

## CONTENTS

Noticeboard	1	Plant galls report	8
RNHS events	1	Insects and others	9
Weather summary	2	Orthoptera Report	11
Amphibian and reptile report	3	Bat report	13
Bird report	3	Mammal report	14
Botany notes	6	Verge map	15
Butterfly notes	6	Site abbreviations	16
Moth notes	8		

## NOTICEBOARD

### Jubilee Woodlands

On the suggestion of RNHS member Dave Needham, the Society has made a donation of £100 to the Woodland Trust's Jubilee Woods campaign, in recognition of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee, and has requested that the trees be planted at George Henry Wood, which was named for well-known RNHS member of past years, George Sellars.

## RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS

Full details of all these events can be found on our website at [www.rnhs.org.uk](http://www.rnhs.org.uk).

### OUTDOOR EVENTS

#### **Sunday 12 August NORTH BROOK/HORN MILL 11.00 am**

*A morning meeting with leader Phil Rudkin, our RNHS Orthoptera Recorder, who will take us around North Brook to find crickets and grasshoppers.*

*Meet at OS Map 130, Grid Ref SK 951 106, at the footpath entrance next to Horn Mill. As usual, if you wish to linger into the afternoon bring Sunday lunch with you.*

#### **Wednesday 5 September BROWN'S HILL QUARRY 8.30 pm**

*This is a badger-watching evening with Ralph Johnson and his team, who have been observing the badgers at this reserve for many years. They will be running a special badger-watching evening for RNHS. In order not to overstress the badgers, these visits are limited to 10 people. If you would like to go, please contact Ann Tomlinson on 01780 721622 as soon as possible to book a place, giving your name and telephone number. First come, first served! Should the trip be over-subscribed, Ralph has kindly offered to run another for us later in the week. Start time is 8.30 pm, but this is subject to revision closer to the date, and any revised times will be notified to participants.*

*The reserve of Brown's Hill Quarry lies about 5 km north of Melton Mowbray. From the town centre, take the Scalford Road. After 3 km, turn left and take the first right. Cross a cattle grid and enter a section of unfenced road. After 0.5 km, the road forks and the reserve entrance is on the left near the fork. Park on the open area opposite the entrance to Brown's Hill Quarry. (OS Map 129, Grid Ref SK 741 234.)*

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**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.*

*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.)*

#### **INDOOR EVENTS**

RNHS indoor meetings will start again on October 2; the first one is 'Kingfishers – up close and personal' by Jeff Harrison. They are held at the Oakham Church of England school, Burley Road, Oakham, at 7.30 pm.

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#### **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](http://www.lrwt.org.uk), or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours, for events in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks.

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#### **LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST**

See [www.lincstrust.org.uk](http://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.

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#### **WEATHER SUMMARY** Roy Lemmon

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##### **May 2012**

**Atmospheric pressure and winds** It is noticeable that there were no real 'lows' this month; the lowest pressure I recorded was 1008 mb on 8th and, apart from the 12th when there was an abnormal high for this time of the year of 1038 mb, all the other days were between 1010 and 1027 mb. Winds were predominantly NW-NE although there was a period, 8th to 14th inclusive, when they were SW-W.

**Temperatures** As a result of the above, it was arguably a cool month, the mean minimum was 7.12 °C and the mean max was 18.06 °C. There was one air frost on 4th–5th when I recorded –0.4 °C. Looking at my figures for the last decade, this was the 8th coolest May, only 2005 and 2010 had lower average minima and 2005 and 2007 had lower average maxima. Nationally in the last one hundred years, 28 Mays were warmer but 72 have been colder; and this apparent anomaly is probably explained by the general rise in temperatures which is occurring globally.

**Rain** The total here was 46.0 mm (1.81 inches) and this equates to 113% of my LTM. Looking at my

figures for the month of May it appears that this is a month of very variable amounts of rain: May 1998 had just 9.9 mm, whereas 2006–2008 had 80.9 mm, 117.1 mm, and 76.4 mm respectively. This year, averaged nationally over England and Wales, the total was 58.7 mm (2.31 inches) or 90% of the average for the standard reference period 1981 to 2010.

**Sunshine** Averaged over England and Wales there were 209 hours or 103% of the 1981–2010 mean. The LTM for RAF Wittering is 194 hours.

##### **June 2012**

**Atmospheric pressure and winds** A month of considerable variation both in atmospheric pressure and wind speed and direction, nationally it was amongst the three most cyclonic Junes in 140 years of records. The lowest pressure I recorded was 990 mb at 0900 hours on the 8th and the highest was 1020 mb at the same hour on the 26th; and the month was characterized by considerable and constant day-to-day variation of wind speed and direction.

**Temperature** The mean minimum for the month was 9.74 °C, which is the 9th lowest in the last decade, but this was more than equalled by the mean maximum which at 19.38 °C was the lowest of all in the same period. The lowest night-time minimum was 3.7 °C on 12–13th and the highest day-time maximum occurred on the 28th at 27.2 °C – but this latter stood out from some very ordinary day-time temperatures. All in all, a cool June.

**Rainfall** This at 135.9 mm (5.35 inches) was 293% of my long term mean of 21 years and was well

above the next wettest June for which I have records, which was 1997 with a total of 121.7 mm. The figure averaged for England and Wales was 6.18 inches or 231% of the average for 1981–2010 and is on a par with the previous wettest June in 1860.

**Sunshine** Averaged over England and Wales this was 123 hours which is only 64% of the 1981–2010 mean and this made it the dullest June since 1909. The LTM for RAF Wittering is 198 hours.

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

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

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



### May/June 2012

Six of the eight species of amphibian and reptile were represented by single records, the exceptions being Common Frog for which no records were received and Grass Snake for which two were received.

A single Common Toad was seen on a road in Wing at the end of May. Smooth Newts were observed in Westland Wood in Exton and two Great Crested Newts were seen on the edge of a new pond at Rutland Water, which had been

examined earlier in the year and they had been overlooked.

A single Viviparous Lizard was seen at Ketton on 9 June. A sighting of a Slow Worm by the railway at Wing is a new site for this species, although there was a record from Manton in 1993 also near the railway.

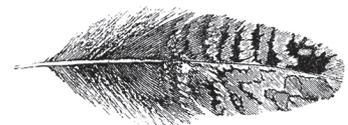
A six-inch Grass Snake was seen swimming in flooded ground at Stocken on 27 June and one was by my pond in Wing also at the end of June. Finally, 3 Adders were seen at Ketton on 26 May.

*My thanks to the following who sent in records: T Caldicott, J Crosby, M Grimes, R Lemmon, T Mitcham and M Winslow.*

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## BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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



Two months of fairly extreme weather for the time of year did our birds no favours. Some migrants were noted in smaller numbers than usual with later arrivals – warblers and Nightingales – and high water levels at the reservoirs left few feeding areas for migrating waders. Kestrels and Barn Owls produced small broods or failed altogether.

On a more positive note, it was good to hear Quail calling at three sites and two pairs of Ravens nested. June saw a passage of Crossbills but none lingered for very long. Short-eared Owls remained long after their usual time of departure and Little Egrets bred again at Rutland Water. With forecasts of more rain as I write, it will be interesting to see how the birds cope with this soggy summer in the next notes.

