



**Birch Sawfly** *Cimbex femoratus*, observed in Burley Wood in May. Actual size 17–23 mm. Photo, Tim Caldicott.

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**New subscription rate**

Members present at the AGM will remember that there was considerable discussion of subscription rates, and a proposal to increase. The Committee have decided to raise subs to £12.50 per person for 2017, and will review next year to make sure that we are covering costs. There has been no change for many years, and costs have risen considerably. There has also been a suggestion that the *Annual Report*, which is expensive to produce, and even more so to distribute, may be available digitally and printed only by request in future. No decision has yet been made, but be assured we are trying to maximise the value you receive for your subscriptions, and to ensure that all members have access to our information, whether on-line or not.

**Happy Birthday Phil!**

Many greetings and congratulations on his 80th Birthday to Phil Rudkin, former Chair, current Vice-President, Orthoptera Recorder, award-winning Sound Recordist, wildlife enthusiast and (almost) founder member!



## The summer is now upon us

As a change from our usual problems – the Oakham Canal visit was a complete washout – the visit to Fineshade was postponed for fear of heatstroke! We hope you're all out and about finding interesting wildlife, and looking forward to Ketton Quarry on August 6th.

### Seaton Meadows

Fortunately the Seaton Meadows survey went ahead without hitch – curlews fledged and fields unmowed. We hope to repeat the exercise each coming year to chart the change in flora, and help to plan management strategy, so thanks to Joe Costley of Plantlife for coming to lead us.

### Oakham Show

Our stand at Oakham Show, blessed with fine weather, was a great success. We met many members of our local community, and raised awareness of our existence, thanks to the generosity of members who spent time helping to erect the stand and speaking to passers by. We hope to continue in this task by placing our boards at other prominent places, so if members have suggestions of events or locations then please let us know.

### French trip



European Bee-eater.  
Photo, A Tomlinson

A small group of members had a wonderful week in the Morvan in mid June. Undaunted by the chilly and damp (sometimes torrential) weather we visited bogs, meadows, lakes and riverside habitats and saw a grand total of 154 species (not including Roy's list of rusts and galls). Most exciting were the Shrikes, Lesser Grey and Redbacked, which performed for us at a lovely bog site where we also found Hawfinch, Marsh Cinquefoil, and Lesser Pearl-bordered Fritillary. Bee-eaters were in the banks of the Loire, and a wonderful half hour was spent watching their aerial performances over the mighty Loire, as it carried an amazing quantity of water towards the confluence with the equally full Allier. Spectacular Lizard Orchids appeared before us as we arrived at one chalk meadow site, and were followed by Crested Cow Wheat, and a beautiful bright blue butterfly with a whole list of other limestone species, many of which are still unidentified by us, at present, but given more time to pore over books and photos we hope to identify as many as we can. Some reports of the RNHS French trip have come in (see pages 9 and 17) but may be amplified.

In December at a members' evening we hope to show some of our pictures, and to talk about the visit. A huge thankyou is due to Ann Tomlinson for her superb organisation, and care in locating sites for us to visit. The trip was greatly enjoyed and we would encourage anyone who has chance to go to the Morvan and experience it for themselves.

**Linda Biddle**



Lizard Orchid.  
Photo, A Tomlinson



Roman snail, Morvan. Photo, L Biddle

## DIARY DATES

## RNHS EVENING MEETINGS

Meetings are held at Voluntary Action Rutland (VAR), Lands End Way, Oakham LE15 6RB. Tea and coffee, free. Visitors are asked for a donation of £2. The Spring meetings have finished. Autumn meetings start up again on October 4th.

**Tuesday October 4, 7.30 pm**

### Animal behaviour, observation and interpretation

David Cotter, RNHS Committee member, is starting the winter season with an illustrated talk on the behaviour of Fallow Deer, Grey Seals, Rooks and Puffins, and maybe Ants, depending on running time. He will be using his own photographs, which often feature in *Fieldfare*.

## RNHS FIELD TRIPS

Full details of all these events appear on our website at [www.rnhs.org.uk](http://www.rnhs.org.uk). If the weather is bad, check the website or call the 'Queries' phone number for changes.

**Saturday Aug 6, 11 am to 2 pm**

### Butterflies galore at Ketton Quarry

Led by Alastair Lawrence, this is a repeat of last year's very successful meeting. Ketton Quarry is probably Rutland's best butterfly site. See *Fieldfare* July 2015, page 2, for photos of some of the species found.

