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NOTICEBOARD

Winter Programme and Membership Card

This comes with this *Fieldfare*. Please sign your card straight away (names of juniors should be put on adults' cards) and always carry it if you go to Eyebrook or Burley Wood, or use it for books at Uppingham Sports and Books. This card has details of events through to April 2013, so you can plan ahead. Your next card will come with the March 2013 *Fieldfare*, but only if you have renewed, either by standing order, cheque or cash.

Membership Renewal

Renewals are due on January 1st, but if you can re-join sooner it would be a great help. There's a form at the foot of the page for those who renew annually by personal payment, or you can see me at an Indoor Meeting. Thanks.

Graham Worrall

Annual Report 2011

Your Annual Report is coming with this *Fieldfare*. I hope you will find it as interesting as I have, and use it to increase your enjoyment of our local wildlife. Many thanks to the membership for all your record cards, and to the Recorders for compiling the Reports – a major task which reveals fascinating information.

Hendrina Ellis

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL FOR 2013 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 _____

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Members, here's your chance! Give us five minutes of your time, and perhaps some photographs, to tell a natural history story at the Members' evening. See 'And next year ...' on the opposite page.

Recorders Conference 2013

The Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust is organising the next annual Recorders Conference at the Rothley Centre, Rothley, on Saturday 16th February 2013. The purpose of the conference is to promote and support the recording of the fauna and flora of Leicestershire and Rutland (Vice-county 55).

The programme will include a range of talks on subjects as varied as bat surveys at Charnwood Lodge Nature Reserve, cataloguing of the Loughborough Naturalists' Club records, surveying of pollinator insects at the Co-op farm at Stoughton, survey work for the new national dragonfly atlas, distribution and range changes of hoverflies, and the use of line transects in monitoring local bird populations.

This will be a great opportunity not only to hear some interesting talks, but to meet other naturalists. There will be stands set up by local natural history societies and recording groups, publications to buy and free hand-outs to take away. County wildlife recorders will be present to answer any questions and to provide encouragement to newcomers, who will be particularly welcome. You do not have to be an expert! A newsletter/journal and website are in preparation to compliment the conference.

For the full programme, see the back page of *Fieldfare*. It will also be loaded onto the Trust's website: www.lrwt.org.uk. Although the event is free, booking is essential. You will need to bring your own lunch or buy some in the village, but tea and coffee will be provided.

Please contact Nathalie Cossa at the Trust office to confirm your attendance by email rc@lrwt.org.uk or telephone 0116 2728853.

Michael Jeeves
Head of Conservation, LRWT

Nature matters

A symposium convened by New Networks for Nature.
This will be held at Stamford Arts Centre on the 15th, 16th and 17th November.

Scientists, poets, naturalists, artists, birders, musicians and writers will meet together for talks and debates. Participants include Ronald Blythe, Mark Cocker, Mark Avery, Simon Barnes, Conor Jameson, Ruth Padel, Harriet Mead and many others.

For more information, go to:
www.newnetworksfornature.org.uk

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 23 September COSSINGTON MEADOWS NR 10.30 am

A walk around Cossington Meadows Nature Reserve led by a member of the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust.

Directions: The reserve is situated to the west of Cossington village, alongside the River Soar, between the City of Leicester and Loughborough. Cars can be parked off the road outside the main entrance on the Syston Road. (OS Map 129 Grid Ref SK 595 131.)

Sunday 28 October RUTLAND WATER 10 am

A morning with the bird-ringing team at Rutland Water, led by Lloyd Park, LRWT. Meet at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton.

Directions: Follow the road through Egleton village, off the A6003 between Oakham and Uppingham. Map ref SK 879 072.

Sunday 25 November BLATHERWYCKE LAKE

10 am

A morning's winter birdwatching at Blatherwycke Lake, in the Rockingham Forest and 7 miles north-east of Corby. Leader Peter Scott, RNHS.

Directions: Take the A43 towards Corby and turn off at the Blatherwycke junction (midway between the junctions for Fineshade and Bulwick). Continue on the road through the village and park on the far side of the Willow Brook near the footpath. Map ref SP 972 957.

INDOOR EVENTS

RNHS indoor meetings start again in October. They are held at the Oakham Church of England School, Burley Road, Oakham.

Tuesday 2 October KINGFISHERS – UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL 7.30 pm

With Jeff Harrison, who is a UK wildlife, nature and landscape photographer with a particular interest in Kingfishers.

Tuesday 6 November VERGES 7.30 pm

With Mark Schofield, the Life on the Verge Project Officer, Lincolnshire Wildlife Trust .

Tuesday 4 December WEATHER AND BIRD BEHAVIOUR 7.30 pm

With Tim Newbery, a weather forecaster with the Meteorological Office, currently working at Royal Air Force Coningsby.

And next year ...

The first 2013 meeting is on the *second* Tuesday of the month, i.e. January 8. We invite members to present their own short talk on a natural history theme. The evening will be split into two sessions with a coffee break in the middle. Each presenter will be given 5 minutes to talk with the aid of slides or digital media – we suggest a maximum of 20 slides would be sufficient to illustrate each talk. Questions will be taken during the coffee break and at the end of the evening, to ensure the smooth running of the evening.

Would those intending to talk please let Dawn or Roy Edwards know no later than the end of October.

Dawn Whitefield: 01664 454578

Roy Edwards: 01572 757205

The first *outdoor event* in 2013 is on January 13th, at Bedford Purlieus ancient woodland with Anthony and Linda Biddle.

LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST RUTLAND GROUP

Rutland Group indoor events, starting again in October, 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 events in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks.

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

July 2012

Atmospheric pressure and winds Another month of generally unremarkable barometer readings apart from 21st to 26th, which was a period of relatively high pressures. The highest I recorded was 1027 mb at 0900 on the 22nd and accordingly this period produced the highest daytime temperatures of the month. Winds were generally variable during the month both in direction and velocity, and both the beginning and the end of the month saw windy periods.

Temperatures A cool month overall, the coolest July here in the last decade and nationally 31 Julys were colder and 69 warmer in the last 100 years. The mean night-time minimum here for the month was 11.59 °C and from my records 2004, 2007 and 2011 had lower figures whereas the mean daytime maximum at 21.21 °C was the lowest in the last decade. As mentioned above, the 'high pressure' period 21st to 26th produced the highest temperatures which peaked at 29.6 °C on 24th.

Rain 110.8 mm (4.36 inches) was measured here this month and this represents 225% of my long-term mean for July. Up to the 20th there were only two days with no rain but from then until 29th none fell, although the remaining three days of the month produced a further 20.2 mm. Nationally in the last 100 years, ten Julys were wetter and the rest drier.

Sunshine Averaged over England and Wales this was 165 hours or 81% of the 1981–2010 mean. Again looking at the last century, 24 Julys were duller and 76 were sunnier.

August 2012

Atmospheric pressure and winds This was again a month when pressures were generally unexceptionable, apart from the 8th to 12th when they ranged from 1022–1027 mb and the last day, the 31st, when it suddenly went up to 1029 mb. Winds were almost all between SE–SW except for the above mentioned 8th to 12th when they were either nil or very light at 0900 hours and veered to NW on 9th.

Temperatures This was a reasonably warm month, both the mean minimum (12.19 °C) and the mean maximum (23.11 °C) were above those of the last two years and fell into 5th place in the last decade. The highest daytime temperature I recorded was 30.2 °C on 18th and this compares with the highest in Britain which was 32.4 °C at Cavendish, Suffolk, on the same date. The lowest overnight minimum was a rather unusual 4.9 °C on the night of 29th to 30th and this was accompanied by coolish days on 29th and 30th, with maxima of 17.2 °C and 16.6 °C respectively.

Rain Rain fell on 17 of the 31 days and although some of the totals were small, nevertheless 60.8 mm (2.39 inches) was measured in total. This represents 111% of my LTM and compares with the averaged total for England and Wales which was 93.5 mm or 124% of the average for 1981 to 2010. August can be a very variable month for rainfall, 2010 totalled 135.1 mm and 2004 188.5 mm whereas in 1995 there was only 2.5 mm and in 2003 just 6.6 mm fell.

