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NOTICEBOARD

Graham Worrall, bedrock of the Society

It is with great sadness that I write of the death of Graham Worrall, one of the mainstays of our Society. Graham has been a member since 1984, when he and Linda joined us at the Oakham show and then accompanied us on a visit to Snettisham.

Graham became Botany Recorder and Membership Secretary in 1992, and has been a tireless worker on our behalf ever since.

He was the coordinator of verge monitoring in the county and was instrumental with Ian Evans (then curator of Leics Museum Botany section) and Michael Jeeves of LRWT, in its setting up in 1995, in which year he also became Vice Chair of the society.

Together Graham and Linda produced *Fieldfare* until recently, and have continued to be responsible for its distribution, an arduous task, organised efficiently by the Worralls.

Graham had a deep knowledge of botany and was a fount of information, which we shall all miss greatly. He was passionate about the conservation of our botanical heritage, and among other interests was very involved in the conservation of Seaton Meadows, now a Plantlife reserve.

Graham and Linda also awakened the Society's interest in Glow-worms, becoming involved in their protection on a verge near Barrowden, and introducing us to summer evening glow-worm hunts. As a result we now regularly monitor areas of the county where Glow-worms are found, and can attempt to aid their conservation.

Graham was a clear thinker, and could be relied upon to ask searching questions of our guest speakers. This attribute was of importance in committee, where his down-to-earth straight talking was invaluable, and could reduce a discussion to its essentials, speedily facilitating decision making!

Graham had a slightly wicked sense of humour, and his teasing and banter was also very much a part of his unique character, which will be hugely missed.

Linda Biddle
Chairman

Fieldfare

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New Committee members

The Committee has shrunk in recent years, as people have taken on more than one task, so we decided that we needed more members to increase numbers and range of expertise. We decided as a Committee to coopt two new members, Margaret Conner, from Old Somerby and Jenny Rivett, of Ridlington. We are pleased to welcome them, and grateful for their willingness to take part in helping to run the Society. They have both attended the last two Committee meetings, and have already made valuable contributions to the proceedings. We look forward to working with them in the coming year.

Linda Biddle
Chairman

Welcome to new RNHS Secretary

Roy Edwards, our new RNHS Secretary, writes:

Born and brought up in the South Wales valleys, my entire childhood was spent outdoors on the mountainside with friends who were keen bird watchers; what we now call Natural History was everyday life.

I'm not entirely sure what drew me to an interest in Natural History but my mother was keen on wild flowers and would point them out to me as a child. My father was keen on science and anything new, so that influenced my future career in Plant Science. I must admit that at University the teaching of the plant kingdom was covered at as fast a pace as was humanly possible, not much stuck but I learnt the basics, before getting onto far more interesting stuff like physiology, plant pathology and biochemistry! Ecology was a subject almost unheard of and covered in a Saturday field trip. This all helps a little with our current verge recording but we still spend most of the time looking at the pictures in the field guide.

My first job was in Bedfordshire growing and assessing plants in greenhouses before my love

of the outdoors drew me into field-based work, counting weeds and assessing plant diseases in agricultural crops. At this time I joined the Bedfordshire Natural History Society which was very similar in scope and personality to RNHS. They started my education in new areas for me such as Butterflies and Bats. Further work-based moves took me to Gloucestershire and Leicester before ending up in Rutland. I've maintained my interest in Natural History and for the last 4 years I've been a volunteer with the Osprey Project at Lyndon. The highlight of the time on the project was to follow the Osprey migration to The Gambia and Senegal.

Now most of the rest of my time is spent on my allotment, along with walking and cycling - when the weeds allow me!

For the last few years I've been a committee member of the local Wildlife Trust.

I've been a member of the Society for 25 years and have always enjoyed the diverse range of talks and outside meetings. The Society was the first I joined when moving to the area and I appreciated the friendly welcome given to me. RNHS has continued to be an integral part of my social life and I was delighted to be asked to act as Secretary of the Society.

Roy Edwards
RNHS Secretary

Birdfair 16th–18th August

This is the 25th anniversary of the Birdfair, so conveniently on our doorstep at Egleton, Rutland Water. It has grown into a huge event (birdwatcher's Glastonbury!) and covers all sorts of wildlife.

The website www.birdfair.org.uk gives all the details; this year it is possible to buy Early Bird tickets online at a discount.

Don't miss it!

NEW VENUE FOR EVENING MEETINGS

We are very glad to have secured a new venue for our evening meetings – a decent-sized hall, very good audiovisual equipment, catering facilities, good parking, easy to find. Here it is:

**Voluntary Action Rutland (VAR),
Lands End Way,
Oakham, Rutland LE15 6RB**

Look forward to seeing you there for our first evening meeting on October 1st!

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS

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

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Friday 2 August **BAT EVENING AT THE FOX AND HOUNDS, EXTON** **8.15 pm**

Jenny Harris, RNHS bat recorder and leader, writes: Counting the soprano pipistrelles at the Fox and Hounds, Exton, is a true wildlife spectacle. We shall meet in the pub garden, where the count will start at 8.30 pm. It would be courteous to buy a drink on the way through. In fact, the pub serves very nice food so it is well worth coming early enough to have a meal first: I shall be. Booking for a meal is essential (phone 01572 812403).

Directions: the Fox and Hounds pub is by the village green in the centre of Exton village.

Queries: please call Jenny Harris 01572 755 274, 07754 141 785.

Sunday 8 September **PLANT GALLS AT KETTON QUARRY** **10.00 am**

Seen these weird things in your garden and wondered what they are? Come for a wander around Ketton Quarry Nature reserve to find the varieties of plant galls decorating trees, shrubs and other plants and grasses, and learn about their amazing lifecycle! There will be experts on hand to identify them, as this will be a joint meeting with the British Plant Gall Society (BPGS), and led by the Society's own Cecidology Recorder, Roy Lemmon.