Meet in the car park at Ketton Quarry reserve (OS grid ref: SK 978054). If you wish to stay into the afternoon, bring a picnic.

Queries: Alistair Lawrence 01572 770492

**Sunday Sept 4, 10 am–1 pm**

### Priors Coppice for a gall hunt



Robin's pincushion. Photo, R Edwards

With Roy Lemmon, RNHS gall recorder, and members of the British Plant Gall Society. This is your chance to expand your knowledge of this rather overlooked but fascinating group called the plant galls. A gall is an abnormal growth produced by a plant or other host under the influence of another organism. Most galls are caused by fungi (particularly rusts and smuts) or invertebrates, such as aphids, mites, psyllids, gall-midges, gall-flies, gall-wasps and sawflies, but a wide range of other invertebrates are included. Galls can also be caused by viruses, bacteria and phytoplasmas. Some well-known galls are Oak-apples and Robin's Pincushions.

Meet in the car park at Priors Coppice (OS grid ref SK 833 049). The paths at this wood can be very damp so please bring appropriate footwear.

Queries: Roy Lemmon 01780 762051

**Sunday October 16, 10.30 am**

### Birds at RSPB Titchwell Marsh

Led by RNHS's Dave Cotter. This wonderful Norfolk bird site has a variety of habitats, from wet woodlands to dunes to the sea, via lagoons of a variety of salinity, and with a number of hides. Since the storm surge in 2013, new areas have been developed and are opening up. Charge £5 per car for non-members of RSPB.

Queries: Dave Cotter, 01780 765952, mobile 07887 392308

## LEICESTERSHIRE & RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST, RUTLAND GROUP

For events in Leicestershire and Rutland see [www.lrwat.org.uk](http://www.lrwat.org.uk) or phone 0116 262 9968. Rutland group meetings are held at the Volunteer Training Centre, Hambleton Road, LE15 8AD. Entry £1.

## LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST, BOURNE GROUP

For details of LWT events, see [www.lincstrust.org.uk](http://www.lincstrust.org.uk), or phone 01507 526677 in office hours. Bourne group meetings are held at the Methodist Church Hall, Bourne.

## WEATHER

### RECORDER Roy Lemmon

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU. Telephone 01780 762051  
E-mail: Roy.Lemmon@yahoo.co.uk

#### May 2016

##### Atmospheric pressure and wind

The month started with high pressures, the month's highest was 1025 mb on the 1st, but from the 6th onwards pressures were at or below the norm. The winds followed a similar pattern, being SW-W until the 6th, after which they were mostly N-E resulting in a rather cool month.

##### Temperature

The overall mean for the month was 13.24 °C, which places it fifth in the decade 2007–2016. The mean maximum at 18.97 °C was, however, third in the same decade, and there was a period, the 6th–9th inclusive, when maxima were high, but this was not sustained and the month ended with a daytime maximum of just 10.3 °C on the last day.

##### Rainfall

A total of 63.3 mm (2.49 inches) recorded here, or 128% of the long-term mean, makes this the third wet month in a row. March produced 212% of LTM, April and May were both 128%. Some 56% of the May total fell on the 9th, 10th and 11th, with 28.0 mm alone on the 10th. Such an event is fairly unusual in this part of the country.

#### June 2016

##### Atmospheric pressure and wind

A steady month for air pressures, the lowest I recorded was 996 mb at 09.00 hours on the 15th, and for the rest of the month they didn't go above 1024 mb. A somewhat unusual occurrence was a period of eight days, the 21st–28th, when pressures were between 1016 and 1018 mb. Winds were N-E until the 9th and then generally SW-W and often of low speed, including 5 days when I recorded nil speed at 0.900 hr.

##### Temperature

A cool June, unfortunately my minimum thermometer malfunctioned while I was away, so that result cannot be used realistically. The mean maximum, 20.72 °C, was the eighth lowest in the decade 2007–2016, only 2012 and 2013 Junes were cooler.

##### Rainfall

Another wet month, with a total here of 91.5 mm (3.6 inches), which equates to 180% of long-term mean. June rainfall can be very variable year to year, 2012 for example 135.9 mm, 259% of LTM, whereas last year's June rainfall was just 17.0 mm or 35% of LTM. One cannot know what the rest of the year will bring but the total rainfall for 2016 so far is 382.5 mm or 63% of the year's mean total. It will be interesting to see how it ends up.

## AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

### RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore

The Stone House, Reeves Lane, Wing LE15 8SD. Telephone: 01572 737343  
E-mail: chasgall@hotmail.com

#### May/June 2016



Photo, D Cotter

There were few amphibian records in these months, all of them coming from Wing. **Frog** tadpoles were abundant in a Wing garden pond and a number of different **Common Toads** were seen on a number of occasions in my garden, where there is a huge amount of gastropod potential food devastating my vegetable garden. Two female **Great Crested Newts** were found in a new pond in my garden.

Two **Viviparous Lizards** were seen at Ketton Quarry and Bloody Oaks in early May.

Three **Adders** were seen at Ketton Quarry in June.

**Grass Snakes** were quite widely reported. One was seen swimming in the Oakham Canal in early May and another on a limestone bank in Exton. Four were together at Greetham Golf Course on May 3rd and another was seen on May 14th. There was also a record from Fort Henry on June 11th.

The reptile survey at Rutland Water Nature Reserve continued less successfully than last year – only three **Grass Snakes** were found under the corrugated shelters. However two others were seen on tracks and numerous small mammal observations were made. The cold and wet weather and the lush growth of vegetation plus the deteriorating condition of many of the shelters were all contributory factors. We shall see whether the next months are any more productive.

*My thanks to the following who sent records: J Ansley, A Hill, P Langston, R Lemmon, T Mitcham and B & E Nicholls*

## BIRDS

### May/June 2016



Osprey. Photo, D Needham

### RECORDER Terry Mitcham

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

E-mail: joterpat@btinternet.com

Scarcer species recorded during May and June included Quail, Spoonbill, Red-necked Phalarope, Little Tern and Black Redstart but some previously widespread summer visitors were noticeably harder to find – Cuckoo, Nightingale and Spotted Flycatcher; all part of a national trend which seems to be ongoing and unstoppable. On the plus side, other species are faring better: the Ospreys and Avocets at Rutland Water, good numbers of returning warblers and breeding records for Mandarin Duck and Shoveler. Spring waders and tern passage were mainly on the Egleton lagoons with high water levels at both reservoirs reducing feeding opportunities there. It was fascinating to see a Great Northern Diver in breeding plumage at Rutland Water in mid-May, a sight usually denied to land-locked Midland birdwatchers.

*My thanks to the following for their records: T Appleton, D & J Ball, P Bennett, A & J Biddle, P Brown, T Caldicott, A & J Comber, Dr C H Gallimore, G & M Griffin, M Grimes, Dr C R Jones, LROS, R Lemmon, K Mather, T Mitcham, B Moore, J Nourish, L Park, P Robinson, P Rudkin, RWNr, J Wheeler, L Worrall*

See also Wildfowl Counts on page 8 and 9.

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Mute Swan            | Bred at Banthorpe GP, RW, Ext Park and FHP, where both pairs lost all of their cygnets.   |
| Greylag Goose        | Bred at RW, FHP and Chapel Farm, Burl.  |
| Barnacle Goose       | One was with Canada Geese at RWNorm on 04.06.   |
| Egyptian Goose       | Bred at RW and Ext Park. Two flew over LFP on 06.05.  |
| Shelduck             | Pairs were noted at LFP, FHP and over BW but the only broods were at RWEg on 24.06.   |
| Mandarin Duck        | One or two were at Bden and near Wg in May. Bred at Ext Park where a female had two ducklings on 03.06 and at RWNorm, where a female was with three ducklings the next day. |
| Garganey             | A male was at RWEg from 05 to 11.05. A male was at RWEg on 17.06 with a pair there on 19.06.  |
| Shoveler             | A female had a single duckling at FHP on 18.06.   |
| Red-crested Pochard  | A male was at RWEg on 07.06.  |
| Scaup                | Two females were in RWSA on 02.05.  |
| Goldeneye            | Single males were at RWLynd on 10.05 and Burl Fishponds on 14.05.   |
| Quail                | One called near MM on 20.05.  |
| Grey Partridge       | A pair was at Hall Farm, Ext on 28.06.  |
| Guinea Fowl          | A white and a normal plumaged bird were feeding on farmland near Glast Tunnel Top on 15.05. They had presumably absconded from the nearby village.                          |
| Great Northern Diver | Present at RWN/SA to 17.05, with three on 05.05 and one in summer plumage from 06.05 to the final date.   |