Sunshine This averaged over England and Wales was 167 hours or 86% for the standard reference period. This was less gloomy than the two previous Augusts and in the past 100 years 33 Augusts were duller.

I am as usual indebted to Philip Eden's Weather Watch in the Sunday Telegraph for the national figures.

HIGH TIDES IN NORTH NORFOLK Nola Thurlow

High tides for Kings Lynn. Times in GMT.

October				November			
Sunday	7	10.09	22.24	Sunday	4	09.08	21.15
	14	04.54	17.29		11	03.25	16.10
	21	10.20	22.31		18	09.17	21.24
	28	05.04	17.39		25	03.49	16.31

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

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



July/August 2012

There were few amphibian records in July and August, but this is normal. There were however good numbers of records of both lizards and grass snakes, although the other two reptiles were not observed.

There was a single record of a frog in an Oakham garden in July. The only records of toads were from Stocken in both months and in Wing where four toads of different sizes were seen on the recorder's meadow-like lawn in August. Smooth Newts were observed in both Barrowden and Stocken in July.

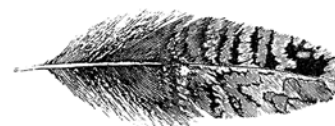
Viviparous Lizards were recorded at five different sites. A sighting on a verge in Essendine in July was the first record from that parish for 35 years. Sightings at Bloody Oaks, Ketton Quarry and Oakham were all from known sites, but there was a record of a male and female in close proximity at a new site at the edge of Ketton parish, but a couple of miles from the Ketton Quarry population.

A dozen records of Grass Snakes were received, widely scattered throughout the county from Little Casterton and Exton Park to Ridlington, Uppingham and four separate sites in Wing, as well as Oakham, Egleton and Hambleton in the vicinity of Rutland Water.

My thanks to all the following who provided records: T P Appleton, A Chiverton, G Chiverton, J Comber, J Crosby, P Gallimore, M Grimes, Dr C R Jones, T Mitcham, K O'Brien, P Rudkin, P Spence, L Worrall.

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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



July/August 2012

The weather very much affected the distribution of returning waders with high water levels at the reservoirs, but a good variety was attracted to Lagoon four at Egleton, indicating that autumn is now upon us. Rutland Water also attracted a Spoonbill and a Bittern with plenty of wildfowl in August, including four Garganey. There was a good passage of Marsh Harriers and a juvenile Montagu's Harrier was also seen. Passerine migrants included Tree Pipit, Whinchat and Redstart with Crossbills continuing to pass through.

Dave Wright, BTO rep. for Leics. and Rutland, has asked me to pass on his thanks for everyone's help in the Nightingale Survey and this I gladly do, adding my own, of course. It's just a pity that there are so few Nightingales in the county now.

Thanks to the following for their July and August records: P Bennett, A Biddle, M A Branston, T Caldicott, D Cole, J Comber, J Crosby, J & F Foster, Dr C Gallimore, D Holman, Dr C Jones, A L Lawrence, LROS, R Lemmon, S Lister, A Malcolm, E & P Mann, T Mitcham, L Park, B & D Parker, D Perril, P Rudkin, Jill Stapleton, A R & M A Thorp, P Tomalin, L & G Worrall.

Shelduck. A pair at RW(Egleton) on 20.07 had seven ducklings. It was the only successful pair on the reserve this year.

Mandarin Duck. Present in the dam/Normanton area at RW in both months with five juvs noted on 14.08.

Gadwall. Three broods were reared at FHP.

Pintail. One was at RW(Egleton) on 07.08.

Garganey. Two at RW(Egleton) on 30.07 increased to four on 23.08.

Shoveler. There were 37 at FHP on 30.08.

Red-crested Pochard. Two or three were at RW (Egleton) between 21.07 and 07.08.

Tufted Duck. At least five broods were at RW(Egleton) in Aug with broods of six in Exton Park and two at FHP.

Scaup. A male was at RW(Egleton) on 14 and 21.07.

Goldeneye. A female was at RW dam on 08 and 27.07.

Grey Partridge. Pairs were in Exton Park on 08 and 25.07, with one at GH Wood on 21.08.

Quail. One called in Exton Park on 22.07.

Bittern. One was in lagoon three reedbed at RW between at least 08–14.08.

Little Egret. Two were at EBR on 05.08 and 53 were counted at RW on 14.08.

Spoonbill. An imm was at RW(Egleton) from 01–04.07.

Red Kite. Reports of two more successful nests were received. Eight were in the Horn Mill/ FHP area on 08.08 and five were over recently-cut hay near Manton on 27.07.

Marsh Harrier. One was at RW(Egleton) from 01.07 to at least 07.08, with two on 30.07. A juv was at FHP on 11.08 with a male there the next day and one or two were at EBR in late Aug.

Montagu's Harrier. A juv flew over the road between Greetham and the A1 on 19.08.

Sparrowhawk. The Wing garden nest failed – the eggs were predated but fledged young were heard near Clipsham on 04.08 and in Exton Park on 12.08. Noted in an Oakham garden on 09.07 and regular at Stocken throughout both months.

Buzzard. Five over Stocken on 06.08 was the peak count. Fledged young were noted at Stretton Wood, Beaumont Chase Farm, FHP and Pilton.

Osprey. Fishing birds visited Horn Mill, FHP and Leighfield Fishponds. Our last record was on 25.08.

Kestrel. A family party of four juvs was at GH Wood on 15.07, and four were at Luffenham Airfield on 05.08. Others were at Horn Mill, Stocken, Wing and Exton Park.

Hobby. Regular at RW(Egleton) in Aug. Hunting birds chased Swallows at Stocken on 20.07 and Wing on 18.08, whilst one accompanied a large House Martin flock over Edith Weston on 22.08. Noted also at Clipsham and Quarry Farm.

Avocet. Seven were at RW(Egleton) on 08.07.

Little Ringed Plover. One was at RW(Egleton) on 16.08.

Ringed Plover. Present at RW throughout both months with 12+ on 20.07.

Golden Plover. Singles were at RW(Egleton) on 27.07 and 09.08.

Lapwing. 539 were at RW on 14.08.

Knot. One was at RW(Egleton) on 19.07.

Sanderling. Two were at RW on 14 and 20.07, with one on 26.07.

Little Stint. One was at RW(Egleton) on 31.07, with two there on 13.08.

Temminck's Stint. One was at RW(Egleton) on 12–14.07.

Curlew Sandpiper. Two adults were at RW(Egleton) on 13.08.

Dunlin. Present at RW throughout both months with c.14 noted on 20.07.

Ruff. One or two were at RW between 05.07 and 23.08.

Snipe. There were six at EBR on 05.08 and three at RW(Wet Meadow) on 09.08.

Black-tailed Godwit. Present at RW for most of July with 27 flying through on 20th. Two were seen on 09.08.

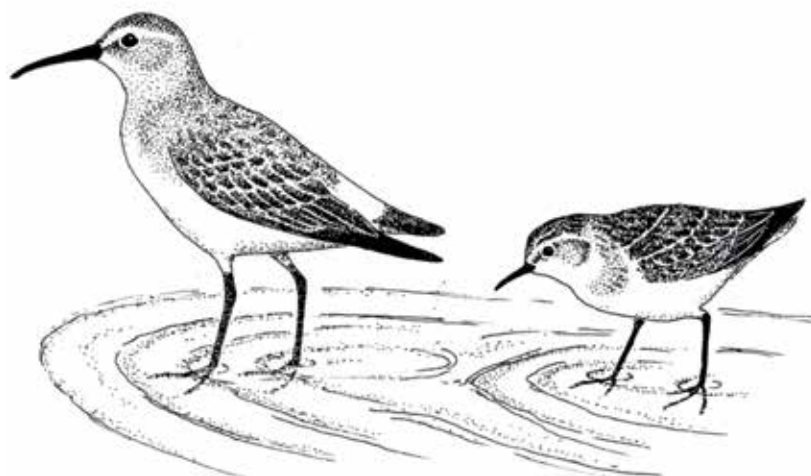
Bar-tailed Godwit. One was at RW(Egleton) on 20.07.