Directions: We meet at the industrial units car park in Pit Lane, Ketton, which is off the A6121 just after the sign to Ketton Quarry (if coming from Stamford). Continue down Pit Lane past the roundabout to the industrial units, drive in and park beyond them by the geological trail (SK 978 055).

Queries: please call Roy Lemmon on 01780 762 051.

Tuesday 12 November **NATURAL HISTORY MUSEUM – see back page**

ADVANCE BOOKING needed, please, for this fascinating visit to the Natural History Museum.

INDOOR EVENTS

The NEW venue for the RNHS indoor meetings is Voluntary Action Rutland (VAR), Lands End Way, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6RB. Indoor meetings will start again on October 1.

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.lrwt.org.uk, or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours, for other events in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks.

And don't forget Rutland Water Wildlife Watch for members children/grandchildren possibly even great grandchildren! Details as above.

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

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

May 2013

Atmospheric pressure and wind Pressures were generally high for the first week; the month's highest pressure of 1026 mb was on the 1st, but for the rest of the month the pressures were generally low and also quite variable from day to day. The lowest pressure of the month was 998 mb on the 15th and it was at this point that the winds went from E-SW to NW-NE and on several days towards the end of the month they were northerly. As a result nationally this was the 18th most northerly May in 141 years of records.

Temperature A cold month – the mean minimum I recorded was 5.71 °C and this was the lowest in the last decade, although May 2010 ran it close at 5.79 °C. There were 7 ground frosts but no air frosts this month. The mean maximum was 17.16 °C, again the lowest in the decade, the next highest was 17.66 °C in 2005 and 2007 was very close at 17.68C. This Spring quarter, March, April, and May, was abnormally cold and there has not been a significantly colder Spring nationally since 1891.

Rain The total I recorded was 63.6 mm (2.5 inches), which represents 138% of my long term mean for May, and this was spread fairly evenly over the month with highs of 17.9 mm on 14th and 13.5 mm on 28th. No rain was detected on 12 days.

Sunshine This was close to normal in all parts of the country. Arranged over England and Wales the total was 200 hours or 99% of LTM.

June 2013

Atmospheric pressure and wind Pressures began the month fairly high and this persisted until the 11th, when they dropped and remained fairly low until the 21st, after which they reverted to the initial state. The highest pressure was on the 3rd, 1032 mb, and the lowest was 1005 mb on the 22nd and 23rd. Winds were again 'northerly', on 20 days they were between NW and E and only from 10th to 16th inclusive were they otherwise, mostly SW.

Temperature This was from my records the ninth coolest June in the past decade; only 2011 had a lower mean minimum and 2012 a lower mean maximum. This year's figures were 9.13 °C and 20.29 °C respectively. The lowest minimum I recorded was 4.5 °C on the 2nd and hence there were no ground frosts this month. The highest daytime maximum was 26.1 °C on the 19th, and although nationally the 30th was a warm day with 27.2 °C recorded at Heathrow, here I only had 25.0 °C. The Central England temperature was 14.0 °C, fractionally warmer than 2011 and 2012 but cooler than every June between 2000 and 2010.

Rain A dry month with a total recorded of 24.3 mm (0.96 inches), which equates to 47% of my long term mean. There was no detectable precipitation from the 1st to 10th and from then there were 10 days on which some rain fell although amounts were small. This contrasts with June 2012 when a total of 136 mm fell, or 259% of LTM. Nationally averaged over England and Wales the total this month was 39 mm or 57% of LTM.

Sunshine Averaged nationally this was 193 hours or 100% of LTM.

The national figures are from Philip Eden's Weatherwatch column in the Sunday Telegraph.

HIGH TIDES IN NORTH NORFOLK

High tides for Kings Lynn. Times in BST. (A useful website is www.tidetimes.org.uk, which gives low tide times, sunrise and sunset, moonrise and moonset, as well as high tide times.)

August				September			
Sunday	4	05.43	18.13	Sunday	1	04.17	17.00
	11	09.44	22.12		8	08.46	21.11
	18	04.21	17.08		15	02.42	15.48
	25	09.48	21.18		22	08.44	21.11
					29	01.56	15.07

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

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



May/June 2013

As usual, these two months are relatively quiet for our amphibians and reptiles. All the usual amphibians were sighted, but only two reptile species.

Frog tadpoles were reported from Barrowden in mid-June and adult frogs were seen in Wing in May, where Common Toads were also seen.

Smooth Newts were also present in Wing and Barrowden ponds in May, and large numbers were found in a couple of ponds in Rutland Water Nature Reserve, which had previously been very

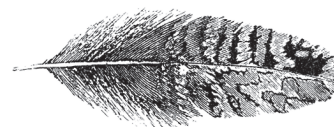
overgrown with scrub which had been cleared. Great Crested Newts were also found in these ponds. A new garden pond in Thorpe by Water also contained a Great Crested Newt.

Slow Worm records came from Clipsham Quarry where two adults and one young were found at two sites in May. Grass Snakes were seen at two sites in Rutland Water Nature Reserve in May and one in an Oakham compost heap and at two sites in Exton.

My thanks to the following who sent in records: T Appleton, V Hemsley, A Hill, P Langston, P & E Mann, T Mitcham, J Myers, E Northen, D & B Parker, L & G Worrall.

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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



May/June 2013

May and June produced some interesting birds, the rarer one sadly not widely seen or staying very long – Red-necked Phalaropes, Red-footed Falcon and Hooded Crow. There was an extended wader passage, mainly at Rutland Water, with wildfowl less of a draw at the reservoirs. Several familiar summer migrants are now much less common and there were no Nightingales at Rutland Water this year and fewer Cuckoos were noted along with a reduction of Spotted Flycatcher sites. A mediocre breeding season was predicted for many species and this seems to have been the case for owls and some warblers.