|                      |   |
|----------------------|---|
| Spoonbill            | Nine were at RWEg on 30.05.   |
| Little Egret         | One or two were at Prest, EBR, Ext Park and over Bden. Nos at RW increased in June.   |
| Red Kite             | Ones and twos were widely reported including over Stam. An impressive 17 were on and over a field being cut for silage at BCF on 24.06.   |
| Marsh Harrier        | Singles were at EBR on 02 and 08.05, and RWEg on 04.05. Singles were at RWEg on 09 and EBR on 12.06.  |
| Sparrowhawk          | Garden records came from Barrow and Stam.   |
| Buzzard              | Three over KQ on 07.05 was the highest count. Bred at FHP.  |
| Kestrel              | Well reported with birds at FHP, EBR, RW, Wg Burrows and Banthorpe GP. Bred in nest boxes at RW and in Ext Park and in a barn near Ext.   |
| Hobby                | Singles were noted over Stam, Glast, EBR, RW and Man. One pirated prey from a Sparrowhawk at HM on 20.06.   |
| Avocet               | A pair at RWEg had three young on 12.06, later reducing to two. One was at EBR on 10.06.  |
| Oystercatcher        | One was near Leigh on 05.05 and three flew around LFP on 12.05. One was at EBR on 08.05 and at RW there were 25 on 10.05 and 20 in mid-June.  |
| Grey Plover          | Noted only at RWNA/Eg between 02 and 10.05, with three on the latter date.  |
| Lapwing              | RW counts were 29 on 10.05 and 32 in mid-June. At EBR there were six on 12.05 and 18 on 12.06 increasing to 37 on 26.06. Breeding activity was noted near Gt Cast, RW, Banthorpe GP and Wg Fishing Lakes. |
| Little Ringed Plover | One or two were at RW throughout both months. One displayed at a site in the north of the county on 14.05, and passage birds were noted at EBR from 23.06, with four on 24.06.                            |
| Ringed Plover        | 18 were at RW on 10.05 but only three in mid-June. Present at EBR from 22.06 with six the following day.  |
| Whimbrel             | Two were at RWEg on 04.05, with a single on 08 and 13.05.   |
| Curlew               | Two were at RW on 10.05. Breeding birds were at Cott Airfield and Seat Meadows with singles at Luff Airfield and RWEg on 14.05 and 24.06 respectively.  |
| Black-tailed Godwit  | 51 were at RWEg on 01.05. Five were at EBR on 24.06, when five overflowed RWEg (same birds ?).  |
| Bar-tailed Godwit    | Two were at RWEg on 09.05.  |
| Turnstone            | Noted at RWEg between 09 and 23.05 with four on 09 and five on 20.  |
| Knot                 | Two were at RWEg on 09/10.05.   |
| Ruff                 | One was at EBR on 06.05. Singles were at RWEg between 08 and 28.05, with two on 09 and 14.  |
| Curlew Sandpiper     | One was at RWEg on 09.05.   |
| Sanderling           | Present at RWEg from 06 to 23.05, with a max of seven on the latter date.   |
| Dunlin               | Noted at RWEg from 07.05 to 02.06, with 13 on 10.05 and 18 on 17.05.  |
| Red-necked Phalarope | A male was at RWEg on 27.05.  |
| Common Sandpiper     | At EBR one was seen on 03.05, with two on 06.05. RW had 19 on 10.05, with spring birds noted to 14.05. One was at LFP on 12.05. One or two returning birds were at EBR from 22.06.                        |
| Green Sandpiper      | Singles were at RW on 14 and 21.06, with two at EBR from 23.06 to the end of the month.   |
| Greenshank           | Up to six (10.05) were at RW between 07 and 14.05. One was at EBR on 08.05.   |
| Redshank             | 12 were at RW on 10.05, with seven in mid-June. One was at EBR on 08.05.  |
| Wood Sandpiper       | On 06.05 there were two at EBR and one at RWEg.   |
| Woodcock             | A roding bird was in BW on 09.05 – an encouraging record.   |
| Little Tern          | One was at RWEg on 29.05, with two present on 24.06.  |
| Common Tern          | There were good counts at the reservoirs. 14 were at EBR on 08.05 with c.60 at RW on 10.05. 80 were at RW in mid-June with six at EBR on 12.06 and 15 on 26.06.   |