Whimbrel. Two were at RW(Egleton) on 31.07.

Curlew. There were six at RW on 02.07, with one on 20.07 and three on 08.08.

Common Sandpiper. Noted at RW to at least 24.08 with a max of four on 29.07. At Leighfield Fishponds one or two were present between 16.08 and 27.08, with two on 21.08. Two were at EBR on 07.07.

Spotted Redshank. One was at RW(Egleton) between 09 and 11.07.



Curlew sandpiper and little stint

- Green Sandpiper.** Up to nine were at RW from 02.07 to the end of Aug. At LFP birds were regular from 05.07 to 27.08, with seven present and four flying over on 16.08.
- Greenshank.** All records came from RW with birds noted from 08.07 to at least 16.08 and a max of 5+ on 20.07.
- Redshank.** Two were at RW(Egleton) on 07.08.
- Wood Sandpiper.** Singles were at RW on 06, 13 and 26.07.
- Turnstone.** One or two were at RW on seven dates between 14.07 and 13.08.
- Mediterranean Gull.** An adult was at RW on 20.07 and a juv on 29.07.
- Yellow-legged Gull.** One was at RW dam on 08 and 16.07, with two on lagoon four on 08.08.
- Little Tern.** Two flew east at RW on 06.07 and one was present on 11.07.
- Sandwich Tern.** One was at RW(Egleton and Edith Weston) on 27.07.
- Black Tern.** Up to seven were at RW in mid-Aug.
- Common Tern.** 92 were counted at RW on 14.08.
- Arctic Tern.** Four were at RW on 10.07.
- Turtle Dove.** One was at RW(Egleton) on 14–15.07.
- Cuckoo.** There was a remarkably late date for song in Stamford on 11.08.
- Barn Owl.** Broods of five and three were ringed on 01.08, the female at one nestbox having been ringed at RW in 2009. Noted also at RW, Manton and between Barrowden and Seaton.
- Little Owl.** One on the chimney of a house in Wing on 24.07 was our only report.
- Tawny Owl.** Birds were seen or heard at Tunneley Wood, Stocken, Burley Wood and Barrowden.
- Short-eared Owl.** One remained at RW until at least 19.07 – a very late date for us.
- Swift.** c.120 fed over Stocken on 06.07. c.35 screamed over Barrowden in July but nos declined in Aug, with the last over Barrowden on 21.08. One was at RW on 23.08, our last record.
- Kingfisher.** More widespread in this period with one or two at RW, FHP, Exton Park, Banthorpe GP, Wing and LFP.
- Green Woodpecker.** Regularly seen at Stocken and FHP with others noted at Barrowden, Ketton and Quarry Farm.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** Singles visited feeding stations at Stocken from 15.07 and Oakham on 15.08.
- Jackdaw.** c.400 were noted flying to roost near Stocken each evening throughout Aug.
- Raven.** Regularly noted throughout both months in the Wing/Manton/Leighfield area with four on 15.07. Three flew over FHP on 04.08, and three fed at a sheep carcass near Morcott on 06.08. Also noted in the Stocken/Clipsham area, Exton Park and over RW.
- Willow Tit.** Up to three were reported from the Leighfield and Wing areas in both months. One was at Chapel Farm, Burley-on-the-Hill, on 01.08.
- Marsh Tit.** There were Aug records from RW, Wing, Manton and Lyndon Wood.
- Swallow.** Peak counts received were 130 at Leighfield on 22.07, 85 at Stocken on 24.07, 220 at Leighfield on 06.08 and c.80 over Wing on 26.08.
- House Martin.** There were Aug flocks of c.200 at Stocken on 8th/9th and c.250 over RW at Edith Weston on 22.08, with 350 there on 28.08. 100 were over Wing on 26.08.
- Chiffchaff.** A migrant sang in a Barrowden garden on 28.08.
- Grasshopper Warbler.** One sang near Manton on 02 and 07.07, and one sang at Lyndon Wood on 11.07.
- Sedge Warbler.** Two were at LFP on 06.08 with three there on 27.08. One was at FHP on 26.08.
- Reed Warbler.** Two were at LFP on 21.08 and one at RW(Gibbet Gorse) on 24.08.
- Nuthatch.** Three juvs fed at a Tickencote feeder in July.
- Mistle Thrush.** Some large post-breeding flocks were reported. c.22 were at Leighfield in early July and twelve were at Wing Burrows on 17.08. 30 flew over WFL on 03.08, 14 took rowan berries at George Henry Wood on 12.08, 20 were near RW(Lyndon Centre) in mid-Aug.
- Spotted Flycatcher.** Reports were received from nine sites. Five were in Lyndon churchyard on 17.08. There were eight in Lyndon village on 24.08 and a family party at George Henry Wood on 12.08.
- Redstart.** Migrants were at LFP on 01 and 15.07 and near Lyndon on 24.08.
- Whinchat.** Three were on stubble near Mounts Lodge on 21 and 23.08.
- House Sparrow.** Up to fifteen fed in an Oakham garden in Aug.
- Yellow Wagtail.** 16 were at RW dam on 23.08.
- Grey Wagtail.** Two juvs were at RW dam on 16.07.
- Pied Wagtail.** Peak counts were 33 roosting at Stocken on 14.07 and 44 flying over Leighfield on 23.08

Tree Pipit. On 21.08, migrants were over George Henry Wood and Leighfield and there were two over Leighfield on 23.08.

Meadow Pipit. Six were seen at George Henry Wood on 12.08 and three singing males were noted there on 21.08.

Greenfinch. Two observers noted low nos (only three at Stocken on 19.07) and sickly birds – Barrowden in July.

Goldfinch. Flocks of c.100 were noted at Stocken, Leighfield and Wing in Aug.

Siskin. One or two were seen on several dates between 08 and 19.07 over Wing, Manton, Lyndon and RW.

Siskin



Linnet. Nos feeding on the sports field at Stocken increased from 38 on 01.08, to c.70 on 06.08.

Crossbill



Crossbill. One or two flew over regularly throughout both months with a max of twenty over LFP on 27.08.

Bullfinch. A pair fed on honeysuckle berries in a Langham garden on 06.08. Four were noted near Ketton on 08.08 and c.25 were noted around Wing on 26.08.

Yellowhammer. Small nos of singing birds were reported from four well-scattered sites up to 10.08.

Both drawings on this page by Jane Wallace, from The Birds of Rutland and its Reservoirs (1984) by Terry Mitcham

BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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

July 2012

A very good flowering month – the **Orchids** continued to be found in very good numbers, especially **Bee Orchid**. Over 90 were counted in a field on the north edge of Morcott parish behind Wymark Spinney, where Pat Simmonds also re-found three plants of **Cut-leaved Selfheal**. Jenny Mallett and Ann Malcolm reported a walk up the footpath from the end of Love's Lane, Empingham, and the A1, where they were surprised at the number of **Clustered Bellflowers** amongst other flowering plants. A long-term

garden escape, namely **Common Blue-sow-thistle** was spotted by both Tim Caldicott and Pat Simmonds about a quarter of a mile west of Preston in good quantity; not a common find.

August 2012

As expected, August was not so free-flowering but, compared with a dry summer, still productive and many good reports were received from our Verge Recorders – the last visits of the year. At last **Harebell** is in flower! The sunny weather helped put on a good show.

Thanks to: R Archer, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, R Edwards, M Grimes, R Lemmon, J Mallett, A Malcolm, T Mitcham, B Parker, D Parker, P Simmonds.

BUTTERFLY NOTES compiled by Alistair Lawrence

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



July/August 2012

The unprecedented cool wet weather that lasted until well into July led to a decline in butterfly activity and hence sightings. However the warm, sometimes hot, sunny weather which arrived in late July and coincided with the second brood of some species has resulted in a surge of butterfly activity and records.