*My thanks to the following for their May and June records: T Appleton, P Bennett, M A Branston, P & C Brown, T Caldicott, J Crosby, R Edwards, Dr C H Gallimore, M & G Griffin, J Harris, C Hughes, LROS, E Mann, T Mitcham, B & L Nicholls, L Park, J S & J Rodgers, P Rudkin, A K Slipper, A R & M A Thorp, M Winslow, L & G Worrall.*

**Mute Swan.** A pair at FHP had five cygnets on 28.05, reducing to three by the end of June.

**Greylag Goose.** A pair had four goslings at Banthorpe Gravel Pit (BGP) on 22.06, and 87 were at EBR on 23.06.

- Shelduck.** A pair had one duckling (later lost) at FHP on 16.05, and a pair were seen with three small ducklings crossing the Wing road in Manton on 22.06.
- Mandarin Duck.** Two males were at WFL on 01.05, with a pair on 20 and 26.05. Two or three were noted regularly at RW(Normanton) between 09.05 and 05.06, when a male and two females fed beneath feeders at Park House, Normanton – a first for the site.
- Pintail.** A female was at RW(Eggleton) on 12.05.
- Garganey.** A male was at RW(North Arm) on 05.06.
- Shoveler.** There was a pair at LFP on 01.06 with a female seen on 10.06.
- Common Scoter.** A male was at RW(Dam) on 15.06.
- Goldeneye.** Two remained at RW in mid-June.
- Grey Partridge.** A pair was near Inghorpe on 12.05, and two pairs were flushed in Exton Park on 10.06. Two predated eggs were found nearby.
- Quail.** One called in Exton Park on 02 and 09.06, two were calling from barley near Stamford Quarry on 24.06, and one was heard at Cottesmore Airfield the following day.
- Little Egret.** One was seen at Langham on 19.05. 17 were at RW in mid-June, with breeding again taking place there. One was at EBR throughout June with three seen on 30.06.
- Honey Buzzard.** One flew over the road east of Wing on 01.06.
- Red Kite.** One was feeding on road kill near Manton in busy traffic on 01.06. Ones and twos were well reported and up to 14 were attracted to fields where silage was being cut near Uppingham in June. At least one pair bred, fledging two young.
- Marsh Harrier.** Singles were at RW on 15.05 and 12.06.
- Sparrowhawk.** Noted at Stocken in May. Breeding was reported from a Wing garden in May, with the male delivering prey to the nest on 23.06.
- Buzzard.** Nesting noted at RW (Lyndon) and Exton Park. The max count was eight over Stocken on 10.05.
- Kestrel.** Two young were ringed in Exton Park on 08.06. Two young probably fledged at Beaumont Chase Farm, and regular sightings and prey-carrying at Stocken implied local breeding.
- Hobby.** Singles were noted at Wing, FHP, EBR, Stocken and Manton. Four were at RW(Eggleton) on 12.05.
- Water Rail.** Eight were counted at RW mid-June.
- Oystercatcher.** One called over Stocken on 01.05 and it bred at RW(Eggleton), where a pair had three chicks on 18.05. 16 were counted in mid-June.
- Avocet.** Five pairs bred at RW(Eggleton) but all the chicks were predated and two adults were also found dead, one carrying many parasitic worms.
- Little Ringed Plover.** Bred at RW(Eggleton) where 16 were noted in mid-June.
- Ringed Plover.** Passage of northern 'tundra' birds continued to mid-June with 52 noted on 14.05 and 14 on 01.06. Breeding confirmed at RW with 16 present in mid-June.
- Grey Plover.** Singles were at RW(Eggleton) on 03.05 and 12-13.05.
- Knot.** 14 were at RW on 03.05.
- Sanderling.** Present at RW(Eggleton) on at least 14 dates between 02.05 and 17.06 with a max of nine on 19.05.
- Little Stint.** One was at RW between 25-29.05.
- Temminck's Stint.** Two were at RW(Eggleton) on 13.05.
- Curlew Sandpiper.** Singles were at RW(Eggleton) on 03 and 05.05, with three on 06.05 and one on 01.06.
- Dunlin.** Present at RW regularly to at least 17.06, with a max of 30 on 14.05.
- Jack Snipe.** One at RW(Eggleton) on 19.05 was the latest ever Rutland record.
- Black-tailed Godwit.** Noted at RW between 1.05 and 28.05 with eight on the first date.
- Bar-tailed Godwit.** One was on flooded pasture in Exton Park on 01.05. Singles at RW on 02 and 04.05 and 10.05 were eclipsed by 43 there on 03.05.
- Whimbrel.** On 01.05, one flew over Exton Park and three were at Cottesmore Airfield. There were three at RW(South Arm) the next day and six on 12.05. Singles were noted there on 17 and 23.05.
- Curlew.** Singles were at RW(Eggleton) on 18.05, over LFP on 23.06 and over WFL on 27.06.
- Common Sandpiper.** One or two were at RW between 02.05 and 19.05.
- Green Sandpiper.** Singles were by the R.Chater near Wing on 18.06 and at RW(Eggleton) on 20.06.
- Greenshank.** Single birds were at RW between 07.05 and 05.06.
- Wood Sandpiper.** At RW(Eggleton) singles were noted on 17 and 28.05, with one flying over on 05.06.
- Turnstone.** There were records from RW between 08.05 and 15.06, with a max of 14 on 11.05.

- Little Gull.** At RW there were two on 01.05, four the next day and five on 04.05.
- Mediterranean Gull.** Singles were at RW on 03, 04 and 15.05.
- Caspian Gull.** One was at RW(Egleton) on 12.05.
- Little Tern.** There were singles at RW on 02 and 09.05.
- Black Tern.** Up to five were at RW between 01.05 and 10.06. Two were at EBR on 01.05 with one on 21.05 and three on 27.05.
- Sandwich Tern.** Two were at RW(Egleton) on 03.05.
- Common Tern.** 25–30 were at EBR from mid-June with breeding activity at one of the tern rafts. There were 43 at RW in mid-June.
- Arctic Tern.** 35 were at RW on 02.05, with singles on 10 and 12.05.
- Collared Dove.** Five were at Stocken on 13.05 with breeding confirmed there on 23.05.
- Turtle Dove.** A pair fed regularly at an Oakham garden from 01 to 12.05, with one still visiting on 26.05. One was at RW(Egleton) on 04.05 and 12.05.
- Cuckoo.** Records of singing birds were received between 07.05 and 19.06 from 14 sites across the county.
- Barn Owl.** Reports came from Wing, RW, Manton, Tixover and the Barrowden/Seaton area. Three broods of two were ringed on 28.06 and three well-grown young were found dead in one nestbox. A chick ringed at Exton on 18.06.07 was controlled breeding in a barn at Rippingale, Lincs., on 15.05 – a happier ringing recovery.
- Little Owl.** Singles were noted near Barrowden, Morcott and EBR.
- Tawny Owl.** One of two young at an Exton nestbox was ringed on 01.05. Other birds were heard or seen at FHP, Barnsdale Wood, near Holwell and Stocken.
- Short-eared Owl.** One was at EBR on 08.05 and two were still at Gorsefield on 12.05, whilst one remained at RW(Egleton) to at least 09.06.
- Swift.** Few records were received. 36 were over Stocken on 10.05, with 72 moving north ahead of rain on 29.06. Ten were over Barrowden on 19.05.
- Kingfisher.** One flew along the Langham Brook on 08.05, one was at RW(Egleton) and one at Tinwell on 12.05 and one was at FHP on 12.06.
- Green Woodpecker.** Reports were received from Ketton Quarry, Wing/Manton area, Barnsdale Wood, Stocken (max. three on 13.05), FHP and Beaumont Chase Farm.
- Great Spotted Woodpecker.** Drumming was heard at Barnsdale Wood on 06.05. Regular at Stocken throughout both months with breeding confirmed by a juv. being fed at peanut feeder by an adult. Two pairs bred on Beaumont Chase Farm CBC plot. Noted also at BW and Barrowden.
- Jay.** Noted at Stocken/Lady Wood on 01.05 and in Exton Park woodlands in both months.
- Raven.** In addition to sightings of up to four at two breeding sites, one or two were noted in the Wing area and at RW(Egleton).
- Willow Tit.** One was at WFL on 14.06. Pair, including a singing bird, were at Leighfield on 19.06, Wing on 20.06. and Ridlington on 23.06. Three were at Ridlington on 28.06.
- Marsh Tit.** Singles were in BW on 26.05 and Cottesmore Wood on 10.06.
- Sand Martin.** Present around an old stone wall at Park House, Normanton from April with around ten pairs apparently breeding.
- Swallow.** Successful breeding was noted at two nests in Barrowden and one at Stocken, with first broods fledging from 20.06.
- House Martin.** Up to 40 fed regularly over Stocken in June but they did not seem to be breeding locally. Two artificial nests were in use at Barrowden by 30.06 – this was noted as unusual with the comment ‘they must be desperate!’
- Willow Warbler.** Nos seem much reduced this year. Four males sang in comp. four of BW on 26.05.
- Lesser Whitethroat.** Four were singing in the Wing area on 20.06.
- Whitethroat.** This species continues to appear in good nos. Noted at ten well distributed sites with 17 singing in the Wing area on 13.05.
- Garden Warbler.** Reported from Barnsdale Wood, Beaumont Chase Farm and Pickworth Great Wood, where at least five were singing on 12.05.
- Grasshopper Warbler.** Between 01.05 and 17.05, singles sang at Tunneley Wood, RW(Egleton and Lyndon) and Manton.
- Savi’s Warbler.** One sang at lagoon three at RW(Egleton) between 04 and 08.05. This species is a rare visitor to Rutland, with the last record in April 2005, again at RW.
- Reed Warbler.** Away from RW, one sang near Wing Burrows on 05.06, three were at LFP on 10.06 and one at FHP on 19.06.
- Nuthatch.** Bred at Beaumont Chase Farm and Westland Wood and noted in Barnsdale Wood on 06.05.