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Arctic Tern               | An extended passage at RW saw birds between 02.05 and 02.06 on seven dates, with a max of 15 on 01.06. At EBR there were eight on 06.05 and three on 08.05.   |
| Black Tern                | Regular at RW between 04.05 and 17.05, with 40 on 08.05. At EBR there were eight on 06.05, seven on 08.05 and three on 11.05.   |
| Sandwich Tern             | Two were at RWEg on 30.05.  |
| Little Gull               | One was at RW on 18.05.   |
| Mediterranean Gull        | One roosted at RW on 18.06.   |
| Yellow-legged Gull        | One was at RW on 14.06.   |
| Stock Dove                | Nest boxes were occupied at RWEg, BCF, Wg, Geest, and Ext Park. Well reported from all woodland sites.  |
| Cuckoo                    | Singing birds were reported from the following sites up to 26.06: BW, CPW, Barrow, RWEg/Lynd, Wg and Leigh/Bushy Wood – a depressing seven sites.   |
| Barn Owl                  | Two pairs bred at RW and one at Prest, where two of three young were ringed on 27.06. Others were noted at Wg and LFP.  |
| Little Owl                | Reports came from RWLynd and Bden whilst a nest at BCF was predated before young hatched.   |
| Tawny Owl                 | Single chicks were ringed at two nest boxes at Ext. Also noted at BW (three on 09.05), Barrow, CPW and Clips, where one was found dead on 26.05.  |
| Short-eared Owl           | One was at EBR on 10.05, and one at RWEg on 18 and 20.06.   |
| Swift                     | Screaming parties were in Emp, Stam, Upp and Bden. C.220 were over RWLynd on 01.06.   |
| Kingfisher                | Singles were noted at FHP, HM (three on 26.06), EBR and Ryll.   |
| Green Woodpecker          | This very vocal species was reported from eight well-distributed sites.   |
| Great Spotted Woodpecker  | Regular in a Barrow garden in both months with other records from BW, TunnW, KQ and Norm, where an adult and two juvs visited garden feeders.   |
| Lesser Spotted Woodpecker | One was drumming in BarnsW on 01.05, with one in BW to at least 14.05.  |
| Raven                     | 14 flew east at Leigh on 24.05 and seven west at BCF on 19.06.  |
| Willow Tit                | Noted at LFP and Wg Fishing Lakes in May and LFP in June.   |
| Swallow                   | Three nesting pairs were monitored at Bden throughout both months.  |
| House Martin              | Numbers seem lower this year but six nests were monitored at Bden.  |
| Cetti's Warbler           | Well distributed on Eg reserve with one singing at RWLynd on 01.06.   |
| Chiffchaff                | 30 were in song around Leigh on 12.05, and 54 were in BW on 19.05.  |
| Willow Warbler            | A better year for this species, with small nos widely reported e.g. four at QF on 29.05 and four at Glast Tunnel Top next day. Two held territory at BCF, where none were present last year. 42 sang around Leigh on 12.05. |
| Blackcap                  | This species was well represented with birds in most spinneys and woodlands visited. 27 were around Leigh on 12.05, and 34 in BW on 19.05.  |
| Garden Warbler            | Singing males were noted at BarnsW, BW, KQ, CottW, Glast Tunnel Top and Wg Fishing Lakes.   |
| Lesser Whitethroat        | Five around Leigh on 01.05 was the peak count with others at RWEg, BCF, Wg, and QF.   |
| Whitethroat               | An excellent year for this species with 28 singing around Leigh on 12.05 and a record 12 territories on the BCF CBC plot. Six were at QF on 29.05, with smaller nos widely noted.   |
| Grasshopper Warbler       | One or two continued to sing in the Leigh/Bushy Wood area to 30.06.   |
| Sedge Warbler             | Away from RW, singles sang at FHP on 03.05, EBR on 26.06 and LFP on 30.06.  |
| Reed Warbler              | The only record away from RW was a singing bird near the bus stop in Man – seeking an early lift south, perhaps ?   |
| Nuthatch                  | Records came from regular sites in the Ext and RW woods and at FHP.   |
| Song Thrush               | Although nos remain much lower than Blackbird, more seem to be around this year with two territories at BCF.  |