Most of the records during this period of **Brimstones** reflect the emergence of the second brood. More than 10 (equal male and female) were seen at Ketton Quarry on 20 August. Other sightings during August come from Oakham, Uppingham, RW Egleton, Clipsham Quarry, Stocken and the outskirts of Ketton.

The only record in July of a **Peacock** is a single sighting on the 7th at RW Lyndon. There have been many sightings of this species during August, with the highest counts being 15 at Clipsham Quarry on the 4th, 12 at Stretton on the 19th, and 10 at Ketton Quarry on the 20th.

There have also been an abundance of records for the **Small White** throughout July and August from all parts of our area. Highest counts were 4 at Ketton Quarry on 28 July, 7 at Horn Mill on 10 August and 5 at Ketton Quarry on 28th of that month.

Again, plenty of sightings from around Rutland of the **Large White** with some very big counts being recorded, namely 29 and 15 at Stocken on 25 July and 14 August respectively. 7 were observed at Ketton Quarry on 12 August.

Sightings of the **Green Veined White** have picked up during July and August and have been mostly in ones and twos. However, 5 were observed at Ketton Quarry on 28 July, 4 at Verge 7 on 3 August and 12 between Ketton and Barrowden on 8 August.

Marbled Whites seem to have had a successful year with counts of 50 at both Clipsham and Ketton Quarries during July. Records have also been received from North Luffenham and a verge near Tickencote, the latter being a new site for this species. The last recorded sighting was of a single specimen at Ketton Quarry on 10 August.

Just five reports for **Holly Blue** have been received, with a single sighting in Uppingham during early July. On 10 August one was seen at Ketton Quarry and also in Oakham at two sites. One was seen at Horn Mill, Exton, on 12 August.

Reports of the **Common Blue** come from just three sites, namely Ketton and Clipsham Quarries and Verge 7 near Pickworth, mostly in ones and twos. The highest count was 4 males and 2 females at Ketton Quarry on 20 August.

The only report of a **Brown Argus** is of a single sighting at Ketton Quarry on 20 August.

There have been regular sightings of the **Large Skipper** from around the quarries, RW reserves and woods of Rutland. Highest counts were 4 at Clipsham Quarry on 12 July, and 12 at George Henry Wood on 27 July.

Good numbers of **Small Skipper** have been recorded during July and August, with over 25 counted at George Henry Wood on 14 July and 12 at Quarry Farm on 22nd of that month. They were also seen regularly at RW Lyndon in July, whilst 8 were counted between South Luffenham and Pilton on 8 August.

There have been three reports of **Essex Skipper** with one being seen at George Henry Wood on 21 July and another singleton observed near Ketton on 8 August. On the same day 3 were recorded between South Luffenham and Pilton.

This continues to be a good year for the **Small Heath** with some high counts being recorded. 30 were seen at Clipsham Quarry on 12 July and 20 were counted at George Henry Wood on the 14th of that month. Woodhead Castle and a verge near Tickencote are among some new sites for this species.

The only record for **Purple Hairstreak** during this period comes from Stocken where one specimen was found on 9 August damaged by tractor oil in the farmyard.

There have been 4 single sightings of **Small Copper**, namely at A1/A606 junction on 26 July and at Thorpe-by-Water on 23rd July and 11th August. Two other records during August come from near South Luffenham and Stocken.

Dark Green Fritillaries have again appeared at Clipsham Quarry, with a pair being seen on 12 and 15 July. (On the 25th and 28th July singles were also seen at Roberts Field just over the Rutland border.)

For the second year running a single **Silver Washed Fritillary** was observed at Ketton Quarry. The sighting by two RNHS members was at the foot of the valley on 10 August.

There are only 2 records of a **Painted Lady** in Rutland. One comes from Stocken where a single specimen was seen on 14 August, and the other from an Oakham garden where a single rather tatty insect was observed on the 9th of that month.

Commas have been seen in ones and twos during July and August at Barrowden, Oakham, George Henry Wood, Stocken, Thorpe-by-Water as well as at RW reserves and the quarries.

Reports of **Small Tortoiseshell** come from seven sites during July and August, mostly in ones and twos, but 3 were seen in a Langham garden on 3 August and 6 at Stocken on 8 August.

Sightings of **Red Admiral** come from seven sites with the highest count in July being 5 at RW Lyndon on the 7th, and in August 4 at Ketton Quarry on the 28th. Other records come from Oakham, Langham, Clipsham Quarry, Stocken and Stretton.

There has been an abundance of sightings of **Meadow Brown** with high counts of 30–50 coming from RW Lyndon, Ketton Quarry, Stocken and George Henry Wood during July. In August,

10 were seen at Verge 7 on the 3rd and at Thorpe-by-Water on the 11th. The last report was of 4 at Ketton Quarry on the 28th.

Reports of **Ringlets** come from many sites including all the quarries and Rutland Water reserves in July. Over 40 were counted at Ketton Quarry on 4th July, 25+ at George Henry Wood on the 14th and 12+ at Lyndon Reserve on the 23rd. In August, 2 were observed near Ketton on the 8th and 2 at Verge 8 on the 17th.

Gatekeepers have been seen regularly during July and August throughout our area. The highest counts in July were 30 at George Henry Wood on the 27th and 12 at Clipsham Park Wood on the 29th. They were seen frequently in Uppingham during August but the highest counts were 5 at Verge 7 on the 3rd, 11 near South Luffenham on the 8th, and 4 at Verge 8 on 12 August.

Speckled Woods have been seen mostly in ones and twos, and reports during July come from RW Lyndon, Ketton and Clipsham Quarries and Stocken. The only record for August is a single sighting at Ketton Quarry on the 28th.

My thanks to the following contributors: P Bennett, G Chiverton, J Crosby, M Grimes, J Harvey, C Jones, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, J Levisohn, J Mallett, P & E Mann, J Myers, D Needham, E Northen, B & D Parker, D Perril, P Rudkin, P Scott, M Tyler, M Winslow, G & L Worrall

Finally I would like to express my gratitude to James Crosby who over the past three years has contributed so many valuable sightings from a hitherto unrecorded part of Rutland. James has now moved into Lincolnshire but is hoping to return to Rutland at a later date.

MOTH NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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July/August 2012

After such a poor spring for moth recording, some improvement was experienced by late July. During August, catches varied as 'summer' came and went! It has been very apparent, however, that the number of moths within each species has remained low. For example, common species such as **Large Yellow Underwings** have often only come to light singly and not in tens as in previous years.

More migrants however have been seen this summer than in 2011, with **Silver Ys** being reported from ten areas around Rutland. We had two **Rush Veneers** at Eyebrook Reservoir at the end of August and one beautiful specimen of the **Vestal**. A **Hummingbird Hawk moth** record came

from Empingham on honeysuckle and one was also seen in Wing.

A good number of sightings of day-flying moths were received from members. These have included **Shaded Broad Bar**, **Yellow Shell**, **Burnets** and **Latticed Heath** to name but a few. Plenty of **Cinnabar** larvae have been found on ragwort.

On July 23rd we were invited to visit Clipsham Quarry and had a really good night. From a tripod light in the evening and six traps left over-night, 1430 moths were identified. These were from 184 species made up of 115 macro- and 69 micro-species. In the past we have had 200+ species on that site in one night but that was with 20 traps and more people, so we were well

pleased on this occasion. Good moths caught included **Small Purple Barred**, **Scallop Shell** and **Barred Rivulet**. The highlight, however, was two specimens of the V moth, last seen at Clipsham in 2005, but it is becoming more scarce in the country in general, we understand.

Trapping has taken place at Lyndon and I have received the results of this. On July 25th 51 species were recorded, on August 9th 35 species, August 15th 30 species and on August 22nd the total had dropped to 22 species. The garden trap at Barrowden has continued to be operated throughout these two months and all records will appear in the Annual Report as usual.

