



Wildlife in the garden. Garden spider. C.Baxter.

CONTENTS

Diary Dates	2
Weather	3
Amphibians & Reptiles	3
Bats	4
Birds	4
Botany	8
Butterflies	8
Fungi	9
Mammals	10
Moths	11
Orthoptera	12
Plant galls	12
Insects & Invertebrates	13
Field Trips	14
RNHS Notices	15
RNHS contacts	16

WELCOME

A happy and healthy new year to you all! We hope that all of you are keeping well and surviving the unbelievably difficult situation that prevails at present. I know that several of you have already received a vaccination, so hopefully many more will do so in the coming weeks and months and things will start to improve.

We have found opportunities already, to get out and feel the faint stirrings of this New year. After a coldly sparkling and invigorating winter walk, when great tits were belling, fieldfares tchacking, redwings whistling, and hearing our first woodpecker of 2021 (sadly not in Rutland), it is impossible not to be hopeful for a return to life - perhaps not the same, but close to the life we knew just twelve months ago. The programme for the coming year may well be subject to change, but we are determined to go ahead and plan for better times.

This first edition of Fieldfare for 2021 has a taste of what we have been doing over our 'socially distanced' cold, dark months – getting some of those lovely Christmas books read that often get forgotten about once the better weather tempts us outside. Read John Rogers report in the Botany section. We are also auctioning a lovely book entitled "The Heritage of Rutland Water", By Sheila Sneath and Robert Ovens. This First edition, first printing book was donated to us by Richard and Linda Brown, former members and Butterfly recorders. Apart from the narrative telling us the story of the flooding of the Gwash valley in the 1970's, it also has plenty of interesting local history about the villages surrounding Rutland water. If you are interested in the History of Rutland, this is a book you must have on your bookshelf! The auction is open to all members. You just need to get in touch with me, or anyone on the committee who will pass on your bid. To give you an idea of where to pitch your offer – first editions have been selling for around £70.00 – second for about£35.00. The highest offer will secure the copy and we will publish the result in the next Fieldfare.

We look forward to seeing you – either in the flesh, or virtually, during the coming months.

Linda Biddle, RNHS Chair

MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS REMINDER



For those who have yet to pay their subscriptions for 2021, November's Fieldfare came with a membership form with details of how to pay. If you have lost or misplaced the form, here is a reminder.

Send a cheque payable to RNHS to Margaret Conner, Membership secretary, 24 Burrough road, Somerby, Melton Mowbray, LE14 2PP

Pay directly into the RNHS bank account with a bank transfer. Account number is 13123968, sort code 77-15-19. Account

name is Rutland Natural History Society. Please include your name in the reference field and send an email to rnhsmembers@gmail.com to let Margaret know you have done it.

Standing order. You can set this up so that payment will be made automatically each year.

Unfortunately, if we don't receive your payment, your membership will expire, and this will be your last Fieldfare. Thank you to those members who have already paid.

Margaret Conner Treasurer/membership

DIARY DATES



I hope that more of you will be able to join us for the zoom presentation evenings. We invited the Rutland Water volunteers to join us at the last one and had a record number of attendees. If you would like to attend but are put off by the technology, do please contact one of the committee members (details on back cover of Fieldfare), so that we can help you. All you need is a computer and an internet connection. If your computer does not have a camera, you should still be able to hear and see the proceedings, even though we will not be able to see you!

RNHS Indoor Evening Meetings

Tuesday 2nd February. 7.30pm – 9.30pm
Spiders of Leicestershire and Rutland. Presented by Dr. Alan Cann.

Please note that this is a Joint zoom meeting between RNHS and LRWT (Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife group) Charnwood local group. You will need to book your place in advance on LRWT.org.uk/online-talks or just go to their website to book and you will then receive a link to the meeting. As this will be a joint meeting – there will be no introduction from RNHS, and no notices given out this time.

Tuesday 2nd March. 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Zoom meeting. RNHS AGM followed by “Underwater filming. Birds of the water”. A talk by professional wildlife photographer, Jack Perks. This evening was postponed from last October when Jack was unable to join us because of a hastily re-arranged wedding to miss the lockdown! The AGM should be a speedy affair as the Chairman's report should be available to view before the meeting.

Tuesday 6th April. 7.30pm – 9.30pm. Zoom meeting. The history and development of Cossington meadows Nature Reserve. A talk by LRWT conservation officer, Chris Hill.

RNHS Outdoor Field Trips

Full details of all these events will appear on our website at www.rnhs.org.uk. If the weather is bad, check the website for changes.

February and March outdoor meetings have been cancelled due to restrictions.

Saturday 10th / Sunday 11th April (Date to be confirmed).

Society visit to RWNR. 10.00am. Venue either Egleton or Lyndon centres. For more information, contact either L. Biddle or L. Clark.

Friday 30th April 8.00pm.

Nightingales. Evening meeting at Grafham Water, led by Greg Belcher. Location: Mander car park MR TL144 670. Bring bat detectors and torches for return. Walk to the nightingales is about a mile. Contact L. Biddle or L. Clark if you wish to attend.

Other society meetings.

LRWT – Rutland group.

Tuesday 2nd February 7.30pm 9.30pm

Spiders of Leicestershire and Rutland. Dr Alan Cann. As mentioned above, this is a joint zoom meeting with RNHS, and you will need to book your place in advance on LRWT website.

Monday 15th March 7.30pm – 8.30pm. Zoom talk. Book in advance.

Bats in Rutland with Trust conservation officer, Nathalie Cossa.

Wednesday 28th April. 7.30pm – 8.30pm

The next 5 years for Nature conservation in Leicestershire and Rutland with LRWT CEO Tim Graham.

WEATHER

RECORDER Roy Lemmon

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU.

Telephone 01780 762051 E-mail: roy.lemmon@yahoo.co.uk

October 2020

Atmospheric pressure and wind. Generally, a low-pressure month except for the middle period 10th to 18th when it was high. The highest I recorded was 1025 mb on the 14th and 15th. The lowest was 979.5 mb on the 4th, during the progress of Storm Alex, during which the winds were NE-E but here at least, were not high. During the second half of the month winds were S-W.

Temperature. A relatively cool October, the overall mean, 10.87 °C, was 8th in the decade 2011–2020, as was the mean maximum, 14.31 °C. The mean minimum however was 5th in the same decade. The lowest overnight minimum was 4.6 °C on the 22nd–23rd, and the highest daytime maximum was 17.4 °C on the 19th, and a close second by 17 °C on the 30th.

Rain. A total here of 76.9 mm (3.03 inches) corresponds to 122% of my long-term mean of 30 years. Nationally, Storm Alex referred to above, presented the UK with its wettest day since records began in 1891. October 3rd had average rainfall across the country of 31.7 mm (1.25 inches) which beat the previous record on August 25th, 1986 of 29.8 mm.

November 2020

Atmospheric pressure and wind. A variable month in both parameters, the lowest atmospheric pressure was 991 mb on the 15th and the highest was 1038 mb on the 5th, and wind direction stabilised to S-W in the last 10 days of the month. On the 6th to the 9th inclusive, there was fog early in the day together with low wind speeds, and from the 15th to the 18th wind speeds were high.

Temperature. A warm November, the mean, 8.57 °C, was 3rd in the decade 2011–2020, after 2015 (9.42 °C) and 2011 (9.11 °C). The highest daytime maximum was 17.3 °C on the 1st, and the lowest overnight minimum was -0.6 °C on the 26th–27th; and there was one other air frost on the 4th–5th when the minimum was 0.0 °C.

Rain. A very dry month with a total of 23.6 mm (0.93 inches) recorded here, not only the lowest in the decade but also in the 30 years of my records for November. Anyone who has been out in the field may be surprised at this but evaporation is low at this time of year, and this month daily amounts of rain have been small. Rain was measured, i.e. occurred, on 20 days and this gives an average of 1.2 mm (0.05 inches) per day.