|                    |  |
|--------------------|--|
| Spotted Flycatcher | The first birds were at LFP on 05 and BCF on 07.05. Subsequent records came from BW, Prest, Rid, Man, FHP and Upp, where a pair returned to their 2015 nest-site on 05.06. A grand total of eight sites. |
| Nightingale        | Up to three continued to sing at RWEg to mid-June.   |
| Black Redstart     | A female was at Whit Harbour, RW on 03–04.05.  |
| Whinchat           | One was at EBR on 05.05.   |
| Wheatear           | A female was at FHP on 03.05.  |
| Yellow Wagtail     | One or two were noted on farmland at BCF, MM, Prest, Martinsthorpe and Banthorpe GP.   |
| Grey Wagtail       | One was at FHP on 03.05, a pair was by the R.Gwash at Emp on 14.05 and one was in a Norm garden on 20.06.  |
| Tree Sparrow       | Two were regular at feeders in a Barrow garden throughout both months, breeding nearby. c.20 visited RWLynd Centre feeders in June.  |
| Siskin             | One frequented an Oak garden to 06.05. One was over Leigh on 12.05, with four over BW on 19.05 and three there on 23.05. Singles were over Leigh on 19.06 and Man on 22.06.                              |
| Linnet             | c.60 were around Leigh on 12.05.   |
| Lesser Redpoll     | Three flew over Wg on 02.05, and singles were noted over Leigh on several May dates.   |
| Common Crossbill   | Singles flew over Leigh on 19.06 and Man on 25.06.   |
| Bullfinch          | 33 were noted around Leigh on 12.05, with other records from BCF, Wg Fishing Lakes, BW and QF.   |
| Reed Bunting       | Four sang at QF on 29.05, and five were holding territory near lower lake, FHP, throughout June.   |

### May and June 2016 Wildfowl counts

|                | Rutland Water |      | Eyebrook Reservoir |       | Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park |       | Banthorpe Gravel Pit |       |
|----------------|---------------|------|--------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
|                | 10.05         | June | 08.05              | 12.06 | 06.05                           | 03.06 | 08.05                | 02.06 |
| Mute Swan      | 251           | 350  | 43                 | 59    | 9                               | 7     | 2                    | 2     |
| Greylag Goose  | 294           | 705  | 18                 | 71    | 22                              | 20    | 16                   | 6     |
| Canada Goose   | 100           | 771  | 4                  | 131   | 2                               |       | 4                    |       |
| Egyptian Goose | 49            | 73   |                    |       |                                 | 1     |                      |       |
| Shelduck       | 54            | 46   | 5                  |       | 2                               | 2     |                      |       |
| Mandarin Duck  | 1             | 6    |                    |       |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Wigeon         | 3             | 2    |                    |       |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Gadwall        | 139           | 191  | 25                 | 4     | 18                              | 32    |                      | 2     |
| Teal           | 16            | 12   |                    |       |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Mallard        | 377           | 530  | 50                 | 32    | 39                              | 50    | 2                    | 2     |
| Pintail        | 1             |      |                    |       |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Garganey       | 1             |      |                    |       |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Shoveler       | 9             | 12   | 1                  |       | 2                               | 3     |                      |       |
| Pochard        | 12            | 9    |                    |       |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Tufted Duck    | 240           | 353  |                    | 7     | 36                              | 21    |                      |       |

(Table continues on next page)



|                      | Rutland Water |      | Eyebrook Reservoir |       | Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park |       | Banthorpe Gravel Pit |       |
|----------------------|---------------|------|--------------------|-------|---------------------------------|-------|----------------------|-------|
|                      | 10.05         | June | 08.05              | 12.06 | 06.05                           | 03.06 | 08.05                | 02.06 |
| Goldeneye            | 2             | 2    |                    |       |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Great Northern Diver | 1             |      |                    |       |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Cormorant            | 99            | 155  | 6                  | 11    |                                 | 2     | 1                    |       |
| Little Egret         | 20            | 33   | 2                  |       |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Grey Heron           | 6             | 9    | 4                  | 2     |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Little Grebe         | 2             | 6    |                    |       |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Great Crested Grebe  | 120           | 124  | 39                 | 32    |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Water Rail           | 1             |      |                    |       |                                 |       |                      |       |
| Moorhen              | 40            | 30   | 2                  | 1     | 10                              | 5     |                      |       |
| Coot                 | 151           | 233  | 7                  | 18    | 32                              | 34    | 2                    | 2     |
| Kingfisher           |               |      |                    | 1     |                                 |       |                      |       |

## BOTANY

### RECORDER John Rodgers

8 Summerfield, Oakham LE15 6PZ. Telephone: 01572 757278  
E-mail: rnhsbotanyrecord@gmail.com

### May/June 2016

My usual report for May/June will appear in September. The RNHS trip to the Morvan in June will be written up in more detail later, but here is a preliminary account.