**Treecreeper.** Regular song at FHP in both months. Bred in a Wellingtonia at Park House, Normanton and also noted at RW(Egleton).

**Blackbird.** The wet weather seems to be suiting this species. with several reports of fledged family parties in gardens at Barrowden, Stamford and Stocken.

**Fieldfare.** Late birds were eight at Wing Burrows on 06.05 and three there on 08.05.

**Song Thrush.** Like the Blackbird, this bird seems to be doing well this year with four singing in Ketton Quarry on 23.05 and up to five singing in Barnsdale Wood on 30.05.

**Spotted Flycatcher.** After the first in Oakham churchyard on 12.05, there were reports from a further ten sites by the end of June. *Please record all sightings of this declining species.*

**Nightingale.** Singles sang in Pickworth Great Wood on 07.05 and Greetham Wood Far on 12.05. A poor year for this species.

**Redstart.** A male was at the inflow at EBR on 22.05.

**Whinchat.** On 02.05 a male was at RW (Hambleton) and a female near the Sailing Club.

**Wheatear.** Passage continued to at least 12.05 with reports from RW, Cottesmore Airfield (20+ on 01.05.) and Luffenham Airfield (15 on 01.05).

**House Sparrow.** A max of 53 was noted at Stocken on 29.06 with the young being fed on aphids from lupins. Good nos of young also noted in Barrowden and Stamford.

**Yellow Wagtail.** At least ten were holding territory in cereal crops in Exton Park in June. Others were noted near Merry's Meadow, Ridlington and near Wing.

**Grey Wagtail.** One was at LFP on 10.06.

**Pied Wagtail.** At Stocken two pairs were breeding, one again in a gang mower – on to its second brood by the end of June.

**White Wagtail.** 4 were at RW(Egleton) on 02.05.

**Siskin.** On 28.06 one flew over Ridlington and a ringed male fed at a nyger feeder in Manton.

**Common Crossbill.** Between 05.06 and 27.06 flocks passed through Rutland on eight dates. 48 were over Wing Grange on 05, 18 were over Wing on 07 and 17 in Exton Park on 08.

**Bullfinch.** Small nos were noted at Ketton Quarry, BW and Barnsdale Wood in May. One or two frequented a Barrowden garden in June, feeding on geranium seed pods.

**Reed Bunting.** 4 singing males were noted by North Brook between Horn Mill and FHP on 17.05.

**Yellowhammer.** c.30 were around Wing on 25.06, including 18 singing males.

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

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### **May/June 2012**

Although the 'spring' has been wet and cool, the botany has been very good and well reported.

In May, **Bluebell** flowering gave pleasure, and, on obviously old pasture, so did **Pignut**, which continued into early June.

On 20th June, Dave Needham reported approximately 80 flowering spikes of **Yellow Bird's-nest** in Ketton Quarry under the Beeches at the top of the Reserve, more than have ever been seen at this site, which I believe is the only place in Rutland to have them.

June produced one of the best Orchid years for at least three years. **Common Twayblade** and **Common Spotted-orchid** were in Ketton Quarry, and at Clipsham Quarry there were 52 **Greater Butterfly-orchids**, 174 Common Spotted-orchids

and 'too many to count' Common Twayblades.

**Southern Marsh-orchid** was also recorded at Bloody Oaks Triangle, the Pickworth slip road off the A1 and Fort Henry, whilst large numbers of Common Spotted were observed at Lyndon Reserve and Quarry Farm, Little Casterton. At Bloody Oaks Quarry on 17th June, 10 **Bee Orchids** were found, and 2 were at Quarry Farm, Little Casterton, on the 25th. Furthermore, on 30th June the joint meeting with the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society discovered 1 Common Spotted-orchid and 2 Bee Orchids at Seaton Meadows, the first time any orchids have been found in this Plantlife SSSI Reserve!

Perhaps the best hope for the future is Rutland's only site for **Green-winged Orchids**: Jenny Harris counted 2,673 on Merry's Meadows Reserve at Greetham.

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*Thank you to R Archer, P Bennett, A Biddle, L Biddle, M Branston, T Caldicott, R Edwards, S Flowers, M Grimes, J Harris, J Mallet, T Mitcham, D Needham, R Lemmon, D Parker, B Parker, G Worrall.*

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# BUTTERFLY NOTES compiled by Alistair Lawrence

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## May/June 2012

The cool damp conditions of May and June interspersed with only occasional warm sunny days has led to a further decline in the number of butterflies being observed and recorded. Although 20 species are reflected in this report, with one or two notable exceptions the numbers seen during this period are down compared with this time last year.

Sightings of **Brimstone** in May come from Stocken and all the quarries and Rutland Water reserves. On 19 June, 4 females and a male were seen at Ketton Quarry.

During May **Large Whites** were seen regularly in ones and twos at the reserves and quarries, whilst on 30 May 4 were observed at Stocken. The only record received for June is a single sighting on the 19th at Stocken.

**Small Whites** have been reported in small numbers at various locations in our area, with the most notable counts being 5 at Ketton Quarry on 22 May and 4 at George Henry Wood on the 23rd. The only record for June comes from Ketton Quarry where 2 were seen on the 19th.

The first sighting of **Green Veined White** comes from Barrowden on 12 May with other single sightings at Ketton Quarry and George Henry Wood, whilst 3 were recorded at RW Lyndon reserve on 16 May. The only June record is a single sighting in an Oakham garden on the 10th.

Most records of this period have been of **Orange Tips**, with more males being observed than females. This species was seen regularly during May at Ketton Quarry, RW reserves and Stocken. The highest count was 10 males and 3 females at George Henry Wood on 23 May. A late record is of a single male on the wing in Burley Rectory garden on 9 June.