My thanks to the following for their records: P Bennett, Dr A & L Biddle, M Body, M Branston, T Caldicott, A Comber, D Eden, Dr C H Gallimore, M & G Griffin, J Harris, LROS, R Lemmon, T Land, T Mitcham, J W Nourish, P Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, M Winslow, G & L Worrall.

Mute Swan. Two pairs bred at FHP, producing broods of five and two. A pair nested on a farm pond at Tgh.

Greylag Goose. Bred at Banthorpe GP, FHP, EBR and Geest with over 40 goslings produced by the Banthorpe birds.

Barnacle Goose. One was at RW(Eg) on 06.05.

Shelduck. One or two were at LFP from 01.05 to 07.06. Pairs bred at EBR (six ducklings) and RW(Eg) in early June. There were 32 at RW on 18.06. Up to 15 roosted at Gun between 25.05 and 20.06.

Mandarin Duck. There were May records from WFL and RW(Norm) with one over WG Burrows on 06.05.

Pintail. A female was at RW(Eg) from 11.06 to at least 18.06.

Garganey. There was a pair at EBR on 05.05. At RW(Lynd) there was a male on 22.05, whilst at Eg nos increased from one on 04.06 to a max of four on 11.06, with one still present on 18.06.

Shoveler. 24 were at RW on 18.06 and four were at FHP on 30.06.

Pochard. Single males were at FHP on 15.05 and 30.06; and 17 were counted at RW on 18.06.

Scaup. A male was at RW(Eg) between 10 and 17.05.

Goldeneye. A male was at RW on 09.05 and 04.06, remaining to at least 18.06.

- Red-breasted Merganser.** The RW female was last seen on 06.05.
- Red-legged Partridge.** A pair and three young were in a garden in Exeter Gardens, Stamford on 26.06.
- Grey Partridge.** Pairs were noted at Tgh on 13.06 and Ext Park on 16.06, with one at GHW on 26.06.
- Quail.** One sang north of GtCast between 09 and 17.06.
- Great Northern Diver.** The RW bird remained until 03.06 – a very long stay!
- Little Egret.** Singles were by the R.Welland at Wakerley Bridge on 01.06 and Geest on 25.06. There were 15 at RW on 18.06 and two at EBR on 23.06.
- Grey Heron.** Two were at FHP on 18.05.
- Red Kite.** Three pairs were known to have bred, with pairs at three other likely breeding sites.
- Marsh Harrier.** Singles were at RW(Eg) on 01 (a male) and 14.05.
- Osprey.** One flew up the North Brook valley to FHP on 01.06. Five breeding pairs had fourteen young by the end of June – a record number.
- Kestrel.** Bred in nestboxes at Lydd Crossing and Ex Park. Hunting birds were noted at GHW, FHP, Bden and Seat.
- Red-footed Falcon.** An adult male was well described at Lydd on 16.06. If confirmed, this will be the first Rutland record since a male was at Eg reserve in June 1992.
- Hobby.** Singles were seen hunting between 07.05 and 22.06 at RW(Eg), FHP, Stam, EBR and Lydd.
- Peregrine.** A male flew over RW(Eg) on 09.05.
- Oystercatcher.** Three or four pairs bred at RW(Eg), where there were 20 in mid-May and 25 on 18.06. One flew over LFP on 17.06.
- Avocet.** A max of seven was at RW(Eg) on 01.05. Three pairs attempted to breed but were so harassed by Oystercatchers that all abandoned the attempt. A pair remained to mid-June. One was at EBR on 04.06.
- Little Ringed Plover.** At RW there were 11 in mid-May and 15 on 18.06.
- Ringed Plover.** Present at RW(Eg) throughout both months, where passage saw a max of 30 in mid-May and 20 '*tundrae*' birds were noted on 24.05.
- Grey Plover.** Singles were at RW(Eg) on 09 and 20.05, and 05 and 13.06.
- Lapwing.** Breeding birds were successful at Banthorpe GP, EBR, Wg and RW(Eg). Birds also held territory at Pilt, Gun and Ex Park. At RW nos increased from 17 in mid-May to 138 on 18.06, as migration got underway.
- Knot.** One was at RW(Eg) on 20.05.
- Sanderling.** Regular at RW(Eg) between 09.05 and 13.06, with a max of 13 on 28.05 and 05.06.
- Little Stint.** One was at RW(Eg) on 27.05.
- Temminck's Stint.** A single was at RW(Eg) on 16.05.
- Curlew Sandpiper.** At RW(Eg) there were singles on 14.05 and 09.06.
- Dunlin.** Noted at RW between 09.05 and 18.06, with a max of 33 on 13.05. At EBR there were two on 05.05 and three on 15.05.
- Ruff.** Singles were at RW(Eg) on four dates between 01 and 15.05.
- Snipe.** One was at RW(Eg) on 09.05.
- Woodcock.** Evening visits to BW for the BTO survey produced no roding birds. Early morning on 09.05 one flew over Lagoon three at Eg, landing in the woodland by the Hambleton road, but there were no further records from here.
- Black-tailed Godwit.** One was at RW(Eg) on 03.05 and there were three at EBR on 01–02.06 and 14.06. 39 at RW(Eg) on 29.06 herald autumn passage.
- Bar-tailed Godwit.** One was at RW(Eg) on 06.05.
- Whimbrel.** Northward bound birds were heard over the dam at RW between 06 and 21.05. Five were noted on 15.05.
- Curlew.** A pair were on Cott Airfield on 05.05 with one at Luff Airfield on 09.05. Four roosted at RW(Eg) on 09.05. Three flew over RW dam on 27.05 with one there on 01.06 and two over Eg on 26.06. One was calling in the Welland valley near TbyW on 22.06 – another likely breeding site.
- Common Sandpiper.** One or two spring passage birds were at RW between 09.05 and 25.05. One at EBR on 28.06 probably marks the beginning of autumn migration.
- Green Sandpiper.** The first autumn bird was at RW(Eg) on 07.06. One was at EBR on 27.06, with four there on 28.06 when there were ten at RW(Eg).
- Greenshank.** One or two were at EBR and RW between 01 and 11.05 and at RW from 07 to 27.06.
- Redshank.** All records were from RW(Eg) between 09.05 and 26.06 with a max of six in mid-May.
- Turnstone.** A good passage saw birds at RW (Eg and Dam) between 09.05 and 13.06 with a max of 15 over the dam on 15.05.