December 2020

Atmospheric pressure and wind. Overall a markedly low-pressure month, only on 3 days did the pressure go above 1019 mb, and the highest was 1030 mb on Christmas Day, but on Boxing Day it was down to 1017 mb. The lowest pressure of the month, 974 mb, occurred on both the 4th and the 28th. Wind direction was very variable except for the 10th - 21st when it was SE-SW, but apart from Storm Bella there were generally low wind speeds. The storm itself happened on the night of 26th–27th when there were gale force winds, but by 09.00 on the 27th they had subsided to between 2 and 3.4 mph.

Temperature. A cold December, the coldest in the decade 2011–2020, and the mean temperature, 4.36 °C, was just below that of December 2012 which was 4.53 °C. There were 10 air frosts, the lowest being -4.6 °C on the 5th–6th, and the end of the month had 6 air frosts in the last 8 days, the lowest being -4.0 °C on the 29th–30th.

Rain. A wet December with a total here of 123.9 mm (4.9 inches) which is 232% of my long-term mean of 30 years and is the wettest December I have ever recorded. There were 2 instances of heavy rainfall, the 3rd and 4th had 30.3 mm (1.2 inches) and the 23rd gave 52.0 mm (2.05 inches).

Annual rainfall 2020

At 599.6 mm (23.6 inches) this was 4th in the above decade and is 92% of my LTM of 30 years.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore

Waterdown, Brooke Road, Braunston, Rutland LE15 8UJ.

E-mail: chasgall@hotmail.com

October, November, December 2020

A very large Common Frog in Jenny Harris's compost bin on 18th October and toad sightings in Wing on 1st and 4th October by Tim Caldicott are the only records for this quarter.

BATS

RECORDER Jenny Harris

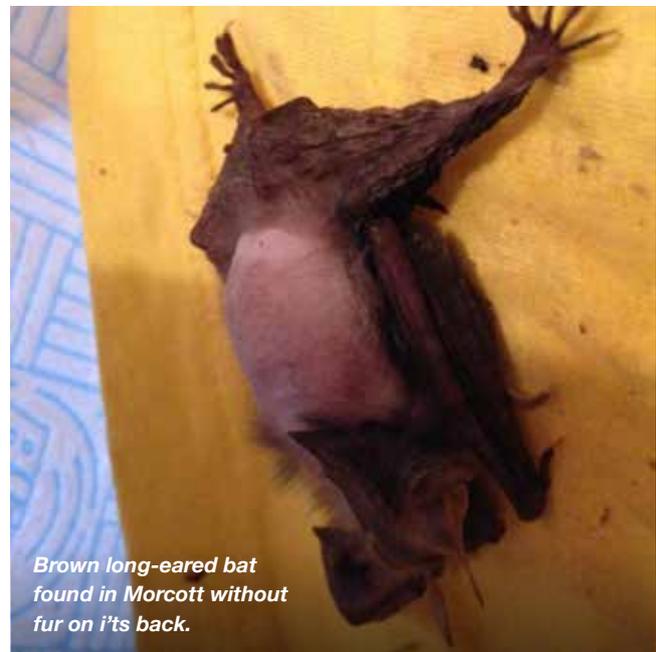
41 Woodland View, Oakham LE15 6EJ.

Telephone: 01572 755274 E-mail: jennyharris221@gmail.com

No records were received for the Rutland area during this period, which may be a good thing as it suggests our bats are safely tucked away in hibernation. As soon as the weather becomes cold enough for no insects to fly after sunset (around 6°C), bats go into hibernation, only emerging occasionally if milder conditions allow them to forage effectively. It is interesting to note that this year the International Union for the Conservation of Nature and Natural Habitats (IUCN) has told bat workers not to survey bat hibernation sites. This seems not to be for the safety of bat workers, but for the safety of bats, since there is a possibility of humans passing Covid-19 to bats as we peer closely to identify them.

You may be interested to hear an up-date on the Brown Long-eared bat found in Morcott that came to me on 6 September without any fur (See photo's below). After it had been in care for some time, I discovered that the lining material of its accommodation was heavily infested with biting mites and lice, although there seemed to be no sign of them on its little naked body. This is the probable cause of its fur loss, through scratching and perhaps shock. In the past I have used Frontline (for cats) to treat mites on bats, applied in tiny amounts. Unsure whether it could harm the bat to put Frontline on bare skin, I consulted Oakham Veterinary Hospital. Its wing membranes were by then patchily depigmented, a sign that subcutaneous mites were also at work. The vet and I sought advice from various experts and eventually treated 'Monty' with Frontline and, after an interval, an Avermectin-based insecticide, changing the box linings often to get rid of any mites remaining. On another occasion, concerned that 'Monty' was retaining fluid round his lower abdomen, I took him to the vet again. After careful examination, she weighed him: 15.9g! Turns out he was just very, very fat! How embarrassing.

If bats are disturbed, very thin or become dehydrated they may come out and fly in daylight. If you see a bat flying during the day do please send in a record. Happy batting in 2021.



Brown long-eared bat found in Morcott without fur on i'ts back.

BIRDS

Recorder Terry Mitcham

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

E-mail: joterpat@btinternet.com

As usual the final quarter of the year was dominated by increasing numbers of wildfowl and not just at the usual reservoir sites, with flooding in the Welland valley attracting large flocks of Wigeon and Teal, as they must have done before Eyebrook Reservoir and Rutland Water were constructed. Rutland Water attracted Common Scoter, Smew and a Red-breasted Merganser, plus an amazing nine Great Northern Divers – surely a record number for an inland

site! Raptors here, included several Marsh Harriers and three Peregrines, with Merlin and Peregrine at Quarry Farm.

The generally mild weather did not bring many birds in to gardens, but Blackcap, Marsh Tit and Nuthatch were recorded. On farmland, large flocks of Linnets frequented wild bird seed plots, while hawthorn berries fed many Fieldfares and Redwings. Will there be any left for any new-year Waxwings?

My thanks to the following for their records and good birding to everyone in 2021:

T.Appleton, D.&J.Ball, A.&L.Biddle, T.Caldicott, L.Clarke, T.Collins, A.&J.Comber, J.Davis, M.&G.Griffin, J.Harris, P.Langston, LROS, D.Masters, I.Misselbrook, T.Mitcham, B.Moore, J.W.Nourish, C.Park

October 2020

Highlights. Rutland Water had two Red-breasted Mergansers (4th), a Spoonbill (10th) and a Hawfinch (31st). There were Merlins at Martinsthorpe (9th - 25th) and Quarry Farm (19th). A Yellow-browed Warbler was at Oakham (19th - 22nd) and a Ring Ouzel flew over Martinsthorpe (11th).

Rutland Water. 96 Pink-footed Geese flew over (11th) with 11 Whooper Swans present on the same day. There were nine Common Scoters (4th), the first redhead Smew (28th) and 17 Goosanders at the dam (30th). The count (18th) produced 3160 Wigeons, 1531 Gadwalls, 769 Teals, 171 Pintails, 301 Shovelers, 2455 Tufted Ducks and 52 Goldeneyes. Also present were a Shag, 33 Great White Egrets, 117 Little Egrets and 117 Little Grebes. The Red-necked Grebe remained all month and there was a Slavonian Grebe (17th - 23rd). A Marsh Harrier was seen (1st). Waders included 192 Golden Plovers, four Ringed Plovers, eight Curlews, seven Black-tailed Godwits, a Jack Snipe (18th - 27th) and nine Green Sandpipers. A Yellow-legged Gull was present all month with a Black Tern (8th - 9th). A Hobby was seen (1st). Single Rock Pipits were seen on four dates between (5th - 25th) and 14 Crossbills flew south (9th).