During May, two **Holly Blues** were seen regularly in Barrowden whilst other records are of single sightings at Ketton Quarry, RW Lyndon, Oakham and Stocken.

Numbers appear to be substantially down for the **Common Blue** with only males of the species being identified. Highest count in May was 4 at Ketton Quarry from where the only reports have been received. On 19 June, 3 males were again seen at Ketton Quarry, and there were single sightings of males at Stocken and RW Egleton on 19 and 27 June respectively.

It is pleasing to report that numbers of **Dingy Skippers** seem to be holding up, with counts at Ketton Quarry and Bloody Oaks higher than last year. The highest number recorded was at Clipsham Quarry where 34 were seen on 23 May, though this figure is substantially down on last year's count. One was seen at Ketton Quarry on 17 June.

**Grizzled Skippers** seem to have had a good year, with numbers reported from all the quarries up on 2011. 15 were counted at Clipsham Quarry on 23 May and 8 at Ketton Quarry on the 26th. The only record for June is a late single sighting at Ketton Quarry on the 19th.

First reports of **Large Skipper** came from Ketton Quarry on 19 June, whilst 3 were recorded at RW Egleton on the 27th.

The only record received for **Small Skipper** is a single sighting at RW Egleton on 27 June.

**Small Heaths** have been observed at Ketton and Clipsham Quarries during the second half of May, with 14 being counted at the latter site on the 23rd. The most notable count however comes from George Henry Wood where 2 members recorded in excess of 50 specimens on 29 May. The records for June are of 3 on 17 June and a single sighting on the 19th, both at Ketton Quarry.

Records for **Green Hairstreak** come from two locations with 3 newly emerged specimens being observed at George Henry Wood on 23 May, and a single sighting at Ketton Quarry on the 26th.

There have been just three single sightings of **Small Copper**, the first being at Ketton Quarry on 23 May. On 28 May this species was observed at Barrowden and again at Ketton Quarry.

The only records received for **Comma** are single sightings at Ketton Quarry between 23 and 28 May.

At the beginning of this period 5 **Peacocks** were seen at RW Lyndon on 6 May and were regularly seen throughout the month at the Rutland Water reserves and Ketton Quarry. Two were seen at Stocken on 22 May and from the same site comes the only June record – a single sighting on the 27th.

The only records for **Small Tortoiseshell** also come from Stocken where 2 were seen on the 8 May and then a single sighting on the 25th of that month.

The first sighting of a **Meadow Brown** comes from Ketton Quarry where 4 individuals were reported on 19 June. On 27 June 19 specimens were recorded at RW Egleton.

The first record for **Ringlet** was 2 specimens seen at Ketton Quarry on 25 June. That number increased to 8 on 30 June at the same site.

**Speckled Woods** were seen in ones and twos at RW Lyndon and Ketton Quarry during May. In June a single specimen was seen in Burley Rectory garden on the 9th, 2 at Stocken on the 26th. On 27 June, 10 were recorded at RW Egleton.

**PS** A late report comes from George Henry Wood where 6 **Grizzled Skippers** were seen on 10 June, a new site record for this species.

*My thanks to the following contributors: P Bennet, J Crosby, M Grimes, J Harvey, A Lawrence, P & E Mann, J Myers, D Needham, E Northen, B & D Parker, P Rudkin, M Winslow, L & G Worrall.*

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## **MOTH NOTES** compiled by Jean Harvey

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### **May/June 2012**

With the lack of summer weather this year, it is not surprising that I have only received a very small number of records of day flying moths from members.

A group visited Clipsham Quarry on May 23rd and again on June 10th and saw **Latticed Heath**, **Mother Shipton**, **Common Heath**, **Burnet Companion** and **Cinnabar**. On May 29th over 20 Mother Shipton were noted in George Henry Wood and that week a **Poplar Hawk moth** was found between Tilton and N. Luffenham. By June 14th **Chimney Sweepers** were active at Lyndon. Moth lights were operated on this reserve on June 20th and 27th, resulting in 18 species being identified on each occasion, thus giving a total of 29 species for the site.

Eyebrook Reservoir was visited as usual twice in each month. On May 7th from three traps left overnight, we had only six moths of four species – this was the poorest night in what is now our twelfth year of trapping there! By May 22nd totals were increased to 21 species from four traps and June 6th and 18th gave us 28 species and 44 species respectively, but still very disappointing for the time of year.

Speaking of disappointing results, I have recently received some figures that I know many members will find most interesting. These show the comparison of trapping sessions in May and June this year, with those undertaken on similar

dates in both 2010 and 2011. At Rutland Water reedbeds, the quantity of moths is down by 51% and the number of species is down by 23%, and at Eyebrook, the figures are down by 58% and 37% respectively. By combining results from these two regular sites we find there has been an average drop of 55% in moth numbers trapped and a drop of 31% in the number of species identified.

It is also interesting to note that recordings at the Barrowden garden trap during May and June gave similar results, as did also two sites 'over the border'. These were in Colleyweston Great Wood and at Easton Hornstocks.

All this leaves us with various questions and we can but continue monitoring to hopefully obtain some of the answers. How many moths have been lost due to weather conditions? Are the moths still out there but have changed their behaviour due to poor weather? What will the long-term effect be?

It is not however all doom and gloom, as the humid weather at the end of June, with winds from the south, not only brought the sand, but also a **Delicate** (to Luffenham Heath) from the Mediterranean area, and also possibly the **Red-Necked Footman** (to Rutland Water). Other good moths recorded recently were the **Netted Pug** and **Treble Brown Spot** at Ketton Quarry plus our only resident Red Data Book moth in the VC, the **Concolorous** at Luffenham.

We look forward to hopefully more records in July and August. Surely the weather can only improve!

*Many thanks go to V Arnold, R Follows, M Grimes, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, P & E Mann, J Myers, D Needham, E Northen, D & B Parker and P Simmonds.*

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# PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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## May 2012

The number of reports this month was low probably due more to the weather being inclement, thereby inhibiting excursions into the field, than to the numbers of galls out there. Verge 7 on the 24th produced just four, a mite gall each on Cleavers and Midland Hawthorn, a rust on Buckthorn and Oak Apples on Pedunculate Oak. The latter, which are caused by a gall wasp, were very variable in size and a pale creamy colour, being freshly formed.

Barnsdale Lodge Wood on the 31st revealed seven different galls caused by mites on Elm, Sycamore (2), Field Maple (2), Beech and Cleavers respectively. There were also a midge gall and a sawfly gall on Goat Willow; the Willows/Sallows are one of the groups which are most galled in the British Isles. The nearby Barnsdale Wood on the same day gave us a rust gall on Creeping Thistle, mite galls on Copper Beech, Sloe and Alder as well as a Psyllid induced gall on Ash and

a midge gall on Speedwell. The latter is a very common galler but on this occasion was on Wood Speedwell rather than the more usual Germander.

## June 2012

Again a low number of reports but a feature of this month has been the emergence of a number of galls not previously reported in this area. These occurred at Ketton Quarry on the 9th and were on Rosebay, Perforate St. Johns Wort and Bush Vetch. All three were, by coincidence, caused by gall midges and make a welcome contribution to the list. Lyndon on the 14th yielded a total of 11 galls, some were rusts and mites but there were also three caused by sawflies, on Sloe, Crack Willow and White Willow and one, on Ash, caused by a Psyllid. Verge 7 on the 28th yielded just one gall, a rust on Nipple Wort. This latter is very common and will doubtless appear again this season.