- Red-necked Phalarope.** Two were at RW(Lynd) on 02.06.
- Little Gull.** Three first-summer birds were at RW(Eg) throughout June.
- Yellow-legged Gull.** At least one was regular at RW throughout both months with two at Eg on 28.06. An adult was at EBR on 22.06.
- Black Tern.** Ten were at RW(Eg) on 06.05 with two on 17.05. One was there on 03–04.06 with seven on 07 and six on 08.06.
- Common Tern.** Breeding at RW(Eg) where 65 were counted in mid-May and 61 on 18.06. There were c.20 at EBR on 22.06.
- Arctic Tern.** Two were at RW(Eg) on 09.05 with five on 13.05 and singles on three dates to 24.05.
- Turtle Dove.** The only record was of a pair on the road at Tgh on 17.05.
- Cuckoo.** Singing birds were noted at 16 widely scattered sites, mainly in the woods of the north-east, at RW and in the Gwash and Chater valleys. The last bird was heard on 16.06 in BW.
- Barn Owl.** Two were at RW on 09.05, with singles at Tgh on 13.06 and GHW on 26.06.
- Little Owl.** Two were at FHP on 05.05, one was at Lynd Top on 09.05 and one was in Bden village on 04.06.
- Tawny Owl.** Calling birds were noted in both months at TunnW (four on 07.05) and BW.
- Swift.** Widespread from early May but in small nos at Bden nesting sites and at Emp, Lydd, Oak, Stam and Upp.
- Kingfisher.** Bred at Tinwell. One was on the R.Gwash at Gun on 28.05.
- Green Woodpecker.** Calling birds were noted at BCF, KQ, FHP, BOQ and Ex Park.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** A well observed nest at KQ was reported, the birds providing good opportunities for photography and sound recording between 04 and 11.06.
- Golden Oriole.** An elusive bird sang unseen from woodland by the fisherman's carpark along the Hamb road at RW on 01.06.
- Carrion Crow.** In Bden on 10.05, a Carrion Crow faced down a cat which was showing interest in its nest, high in an adjacent tree.
- Hooded Crow.** Perhaps the most unusual record of this period, one was at the RW dam on 06–07.05 feeding with Rooks and Jackdaws, which regularly harrassed it. The most recent record of this species was in March 2005 at EBR.
- Raven.** Records were received from nine sites. One pair fledged four young with a second thought to be nesting.
- Willow Tit.** One was near Gun on 04.06.
- Marsh Tit.** Noted at CPW, Braun, BW and RW(Eg).
- Sand Martin.** Over 100 pairs are using the Eg 'nestbox' . (A second one with 485 nesting chambers is now operational). c.30 noted regularly at RW(Norm) in May and small nos fed regularly over FHP and EBR.
- House Martin.** Nos in Upp were said to be much lower than last year with several colonies either abandoned or occupied by few pairs.
- Cetti's Warbler.** One sang regularly by Lagoon three at RW(Eg) throughout both months.
- Wood Warbler.** One sang in EBP on 01.05.
- Chiffchaff.** One sang in a Bden garden throughout May. 30 singing males were counted in BW on 12.05.
- Willow Warbler.** Widespread in low nos. An occupied nest was watched in CPW on 01.05 and three were singing at KQ on 06.05.
- Blackcap.** c.34 were singing in BW on 12.05.
- Garden Warbler.** c.22 noted in song at BW on 12.05. One sang in and near an Up garden on 30.06.
- Lesser Whitethroat.** Well distributed with records from RW(Eg), Mounts Lodge, BCF and Steadfold Lane.
- Whitethroat.** Singing birds were widely reported with an increase noted at RW in May and 18 singing around Wg on 08.05.
- Grasshopper Warbler.** Singing birds, all singles, were noted at CPW, TunnW, RW(Eg) and Braun between 01.05 and 26.06.
- Sedge Warbler.** Away from RW, which remains the stronghold for this species, one sang near Prest on 05.05, with four at LFP on 19.05.
- Starling.** An unfortunate juv. fell down a Bden chimney on 17.06 but was safely recovered and liberated.
- Fieldfare.** A late bird was at LFP on 05.05.
- Spotted Flycatcher.** Records came from thirteen sites, mainly singles but two at Rid, Prest and Man and three at LFP on 02.06 and BW on 16.06. The first was at WFL on 12.05.
- Nightingale.** One singing at GreetWF on 09.05 was the only record.
- Black Redstart.** A female was at RW(Cottage) on 17.05.
- Whinchat.** Singles were at RW(Eg) and Cott Airfield on 16.05.
- Wheatear.** An excellent spring passage continued with birds noted up to 19.05 at Cott Airfield(max of five on 16.05), Luff Airfield, Banthorpe GP, Ext Park, RW(Dam), LFP and Tole.

Tree Sparrow. Three were at RW(Lynd) on 09.05 and BCF on 09.06.

Yellow Wagtail. Breeding birds noted in Ext Park, near RW(dam) and Martinsthorpe. One over Man on 25.06 could indicate early migration.

Grey Wagtail. One was at LFP throughout June with song heard.

Meadow Pipit. Three pairs were at GHW on 03.05 with two males still singing there on 26.06.

Siskin. One or two were still in gardens in Oak and Man to 22.05. Two were in BW on 12.05.