Other Sites. Fort Henry Ponds had 89 Gadwalls and 44 Shovelers on (23rd) and 78 Teals (17th). There were three Pintails (17th, 23rd) and two Water Rails (10th). A Great White Egret flew over Martinsthorpe (7th). Exton Park had 49 Golden Plovers (17th) and a Green Sandpiper was spotted at Fort Henry Ponds (4th - 29th) with one over Martinsthorpe (24th) and an early Woodcock nearby (14th), plus one at Clipsham Park Wood (16th). A Little Owl called near Martinsthorpe (27th) and a Kingfisher was on the R.Chater there (13th). Final hirundine records at Martinsthorpe were House Martin (6th) and Swallow (20th). A Chiffchaff still sang at Manton (30th). Luffenham Airfield had an impressive 14 Stonechats (1st), with two at Exton Park (from 4th), Quarry Farm (5th) and one at Martinsthorpe (13th). A Redstart was at Martinsthorpe (5th - 7th), two Wheatears were at Luffenham Airfield (1st) and a late Yellow Wagtail flew over Martinsthorpe (5th). On 11th, saw 1400 Fieldfares and 4300 Redwings fly west at Martinsthorpe. A Brambling was at Normanton (5th) with two at Quarry Farm (7th) and one or two over Martinsthorpe and Wing (9th - 26th). 100 Siskins flew over Martinsthorpe on (6th and 7th) with a total of 70 Crossbills noted on nine dates between (6th - 26th), 186 Chaffinches (23rd) and 60 Lesser Redpolls (21st).

November 2020

Highlights. Eight Bewick's Swans were at Eyebrook Reservoir (29th). There were four Whooper Swans at Rutland Water (4th) with five over Exton Park (22nd). Great Northern Divers were at Rutland Water from (3rd) with seven from (23rd). A Bittern was at Eyebrook (12th). Two Shags remained to (24th). Three Avocets were at Egleton (from 8th). A Long-eared Owl was at an undisclosed site (17th) and a Common Redpoll was at Luffenham Airfield (11th).

Rutland Water. The count (15th) produced 3541 Wigeon,

805 Gadwall, 903 Teal, 122 Pintail, 160 Shoveler, 40 Red-crested Pochard, 2791 Tufted Ducks, two Scaup (three on 1st), a Common Scoter (ten on 30th), 87 Goldeneye and 21 Goosander. Four Mandarin Ducks were in south arm (30th). There were also 31 Little Egrets and 25 Great White Egrets. Waders included 1583 Lapwings, an impressive 1766 Golden Plover plus eight Dunlin, three Black-tailed Godwits (six on 22nd), ten Curlew and four Green Sandpipers. Marsh Harriers and Peregrine (two on 27th) were regular, as were Cetti's Warbler and Chiffchaff. There were Stonechat pairs at Manton Bay (21st) and south arm (30th) with two at Egleton (22nd).

Other Sites. A redhead Smew was at Eyebrook (28th) with a pair next day. Peak wildfowl counts at Fort Henry Ponds were 30 Shoveler (2nd), 109 Gadwall (21st), 66 Wigeon (28th) and 89 Teal (21st). A Red-crested Pochard and two Goldeneye were present (14th). Seven Goosander were at Banthorpe GP (29th). 12 Red Kites were seen near Pickworth (13th). A Green Sandpiper was at Fort Henry (2nd, 14th). A Woodcock spotted in Tunneley Wood (21st), with two at Manton (25th) and one at Martinsthorpe (27th). A Kittiwake was at Eyebrook (3rd). A Little Owl seen at Normanton (from 13th) and a drumming Great Spotted Woodpecker was a surprise near Uppingham (4th, 5th). A Kingfisher was at Rygate Lake, Exton Park (29th). Six Ravens were in Exton Park (19th), with Stonechats there all month, peaking at eight (22nd). One or two Blackcaps were at Manton (9th-25th) and a male was in an Oakham garden (26th). 200 Linnets were at Quarry Farm (20th). Up to four Bramblings were in the Manton/Martinthorpe area on six dates between (6th - 28th) and single Crossbills flew over on (5th, 6th, 9th). 35 Lesser Redpolls were over Manton (23rd) with 25 in Tunneley Wood (29th).

December 2020

Highlights. Rutland Water saw a Red-breasted Merganser (5th-7th), nine Great Northern Divers (23rd) and two Bitterns (6th). A Hawfinch was seen in Pickworth Great Wood (27th).

Rutland Water. The count (13th) produced two Barnacle Geese (also 21st), 3131 Wigeon, 666 Gadwall, 893 Teal, 149 Pintail, 14 Red-crested Pochard, 2764 Tufted Ducks, 249 Goldeneye and 22 Goosander. Also present were 36 Little Egrets, 23 Great White Egrets, a Black-necked Grebe and eight Water Rails. Waders included an Oystercatcher, an impressive 2270 Lapwings, seven Dunlin and five Green Sandpipers. Smew were present all month, peaking at ten (26th). Up to five Marsh Harriers roosted at Egleton. Three Black-tailed Godwits were on Lyndon reserve (3rd). A Knot was seen in north arm (16th-24th). Up to three Peregrines hunted over Egleton reserve (11th). A pair of Ravens flew along the Dam (18th). Two Chiffchaffs were seen (12th). One or two Stonechats were at Egleton and Lyndon. A Brambling flew over Egleton (10th). There were 30 Siskins and 20 Lesser Redpolls at Egleton (13th). 125 Linnets were counted at Egleton (10th).

Other Sites. A Pink-footed Goose spotted at Eyebrook (6th) with 200 flying west over Oakham (22nd). Eyebrook had 13 White-fronted Geese (1st) increasing to 23 (15th). Up to five Smew were seen at Eyebrook between (2nd) and (29th). At Fort Henry Ponds there were 77 Gadwall (12th), with a pair of Mandarin Ducks and two Goosander on Rygate Lake. Flooding in the Welland valley between Harringworth and Turtle Bridge attracted 25 Pintail (6th), up to 215 Teal (27th) and 1420 Wigeon (27th). 42 Golden Plovers were counted over Martinthorpe (18th). A Woodcock was spotted along Pickworth Drift (8th), with four in Tunneley Wood (27th) and 12

were flushed in Stoke Dry Wood (29th). A Green Sandpiper was found at Fort Henry Ponds (12th). A Barn Owl was seen at Wing (6th) and a Little Owl remained at Normanton all month, with one at Wing (29th, 30th). Tawny Owls were heard at Wing and Tunneley Wood. A Kingfisher was seen by the Mill Stream, Stamford (16th). Ravens were seen at Fort Henry, Tunneley Wood and Whitwell. A Peregrine identified at Quarry Farm (16th). Marsh Tits were regular at Tunneley feeders and a Wing garden. 25 Long-tailed Tits

was the largest flock reported, near Wing (31st). A Chiffchaff was near Wing (31st). Blackcaps were seen in gardens in Manton, Oakham and Wing and Stonechats remained in Exton Park all month, with six (5th) and a pair near Manton (26th-30th). A Grey Wagtail was regular at Fort Henry with others at Braunston and Oakham. A lone Tree Sparrow was at Eyebrook (8th). 140 Chaffinches were near Wing (29th). Singles Bramblings were noted over Gunthorpe and Manton between (2nd-26th).