*Contributions from M Grimes and R Lemmon*

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# INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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*Despite our unseasonable weather RNHS members managed to send in a surprising number of records; nearly all of which came in May with June records being at an all time low. A green tiger beetle was noted at Ketton Quarry, one having been recorded there 2 years ago. Also photographed there was a solitary bee *Osmia bicolour*. This is especially fascinating as the female lays her eggs in an empty snail shell which she then covers up with short grass stalks. Also do read the honey bee records – an interesting time was had in Manton!*

## May 2012

### ODONATA

**Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrrosoma nymphula*

Four pairs and 3 'joined together' were observed over 3 days near the month end at Barrowden.

### DERMAPTERA

**Common Earwig** *Forficula auricularia* – noted as abundant at Stocken.

### HEMIPTERA

**Bordered Shieldbug** *Lenotus limbosus* – one was recorded at Lyndon. **Green Shieldbug** *Palomena*

*prasina* – 3 were recorded at Stocken. **Damsel Bug/ Common Flower Bug** *Anthocoris nemorum* – these were noted as abundant at Stocken. **Tarnished Plant Bug** *Lygus rugulipennis* – these were also noted as abundant at Stocken. **Mirid Bug** *Harporocera thoracica* – one male insect was recorded at Stocken. **Mirid Bug** *Miris striatus* – one was recorded at Stocken. **Mirid Bug** *Dryophilocoris flavoquadrimaculatus* – one was noted at Stocken. **Common Pond Skater** *Geris lacustris* – 6 insects were recorded in Oakham and 8 were noted at Stocken. **Froghopper** *Cercopsis vulnerata* – 3 and a single insect were recorded by two separate observers at Lyndon. **Jumping Plant Lice** or **Psyllids** were recorded as abundant at Stocken.

## NEUROPTERA

**Green Lacewings** *Chrysopidae* sp. – 4 were noted at Stocken. **Brown Lacewings** *Hemerobiidae* sp. – one was noted at Stocken. **Snake Fly** *Xanthostigma xanthostigma* – one was recorded at Stocken.

## DIPTERA

**Bumblebee Hoverfly** *Volucella bombylans* – one insect of the red-tailed form was recorded at Stocken. **St. Mark's Fly** *Bibio marci* – several were noted on Verge 8 and many more over the set-aside field bordering the verge.

## HYMENOPTERA

**Common Wasp** *Vespa vulgaris* – one torpid female was noted at Priors Coppice (observed April). **Red Wasp** *Vespa rubra* – 5–6 were seen together on Verge 7.

**Solitary Bee** *Andrena cineraria* – noted on Verge 8. **Red Mason Bee** *Osmia rufa* – these were plentiful at Stocken. **Solitary Bee** *Osmia bicolor* – one insect was photographed nest building at Ketton Quarry. **Solitary Bee** *Nomada* sp. – one was recorded at Stocken..

**Honey Bee** *Apis mellifera* – this month Manton seems to have been invaded by honey bees and they were recorded as follows: on the 13th a swarm of several thousand was seen close to the recorder's garden; on the 25th a swarm of about 20,000 landed in the garden and were removed by a beekeeper; on the same afternoon a villager reported a swarm in a bedroom of their house!

**Buff-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus terrestris* – a large queen bee was recorded at Barrowden. **Early Bumblebee** *Bombus pratorum* – one insect was recorded on Verge 5 in March. **Common Carder Bee** *Bombus pascuorum* – these were noted as plentiful at Stocken.

## COLEOPTERA

**Ground Beetle** *Notophilus rufipes* – one insect was found under a stone at Lyndon. **Ground Beetle** *Badister bullatus* – one recorded at Lyndon. **Ground Beetle** *Harpalus rufipes* – one insect again found under stones in shade at Lyndon. **Ground Beetle** *Leistus fulvibaris* – one specimen of this quick running species caught on gravel at Lyndon. **Ground Beetle** *Pterostichus cupreus* – one noted at Stocken.

**Cockchafer 'May Bug'** *Melolontha melolontha* – all 5 cockchafer records came from Barrowden and all noted near the month end; two insects were noted at approx. 11pm and 3 were recorded during daylight hours.

**Click Beetle** *Athous haemorrhoidalis* – a few insects were noted at Lyndon, and they were recorded in good numbers, >25, at Lyndon reserve. **Click Beetle** *Limonius minutus* – 2 insects were noted amongst all the *Athous h.* at Lyndon reserve.

**Soldier Beetle** *Cantharis rustica* – many were recorded at Ketton Quarry and a single large specimen was noted at Lyndon. **Soldier Beetle** *Rhizonycha fulva* – >10 were recorded on Verge 7. **Soldier Beetle** *Cantharis rufa* – an example of the pale form of this insect was recorded at Lyndon reserve. **Soldier Beetle** *Cantharis pellucida* – good numbers were noted at Lyndon reserve. **Soldier Beetle** *Cantharis nigricaris* – one observed at Lyndon reserve.

**Cardinal Beetle** *Pyrochroa serraticornis* – nettle beds at Ketton Quarry were noted to be full of these insects, a single specimen was observed at Lyndon, and >50 insects were counted in an hour on nettles and umbellifers at Lyndon reserve. **Malachite Beetle** *Malachius bipustulatus* – more than 20 were observed at Lyndon reserve, 2 observed at Stocken.

**7-spot Ladybird** *Coccinella 7-punctata* – 3 were recorded on Verge 8, a good number, 30-40, were noted throughout the site at Woodhead Castle, 4-5 were noted at Verge 7, good numbers were recorded throughout Priors Coppice, 15+ noted at Ketton Quarry, 7+ noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry, and 20+ recorded from a garden at Oakham.

**10-spot Ladybird** *Adalia 10-punctata* – one insect was recorded at Barrowden, 7 specimens of *f. decempustulatus* were noted at Stocken, and *f. decempunctata* and *f. bimaculata* were recorded as plentiful at Stocken. **Fourteen-spot Ladybird** *Propylea 14-punctata* – one insect recorded at Oakham and 8 recorded at Stocken. **Twentytwo-spot Ladybird** *Thea 22-punctata* – 3 were recorded at Stocken. **Twentyfour-spot Ladybird** *Subcoccinella 24-punctata* – one was noted at Lyndon reserve (these ones are hairy!).

**Raspberry Beetle** *Byturus tormentosus* – these were noted as prolific on buttercups at Lyndon.

**Wasp Beetle** *Clytus arietis* – 3 specimens of this longhorn beetle were noted at Lyndon reserve.

**Lily Beetle** *Lilioceris lili* – 2 insects were recorded at Oakham. **Flower Beetle** *Anaspis fasciata* – one noted at Lyndon. **Weevil** *Phyllobius pomaceus* – these were noted as plentiful at Stocken. **Weevil** *Platyrhinus resinosus* – one recorded at Stocken.

**Acorn Weevil** *Curculio glandium* – one recorded at Stocken.

## OTHER ARTHROPODS

### Spiders *Araneae*

**Orb Web Spider** *Araniella cucurbitina* – these were noted as abundant at Stocken.

**Running Crab Spider** *Philodromidae* sp. – one noted at Stocken. **Zebra Spider** *Salticus scenicus* – 4 were recorded at Stocken. **Pirate Spider** *Mimetidae* sp. – 2 were recorded at Stocken.

### Slugs and Snails *Gastropoda*

**Garden Snail** *Helix aspersa* – a few empty shells were noted on Verge 7. **Black Slug** *Arion ater* – 3, 5-6 cm long, were noted on Verge 5; one, 5-6 cm long, was noted at Woodhead Castle.

## June 2012

### ODONATA

**Common Blue Damselfly** *Enallagma cyathigerum* – one insect was noted at Stocken.

### HEMIPTERA

**Hawthorn Shield Bug** *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* – one specimen was recorded at Lyndon reserve.