Lesser Redpoll. Three flew over Leigh on 01.05 with singles over RW on 21 and 25.05. One took sunflower hearts in a Man garden on 14–15.05.

Crossbill. A pair were in pines in CPW on 03.05.

Bullfinch. A pair were in a Bden garden on 12 and 15.06.

BOTANY NOTES

Sadly, there are no Botany notes this issue - see page 1. These notes have been compiled by Graham Worrall since 1992 – he will be a hard act to follow. Until we have a new Botany Recorder, please send your Record Cards and other information to Linda Biddle, marking the envelope on the outside 'Botany record'.

BUTTERFLY NOTES compiled by Alistair Lawrence

11 Edmonton Way, Oakham, Rutland LE15 6JE. Telephone: 01572 770492

May and June 2013

Notwithstanding the unpredictable weather and somewhat erratic appearance of the butterflies, 21 species have been observed and recorded during this period. It is pleasing in particular to report that Dingy Skipper, Grizzled Skipper, Common Blue and Green Hairstreak have all been showing well at Ketton Quarry and a number of other sites. Green Hairstreaks have also been reported in considerable numbers just over the Rutland border in neighbouring counties.

Finally, I have just been informed that a Dark Green Fritillary has been seen at Clipsham Quarry on 30 June.

Small Skipper

One record has been received of 11 being seen at George Henry Wood on 30 June.

Large Skipper

Single sightings came from Ketton Quarry and RW Egleton in Late June and 10 were counted at George Henry Wood on 30 June.

Dingy Skippers

The first record comes from Clipsham Quarry on 5 May and at the same site 44 were counted on 9 June. Reports also came from Bloody Oaks and Ketton Quarries, with 8 seen at the latter on 26 May.

Grizzled Skipper

The first sighting was a singleton at Ketton Quarry on 2 May, where this species was seen regularly during May and June. The highest count was 16 at Clipsham Quarry on 9 June. This species was also seen at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

Brimstone

These have been seen regularly and in good numbers at a variety of sites throughout May and June. The highest count was 9 at Ketton Quarry on 2 May.

Large White

The first record comes from Barrowden with a single sighting on 2 May. The highest count is 5 at RW Lyndon on 26 May.

Small White

These have been observed frequently at our woods, reserves and quarries. 10 were seen at Clipsham Park Wood on 5 May and 5 at RW Lyndon on 6 June.

Green Veined White

Apart from 8 being counted at Ketton Quarry on 2 May, most sightings have been of single specimens from around Rutland.

Orange Tip

This butterfly has been observed frequently throughout Rutland during May, with highest counts being 7 males and 1 female at Ketton Quarry on the 2nd, and 11 males and 6 females at RW Lyndon on 26 May. The final record comes from an Uppingham garden on 16 June.

Green Hairstreak

Reports this year come from three sites with the highest count being 4 at George Henry Wood on 9 June.

Small Copper

There was a single sighting of this species at RW Lyndon on 20 June.

Brown Argus

There are two reports of single sightings at Ketton Quarry on 24 and 25 June.

Common Blue

The first record comes from Ketton Quarry on 26 May and good numbers have been reported in June, with 12 being seen at Clipsham Quarry on 9 June.

Holly Blue

Singletons were seen during May at Barrowden, Oakham and Uppingham.

Red Admiral

Two records have been received for this species with single sightings at Ketton Quarry on 25 June and RW Egleton on 30 June.

Small Tortoiseshell

The only sightings of this species come from Ketton Quarry and Uppingham, where single butterflies were seen on 2 and 6 May respectively.

Peacock

Records come from Oakham, Woodhead Castle, the quarries and reserves, with 9 seen at Ketton Quarry on 5 May and 5 at RW Lyndon on 1 May.

Comma

Records come from four sites during May where single specimens were observed. In June there were single sightings at Uppingham and a verge near Brooke.

Speckled Wood

As the season progressed, their numbers appeared to build up, and after single records during May, June saw the total reaching double figures with 20 being counted at RW Egleton on 30 June, and 10 at Tunneley Wood, Exton, on the same day.

Meadow Brown

First records for this butterfly come from three sites in late June, namely Ketton Quarry, George Henry Wood and RW Egleton.

Small Heath

This species has been observed in very good numbers, with the first sighting at Ketton Quarry on 26 May, and where 12+ were seen a week later. On 9 June 27 were counted at Clipsham Quarry whilst at George Henry Wood in excess of 45 were recorded on 30 June.

My thanks to the following contributors: J Ansley, P Bennett, A Biddle, M Grimes, C Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, P & E Mann, T Mitcham, J Myers, D Needham, E Northen, B & D Parker, D Perril, P Rudkin, P Scott, B Taylor, L & G Worrall

MOTH NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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May/June 2013

We have experienced a very poor start to the moth-trapping season this year with catches low in numbers. It was interesting to read Dr Paul Waring's recent article in *British Wildlife* in which he gives some possible reasons for this situation. There was such cool wet weather from April to October in 2012 which will have reduced the survival of many caterpillars, and now with further poor weather this spring it has resulted in the later than usual emergence of some species. Cold nights have also reduced flight activity.

Here, May was particularly bad and when six traps were run all night at Rutland Water on the 25th the result was only 14 moths of 9 species being caught! This contrasts greatly with a similar trapping on the same site on May 27th 2012 when 282 moths of 59 species were identified. The month of June has thankfully shown some improvements with 508 moths of 80 species caught on the 18th.

At Eyebrook Reservoir traps were run twice in May resulting in only 11 and 13 species being recorded. On June 3rd 59 moths of 15 species included 37 Green Carpets, and on June 15th 78

moths of 19 species included 49 Green Carpets! As can be seen, most other species on both these occasions occurred in only ones and twos which is most unusual.