October-December 2020 Wildfowl Counts

	Rutland Water 18.10.	Rutland Water 15.11.	Rutland Water 13.12.	FHP and Exton Park 17.10.	FHP and Exton Park 14.11.	FHP and Exton Park 12.12.
Canada Goose	605	324	535	36		
Barnacle Goose			2			
Greylag Goose	680	884	613	1		3
Mute Swan	379	405	392	13	12	13
Egyptian Goose	27	25	31	2		
Shelduck	6	11	13			
Mandarin Duck	1	3		2	2	2
Shoveler	301	160	81	38	18	9
Gadwall	1531	805	666	93	106	77
Wigeon	3160	3514	3131	13	30	58
Mallard	724	766	704	140	166	133
Pintail	171	122	149	3		
Teal	769	903	893	82	78	67
Red-crested Pochard		40	14		1	
Pochard	78	6	119			
Tufted Duck	2455	2791	2764	4	3	20
Scaup	1	2				
Common Scoter		1				
Goldeneye	52	87	249		2	
Smew			4			
Goosander	4	21	22			2
Great Northern Diver		3	6			
Little Grebe	117	147	163	1	3	8
Red-necked Grebe	1					
Great Crested Grebe	407	386	298			
Slavonian Grebe	1					
Black-necked Grebe			1			
Grey Heron	41	25	24			
Great White Egret	33	25	23			
Little Egret	58	31	36	1		1
Shag	1					
Cormorant	600	350	263	1		1
Water Rail		2	8			
Moorhen	99	56	77	44	26	16
Coot	2414	1648	2525	32	56	49
Kingfisher	2					
TOTAL	14718	13543	13786	506	505	459

	EBR 18.10	Banthorpe GP 16.10.	Banthorpe GP 13.11.	Banthorpe GP 11.12.	Holywell Lake 19.10.	Holywell Lake 12.11.	Holywell Lake 14.12.
Canada Goose	47				6	13	43
Greylag Goose	324			12			15
Mute Swan	183	4	3	3	2		
Mandarin Duck				1			
Shoveler	22						
Gadwall	124					6	10
Wigeon	364				32	72	78
Mallard	142	13	40	68	89	66	114
Pintail	19						
Teal	125	20	35	10		12	16
Pochard	120						
Tufted Duck	253		1	2	11	43	25
Goldeneye	2						
Little Grebe	1				16	19	31
Great Crested Grebe	85						
Grey Heron	2	1		1		2	1
Little Egret			1		1	1	2
Cormorant	23	3			1	2	3
Moorhen		3	1		18	18	22
Coot	888	1					1
Kingfisher		1			1		
TOTAL	2373	46	81	98	177	254	361



Smew at Eyebrook reservoir. C. Baxter

BOTANY

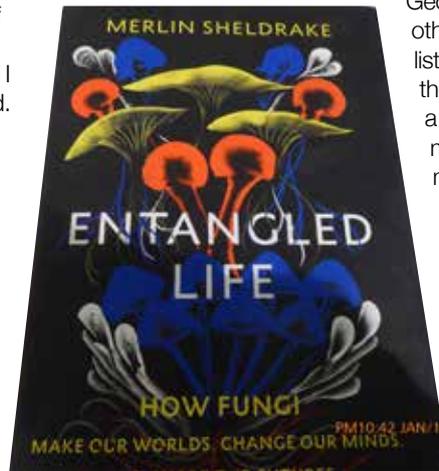
RECORDER John Rodgers

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

E-mail: rnhsbotanyrecord@gmail.com

Apart from wishing everybody a Happy and Healthy New Year there is little to report. There have not been any records received since the last Fieldfare, until this last week when several of us went out to take part in the BSBI New Year Plant Hunt. In view of the situation regarding Covid-19, I decided not to organise a formal outing but several people, either in small groups or singly, took a walk to see what plants they could find which were in flower. A total of 21 species turned up in Rutland and a further 9 in Lincolnshire, all of which were reported to BSBI. The national results will be available in a few months and I will report on these when they are published.

In the absence of collating records, I have been reading. One quite fascinating book which I borrowed electronically from the Rutland Library, was **Chasing the Ghost by Peter Marren**. He decided to celebrate reaching 50, by trying to find the 50 or so plants growing in the British Isles that he had not yet found, out of a total of some 1400 in the British Flora. The title refers to the Ghost Orchid, which was part of the quest. It isn't much of a flower, being pale and hidden in leaf litter, but with help from botanist friends around the country he set off, sometimes in atrocious weather and sometimes at the risk to his own life to reach his goal. I very much enjoyed reading this book, but I will leave it to you to discover the outcome. Another book which I found interesting and revelatory is **Entangled Life by Merlin Sheldrake** who writes about fungi



and their place in the world (Several of us have now read this fascinating book). We do not often think about fungi, but our lives would be quite different if they didn't exist; indeed, we probably wouldn't be here!

There are also interesting talks to be found on the web. Naturespot have some good videos on their Facebook pages.

There is a good talk about urban flowers by Geoffrey Hall, with another about ferns, plus others about galls and fungi. Youtube also lists some of these talks if you have missed them. Look in their search engine. BSBI have a series of talks which you can find via their main website. These are available to non-members, and the various local Wildlife Trusts have similar videos. Slightly different but just as interesting, is the video of the creation of a wildflower meadow on part of the back lawn in King's College Cambridge. This can be found on YouTube. One little revelation about the use of the sort of records we collect, is a book Jan has just read called *Traces*. This is about the work of a forensic scientist who studies and identifies plant pollens. With her knowledge of habitats, she can say

where somebody has been. In helping the police discover where a body was hidden, she identified a rare plant pollen on the suspect's clothing and with the help of the BSBI distribution maps told them where to look. Not a usual use of the Plant Atlas but a valuable one!

BUTTERFLIES

RECORDER Martin Quinlan

4 Bayley Close, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9TG

Telephone: 01572 820337

As the year draws to a close these final 3 months offer increasingly fewer opportunities to spot butterflies. They can still be seen on dry sunny days, with some seeking places in which to hibernate. Unfortunately, October was so wet that sightings were much reduced. There were 29 days out of 31 with rain in Uppingham! November and December were both cool and wet too. However, 7 species were recorded.

October

A male BRIMSTONE was seen by Jenny Harris at Ketton Quarry (KQ) on the late date of 28 October. The final record for this species this year. There were a few records of RED ADMIRAL with 3 in Barnsdale Gardens on 7 October and another at KQ on 22 October. The final record of the year for COMMA was in Barrow on 30 October and the last SPECKLED WOOD was also in Barrow on 8 October yet again in Jane and Duncan Ball's garden.

November

A SMALL COPPER was found by Peter Scott in his garden on 4 November in Oakham. This final record is very late and is probably a third brood, or even possibly a fourth brood adult. The final records of RED ADMIRAL were both in Barrow on 6 and 17 November. There was a PEACOCK at Wing on 23 November.

December

The only record of SMALL TORTOISESHELL was one in our house in Uppingham on 25 December seeking a hibernation spot. A lovely Christmas Day sighting! There were two sightings of PEACOCK at 2 sites in Uppingham on 14th and 20th December.

Thanks to the following for their records: - Duncan and Jane Ball, Carolyn Baxter, Linda Clarke, Jenny Harris, David Needham and Peter Scott.

This is the first fungi report since Linda Worrall gave up the recorders job. Linda Clark, with Carolyn Baxter as support, have taken up the task, not because of any knowledge of Mycology, but because we feel it important to keep up the records of this fascinating Kingdom in Rutland.

We are now discovering just how difficult it is to identify all the species we have found over the last few months and are treating it as a huge (but enjoyable) new learning exercise. I'm confident that in time and with help, we will improve our identification skills!

Because of the difficult situation we found ourselves in, last year, the normal avenues for help and expertise from experienced mycologists have been closed to us, so we have relied on the literature, field guides, Naturespot and other members of RNHS to guide us in matters of identification. The records below are therefore sparse and from limited areas but are the ones (from the many we found) we can be confident we have correctly identified.

Just a couple of things we have learned so far and which might also help you with future recording; Rusts are Basidiomycetes and Mildews are members of the Ascomycota but both are to be found in the fungal Kingdom. Rusts and Mildews affect a wide range of plants and are host specific. Powdery Mildews appear as a white powder on the surface of leaves. **Roy Lemmon is our expert on rusts and mildews.** Roy's records are too numerous to list here so instead the areas he surveyed during this quarter along with a few species which are mentioned in the text below. All Roy's records have been entered onto a spread sheet and will be retained.

Hopefully, as more of our members get to know that RNHS fungi recording is now back in operation, the records and photos of fungi, including the rusts and mildews, will come pouring in and we can again build up our data base.