**Green Shield Bug** *Palomena prasina* – 6 single insects and one mating pair were observed at Stocken, one was also noted at Lyndon reserve.

### Caddis Fly *Trichoptera*

**Caddis Fly** *Limnephilidae* sp. – a single insect was noted at Stocken.

### DIPTERA

**Spotted Crane Fly** *Nephrotoma crocata* – 3 were noted in a garden at Barrowden. **Bumblebee** *Hoverfly* *Volucella bombylans*, white-tailed variety – one insect was noted at Lyndon reserve and one noted at Stocken. **Pellucid Hoverfly** *Volucella pellucens* – one insect landed on observer's notepad on Verge 8. **Yellow Dung Fly** *Scathophaga stercoraria* – one specimen recorded on Verge 8.

## HYMENOPTERA

**Hornet** *Vespa crabro* – one noted at Lyndon centre.

## COLEOPTERA

**Green Tiger Beetle** *Cicindela campestris* – one beetle was recorded at Ketton Quarries.

**Click Beetle** *Byrrhus pilula* – one was recorded at Stocken. **Click Beetle** *Agriotes obscuris* – one was noted at Stocken. **Click Beetle** *Athous haemorrhoidalis* – one was recorded on Verge 8.

**Soldier Beetle** *Cantharis rustica* – 4 insects observed on Verge 8.

**Cardinal Beetle** *Pyrochroa serraticornis* – 3 insects recorded at Lyndon reserve.

**Malachite Beetle** *Malachius bipustulatus* – one recorded on Verge 8.

**Variable Longhorn Beetle** *Stenocorus meridianus* – one insect recorded in dense vegetation on Verge 8.

**Leaf Beetle** *Cryptocephalus* sp. – a very bright metallic-green beetle was photographed at Lyndon reserve

## OTHER ARTHROPODS

### Spider *Araneae*

**Nursery Web Spider** *Pisaura mirabilis* – one observed carrying an egg sac at Egleton reserve.

### Woodlice *Isopoda*

**Common Pill Woodlouse** *Armadillidium vulgare* – several were noted at Ketton Quarry.

### Slugs and Snails *Gastropoda*

**White-lipped Snail** *Cepaea hortensis* – both banded and unbanded (yellow) forms were noted on Verge 7. **Snail** *Monacha cantiana* – approx. 20-30 were noted on Verge 7.

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Many thanks to the following observers: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, J Crosby, M Grimes, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, D Needham, T Newton, P Rudkin, P Scott, L & G Worrall.

# ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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April and May were wet and cold, the wettest June on record, butterflies having a bad time, moth trappers having very low catches. This has been the pattern for the last few weeks. Therefore, it is no surprise that there were no sightings at all for the March/April period. Now to the current report for May and June. Records received are at an all-time low. Furthermore, after checking this period for 2011, I noted big differences, which make interesting comparisons. These records are vital for future research into how the weather affects our wildlife.

Nymphs are the biggest feature for these two months. The numbers of nymphs were large, but the size of each individual was tiny. Interestingly, those caught on the Egleton Reserve at Rutland Water on 6th June had not grown significantly larger during the survey at the same reserve on 29th June. Therefore it is concluded that the extreme conditions have slowed down the development of the orthoptera nymphs. Furthermore, there was only one stridulating reported (mine), surprisingly early, from Common Green Grasshopper, on 6th June. In 2011 most grasshopper species had been heard during June. Interesting findings indeed.

David Needham, Alistair Lawrence and I met up with Steve Woodward and Helen Ikin, on 19th June, in Ketton Quarries. During the day, I decided to check on a small pond, with the hope of finding a new site for a certain species. I am delighted to say that a concerted effort resulted in a new square for Slender Groundhopper.

The National Orthoptera Recording Scheme organisers have decided to extend the proposed new distribution Atlas for one more season. Therefore, we still have time to hopefully add a new orthopteran to Rutland before the season ends. Although we have surveyed most of Rutland over the last five years, the organisers have requested all county recorders to continue to monitor the usual species, so that the trends can be noted. At this point I would like to mention that because many species are now listed as common and widespread, they will be mentioned briefly, and no map references will be given. However, species found in new locations will be mapped. Concentration will be on the small number of species that are less common, and any new sites will be mapped. This is common practice in county orthoptera reports. The data for our orthoptera for the 2011 season has been entered into the national scheme. Should anyone wish to know the map references for the common species, please refer to the last few Annual Reports where they are listed. And of course, if a new species hopefully arrives in Rutland, documentation will be in full. Could I respectfully ask members to still carry on sending the map references for the common species as normal, in the interests of accuracy, thank you!

As I write, in early July, the forecasters are predicting continuing poor weather conditions for weeks to come. It will be extremely fascinating to note how our grasshoppers and crickets progress this season.

## May/June 2012

### BUSH CRICKETS

#### Oak Bush Cricket *Meconema thalassinum*

Bush beating a mature Oak tree at Stocken on 30th May brought down 56 first instar nymphs into the white sheet for accurate identification. The nymphs were eventually returned to the tree.

#### Dark Bush Cricket *Pholidoptera griseoptera*

Five nymphs, observed and identified on verges, on Verge 8, Great Casterton, on 10th June.

The observer mentioned that she found many unidentified nymphs of all sizes on the verge. On Verge 7, Pickworth Road, Great Casterton, many nymphs were observed, on 28th June. Both of these verges are strongholds for the Dark Bush Cricket.

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

One tiny nymph, caught and identified at the Egleton Reserve, Rutland Water on 6th June. Two male nymphs caught in the Cutting at Ketton Quarries on 19th June. One nymph identified in Ridlington, on 28th June. Nymphs, found on Verge 7, on 28th June. Large numbers of nymphs observed, some caught and sexes noted, at the Egleton Reserve, on 29th June.

### GROUNDHOPPERS

#### Slender Groundhopper *Tetrix subulata*

A brand new site and square for this species. Two, found on edge of small pond (one swimming), caught and identified. Confirmed by Helen Ikin and Steve Woodward, from the Leicester Lit and Phil Natural History section. Ketton Quarries (SK 972 057). 19th June.

## GRASSHOPPERS

### **Common Green Grasshopper** *Omocestus viridulus*

First stridulation heard on 6th June. This was a little early and a surprise, because no other stridulations were heard from any other grasshoppers in the month of June. However, this species is most often the first to be heard. It was also on a regular field, where populations are known. This was on the Egleton reserve, in thick grasses just below the north side of Lax Hill. Much of this field was lost during the construction on a new lagoon, so it was encouraging to hear the song in this location. Because the area has been changed, the map reference is given, SK 881 068.

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

Many tiny nymphs found in verge and field, Egleton Reserve, just below the north side of Lax Hill. Numerous nymphs located in rough grass field, near Badger-watching Hide, Egleton Reserve. Both sightings on 6th June. Two small nymphs found in grasses, in the BBQ area, Ketton Quarries. Many nymphs found in the nearby valley cutting, Ketton Quarries. Eleven nymphs

observed in thick grasses, in the North Glade, Ketton Quarries. Both sightings were on 19th June. One nymph found in field, at Crownwell Farm, Wing (SK 885 033).

### **Lesser Marsh Grasshopper** *Chorthippus albomarginatus*

Many tiny nymphs found in grasses, in verge next to field, on the Egleton Reserve, north of Lax Hill; numerous nymphs in rough grass field, near Badger-watching Hide, Egleton Reserve. Both sightings on 6th June. Two nymphs in grasses in the BBQ area, at Ketton Quarries; two nymphs found in grass field, in the North Glade, Ketton Quarries. Both sightings on 19th June. Four nymphs in grasses, at Quarry Farm, Stamford, on 24th June. Many nymphs found in field, at the beginning of the Summer Trail, Egleton Reserve, on the 29th June. The nymphs were still tiny, and were not much bigger than those found at Egleton on 6th June.