### June visit to the Morvan, France

The flora of the Morvan is very dependent on the varying geology of the area, and its altitude, some parts standing much higher than the surrounding countryside of Burgundy. We therefore had an interesting time comparing one area with another, and trying to identify flowers, some of which also occur in Britain. There were others which we couldn't identify in our guides. Might we have done better with a 'Flowers of France' guide? Who knows? Certainly there were flowers that gave us headaches searching our books. Roy tried the hardest – we all turned to him for identification. We didn't try at all to do the grasses and sedges, which were very abundant.

The area is very up and down, valleys with rivers and lakes (reservoirs), and hills reaching 900 metres. Most of the higher parts have underlying granite, the lower areas are sedimentary rock with some volcanic remains. This governs the flora-forest higher up, coniferous or deciduous, with agricultural land – cereal and pasture – lower down (with Charolais cattle, the local breed, everywhere, apparently to the exclusion of other breeds).

Our first outing was down by the Allier at the point where it joins the Loire. The flowers were very much British varieties, with such plants as Birdsfoot Trefoil, Creeping Cinquefoil, and a rather fine campanula, which we later decided was *Campanula rapunculus*, Rampion Bellflower, which is said to be the flower around which the fairy story of Rumpelstiltskin was based. The best find of the day however was a colony of Bee-eaters nesting in the river bank (see photo page 2).

That same day we went to a nature reserve on the slopes of the Loire valley, a limestone area. There we found a profusion of flowers – the best of the whole trip. There were Lizard Orchids (see page 2), Bee Orchids, Twayblades, Butterfly Orchids, Cowwheat, Bedstraws, Vetchlings, Broomrapes, a real treasure house. We couldn't believe our eyes when we got out of our cars. We didn't know where to turn first.

Thereafter our outings were a little more sombre. We went to an area of permanent bog, *tourbière* in French, acid in nature, where we found lots of Bedstraws, Ragged Robin, Marsh Marigold, Horsetail, Iris and lots of Willow. At the far end of this area, on the slightly higher ground, we found Greater Yellow Rattle (see page 19), Toadflax, Valerian and Willowherb.

Our further outings repeated these findings. There were many flowers unidentified (as yet) and so not recorded. It would be quite interesting to see local records of the various flora, but unfortunately we couldn't contact anybody local who might have been able to help with this. Perhaps we might have more luck next time. It is an area worth much more exploration.

## BUTTERFLIES

### RECORDER Richard Brown

10 Victoria Road, Stamford PE9 1HR. Telephone: 01780 590707

E-mail: [ribrow@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:ribrow@hotmail.co.uk)

### May/June 2016

There has been slow but steady progress in the variety of butterflies on the wing in May-June, with the species count increasing from the six noted by the end of April in the last *Fieldfare* to a total of 23 by the end of June. Of this increase, two species, **Large White** and **Holly Blue**, were late reports from April, then 9 more species were first reported in May, and a further 6 species in June.

**Large Whites** were first reported on 21 April, and have been widely reported from a dozen more sites during May and June.

**Holly Blue** was reported from 23 April, with subsequent reports from 6 sites during May, but with fewer reports in June.

During May the first reports of three **Skipper** species (**Grizzled**, **Dingy** and **Large**) were received, along with those of **Green-veined White**, **Speckled Wood**, **Green Hairstreak**, **Red Admiral**, **Small Heath** and **Common Blue**.

**Grizzled Skippers** were recorded from 4 May. So far this year they have been reported from just two sites – Bloody Oaks and Ketton. 6 were seen at Ketton on 4 June. **Dingy Skipper** has been more widely recorded since 5 May, with the quarries, Bloody Oaks, Ketton and Clipsham remaining the favoured habitats. A remarkable 20 plus were seen at Clipsham on 28 May.

**Green-veined White** was recorded from Barrowden on 1 May, with later records from the quarries at Bloody Oaks, Ketton and Clipsham, and from four other sites.

**Speckled Wood** have been recorded from nine sites since 7 May. Best numbers have been in Pickworth Wood (four) and at Leighfield (also four).