Hambleton Woods (Fungal foray October 9th, 2020.

Leader Roy Lemmon). Jelly Ear, *Auricularia auricula-judae* mainly on dead ash branches. Common Coral Spot *Nectria cinabarina*. Beech barkspot *Diatrype disciformis*. Witches' Butter *Exidia glandulosa*. A beautiful little all white fungus was found on a broken branch, a *Mycena* sp. which we thought was a Frosty Bonnet but Naturespot was unable to verify this specimen. Candlesnuff Fungus *Xylaria hypoxylon* was present in several places and easily identifiable. Hairy Curtain crust *Stereum hirsutum* is a pretty little fungus found in overlapping tiers on vegetative debris and is quite hairy to the touch. A last find was a Yellow Fieldcap. *Bolbitis titubans* on the grass verge opposite Old Hambleton Hall.

Roy identified Common Bramble rust, powdery mildew on Herb Robert and a rust on Ground Ivy.

Pilton Small Wood. (26.12) Black Witches' Butter *Exidia glandulosa*. A specimen of Earthstar *Geastrum triplex* showed beautifully.

Uppingham Arboretum. 2 large brackets of *Ganoderma* sp. this bracket fungus was found near the root of a cut down Beech tree, was densely porous, reddish brown on top and white on fertile side. Beech woodwort *Hypoxylon fragiforme*. Warty cylindrical masses found on a trunk of a fallen beech tree, lots of fungi found in succession over months. Shaggy inkcap *Coprinus comatus*.

Wardley Woods. (30.10) Club foot fungus *Ampulloclitocybe clavicles*, numerous specimens were found in different growth stages near conifer trees. Candlesnuff Fungus. Jelly ear. *Junghuhnia nitida* a crust fungus with obvious pores a white sterile margin and a beige - pink centre.

Wing private wood. This wood is a wonderful area that was initially planted with Norway Spruce for a crop of Christmas trees. The present owners have gradually replaced the Spruce with mixed deciduous trees and the odd Scots pine, while gradually felling all but a few of the Spruce. The boundaries of the wood have remains of ancient hedgerow where a Pipe Club Fungus *Macrotyphula fistulosa* was discovered. Also present were Crystal Brain Fungus *Exidia nucleata*



Photo by
Linda Clark

Pipe Club, *Macrotyphula fistulosa*, Wing Wood, 8.10.20.

Elder Whitewash *Hypodontia sambuci*, Coral Spot *Nectria cinabarina*, Candlesnuff *Xylaria hypoxylon*, Plums and Custard *Tricholomopsis rutilans* a couple of fruiting bodies on a coniferous stump. Variable Oysterling *Crepidotus variabilis*, Shaggy Parasol *Chlorophyllum rhacodes*. This wood contained many *Mycena* species and other mysterious fruiting bodies which have been put into the pending ID file.

Priors Coppice. Common Puffball *Lycoperdon perlatum*, Candlesnuff, King Alfreds cakes, Turkey Tail *Trametes versicolor*, Variable Oysterling, Elder Whitewash, Common Bonnet *Mycena galericulata*. (A Photo was sent to Naturespot and was as considered to be correctly identified)

Lyndon Reserve. A small log pile contained at least 7 different species of fungi only two of which could be confidently identified Turkey Tail and Jelly Ears. Pin head fungi, bracket and a crust like fungus were also noted on the same log pile. King Alfreds cakes (aka Cramp Balls), Coral Spot, Candlesnuff, Variable Oysterling we're present throughout the reserve. A Giant Polypore *Meipilus giganteus* (27.12) was found near

Gibbets Copse at the base of a large deciduous tree adjacent to the track, the identification of this has yet to be confirmed but Linda Clark is (almost) certain this is a correct ID.

Bloody Oaks Quarry. Rust *Puccinia glechomatis* this was found parasitising Ground Ivy.

Gardens. Wing. Meadow Waxcap *Hygrocybe pratensis* and Parrot Waxcap *Hygrocybe psittacona* (16.11) on a large grassy area. Brown Rollrim *Paxillus involutus* (9.10) in grass managed as a 'meadow' area. Large cluster of Glistening Ink Caps *Coprinellus micraceus*. (21.10) in earth. Snowy Waxcap. *Hygrocybe virginia* (5.12) numerous fruiting bodies in Barrowden on a patch of privately owned relict grassland. Uppingham garden had Pleated Inkcap *Parasola plicatilis* (18.10) 3 fruiting bodies.

Verges, Fields other areas. Shaggy Inkcaps *Coprinus comatus* around Wing (18.10). Common Inkcap *Coprinopsis atramentaria* (11.12) found at Uppingham school rubbish dump 7 all in a row. Pleated Inkcap *Parasola plicatilis* (23.10) at Walk Farm Plantation. At Leighfield primary school under a hedge in grass a magnificent Yellow Stainer *Agaricus xanthodermus* (11.12). Orange Peel fungus *Aleutian aurantia* (13.12) found deep in a hedgerow under some very old Hawthorn trees. Snowy Waxcaps reported from Wing (13.12) and Walk Farm Plantation. Shaggy Parasol *Chlorophyllum rhacodes* (5.11) on Ryhall Heath. Field mushroom *Agaricus campestris* (9.11) in a ring at Exton. Common Earthball *Scleroderma citrinum* (5.10) x3 specimens on the playing field in Wing. Honey Fungus *Armillaria mellea* (4.10) large group on a grass verge beneath a very large Beech tree in Wing village. A Birch Brittle Gill *Russula betularum* and a Saffron Milkcap *Lactarius deliciosus* (28.11) in leaf litter under a large Beech tree to the east of Wing. In a Wing field grazed by sheep were 6 Wood Blewits *Lepista nuda*. The last three records were submitted to Naturespot and accepted as 'plausible'.

Fresh Jelly ear on fallen Elder wood and Turkey Tail (15.12) on unidentified fallen wood both at Fox covert Barrowden Road Ketton.

Barrowden Road Ketton powdery Mildews (Ascomycetes) (4.11.) - *Erysiphe urticae* found on Nettle, *Golovinomyces artemisiae* on Mugwort and *Neoerysiphe galeopsidis* Black Horehound. Rusts (Basidiomycetes) (4.11.) *Phragmidium bulbosum* and *P. violaceum* on Bramble, *P. mucronatum* on Dog rose, *Puccinia Glechomatis* on Ground Ivy. *P. malvacearum* on Common Mallow, *P. tanacetii* on Mugwort. and *Tranzschelia pruni-spinosae* on Sloe.



Other sites surveyed for Rusts and Mildews records have been entered on a spreadsheet were:

Mounts Lodge Bridleway Pickworth.(10.11)
Pickworth Bridleway to Christians Lodge (17.11)
Hereward Way Empingham (24.11)

Linda Clark and Carolyn Baxter would like to thank Roy Lemmon, Linda Biddle, Ian Day, Jayne Walker, Rose and John Dejardin, Naturespot/Ben Devine and last but not least Linda Worrall.

MAMMALS

RECORDER Linda Biddle

21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford PE9 1BH.
Tel: 01780 762108 Email: ajbiddle21@talktalk.net

The final report for 2020 has fewer records than normal but thank you for sending in your reports. They are even more valuable than usual this season.

Unable to visit RWNr for much of the year, at the beginning of October, Anthony and I set out to rescue the rafts that had been neglected for so long. We made weekly visits to try and find them under the overgrowth, and to renovate the mink rafts, some of which needed repairs, while most needed new clay. It was hard and heavy work fighting through the vegetation to find and drag out the rafts, then replacing the clay which must be carried by hand, after being mixed up in the bucket at VTC. Of course, we didn't get far before our activities were stopped by further lockdown. We did manage to locate and set up all the mink rafts, but some didn't get a return trip to see whether the otters had been by. Luckily, we know from observations from some of you and RW staff that the otters are in good health, on one occasion

in mid-October a group of 4 was seen - an adult with 3 cubs, and in December we had 2 reports of otters seen by members. One was seen hunting along channels at the edge of reedbeds to the N of lagoon 3, and another by the bund in N arm close to Fishponds. On the mink rafts we did find evidence of prints and spraint at Fishponds cottage, the old Burley fishponds, Heron Bay and Lyndon.