Only one record card was received for the month of May for a Brimstone moth disturbed in a garden in Oakham. During June single Chimney Sweepers were seen at both Eggleton and Lyndon Reserves and of course these are usually found in great numbers at this time of year. A Yellowtail caterpillar was identified on Verge 7 at Great Casterton. Also, at Barrowden a 'silken tent' was observed covering a section of hedge for approximately 12 feet leaving no foliage but no caterpillars were seen at that time. This situation has been found in the same area in previous years. At the end of the month, several day-flying moths were seen in George Henry Wood. These included Cinnabar, Silver Y and Shaded Broad Bar.

As I write these notes in early July, temperatures have suddenly risen, so finally the future looks more promising, that is if 'summer' lasts for a while!

My sincere thanks go to P Bennet, R Follows, M Grimes, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, P Scott, L and the late G Worrall

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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May/June 2013

The cold spring this year has had the effect of the worse start for the Orthoptera I have experienced, from the time I was appointed as recorder for the Rutland Water Nature Reserves in 2001. Members will remember the last two Fieldfares in which I had received no reports at all for Rutland's Grasshoppers and Crickets. For the period under review, I began to wonder if this situation was going to continue. Well, it was close! Very few reports have come in.

During May and June, observers searched very hard, but were only part rewarded with the sightings of tiny nymphs, many often too small to be reliably identified. However, some nymphs were named, but amazingly there were no adult orthopterans reported (with the exception of Slender Groundhoppers). Also no stridulating was heard in Rutland during this period.

To prove a point, during the annual Glow-worm survey in Burley-on-the-Hill Woods, on 26th June 2013 (see page 13), the team found no orthoptera species. In contrast, in 2011 on the 30th June, the Glow-worm survey in Burley Woods produced nymphs of the Dark Bush Cricket, and adults of Lesser Marsh Grasshopper and Meadow Grasshopper.

News from over the border: Roy Frost, (Derbyshire and Notts Orthoptera Recorder) reports 'visiting a Mottled Grasshopper site on 26th June, there were adults and late-instars'.

David Richmond, (Norfolk Orthoptera Recorder), reports 'Saw my first Bog Bush-cricket nymph of the year this afternoon on my local heath, on 19th June. Also had Common Green and Mottled Grasshopper singing. Dark and Speckled Bush-cricket nymphs have been very slow emerging this year, and are still very small'. As I write (5th July), the weather reports have promised a heat wave for the next few days, so this hopefully will bring things to maturity, and the insect world will begin to catch up.

Bush Crickets

Dark Bush Cricket *Pholidoptera griseoptera*
Six nymphs, observed on nettle patch, 16th June.
Compartment 25, Burley Woods, Oakham.

Roesel's Bush Cricket *Metrioptera roeselii*
First-instar nymph, male, found on the grassy bank, 30th June, at 5.15 pm. Hot, sunny afternoon, 30 °C in the sun. LRWT reserve, Bloody Oaks.

Speckled Bush Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*
One nymph, observed on buttercup species, 14th June, and another two nymphs on 19th June. Both sightings at bushy wood area, near Braunston, SK 823056.

Groundhoppers

Slender Groundhopper *Tetrix subulata*
New squares for this species: Six, found in the Cutting area, in Ketton Quarries, 6th May, SK 977053. One single observed sunning itself on meadowsweet leaf, roadside verge, at 10.30 am, 14th May. Cool, overcast morning, Shipley Common, near Prior's Coppice reserve, SK 839054. Photograph supplied.

Grasshoppers

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*
Second-instar nymph, found on bare patch, situated on top of old ant-hill. LRWT reserve, Bloody Oaks. 5.20 pm, hot and sunny, 30th June. Searching the bare patches amongst the luscious grass field brought its reward. These bare soil patches are a favourite of this species. The marking on the pronotum was very distinct, even at this stage. The reserve holds good numbers of this grasshopper.

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*
All nymphs found on the LRWT reserve, Bloody Oaks, 4.30 pm, hot and sunny, 30th June. Two first-instar nymphs. Five first-instar nymphs, female. One second-instar nymph, female. Regular site!

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper *Chorthippus albomarginatus*
Four nymphs observed, Leighfield Fishponds, 29th June. Three second-instar nymphs, found in grasses, LRWT reserve, Bloody Oaks, 30th June. 4.45 pm, hot and sunny. 30 °C in the sun. Regular site!

Thanks to the following for their reports: T Caldicott, C Jones, P Rudkin, S Woodward. Also, for information supplied from outside Rutland, R Frost and D Richmond.



PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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May 2013

The very cold Spring has undoubtedly had an effect on the number of galls about at the moment. May 2012 had a total of 20 galls including one card which held nine different records, whereas the total this month is just five, all singletons. On a more positive note one of them is new to us, a mite gall on the leaves of Wild Service tree at Woodhead Castle on 16th. Mite galls often figure among the early ones, as mites generally spend the winter in cracks on twigs and are therefore easily able to attack the leaves as soon as they emerge, and when they are softer than they will be later. On the same date another mite gall was seen on Spindle in Little Casterton Road, Stamford and in this case it causes the leaf edges to roll tightly. Hambleton Wood on 23rd yielded yet another mite gall, on Field Maple leaves and the same site also had considerable numbers of Currant galls on Pedunculate Oak. These look like white currants in both size, shape and colour although they will darken later; they are caused by a gall wasp. The final report for the month was an Anther rust gall on Red Campion at Lyndon on 28th. This fungus was formerly classified as a smut but work on its DNA has shown that it is more correctly a rust, although rusts and smuts are closely allied organisms. This fungus infects the anthers of the flower and causes them to swell and also to go a purplish-brown colour. This is an early record for this gall and it seems likely that there will be many more reports of this this year.