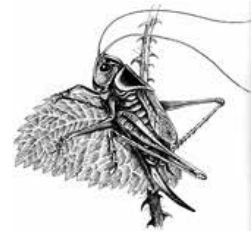
We have visited Eyebrook Reservoir fortnightly as is our custom, three times in July and twice in August. On July 17th, the new species added were **Freyer's Pug** and two micros and on August 12th there were several new micros. We have been helped by the publication of the new British Wildlife Publishing's *Field Guide to Micromoths!* It was then on August 23rd, that we added **Square Spot Clay** and recorded the Rush Veneers and Vestal mentioned above.

As I write in early September, Autumn is upon us and numbers have dropped suddenly, yet another season is over, and one which will be remembered for the number of wet days!

Many thanks to: V Arnold, P Bennett, G Chiverton, J Crosby, R Follows, C H Gallimore, M Grimes, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, D Needham, D & B Parker, D Perril and M Tyler.

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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July/August 2012

I start by quoting British Wildlife, August 2012, under Grasshoppers and relatives; 'Notwithstanding the recent news that the weather this year has had an "apocalyptic" effect on birds, bees and butterflies, it has still been possible to find and record many species of Orthoptera, reports showing that the majority of species have had their development strongly curtailed. It will be interesting to see how the late development and maturation of those orthopterans that survive the trials of this record-breaking weather, notably the increased risk of succumbing to fungal infections, will affect the breeding success of those species in due course.'

We have been out and about (when windows of opportunity have allowed), and the tiny nymphs found have verified the above quote. However, as the season progressed into August, things seemed to be catching up, and numbers appear to be stable. Clive Jones and I witnessed a wonderful scene, on the Barrowden Road, near Ketton, on 8 August. We were closely observing a colony of Roesel's Bush Crickets at this new site. The weather conditions were calm, hot, sunny, 4/8 cloud, time 1.10 pm. A macropterous (long-winged) form appeared on a flower stem, and crawled up to the top. We were only a few inches away, but it did not take any notice of us. Suddenly it took off and slowly floated off over the stubble. It then began to fly upwards, amazingly clearing the tops of the nearby conifers, and we watched it as it flew higher, and disappeared into the clouds. This is the accepted knowledge of how orthoptera species spread and colonise other areas. However, it is not often seen, so we felt privileged. There are two articles that confirm this phenomenon. British Wildlife, February 2004, tells the story of a team of entomologists carrying out range expansions of insects; they suspended a net, tethered to a balloon 240 m above the ground at a site in Bedfordshire. When emptying the net, amongst the specimens was a male Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, proving that certain orthopteran species were capable of 'high- altitude' flight. The edition of August 2008 held an article from the Netherlands concerning the Large Marsh Grasshopper. Several individuals of this grasshopper began to arrive at places where they had not occurred before. These new populations were separated by woodland, leading to the assumption that the adults must have flown above this natural barrier to reach the site.

As previously, map references will be given for new sites visited only, and any unusual happenings for the common species will be mentioned. At this stage, there has been no new species found in Rutland. It would be wonderful if one appeared before the cut-off date for the National Atlas.

More new sites were visited this period, and new squares established for several species. This bodes well for our coverage of Rutland Orthoptera, as the cut-off date for the proposed National Atlas of the Orthoptera of Britain and Ireland has been extended until the end of 2012.

Bush Crickets

Oak Bush Cricket *Meconema thalassinum*

Bush beating in Oak tree at Stocken resulted in four tiny nymphs, three females and one male, 1 cm in length (including ovipositor), on 26 July. James Crosby comments: '27 and 28 July 2011 there were adults beaten out of these trees. However, 2012 seems to be a slow year for nymphal development'.

Dark Bush Cricket *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

Clive Jones and Phil Rudkin visited a new site on 8 August, and located one final instar female, sunning on nettles. A few yards further along the road they found two adult males in a field entrance clearing. The site is the Barrowden Road, outside of Ketton, adjacent to Fox Covert, SK 969026.

Roesel's Bush Cricket *Metrioptera roeselii*

One nymph was found on Verge 5, Essendine, 5 July, TF 041130. On the 21 July, Clive and Phil visited a new site, at George Henry Wood, near Stretton. This resulted in new squares. This is a very wet wood, with the grasses in between the young trees full of this species. However, although we found a total of 56, they were all late instar nymphs, with a mixture of sexes. Ten were found in the south entrance off the road, SK 956160. Twenty eight were observed in the north area, SK 954164. Eighteen found in the western edge, SK 952163.

At the Rutland Water Lyndon reserve, 10 plus were stridulating in the meadow opposite Tufted Duck Hide. Four were heard in the uncut corner of the field near Wader Scrape Hide, both these records on 23 July. At the Egleton reserve, all the following reports were on 28 July, with two stridulating in the first field next to the Bird Watching Centre. Twenty plus heard in rough grassland field near the Badger Watching Hide, north of the centre. Massive colonies heard, and some observed, in the next large rough vegetation field. Four, in rough herbage corner, next to the Summer Trail, near Redshank Hide. One lone stridulating male in the grassy bank, next to the disabled car park, at the Centre. Ron Harvey made his regular visit to Thorpe-by-Water, on 29 July, and this resulted in a new square, with nine observed. Ron was back again on 11 and 14 August, finding three on each occasion, SP 892962. Alistair Lawrence and Phil Rudkin checked the orthoptera community, on Verge 7, on 3 August; Roesel's were in abundance in all the usual locations, 50 on the first verge, then 20 in the

second farm field gateway. 30, in grasses next to the barn, finally, 6 in verge at the top of the hill. Phil Rudkin made a pre-meeting visit to the Horn Mill/North Brook site, near Exton, on 10 August. The usual large numbers were present in both habitats.

A new site on the Barrowden Road outside of Ketton, adjacent to Fox Covert, on 8 August was very rewarding, with several large colonies in scrubby rough corner of cereal fields. Further along the road, another large colony in a linear grass/wildflower patch was studied at length. At one stage, the observers watched six separate females in one small patch (either sunning or listening to the males, or both), and then they spotted several more females doing the same thing in the hot sun. Suddenly, a few inches away, a macropterous (long-winged) form, crept to the top of a flower head and slowly took off. It flew low for a few yards, and then amazingly began to fly upwards. It then flew high over the conifers of Fox Covert, and could still be seen as it flew ever upwards and disappeared into the clouds. This is a phenomenon that has been witnessed only rarely. Colonisation in progress! (SK 967022).

Clive and Phil followed this up with a short journey to yet another new site; a bridleway between South Luffenham and Pilton. Large colony of males heard in extensive grass verges, SK 928023. 100 yards further along the bridleway, 50 stridulating males in 6 metre field margins adjacent to wheat crops. Further along, and an impressive number of noisy singers along a 200 yards stretch in the field margins, SK 920024. Then the bridleway opened into a large field with tall rough herbage, and massive numbers were estimated, some captured briefly. Verge 7, Great



Female Roesel's' bush cricket, macropterous form.
Photo, P Rudkin

Casterton, was visited by Martin Grimes, with stridulating males located in verge at the top of the hill, on 11 August.

Lyndon Reserve on 19 August had two males in vegetation, outside the front of the Interpretive Centre. The Egleton reserve had a full 5 hour survey on 22 August, and all the regular habitats were filled with the sounds of stridulating males, with a few females observed. The areas around the new lagoons were investigated, and proved that this species can spread rapidly. Finally, Martin Grimes sent in his Lyndon reserve sightings, and on 23 August had large numbers in the usual hotspots.

Long-winged Conehead *Conocephalus discolor*

First stridulating heard on 28 July, from 2 males, at the Egleton reserve, in large rough field near the Badger Watch Hide north of the Bird Watching Centre. One male heard in the south west corner of the meadow in Lagoon 4, just north of Egleton Church. One male, stridulating on the green at the eastern side of Teigh village, SK 865161.

The survey at Egleton reserve on 22 August found the usual large colonies inhabited, including some areas around the new lagoons. Finally, stridulating heard on the Lyndon reserve, on 23 August, in the meadow, near Deep Water Hide.