The water vole rafts had to be similarly rescued from the water - even more difficult to find at only 30cm square in almost a whole year's growth. Many were located and released, but unfortunately, we didn't have chance to survey them, so we need to have another attempt this spring. Droppings and tiny footprints were seen on mink rafts at Badger Hide channel and Wet Meadow, so we know the voles are still there!

Badger setts are active in many parts of Rutland, and diggings are apparent alongside paths here and there.



Photo by L Biddle

Stoats have been seen at Greetham valley golf club and Martinsthorpe, and Weasels at Manton Bay and Quarry farm Stamford. There were no reports of foxes, I think for the first time. Hedgehogs are reported from Barrow, from gardens in Oakham, and sadly one small one died after an attempted rescue from Cottesmore. It is the season when molehills become very apparent, and they have been recorded in Barrow, Cottesmore, Uppingham and Wardley woods. Brown hares are recorded at Pickworth, Greetham, Prior's Coppice and Empingham, and rabbits are thriving near Uppingham, Quarry farm Stamford, Greetham valley and Wing, while one was spotted suffering from myxomatosis at RWNR. A Bank Vole has put in regular visits to the patio at The Willows Barrow, feeding under the bird feeder in all three months.

The biggest list of recordings this month, strangely, are Fallow Deer. They are present in small numbers at Exton, Pickworth and Barnsdale, and a highlight of my autumn was hearing loud rutting roars in Pickworth wood. I spent some time listening to them while hunting our two runaway dogs and wandering miles through the woodland! Muntjac were seen at Wing, Stoke Dry woods, Uppingham and Pickworth. There were no reports of Roe deer this month but reports recently received from earlier this year place them in Tunnely and George Henry woods.

Thankyou all for your reports: D & J Ball, C Baxter, A Biddle, T Caldecott, L & D Clark, C Gallimore, M Grimes, P Langstone, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, S & D Smalley.

MOTHS

RECORDER Paul Bennett

90 Kesteven Rd, Stamford PE9 1SR. Telephone: 01780 754569
E-mail: p.bennett569@btinternet.com

October, November, December 2020

Late autumn is a time of year when only a relatively small number of species are on the wing and this combined with unsettled weather and lockdown restrictions at Rutland Water has meant limited opportunity for night-time trapping with just two sessions at Bloody Oaks Nature Reserve and one at Lyndon Centre, all held in October. Lyndon though, did produce a respectable list with 48 moths of 15 species on the 18th October from the two traps that were put out. Over half of these were Green-brindled Crescent and species of November Moth although the appearances of Feathered Thorn, Merveille du Jour and Spruce Carpet are more occasional, albeit with the latter moth now rapidly expanding nationwide with the growth in conifer plantations. The Bloody Oaks trap yielded 12 moths of 5 species on 16th October, including a Scarce Umber, while 2 Dark Chestnuts were recorded there on 22nd October which proved to be the last trap of this very strange year.

Three reports were received of other moths. A Red Underwing was found dead and probably for some time in a member's garage in Uppingham. The larva of a Ruby Tiger was seen crossing the Hambleton Peninsula road on 17th

November, and it was pleasing to note that Hummingbird Hawk-moths were still being seen regularly in a Manton Garden until mid-October!

Other reports that were sent in were of leaf miner moths. Mines can be seen throughout the year, but October is one of the best months to find them. They are formed when the larva of either a micro moth, or a species of Diptera makes an incision into a leaf and then feeds on the inside of the leaf. These larvae are obviously very tiny (as are the fully mature moths which only rarely in these types of species, come to light) but this method of feeding not only changes the colouration of the leaf but also the direction (if any) the larva takes, and where in the leaf it commences its feeding. This can, with the assistance of miner keys narrow the larva down to a particular species, although sometimes this can only be done on the grounds of probability! Mines nevertheless have been accepted by the county recorder from Apple, Bramble, Field Maple, Hawthorn, Hazel and Holm Oak with the vast majority of these being of either Stigmella or Phyllonorycter species.

Thank you to the following for their records: - C Baxter, P Bennett, T Caldicott, Dr C Gallimore, M Grimes."

ORTHOPTERA

RECORDER Phil Rudkin

10 Brooke Avenue, Stamford, PE9 2RU. Telephone: 01780 762998

E-mail: phil.rudkin@talktalk.net

October 2020

There was only one report in October, the very last for this season from the ever-dependable Tim Caldicott. Therefore, this is my last Orthoptera Report, for this Covid-ravaged year.

Species List

Crickets

Long-winged Conehead. *Conocephalus fuscus*

One adult found basking on a black plastic bag in pasture field, west of Martinsthorpe, a regular site for this species. SK871047. 23.10.2020.

Thank you to Tim Caldicott, of Manton.

I am delighted to say that the Final Orthoptera Distribution Maps for Rutland, have been updated by Paul Willoughby Ellis, to the very present 2020. Paul was responsible for the provisional maps from 2016 and is key to their professional presentation.

There are 14 maps, and I have chosen two of these to give you a prelude of what to expect in the forthcoming RNHS Annual Report for 2020. (Please go to inside back page of the magazine to see maps).

The two maps are for Roesel's Bush Cricket and Long-winged Conehead, which are both colonisers in Rutland: Roesel's appearing on 1st August 2001, and Long-winged Conehead on 15th August 2003. Both were discovered at Egleton Reserve, Rutland Water in almost the same spot by two separate naturalists. This will give members an idea of how these two species have spread over the county.

PLANT GALLS

RECORDER Roy Lemmon

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU.

Telephone 01780 762051 E-mail: roy.lemmon@yahoo.co.uk

October 2020

Possibly the last gall report for 2020; there were entries from 7 sites, totalling 70 species. On the 1st the A1/A6121 (Tinwell Road) junction southbound was monitored, followed by the northbound on the 7th. These gave a total of 31 galls including an aphid gall on Grass-leaved Orache, which is new to us. The plant itself was a surprise to us as it is normally found at the seaside, but the A1 is heavily salted, of course.

The RNHS fungal foray in Hambleton Wood on the 9th resulted in 4 galls, 3 fungal and one a wasp gall on Oak, and CPW and Yew Tree Avenue on the 9th, essentially a follow-up to previous visits this year, came up with 15 galls.

A report from Wing on the 16th had 2 galls, including one on Red Valerian where the leaves are curled and turn red. This is brought about by a psyllid, a jumping plant louse, which was rare but widespread until 2010 but since then has become much more abundant. The final report for this month was on the 20th from Aldgate Ketton, which had 18 species including the one on Red Valerian.

Contributors were Linda Clark, Martin Grimes, Roy Lemmon and John Rodgers. Our thanks to them.

November 2020

My recent observation that October might have been the

end of the gall season for this year was confounded by the third warmest November in the decade 2011–2020. Not all trees had lost their leaves early in the month, hence Barrowden Road Ketton on the 4th had a mite gall on Elm, along with eight others on herbaceous plants. Mounts Lodge Pickworth on the 10th had five galls on Oak out of a total of 16 but after this all galls found were on herbs. A different part of Pickworth on the 17th, this time a bridleway leading southwards towards Christian's Lodge, had the so-called 'white rust' on Shepherds Purse, 4 real rusts, a mite gall on Cleavers and the Robin's Pincushion gall on Dogrose.

The last report of the month on the 24th from Hereward Way Empingham, with 5 rust galls, a midge gall on Cleavers, and again the Robin's Pincushion which this late in the season are past their best but easier to spot as the roses have lost the majority of their leaves. They still count.