Records from M Grimes and R Lemmon

June 2013

The gall season is now well underway with a total of 48 individual records this month, although some of these are duplicated as they occur on more than one site. A feature of this year so far has been the number of rusts which have been reported. All of these are of course gallers, although from my own experience those that are not gallers are also prominent. One is tempted to say that it could be a result of last year's excessive rainfall but this is tempered by the fact that rusts on Red Campion, which I was involved in reporting for a national survey a couple of years ago and which were quite abundant then, are virtually non-existent this year.

The Lyndon-Manton Bay area of Rutland Water on the 2nd and 6th produced a dozen records, including one on Field Maple seeds which had to be recorded as 'probably caused by mites'. Bloody Oaks Quarry on the 8th produced five records, three of which were rusts; and the Eggleton-Lagoon 4 area on the 13th produced 21 records of which five were rusts. Among the others was a gall caused by aphids on Hawthorn and although these are well covered in the literature I find them difficult to be sure about.

Verge 7, Great Casterton to Pickworth on the 20th, gave a total of 8 galls, mostly the usual ones but including the currant gall on Oak which is caused by a gall wasp and has been a feature of galls on Oak this year. Finally, on the 27th a field margin near Woodhead Castle produced just one gall, a rust on Creeping Thistle.

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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Technical problems mean that the May/June report will be held over till September. Please continue sending me your records.

GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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This issue contains Phil's very interesting report on the annual glow-worm survey at Burley-on-the-Hill woods in June. I will write about the other sightings in the September Fieldfare.

The annual glow-worm Survey, Burley on the Hill Woods, 26th June 2013

Weather: Dull, 4/8 cloud, warm, calm, dry.

We entered the woods at 9.0 pm. As we walked up the main ride, a few spots of rain had us worried. However, we sheltered under the Eight Riding Tree for about 15 minutes until the rain stopped. The group then headed down the south-west ride (between compartments 16/25). Five small bats were observed flying at 9.50 pm, and Roy Lemmon and Phil Rudkin used their bat detectors, tuned to 45 kHz, to identify possible Common Pipistrelles. Tawny Owls were hooting at this time. Along this ride, about a third of the way (SK 892098), which was well away from the centre of the colony, three glowing females were found, the first at 10.0 pm.

By 10.12 pm, the edge of the colony had been reached, and here were two glows (both being mated). At 10.16 pm two more glows, both being mated. The centre of the colony, the Deer Hide, had been reached (SK 889095). The team spread out along the adjacent rides, and numbers

were being shouted out as more were being found. Five glows were discovered in the west ride, compartment 20. Gill Chiverton had her bat detector switched on, locating a possible Nathusius' Pipistrelle (identified here in 2010). Another seven glows (four being mated), one female had two males; these were in the north-west ride, compartment 18. This was beginning to look like a record number! Peter Scott and Dave Needham took some superb photographs.

10.35 pm, eight more glowing females were found, seven being mated, one female had three males on and around her. These were in compartment 23, a few yards from the Deer Hide. Two more glows, both being mated, were discovered in compartment 21. Val Story spent her time checking the valuable information as to the numbers of females being mated.

10.45 pm, the decision was made to head back to the cars, and check the final ride as we went. This is the main lower ride of the wood, heading east



Photo, P Rudkin



Male glow-worm. Photo, P. Scott



Male and female glow-worms. Photo, P. Scott

between compartments 23/25, branching out from the centre of the colony. Still in the range, six more glows were observed, three being mated. Then to our delight, four more glowing females (one being mated), followed by two more glows, stretching the colony still further. Just as if to prove the point that there were many males around tonight, one male settled on Gill Chiverton's wrist.

Conclusion: total: 41 glowing females, numerous males.

What a wonderful surprise! With the awful spring weather, most insects and bugs are very late and delayed. We earlier had our worries that few glow worms would be found. This was an amazing event; the biggest ever count of this species at Burley-on-the-Hill Woods. We are used to small numbers, with the exception of 30th June 2011 when we counted twelve glowing females.

What caused this explosion? I discussed this with Linda Worrall two days later, and we agreed it could have been that the two days before, and the day of the survey, had been hot and sunny. This could have had the effect of the species suddenly exploding into maturity all at the same time. Another theory is that 2012 being the wettest year for a century may have produced more of the special small snails that the larva feed on; also the larva could have delayed their development for a season.

Whatever the cause, it is sure that the colony is at last beginning to spread, with encouraging results in the last few years. No survey was carried out in 2012, due to the weather conditions. A wonderful count and observations of the mating numbers.

Thanks to the intrepid members for their hard and enjoyable work this evening!

Phil Rudkin

Phil Rudkin and his team: Gill Chiverton, Hendrina Ellis, Roy Lemmon, Dave Needham, Peter Scott, Tony and Val Story

MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

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May/June 2013

An **Otter** was seen in front of the Birdwatching centre at Egleton in May, as it swam from a brushwood-covered island to another island, and there are many signs of otter activity on the reserve, prints in mud at Heron bay and near Fishponds cottage, and prints and spraint on mink rafts. At the bottom end of Dog Kennel Stream a flattened circular area in the vegetation on the bank, and slides in and out of the water, showed where an otter had been resting in both mid May and June. This reduced the evidence

for **water voles** in that immediate area, but generally water voles appear to be doing well on the reserve, maintaining populations in several key areas, such as Lagoon 1 and the Reedbeds. At Shoveler Hide water voles had pulled down willow branches, and chewed them off (showing characteristic 45 degree angle cut), then stripped leaves and chopped the branches up into short lengths, storing them carefully on the raft!

Badger road casualties are reported from Coach Bridge, Barrowden, Main Street Seaton village in

May, and Careby Road Ryhall in June.

A **Stoat** was seen crossing the road at Mounts Lodge near Pickworth in mid May, and another explored a can on the road near Seaton viaduct, then came out and went on to the verge of the B671. A stoat crossed the road at Whitwell in early June, and on the 6th of June a family of stoats crossed the road in front of a car at Horn Mill, looking like a slinky toy, making waves of movement as they bent their bodies sinuously one behind the other.