Short-winged Conehead *Conocephalus dorsalis*

The survey at Egleton reserve, on 22 August, located two populations. Due to the heavy rains of our summer, the water had swelled up around Wigeon Hide, which consequently reduced the vegetation around the hide. Nevertheless, the crickets were still present, but in smaller numbers, with approx. 10 males heard. Another regular site was well inhabited, with at least eight stridulating males, near the new Tern Hide, next to Lagoon 6.

Speckled Bush Cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*

First stridulating heard in hawthorn hedgerow, on 11 August, on Verge 7, by Martin Grimes. The following day, on the 12 August, the Society's field meeting at Horn Mill/North Brook had one male stridulating in the hawthorn hedge at the stile entrance. Tim Newton was 'sweep netting', and captured one male and one female along the footpath and hedgerow. The up-curved ovipositor of the female was admired by the members.

At the Lyndon reserve, Martin reported stridulating in the regular habitats, and captured a female in front of the Interpretive Centre. Martin again heard stridulating in the Lyndon reserve hedgerows on 23 August.

Grasshoppers

Common Green Grasshopper *Omocestus viridulus*

Three nymphs caught and identified in the meadow, Mill Lane, Empingham, 15 July. The following are two new squares for this species: one stridulating male heard in grass verge, at Crown Well Bridge, near Wing, 24 July, SK 885033. One, male, captured by Tim Newton in his net, at the RNHS field meeting in the North Brook meadow, on 12 August, SK 952109. At the Egleton reserve, on 22 August, two, stridulating males, in grasses on Lagoon 6, and three males heard on the south side of Lax Hill, in sheep pasture.

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*

It is pleasing to report the following new squares for this species: one medium-size nymph found in grass verge, on 4 July, at Crown Well Bridge, near Wing, SK 885033. Six adults caught and identified at edge of grass paths, at George Henry Wood, Stretton, on 21 July, SK 956162. Four adults identified at Thorpe by Water in the meadow, SP 892962. Six adults identified, along the Barrowden Road, outside Ketton, at the edge of a linear grass/wildflower strip, on 8 August, SK 967022. Two adults, in grass bare patches, along the Horn Mill footpath, SK 951106. Two adults, in the meadow, at North Brook, SK 952109. Both of these last two records were at the RNHS field meeting on 12 August.

Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*

Widespread and common! New sites reported as follows: sample catches of tiny nymphs for identification in the meadow at Mill Lane, Empingham, on 15 July, SK 957085. Two adults caught and identified in the wet grasses between the young trees at George Henry Wood, on 21 July, SK 956161. On 8 August, Clive and Phil visited two new sites, with the following results: one adult male in linear grass/wildflower patch, Barrowden Road, outside of Ketton, SK 967022. Two stridulating males in bridleway verge, between South Luffenham and Pilton, SK 924023. Very large colonies, in the open wide valley wildflower/grasses field, SK 920024.

Regular habitats visited by our reporters during this period confirmed numbers maintained. However, as with the other grasshopper species, the development of the nymphs was strongly curtailed this season.

Special mention goes to James Crosby, whose final contribution was a card detailing the numbers and activities of the Meadow Grasshopper at Stocken. Thanks James!

Special interest: during the Society's field meeting at Horn Mill/North Brook on 12 August, several of the purple varieties were caught and identified. It is significant that some were found near a shrub with purple flowers. On 23 August, Martin noted several purple forms in field 7, on the Lyndon reserve, west of the Interpretive Centre.

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

The following are new squares for this species: one stridulating male in grass verge at Crown Well Bridge, near Wing, on 24 July, SK 885033. Thanks to Tim Caldicott for the Crown Well Bridge reports. Hundreds of tiny nymphs and five adults, found in rough grasses between the young trees, south side of George Henry Wood,

on 21 July, SK 956160. Similar numbers of tiny nymphs plus three adults noted in the north area, SK 954164. Finally, fifty plus tiny nymphs, located down the western edge, SK 952163.

One adult male, in linear grass/wildflower patch, on the Barrowden Road, outside of Ketton, on 8 August, SK 967022.

Again on 8 August, an adult female and a nymph, in grass verge along bridleway between South Luffenham and Pilton, SK 920024. One adult female found in a member's back garden in Dean Street, Oakham, on 14 August, SK 859091. Regular sites such as Rutland Water, Lyndon and Egleton reserves, North Brook found numbers maintained.

A very poor summer season, so extra special thanks for the regular reports received from: T Caldicott, J Crosby, R Frost, M Grimes, R Harvey, C Jones, A Lawrence, D Perril, P Rudkin.

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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July 2012

A good number of reports this month, a total of 39 from 8 parts of the County, some the usual ones which occur every month but also one or two new ones which are always welcome. Verge 5 on the 5th was the source of a gall on Ribwort Plantain where the flower head is shorter and thicker than normal and this is caused by a gall midge. The same day at Woodhead Castle another new gall appeared in which the flower parts of White Clover are all green instead of white, and in this case the cause is a mite. On the 19th there were good numbers of reports from the Egleton-Lax Hill area and these were mostly caused by rusts and mites and the same is true of 26th at Lyndon and Gibbet Gorse. On the same date a new record for the County was established by a rust gall on Lesser Stitchwort in a small hay field between the two latter sites. This was an Anther rust which causes enlargement of those organs and is closely related to the Anther rust on White and Red Campions, although this latter is much commoner.

August 2012

A much smaller number of reports this month, 16 from 5 sites. Lyndon on the 7th gave us, amongst others, a midge gall on Cocksfoot which is also a new record. Verge 7 on the 11th produced six records, including Common Spangle and Knopper galls on Oak; and the RNHS visit to Horn Mill on the following day gave us a further 7 records. Of these, four were fungal and the rest midge induced. Among the fungal galls is one which thickens the leaf stems and leaves of Ground Elder. Its nice to know this noxious weed has other enemies than man!

Thanks to: J Crosby, M Grimes, and R. Lemmon for their records.

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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After so few odonata sightings in May and June it's good to have a range of dragonfly and damselfly recordings to report in both months. In August there are our sightings from the RNHS outing to Horn Mill. Also as well as these three of our members were fortunate to join a Buglife walk at the BirdFair led by Steve Falk, an expert entomologist, hence some interesting records from RW (Egleton).

July 2012

ODONATA

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens* – 26 were recorded at the start of July near Wing, at the end of the month one was noted at Leighfield Fishponds, and 5+ and also several were recorded at Thorpe-by-Water. **White-legged Damselfly** *Platycnemis pennipes* – at the beginning of the month 12 and then 2 were noted near Wing, at the month end 2 were recorded at Thorpe-by-Water and 2 at Leighfield Fishponds. **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum* – 3 were recorded at Stocken, 3 were recorded at Ketton Quarry and a record also came from Thorpe-by-Water. **Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ishnura elegans* – one was noted at Thorpe-by-Water. **Brown Hawker** *Aeshna grandis* – one was noted at Thorpe-by-Water, 2 sightings at Barrowden, one recorded at Wing, all at the month end.

Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea* – up to 3 were recorded from a Wing garden at the month end.

4-spotted Chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata* – one was recorded around a garden pond at Empingham, one recorded at Stocken. **Broad-bodied Chaser** *Libellula depressa* – one recorded near pond at Stocken. **Black-tailed Skimmer** *Othetrum cancellatum* – one male noted at Leighfield Fishponds.

HEMIPTERA

A **Treehopper** *Centrotus cornutus* was recorded at Ketton Quarry.

TRICHOPTERA

A **Caddis Fly** *Phryganea grandis* was recorded at Barrowden.

DIPTERA

A **Bumblebee Hoverfly** *Volucella bombylans* was recorded at Ketton Quarry.