*Conclusion: The weather conditions have clearly affected the development of the grasshoppers and crickets. It will be of great interest to monitor their fortunes for the rest of the season.*

*Many thanks for records received, from: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, J Crosby, M Grimes, P Rudkin.*

## BAT REPORT compiled by Jenny Harris

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### May/June 2012

The weather for May and June was not very conducive to bat watching, being mostly cool and often wet. It seemed to rain in the evening quite often too, including on more than one occasion when it began just as our roost counts were due to start.

In Barrowden on 2.5, after a mild sunny day, two pipistrelle-sized bats flying at 9.20 pm were the first bats the observers had seen this year. On 24.5 three were seen at Crown Well Bridge near Wing at dawn, with one there on 29.5. A large unknown bat was seen flying at dawn at Lyndon Top, Rutland Water, on 2.5 which may have been a noctule. In June bats (probably pipistrelle) were again seen in a garden in Redland Close, Barrowden, one on the warm, still evening of 19.6; also on 26.6 one was seen after a sultry day, and on 29.6 two were flying fast following one another at 10.00 pm. At Stocken on 30.6 two small bats were in the garden, their flight described as fluttery and erratic.



### **Common Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus pipistrellus*

From 24.5 common pipistrelles, identified by bat detector, were regularly observed in a garden at Barmstedt Drive, Oakham, until the end of June, and heard infrequently over Woodland View gardens. A large colony of common pipistrelle at the Fox and Hounds in Exton was counted, with over 460 bats in early June; on 23.6 the count was hampered by drizzle, which became heavier as the evening wore on, but nevertheless 276 bats emerged, possibly desperate to forage as they would already have babies to feed. Other roosts are being counted for the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) but results are not yet in.

### **Soprano Pipistrelle** *Pipistrellus pygmaeus*

The roost at the former Whitwell Hotel was not occupied this year, but a large colony at St. Edmund's Church, Egleton, was counted on two occasions in June. In Lyndon on 19.6 bats were seen and identified by bat detector emerging from around a chimney. As they foraged nearby several flew very low, often no more than two or

three feet from the ground. A roost at Gunthorpe held a number of bats on 26.6, and foraging was observed nearby. Several other roosts are being counted for the NBMP but results are not yet in.

#### **Noctule** *Nyctalus noctula*

On 19.6 a single bat was heard, then clearly seen flying over the west end of Lyndon, near

the church; it flew from the south west towards Lyndon Wood. A single noctule was foraging over a grass field between two small belts of woodland at Gunthorpe on 26.6. Feeding buzzes indicated that it was finding and, one hopes catching, insects there.

*My thanks to the following for records: T Caldicott, J & A Comber, J Crosby, J Harris, L & G Worrall.*

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## **MAMMAL REPORT** compiled by Linda Biddle

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### **May/June 2012**

**Hedgehogs** have been busy during May and June, three seen regularly at Stocken under the bird table, and on lawns. At Barrowden the Worralls have had their usual well-fed visitors, two courting in early May, and at least one pair on most dry nights (they seem to prefer the warm dry evenings, can't think why!) and sometimes two pairs and a single. In early June, four medium brown healthy looking hogs were seen all together on the patio, and later the same evening two more looking in vain for nuts. On the 12th one appeared looking for food at 5.45 pm, and between 9.30 pm and midnight there were lots, in ones and twos. They eat at least 7 handfuls of nuts!! The visits continued through the month, mainly 2 or 3 nightly. At the end of June Dr Gallimore had a hedgehog scuttling around his flower beds at 10 pm.

**Brown Hares** are as usual the most widely reported species. They are seen regularly in the Great Casterton and Pickworth area, and at Greetham Valley Golf club, where three hares and six leverets were seen on June 6th. They are also often reported from Seaton Road and Live Hill Barrowden. Others are recorded in Wing, Lyndon, Lagoon 8 RWNR, Egleton-Wedlock Wood, Barnsdale, and Wakerley Road Barrowden.

In May a white **rabbit** was seen in a field at Wing.

Three reports this month of **Grey Squirrels**, seen at Barnsdale near the entrance gate, and in the woodland trail. A high population has been present in Barnsdale Wood between March and May.

For the first time this year or last a **Water Shrew** was found, sadly dead, on the road at Clipsham, but good to know that they are still around.

A **Common Shrew** was also found near the car park at Egleton centre, and a dead **Bank Vole** near reed beds at RW.

Four **Short-tailed voles** were seen in long grass behind workshops at Stocken, and a fifth was later killed by the mower, but was later seen taken by a carrion crow.

In May the **Water Voles** at RWNR were busy, at Burley Fishponds, near Shoveler hide, and in the reed beds. On June 20th one was seen swimming near Shoveler hide, and the high water level pushed them out to the edge of the reed beds at Burley Fishponds.

A **Fieldmouse** was seen in a garden in Manton, on a bird feeder adjacent to an ivy-covered wall, feasting on sunflower seeds. Another was found dead on a pathway at RWNR.

In early May a young **Otter**, obviously unwell, was found resting in a garden by Langham Brook. Sadly it died later. Happily signs of live otters were seen at RWNR in early May, and in June one was seen on two occasions at Leighfield Fishponds.

**Weasels** were seen to be nesting in the same spot as last year at Greetham Valley Golf club, an adult observed carrying a small vole into rocks.

**Stoats** have been seen almost daily in May and June, in front of the Lyndon Visitor Centre at RWNR. At Barnsdale a stoat was seen crossing the road from the drought garden to the field. Another crossed the railway line in Wing, and in Barrowden three in line crossed over Seaton Road.

At Gibbets Gorse a family of about 7 **Fox** cubs and an adult were seen on the cycle track at dawn in May, another by Swan Hide, and another much redder one was seen from Teal Hide, carrying prey. A young fox was seen in front of Lyndon centre, an adult in Burley Wood, and a fox was

disturbed resting behind a woodpile near reed beds at RW.

**Badgers** are also active in this wet weather, no shortage of food this year! Badger setts show signs of activity near Pickworth and Ryhall, and a small one ran across RW perimeter track in early June.