There are few **Fox** reports this month, one crossing the A606 at the bottom of Burley hill in early May, a cub seen with its mother in Burley Wood, and one sitting next to a standing Muntjac later in the month.

Terry Mitcham has had at least one **Hedgehog** taking food each evening and occupying a hedgehog box during the day through May and June. In Oakham John Ansley had a hedgehog on his lawn, which disappeared into a Jasmine hedge accompanied by a crunching sound, presumably a tasty snail had been found! At Normanton a hedgehog was seen near a vegetable garden at 7.00 am one June morning. At Barrowden Linda Worrall reports 3 individuals seen during early May, at least two each night. Some courting behaviour was seen and heard, up to the end of the month when 'a pair were courting deep in a flower bed, flowers, honesty and red campion waving above them'!

Two road casualties were reported at the end of the month, but the sightings continued through June. On the 9th at 8.30 am a loud 'huffing' was heard from the flower bed, and two hogs were found, the huffer going deeper into the bed, the other went off. Courting continued again in the same place from 6.30 pm, then later in a different part of the garden. By the end of the month as weather improved the numbers increased to at least 6 individuals, sometimes meeting on the patio, when one would push another until it rolled up, then one would leave, the other continuing to scoff the nuts put out for their benefit.

A **Bank Vole** was seen in the garden, in mid June 'pottering about on stones and vegetation at the side of the small pond' and looked in good condition.

A **Long Tailed Fieldmouse** was also seen taking peanuts from the patio in May. Another long tailed fieldmouse was found dead on a grass ride in Ketton Quarry.

A baby **Short Tailed Field Vole** was found dead on a pathway at Lincolnshire Gate in May, and a dead **Pygmy Shrew** found on the track near Egleton Birdwatching centre in mid June.

At RWNR **Brown hares** have been regularly reported in May and June, 3 at Lax Hill on one occasion, and 4 near Lagoon 6, but also on Wet meadow, Heron bay, near Lagoons 5 and 8. Hares are also reported from Lincolnshire Gate, and Pickworth.

Rabbits are also commonly seen on RWNR, sometimes in numbers of over 10 at one time. They were also seen at Hambleton Wood, and at Banthorpe Gravel Pit a half grown black rabbit was observed with others at the beginning of June.

Only one **Grey squirrel** report this month, one feeding at a Pheasant feeder, another close by in low tree at Clipsham Park wood.

In May, 15 **Fallow Deer** were counted in Burley Wood, and 6 ran across cereals into Tunnely Wood. In June, 6 were seen at Exton Park, 3 close to Pickworth Wood, 10 at Bloody Oaks, and 7 near parkland at Pickworth. The Thorps report from Little Haw Wood 15 in early May, and 18 later in the month, when 13 were also seen at Clipsham Wood, and 19 in Burley.

A healthy **Roe Deer** Buck was seen in Westland wood sporting a fine set of antlers, at the end of May.

Evidence of **Muntjac** is everywhere at RWNR, and one was seen in Lagoon 3 reedbed in May. They are also reported from Burley Wood on four occasions, Westland Wood, Pickworth and Clipsham, and a road casualty on the verge of the A606 at the bottom of Burley Hill.

This report is being written early, and so I apologise that some records will be not yet have been received, and they will be included in the next Fieldfare. Thanks to all who have contributed, and please do continue to send in all your observations.

Records received from: J Ansley, A Biddle, M Branston, C Gallimore, G & M Griffin, T Mitcham, R Lemmon, P J Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, L & G Worrall

BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

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Apologies from your Recorder for the absence of a report, please continue to send in your sightings.

LATE NEWS

RNHS visit to the Natural History Museum, November 12

Our visit will be a behind-the-scenes look at the Entomological Dept at the Natural History Museum in London, seeing exhibits and areas to which the public never have access.

Our hosts for the afternoon are:

Max Barclay, Curator and Collection Manager, Coleoptera and Hemiptera.

Max is internationally respected as an entomologist, and has been described as one of Britain's leading entomologists. In a recent interview on BBC Radio 4, he modestly said he didn't know how many species of beetle had been named after him, but a look at his entry on Wikipedia shows that his fellow scientists have named in excess of 20 beetles in his honour. As well as being the author of numerous papers and books, Max is an enthusiastic communicator, who never fails to enthuse his audience.

Dr Roger Booth. A senior curator in Max's coleoptera department, Roger has the uncanny ability to identify almost any British species of beetle simply by looking at it through a microscope, the rest of us can spend many hours with identification keys struggling to reach the same end. In addition to his life-long passion for beetles, Roger is an active member of the BTO's Surrey Bird Ringing Group, and somehow manages to combine the two interests.

Dr Gavin Broad. Senior Curator (Hymenoptera). Gavin is the country's top specialist on parasitic wasps, and travels all over the world collecting specimens and giving lectures. In addition to being the author of many papers on ichneumon wasps, Gavin is currently co-writing a new handbook for the Royal Entomological Society to enable readers to identify the 4,200++ species of ichneumonidae in the UK at least to a family or sub family level. This task has not been undertaken for nearly 100 years, and so the resulting volume is eagerly awaited. Tim warns us that attending one of Gavin's talks five years ago resulted in his new found passion for parasitic wasps, so please take care – this man's enthusiasm can change your life.

It should be obvious that these three gentlemen do not give tours to the general public, and as such RNHS are extremely privileged to be given the opportunity of seeing their world, described in their own words, and to have the chance to pick their brains during the afternoon. The exhibits we will be shown will be many and varied, but could include insects collected by Darwin or Wallace, sacred scarabs from Egypt or electron microscope images of the cutting teeth on an ichneumon wasp's ovipositor.

Please let Dawn Whitefield, our Programme Secretary, know of your interest as soon as possible so that she can arrange coach travel. Her details are on page 1.
