence of Otters is a discouragement for mink, so we hope that it (or they!) will not be around for long!! Signs of Water Vole activity have also been present through November and December in the areas where we have been monitoring their presence, and a vole was seen swimming near the sluice at Smew hide. Away from the reserve, activity was recorded at Oakham Canal on Dec 19th, on both sides of the road, and on Dec 30th on the north side of the road only.

One report of a **Brown Hare** was received, on the bank of Lagoon 4, in November, and **rabbits** were seen along the verge of A6006 near Empingham. Three **badger** road casualties were reported, from Seaton, Ketton and Braunston, and a live one was seen on the verge, at Seaton Road Barrowden, and activity seen at several setts in the area. No **foxes** were reported. In early November the Worralls were visited by **Hedgehogs** occasionally, and a lady in Finch Close, Uppingham, regularly fed a female with two small young. The last reported hedgehog of 2012 was a small one in the Worrall's garden, foraging for nuts and finding some, hopefully giving it sustenance for the cold weather we've had since! **Grey squirrels** are still busy in Dawn's Paddock, eating at the bird feeders, and a **Fieldmouse** was also seen feeding on fallen seeds and grain below the feeders. **Moles** have shown their presence, molehills appearing in Dawn's Paddock, and in fields on either side of Burley Fishponds.

The decline in **Fallow Deer** numbers continues, only 3 seen at Clipsham wood, 4 at Little Haw in November, and in December a maximum of 29 at Little Haw, and 11 at Clipsham. Tracks of **Muntjac** were found near Osprey hide at RW, and two seen to the N of the bridge between Wing and Manton.

Thanks to recorders: M Branstons, T Caldicott, P & J Harrison, J & J Rogers, A R & M A Thorp, D Whitefield, L & G Worrall

BAT REPORT

compiled by Jenny Harris

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No report this issue, please continue sending in your records.