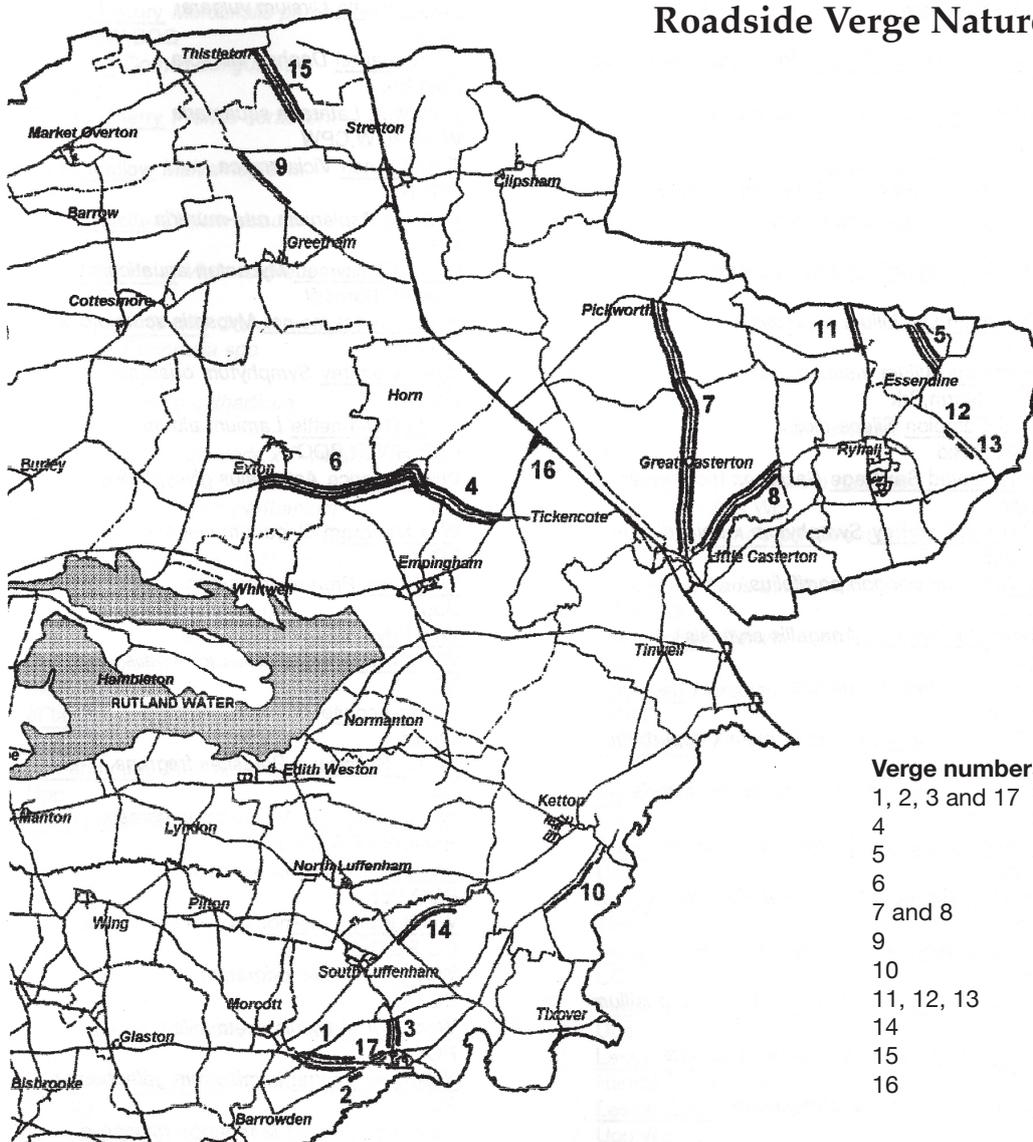
A **Roe Deer** was observed in May, swimming across RW from Berrybutts Spinney towards Hambleton, and a male was seen near Wing.

**Muntjac** have been reported from Pickworth, Little Haw, Clipsham Park, and Burley Woods, where four were seen on one occasion in May. A pair were observed for about 15 minutes in a wood by Heron Bay at RWNR.

There have been very few **Fallow Deer** in Clipsham Wood, none seen on 4 of five visits, and only three on the fifth. This is a big reduction on numbers prior to 2011. At Little Haw, Pickworth and Burley Woods there are still quite large numbers, groups of up to 38 being seen, and fawns in Pickworth and Burley.

*Many thanks for all your reports: C Bacon, A Biddle, M Branston, T Caldicott, J Crosby, C Gallimore, S George ( Laurence Martyn), M & G Griffin, M Grimes, J & P Harrison, P Langston, P J Rudkin, A R & M A Thorp, L & G Worrall*

## Roadside Verge Nature Reserves



### Verge numbers

- |                |                 |
|----------------|-----------------|
| 1, 2, 3 and 17 | Barrowden       |
| 4              | Empingham       |
| 5              | Essendine       |
| 6              | Exton           |
| 7 and 8        | Great Casterton |
| 9              | Greenham        |
| 10             | Ketton          |
| 11, 12, 13     | Ryhall          |
| 14             | South Luffenham |
| 15             | Thistleton      |
| 16             | Bloody Oaks     |

## SITE ABBREVIATIONS

Add W	Addah Wood
Arm W	Armley Wood
Ash	Ashwell
Ash/Whiss	Ashwell/Whissendine
Ayst	Ayston
Barns	Barnsdale
BarnsG	Barnsdale Gardens
BarnsLW	Barnsdale Lodge Wood
BarnsW	Barnsdale Wood
BCF	Beaumont Chase Farm
Bden	Barrowden
Belm	Belmesthorpe
Belt	Belton in Rutland
BFP	Burley Fish Ponds
Bis	Bisbrooke
BOQ	Bloody Oaks Quarry
BOV	Bloody Oaks Verge
BP	Big Pits
Bthpe	Barleythorpe
Braun	Braunston
Brk	Brooke
Burl	Burley
BW	Burley Wood
CL	Coppice Leys
ColdO	Cold Overton
Cottes	Cottesmore
Clips	Clipsham
CPW	Clipsham Park Wood
CQ	Clipsham Quarry
CrM	Cribbs Meadow
DP	Dawn's Paddock
EBR	Eyebrook Reservoir
EBP	Eyebrook Plantation
Egl	Egleton
Emp	Empingham
Emp/Ext	Empingham to Exton
Emp/Tick	Empingham to Tickencote
ESs	Essendine
EW	Edith Weston
Ext	Exton
FH	Fort Henry
FHP	Fort Henry Ponds
FlitPk	Flitteris Park
Geest	Geeston
Ggorse	Gibbet Gorse
GHW	George Henry Wood
Glast	Glaston
Gorse	Gorsefield, Oakham
Greet	Greetham
GtCast	Great Casterton
Gum	Gumley
Gun	Gunthorpe
Hamb	Hambleton
HambW	Hambleton Wood
Hinsp	Hinman's Spinney
HM	Horn Mill
Ing	Ingthorpe
Kett	Ketton
Kett/Tix	Ketton to Tixover
KQ	Ketton Quarry
Lang	Langham

*For ornithology, botany, entomology and mycology reports.*

Leigh	Leighfield CP
LCast	Little Casterton
LFP	Leighfield Fish Ponds
LHGC	Luffenham Heath Golf Course
Lydd	Lyddington
Lynd	Lyndon
LyndWP	Lyndon Wood Pond
Man	Manton
MM	Merry's Meadow
MO	Market Overton
Mor	Morcott
NLuff	North Luffenham
Norm	Normanton
Oak	Oakham
OakC	Oakham Canal
PC	Priors Coppice
PGW	Pickworth Great Wood
Pick	Pickworth
Pilt	Pilton
Prest	Preston
QF	Quarry Farm
Rid	Ridlington
RWGC	Rutland Water Garden Centre
RWNA	Rutland Water North Arm
RWSA	Rutland Water South Arm
RWeg	Rutland Water Egleton Reserve
RWlh	Rutland Water Lax Hill
RWLr	Rutland Water Lyndon Reserve
RWrb	Rutland Water reed beds
RWsl	Rutland Water Sykes Lane
RWwy	Rutland Water work yard
Ryll	Ryhall
SDW	Stoke Dry Wood
Seat	Seaton
Sk	The Seek, Braunston
SLuff	South Luffenham
SM	Seaton Meadows
StamQ	Stamford Quarry
Stock	Stocken
Strett	Stretton
StretW	Stretton Wood
TBr	Turtle Bridge
TbyW	Thorpe by Water
Tgh	Teigh
Thist	Thistleton
Tick	Tickencote
Tin	Tinwell
Tix	Tixover
Tole	Tolethorpe
TunnW	Tunneley Wood
Upp	Uppingham
Vge	Verge (see map page 29)
Ward	Wardley
WCQS	Williamson Cliffe Quarry Site
WFL	Wing Fishing Lakes
Wg	Wing
WhdC	Woodhead Castle
Whiss	Whissendine
Whit	Whitwell
WQ	Woolfox Quarry
WW	Wardley Wood