Thanks to Martin Grimes and Roy Lemmon for their input.

December 2020

Just one report to round off the year, which seems to have been a better one for galls than for Homo Sapiens! Fort Henry on the 14th had a mite gall on Holm/Evergreen Oak, which is the only record from this substrate that we have.

Thanks to Martin Grimes and Roy Lemmon for their record.

INSECTS & INVERTEBRATES

RECORDER Jayne Walker

11 Vicars Close, off Empingham Road, Exton LE15 8 AW.
Telephone 01572 868624. E-mail Jayne8586@hotmail.com

Now the days and the nights have drawn in, there have been very few records of insect activity and hence limited records to report.

However, Martin Grimes has taken this opportunity to get to grips with the leaf miner species and has provided several records for our interest. I admit I have not had chance to identify these myself, but after looking through the records which are listed in the table below, I aim to get to grips with these in the coming year.

Leaf Miners in Rutland				
	Common Name (if any)	Scientific Name	Type	Host Plant
Oct-20	-	<i>Phytomyza spondylii/pastinacae agg</i>	Fly	Hogweed
	-	<i>Phytomyza chaerophyllii</i>	Fly	Cow Parsley
	-	<i>Calycomyza artemisiae</i>	Fly	Mugwort
	Apple Leaf Miner	<i>Lyonetia clerkella</i>	Moth	Sorbus sp
	Zig-zag Elm Sawfly	<i>Aproceros leucopoda</i>	Sawfly	Elm sp
	Small Beech Pigmy	<i>Stigmella tityrella</i>	Moth	Beech
	Scarce Maple Pgmy	<i>Stigmella aceris</i>	Moth	Field Maple
	-	<i>Acidia cognata</i>	Fly	Coltsfoot
	Golden Pigmy	<i>Stigmella aurella</i>	Moth	Bramble
	-	<i>Phytomyza ranunculi</i>	Fly	Creeping Buttercup
	-	<i>Phytomyza ilicis agg</i>	Fly	Holly
	-	<i>Fenella nigrita</i>	Sawfly	Creeping Cinquefoil
Nov-20		<i>Phytomyza lappae</i>	Fly	Lesser Burdock
		<i>Phytomyza glechomae</i>	Fly	Ground Ivy
		<i>Phytomyza chaerophyllii</i>	Fly	Cow Parsley
		<i>Amauromyza morionella</i>	Fly	Hedge Woundwort
		<i>Cerodontha iridis</i>	Fly	Stinking Iris
	Small Beech Pigmy	<i>Stigmella tityrella</i>	Moth	Beech
	Rose Leaf Miner	<i>Stigmella anomalella</i>	Moth	Rose
		<i>Phytomyza spondylii/pastinacae agg</i>	Fly	Hogweed
		<i>Phytomyza glechomae</i>	Fly	Ground Ivy
	European Alder Leaf Miner	<i>Fenusa dohrnii</i>	Sawfly	Alder
Nut Leaf Blister Moth	<i>Phyllonorycter coryli</i>	Moth	Hazel	
Dec-20	Garden Midget Moth	<i>Phyllonorycter messaniella</i>	Moth	Holm Oak

Martin has also provided this information on leaf miners which I have copied from the report he sent me.

Leafminers are species of beetles, flies, sawflies or moths that have larvae that eat the insides of foliage leaving different shaped patterns. There are over 1000 of these creatures in the UK and over 400 in Leicestershire and Rutland. Two websites were very helpful in the identification of the leaf miners, www.leafmines.co.uk and the experts at Nature Spot www.naturespot.org.uk.

The leaf miner's website is very useful. By selecting a plant, you are given a list of creatures that cause miners on that plant. By selecting specific creatures, you are given photographs of the miners and other helpful information. Nature Spot will confirm or correct any identification and has

further pictures, descriptions and maps of records in the two counties.

In addition, I have also received a record of an Ichneumon wasp recorded in November in a garden conservatory, with the following identification *Pimpla rufipes*. This was based on the following description and accompanied by photographs (which are always very welcome, so please keep sending them in), "15 mms long with an all-black body, black antennae, orange legs, darker distally and the ovipositor was short and straight". These tend to be seen more in autumn and the host larvae are Lepidoptera larvae.

I am grateful for all the information and records that everyone has sent in this year and I would like to thank Charles Gallimore and Martin Grimes who have submitted records for this autumn.

FIELD TRIPS

2021 Chairman's Annual Report on 2020

We hope that 2020 was a year like no other! It began with our usual high hopes and plans to carry out surveys, visits and activities in nature and conservation. It very soon became clear that our plans would have to be postponed -it seemed for just a few months. Now, still in the grip of the Covid19 pandemic, we know that was an unrealistic idea, so our society has had to adapt.

In this isolating and difficult situation, we have adopted the use of technology to keep in touch with you all. While this has been valuable and effective for those of us who are able to access the internet, we are acutely aware that some members are not in that position, and unfortunately are missing many of our evening Zoom presentations and news bulletins. This makes Fieldfare a very important contact and source of information for members who most need it. We hope that these members will not feel neglected or isolated and are aware that the telephone is also available to you if you want to speak to any of us. It is even more important that this year, we express our fervent thanks to all members of the committee who have rallied round to make the best of things and in particular, I wish to thank Linda Clark for her valiant effort producing a regular on-line bulletin, and her support as secretary. Thanks also to Peter Scott, who has had an extra load looking after information on the website and making sure that members receive information and invitations to meetings by email. New committee members unfortunately have not been able to meet in person, but have made useful contributions to our online committee meetings.

Fieldfare has been a vital messenger to you all, so tremendous thanks are due to Carolyn Baxter, who has remained apparently calm while getting the necessary items from recorders, editing them and sorting them to pass on to Sophie Widdowson. Sophie has against all the odds (working from home, home-schooling children, technology problems) managed to produce wonderful editions of our newsletter, so a massive thankyou to her.

Throughout all of this Margaret Conner, our treasurer and membership secretary has looked after our affairs efficiently and effectively, and we should be lost without her.

We are also grateful to our team of recorders for continuing where possible to find out about the species in our local area, and to record and report to national bodies, which aids in protection and conservation of our countryside and wildlife.

In January, February and March we were still able to hold indoor and outdoor meetings as normal, so we enjoyed talks on the wildlife of Yorkshire, the flora of Northamptonshire and in March, Bird ringing and migration from Lloyd Park. All indoor meetings since then have been Zoom meetings, using our annual Zoom licence. After some teething problems, these meetings are working well, though attended by a limited number of members, again, due to some being unable to access them and others reluctant to attempt to use the technology. Those of us lucky enough to attend, are beginning to be able to enjoy communicating with one another as well as gaining knowledge from the speakers. In October Ben Devine spoke



to us about fungi, resulting in Linda Clark and Carolyn Baxter volunteering to become our fungus recorders. On the same note, we would also like to thank Martin Quinlan for taking over the delightful job of butterfly recorder. In December we held our annual members' evening, when we caught up with what had been happening during lockdown, and introduced our 2021 photographic calendar, thanks to the contributors, making a profit for the first time.

Lloyd Park led us in March on a visit to RWNR Egleton centre, after a January winter walk at Fort Henry, and a February visit to Nicholas Watt's Vine House farm at Deeping St Nicholas. The only other outdoor event of the year was led by our fungus recorders, Linda and Carolyn at Hambleton in October, supported by Roy Lemmon, whose knowledge was and is invaluable. All outdoor activities were greatly enjoyed by those who were able to take part. Outdoor meetings are now subject to our updated risk assessments and adapted to the CV19 rules in place at the time.

The programme for 2020 was put together by Jayne Walker, and we are grateful to her, and sorry that she has now stepped down as programme secretary.

Thank you also to you, our members, for staying with us during the past year, and for your messages of encouragement and thanks for our efforts to carry on regardless!