HYMENOPTERA

An **Ashen Bee/ Solitary Bee** *Andrena cineraria* was recorded at Bloody Oaks Quarry. A **White-tailed**

Bumblebee *Bombus lucorum* nest was recorded at Stocken. **Red-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lapidarius* – an abundance of foraging workers recorded at Stocken, a small number of workers at Woodhead Castle, and a small number of workers at Bloody Oaks Quarry. **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascuorum* – good numbers noted from Verge 5. **Cuckoo Bumblebee** *Bombus sylvestris* – one was noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

COLEOPTERA

Lesser Stag Beetle *Dorcus parallelipedus* – one insect recorded at Ketton Quarry. **Soldier Beetle** *Rhagonycha fulva* – 10 recorded at Ketton Quarry. **Longhorn Beetle** *Rutpela maculata* – one recorded on two separate dates at Lyndon nature reserve. **Lily Beetle** *Liloceris lili* – 3 recorded from an Oakham garden.

OTHER ARTHROPODS

Gastropoda Slugs and Snails

White-lipped Snail *Cepaea hortensis* – one noted of the all-yellow, unbanded variety at Egleton Centre.

August 2012

ODONATA

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens* – 20+ and 50+ were recorded on 2 dates at Thorpe-by-Water, one was noted at Oakham Canal and one was noted at Horn Mill. **White-legged Damselfly** *Platycnemis pennipes* – 3 were recorded at Thorpe-by-Water. **Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum* – these were plentiful at Thorpe-by-Water and then later in the month only a few were noted there; 10+ were noted at Oakham Canal, one recorded at Egleton and one recorded Horn Mill. **Blue-tailed Damselfly** *Ishnura elegans* – 5 were recorded at Oakham Canal.

Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta* – one was noted on two occasions at Wing, one was recorded at Thorpe-by-Water. **Southern Hawker** *Aeshna cyanea* – present throughout August, with up to 3 present, in a Wing garden, one was recorded at

Thorpe-by-Water. **Brown Hawker** *Aeshna grandis* – 5 were recorded at Thorpe-by-Water, one was noted at Oakham Canal.

Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum* – one was recorded at Thorpe-by-Water, 3 were recorded at Oakham Canal. **Ruddy Darter** *Sympetrum sanguineum* – 3 were recorded at RWEgleton.

Dragonfly sp. – 4 were recorded flying around a Barrowden garden after a thunder shower.

HEMIPTERA

Forest/Red-legged Shieldbug *Pentatoma rufipes* – several were recorded from an overnight moth trap at Eyebrook. **Pied Shieldbug** *Tritomegas bicolor* – one insect (1st instar) was recorded at RWEgleton. **Common Froghopper** *Philaenus spumarius* – these insects were abundant and very varied in colour at Horn Mill. **Froghopper** *Aphrophora alni* – this species was noted as abundant at Horn Mill. **Froghopper** *Neophilaenus lineatus* – an interesting ‘local’ species recorded from Horn Mill. **Leafhopper** *Aphrodes bicinctus* – one specimen of this species, which is classed as ‘local’ was recorded from Horn Mill. **Leafhopper** *Aphrodes makarovi* – this species was noted as plentiful on the meadowland at Horn Mill.

DIPTERA

The following insects were all recorded at RWEgleton on the Buglife walk which three of our members joined. **Common Greenbottle** *Lucilia caesar*, **Wasp-mimic Hoverfly** *Myathropa florum*, **Twin-lobed Deerfly** *Chraesops relictus*, **Bee-mimic Hoverfly** *Eristalis intricarius*, **Hoverfly** *Xylota segnis*, **Common Drone Fly** *Eristalis tenax*, **Thick-legged Hoverfly** *Syrirta pipiens*, **Yellow-belted Hoverfly** *Chrysotoxem bicinctum*, **Mourning Drone Fly** *Eristalis sepulchralis*, **Dark Hoverfly** *Pipiza noctiluca*, **Marmalade Hoverfly** *Episyrphus balteatus*, **Dwarf Dronefly** *Eristalis arbustorum*.

HYMENOPTERA

Parasitic Wasp *Gasteruption jaculator* – one recorded on hogweed on Verge 8. **Ichneumon**

Wasp *Amblyteles armatorius* – 5 insects recorded on nettle on Verge 8. **Ichneumon Wasp** *Lissonota setosa* – one female found on hedge at Horn Mill; this insect is an endoparasite of goat moth larvae which are found in alders and willows. **Hornet** *Vespa crabro* – 2 insects recorded from overnight moth trap at Eyebrook. **Solitary Bee** *Anthophora furcata* – one insect recorded at RWEgleton.

Honey Bee *Apis mellifera* – many insects recorded from a patch of marjoram in a Barrowden garden.

Garden Bumblebee *Bombus hortorum* – one insect observed at RWEgleton. **White-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lucorum* – two queen bees were noted emerging from dense vegetation at Horn Mill.

Red-tailed Bumblebee *Bombus lapidarius* – one male noted at RWEgleton, one insect recorded at Horn Mill, 2 insects observed on Verge 8, also observed on Verge 7. **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascuorum* – observed at Horn Mill, Verge 5 and RWEgleton. **Cuckoo Bumblebee** *Bombus rupestris* – one insect recorded at RWEgleton.

Cuckoo Bumblebee *Bombus vestalis* – one insect recorded at RWEgleton.

COLEOPTERA

Ground Beetle *Notiophilus biguttatus* – one insect found on bramble at Horn Mill. **Soldier Beetle** *Rhagonycha fulva* – 5 insects recorded at RWEgleton, one noted on Verge 8. **14-spot Ladybird** *Propylea 14-punctata* – 2 insects recorded at Horn Mill. **Flower Beetle** *Oulema melanopus* – this beetle with bright metallic colouring was regularly noted in long grass at Horn Mill. **Lily Beetle** *Lilioceris lili* – lily beetle and larva were noted in garden at Oakham.

OTHER ARTHROPODS

Slugs and Snails *Gastropoda*

Banded Snail *Cepaea sp.* – many were recorded from recently cut verge at Barrowden. **Slug** *Arion ater* – ‘too many to count’ of both red and black varieties were noted on recently cut roadside verges at Barrowden.

Many thanks for records and photographs to the following: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, J Crosby, H Ellis, C Gallimore, M Grimes, R & J Harvey, A Lambert, R Lemmon, T Newton, D Perril, G & L Worrall.

GLOW-WORM NOTES compiled by Linda Worrall

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Year till September 2012

Larvae hatched in summer 2010 were due to pupate in summer 2012, and have faced particularly challenging weather during their lifetime. The weather in their first three months was fairly 'normal', but late November and December were exceptionally cold with snow, then 2011 had a long dry spring and a wet summer, followed by drought conditions through to April 2012, punctuated by bitter winter weather. From April almost to the end of July this year it rained, almost incessantly and very heavily, but August was relatively 'normal'. Snails, food for glow-worm larvae, also had hard times in the long dry months and cold spells. Breath was bated to find out what would happen.

The nation-wide glow-worm web site,

www.glowworms.org.uk,

run by Robin Scagell, reported in early September as follows:

'The terrible weather earlier in the year does not seem to have put the glow-worms off, but until the end of July reports were down on last year, which was probably due to fewer people taking summer evening walks than lack of glow-worms. In addition, in wet weather the females do not usually climb so far up stems, so are harder to see.'

Our records show that sightings and participants were fewer than usual, and that rain, high grass and slippery mud-ridden sites were definitely involved. The website further reports, however, that by early September more reports had been received than by the same date last year. We can't match that, but it's good when together humans and glow-worms provide such a surprise!

The website also notes that 'wet weather and good numbers of snails would help larvae find ample food. But a drought in autumn could cause problems for newly hatched larvae because they won't find prey'. It must be hoped that larvae hatched last year fed well before the 2011/2012 drought, and that they will indeed delight us next year.

Barrowden, Verge 3, Luffenham Road SK 948005

In May the RCC verge-cutting regime was forced to halt because of extremely heavy rain, and recommenced in early to mid June, which may have compromised glows. By September, verges

had not been cut again. Fields behind east and west verges had wheat.

13.6: None seen, and none reported later.

7.8: In daylight, checked for snails – grass high, but where vehicles had gone onto verges, in flattened grass there were clusters of small snails.