In the UK, wildlife has benefited from the reduced disturbances due to covid restrictions, one local example being the nesting of curlews on local meadows. Internationally the converse is true, protection due to tourism removed, leaving poachers and deforestation free to proceed unchecked. During the pandemic, the public has become more aware of the importance of the natural world to our health and wellbeing, and concern for its conservation and protection has grown widely. We hope that this will remain the case as we emerge from the current emergency, and will do our best to promote nature conservation locally.

We remain optimistic that we shall be able to resume our activities and have planned a full programme of activities for 2021, indoor and out, and we look forward to meeting you all before too long.

Linda Biddle

RNHS NOTICES

CALLING ALL MEMBERS!

Would you like to be more involved with the Society? Do you feel you could contribute a few hours a month to becoming a recorder for Rutland, or maybe helping with organising our yearly Events programme?

We have a vacancy for a Programme Secretary. The programme for 2021 has already been set for this year, so you will not be dropped in at the deep end. There will be a whole year and plenty of people to help you find out what is involved. Please contact Linda Biddle or Linda Clark (details on back cover) if you are interested in finding out further.

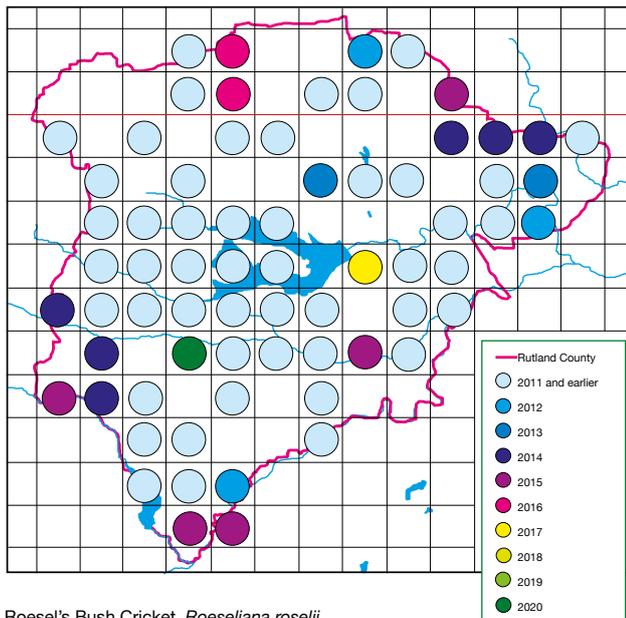
Spider recorder needed. RNHS has a list of 12 recorders who diligently record and take in reports of various wildlife throughout the County of Rutland – but we are aware that some species, especially spiders, get missed off the “wow” list through no fault of their own. If there is anyone out there who is interested in our eight-legged creatures, please get in touch. You do not need to be an expert in spiders as there will be people and organisations around that can help you with identification and recording. Again, please contact Linda Biddle or any of the contacts on the back of Fieldfare if you are interested in joining our 12 other recorders.



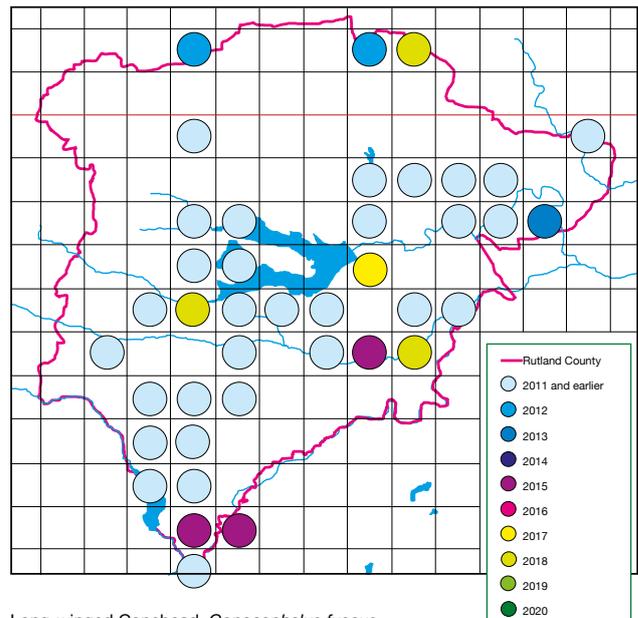
Richard Brown

We are very sad to hear of the sudden death of Richard Brown, our butterfly recorder from 2016 until 2019. Both Richard and his wife Linda were also valuable members of the RNHS committee from 2018 until 2020. Richard and Linda generously donated for auction, the book “The Heritage of Rutland Water” (referred to in the Chairman’s intro) to the society before they left. Our thoughts are with Linda at this difficult time.

Linda Biddle. Chairman.



Roesel's Bush Cricket, *Roeseliana rosellii*



Long-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus fuscus*

Maps shown are part of a series of 14 which are shown in the 2020 Annual report. **Phil Rudkin.**

RNHS 2022 CALENDAR

This will be our FIFTH RNHS wildlife calendar, the previous four have been brilliant and we are looking to carry on in a similar manner for 2022.

Whilst 2022 seems a long way off we need to be planning early to ensure you are all out there snapping away at the local wildlife, this will ensure we have a wide selection of photographs to choose from. However, DON'T FORGET TO FOLLOW CURRENT GUIDELINES.

When all the photographs have been received, a selection process will take place to choose the best ones for the 2022 calendar. This process is of course subjective and hopefully the photographs will cover a wide range of topics so we can have a good balance within the calendar. So maybe you can find an unusual subject to photograph.

As with any "competition" there must be rules so: -

- 1) DEADLINE** August 31st this will enable us to select the photos we wish to use and get the calendars printed in good time for Xmas presents.
- 2)** Maximum three entries per participant, with a short description and /or caption for each including date and place. Recent photos preferred to reflect recent sightings (2020 and 2021).
- 3)** High resolution photos to support quality printing in the calendar. Please send these as attachments to email to me at **peter.scott27@btopenworld.com**
- 4)** Please only send your entries as **landscape** as we cannot use portrait for the calendar.
- 5)** Content can be general views of Rutland, or wildlife photos taken in Rutland or local sites; this will comply with the current request to stay local.

These photographs will hopefully form part of our Members/Recorders evening on the 7th December 2021. Our 2020 evening on Zoom was a great success and I would like to thank everyone who contributed.

If you would like to discuss any of this further, please feel free to send an email or call me on my mobile 07535 508932. It is hoped that many members will have a go and remember, the wider the subject matter we cover, the better.

BUT and there is always a BUT.

Please remember to be sympathetic to the subject matter and do not disturb nest sites, roost sites etc and be careful not to tread on those small creatures and plants that we want to protect. At the risk of repeating myself - **please follow current guidelines and stay safe.**

Thank you. **Peter Scott.**

RNHS CONTACTS

Chairman

Linda Biddle
21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford PE9 1BH 01780 762108
abiddle21@talktalk.net

Secretary/Mycology recorder

Linda Clark
14 Top Street, Wing, Oakham, Rutland LE15 8SE
01572 737300 lindaclark_888@yahoo.com

Treasurer/Membership

Margaret Conner
24 Burrough Rd, Somerby, Melton Mowbray LE14 2PP
01664 454532 rnhsmembers@gmail.com

Programme Secretary

Jayne Walker
11 Vicars Close, Off Empingham Road, Exton,
Rutland LE15 8AW Tel: 01572 868624.
Mob: 07957340545 jayne8586@hotmail.com

Website Editor/Calendar

Peter Scott
12 Tees Close, Oakham, LE15 6SP
07535 508932 peter.scott27@btopenworld.com

Fieldfare Editor

Carolyn Baxter
37 Stockerston Crescent, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9UA
01572 823397 rnhsfieldfare2@gmail.com

Wildlife Recorders

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

Fieldfare: Is published five times a year from January 2021. It is free to members, and available online or printed.

Printed at Lonsdale Direct, telephone 01933 228855

RNHS is a Registered Charity: Number 514693