Barrowden, Verge 17, Back Road SK 945003

Parish Council organised village grass cutters, and verges were not cut during June and July. Field behind north verge with Drift Close houses had wheat, next field to west had rape. Fields behind south verge: horse pasture.

North Verge

12.6: Snails reported.

13.6: 1 glow near field entrance. Found by the Rutland Red Hatters, who had met that night at Barrowden for a glow-worm foray, and I was invited to put them in the picture. They were delighted to find any. One of this women's group, a Rutland County Councillor, vowed to emphasise the importance and value of the glow-worm verge-cutting regime to Highways.

17.6: 1 on verge and 2 in field entrance.

7.8: In daylight, checked for snails – grass high on verge but where vehicles had overrun there were a few small snails, and two were in field entrance.

Note: No glows found on south verge.

Householder in Drift Close behind north verge had looked for glows outside her house where she saw one last year, but found none.

Burley Woods SK 983098

Several attempts to visit were made by the usual intrepid group, but mud and torrential rain intervened.

Ketton Quarry Nature Reserve, Pit Lane SK 978053

7.7: A total of 13 glows were seen, a good result considering conditions, including:

1 in carpark next to gate into reserve

3 in base of longish vegetation in flat area just through carpark gate

5 scattered round the geology trail area

3 in first area of The Valley in base of quite long grass.

The weather was rather cool by 11.00 pm and the grass wet from earlier rain. Vegetation was quite long as a result of much rain, particularly in the first section of The Valley. A few small snails were seen.

Clipsham Quarry SK 892156

12.7: 4 around Stable block; none otherwise.

Essendine, Verge 5 and mainline cutting top TF 943129

26.6: None seen. Grass very high.

14.7: 2 seen. Grass exceptionally high, so more could have been present.

OUTSIDE RUTLAND

Leicestershire, Charnwood Lodge SK 458155

20.6: 21 were seen, most being mated, after a bat count. What a good result!

Thanks to: M Allsopp, N Bailey, A Chiverton, G Chiverton, R Follows, J Harris, J Harvey, J Myers, B Parker, D Parker, P Rudkin, Rutland Red Hatters, L Worrall, and Robin Scagell at the glow-worm website www.glowworms.org.uk

Northamptonshire, Barnack Hills and Holes NNR TF 075046

Late June: 6 seen with Warden on guided walk.

Lancashire

Fireflies in a County Park? The glow-worm website reports a photograph, but none found in subsequent searches. It would have been the first ever sighting of a live firefly in the UK.

Welwyn Garden City and Milton Keynes

The glow-worm website reports several people who say they have spotted glow-worms in these places for the first time this year, although they themselves have lived locally for many years. So there is hope!

MAMMAL REPORT compiled by Linda Biddle

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July/August 2012

An **Otter** was seen briefly but clearly at Leighfield fishponds in July, and one was regularly seen by fishermen below Barnsdale Hill at Rutland water. Evidence of the presence of otters was also found at RW Nature Reserve in July and August, spraint on mink rafts near Buzzard hide and at Burley fish ponds, and pad marks in mud in Dog Kennel Field.

Following release of **Water Voles** in June, there were signs of water voles in many parts of RW Nature Reserve. Droppings and chewed vegetation were seen in reed beds and along ditches and streams, showing an active population.

A **Mink** was seen at the end of August on the island at Banthorpe Gravel Pit, the first reported for several years, harassing a Coot, and later a Mute Swan. Fortunately this is well to the east of the water voles, but please be aware and do send in any sighting or report you may have.

A **Badger** was found dead at the side of the A1 north of Tickencote, and signs of activity found at several local setts.

At Egleton a **Weasel** crossed the lane between Egleton and the Hambleton Peninsula road next to the cycle track. It looked very heavy, so had either had a large meal or was pregnant! Another crossed Barrowden Road in Ketton.

In July three well grown **Fox** cubs were observed playing on a bale stack near Banthorpe, and in August a cub was seen chasing a rabbit unsuccessfully in the same area. A fox was also seen in Burley Wood.

Grey Squirrels were seen in Willows near Burley Fish Ponds, Barnsdale Lodge, and at Ketton Quarry.

Only one **Rabbit** record card was received this month, from Verge 5 Pickworth Road, Essendine, but they are commonly seen on verges in many areas.

Brown hares are the most commonly recorded species this month, recorded from Woodhead Castle near Pickworth, Barrowden allotments, five seen on separate occasions in Seaton Road Barrowden, two road victims on Barrowden Road Ketton, and at RW a large leveret running along the perimeter track next to the wet meadow, Lagoon 1, and another south of Lax Hill.

Three **Field mice** and a **Bank Vole** were trapped at RW close to Egleton Centre, and 18 **Short-tailed Voles**, some juvenile, were counted at Stocken prison, when grass was cut after a break of 3 months! Fresh molehills were observed close to the bridge at Burley Fish ponds.

In July three **Hedgehogs** were seen most evenings feeding on food put out for them at Stocken Hall. Two or three were seen most evenings in the Worrall's garden, even in wet weather. At the end of the month an adult and baby were feeding, and the following night the baby was waiting for his (her?) tea at 9.40 pm, and was provided with a handful of nuts, which it nibbled for ten minutes and disappeared. The next night 2 were seen, and then a baby appeared under the carport. Later

in August a small one was seen again feeding on nuts, and hedgehogs were seen every night. Others were seen at Ketton and Egleton, and three dead ones found, one in the garden at Barrowden, two by the roadside on the A6121 into Ketton.

A **Roe Deer** was seen near Fishponds cottage, crossing the Hambleton peninsula road in July.

At Banthorpe two young **Fallow** bucks were seen, one lame in the left foreleg. Fallow deer are reported from Little Haw, Burley and Pickworth woods, but in smaller numbers than usual. This is partly due to disturbance, but the wet weather in the spring and summer has caused a flush of growth, so that animals are more difficult to see among the vegetation. No fallow were reported at all from Clipsham Wood in July and August.

A **Muntjac** was observed in July at RW, swimming across Lagoon 1. Muntjac were also seen in July in Burley Wood, and at the northern edge of Tunnely Wood. In August 2 adults and 3 fawns were seen at Burley Wood, and an adult was standing in the road by a copse between Wing and Morcott.

Thank you to all recorders: A J Biddle, T Caldicott, J Crosby, Dr Gallimore, J Harris, P & J Harrison, R Lemmon, L Park, T Mitcham, 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 sending in your records.

Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Recording Conference 2013

This event will be held on Saturday 16th February 2013, at the Rothley Centre, Mountsorrel Lane, Rothley, Leicestershire (close to the village centre). The programme allows for long tea and lunch breaks so that those attending have plenty of time to view the various stands and talk to others. Also, as lunch is **not** provided, a long break will allow for those who do not bring their own food to venture out to the nearby fish and chip and other shops/pubs. The event is free, but those wishing to attend must book a place. Contact Nathalie Cossa at the Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust either by email at rc@lrwt.org.uk or telephone 0116 2728853.

PROGRAMME

10.00am	Welcome	Michael Jeeves
10.10am	Charnwood Lodge bat surveys	Nathalie Cossa
10.30am	Distribution and range changes of hoverflies	John Showers
10.50am	The VC55 Group of the Botanical Society of the British Isles	Louise Marsh & Geoffrey Hall
11.10am	Tea/coffee	
11.40am	Recent lichen records	Ivan Pedley
12.00noon	Survey work for the new dragonfly atlas	Ian Merrill
12.20am	The use of transects to assess and monitor bird populations in Leicestershire and Rutland	Michael Jeeves
12.40pm	Lunch (bring your own sandwiches or get some in the village)	
2.10pm	Stoughton pollinating insects project	Vicky Price
2.30pm	Leicestershire and Rutland Environmental Records Centre update	Sue Timms
2.45pm	Loughborough Naturalists' Club record cataloguing	Steve Woodward
3.00pm	Questions and comments	
3.30pm	Tea/coffee and a last chance to view stands and talk to others	
4.00pm	Finish	



(See also page 2.)