Up to 4 **Green Hairstreaks** were noted throughout May in their stronghold in the donkey paddock at Ketton – the first record being 7 May. This species was also found at Clipsham Quarry.

**Red Admiral** records are slow and scattered this year – with singletons from just three sites, the first on 12 May.

A single **Small Heath** was recorded from Great Casterton on 16 May. Better numbers were seen at Clipsham Quarry on 28 May (three) and 7 June (four), and from Ryhall (five) on 21 June.

The first **Common Blue** was recorded at Bloody Oaks on 20 May. Best sites for this species have been Clipsham Quarry, where 8 were seen on 28 May and 3 on 7 June, Ketton Quarry (4 on June 4) and Quarry farm (12 on June 27).

**Large Skippers** were first seen on 16 May, and then steadily through June. Greatest numbers were seen at Bloody Oaks (5 on May 16), and at Quarry Farm (4 on June 27).

This year does not look to be a major one for **Painted Lady** numbers. Most reports have been of singletons, starting from 4 June. As expected they have been seen widely across the county.



Orange Tip

**Marbled White**, on the other hand continues to flourish. After the first singleton on 21 June at Ketton there have been some large numbers in flight – 8 to 10 at Bloody Oaks on 25 June and 40 plus at Ketton on 27 June.

**Ringlets** and **Meadow Browns** are similarly building up into good numbers. After the first two **Ringlets** were noted at Ketton on 21 June, there has been a record of 50 plus at Ketton on 27 June. **Meadow Browns** were also first noted on 21 June. Numbers have since built up on the grassland at Quarry farm, with 12–15 there on 27 June and 14 on 30 June.

The first Fritillary to appear has been the **Dark Green Fritillary**, seen at Ketton on 21 June, and subsequently also noted in good numbers at Bloody Oaks. The best record has been of 10 at Ketton on 27 June.

A single **Brown Argus** was seen at Quarry farm on 30 June.

Of the species first seen in March and April, some have maintained both their numbers and distribution during May and June. **Brimstones** have been recorded from 13 sites, with a maximum of six at Ketton. **Peacocks** have been seen at five sites, with up to eight specimens at any one site. **Orange Tip** was seen at no less than 15 sites in May, with a maximum of 12 individuals seen. **Small Whites** were noted in small numbers from 9 sites. However **Small Tortoiseshells** were seen at only 5 sites in May and just one in June. Similarly **Commas** were only recorded twice during May, and not at all in June. In the case of both these last two species we are between the first and second broods of the year.

*Records have been received from the following, with thanks: J Ansley, D & J Ball, P Bennett, A & L Biddle, R Brown, C Butterfield, T Caldicott, M Grimes, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, D Needham, J & J Rogers, P Rudkin and L Worrall.*

## MOTHS

### May/June 2016

#### RECORDER Paul Bennett

90 Kesteven Rd, Stamford PE91SR. Telephone: 01780 754 569  
E-mail: p.bennett569@btinternet.com

May was a cool month and not conducive to moth activity. There was a slight improvement as would be expected towards the end of June, with moths generally emerging at the right time to coincide with their larval foodplants. However with the unsettled weather, opportunities to trap have been limited and counts have been below average.

Eyebrook Reservoir was trapped on four occasions. On 2nd June 107 moths were identified although 71 of these were of the **Diamondback Moth**, an immigrant pest species, which was bad news for local vegetable growers, although its presence throughout the country did attract national media interest. Over 60 were also reported in early June near Martinthorpe with 20 more in the same area a few days later although none have been reported since the referendum! On 15th June 48 species were caught of which **Common Swift** and **Silver-ground Carpet** were the most common. 27th June produced the first **Hawkmoths** of the year – 5 **Poplar**, 1 **Privet** and 1 **Eyed**.

The new traps at Lyndon were used on three occasions with **Streamer** being a new record for the site.

7 **Brown China-mark** micros were reported from Leighfield Fishponds, a **Vapourer** caterpillar was seen at Langham on 30th June, while **Drinker** and **Mullein** caterpillars were near the centre at Lyndon.

Observers were rewarded on the occasional sunny days with daytime moths benefitting from the floral abundance. **Burnet Companion** was regularly reported from a number of sites, **Chimney Sweeper** was at its usual hotspot of Egleton meadow as well as 3 other sites, and both **Common Heath** and **Latticed Heath** were regular at Clipsham Quarry, where a **Clouded Border** was also seen. A **Common White Wave** was settled on vegetation near Egleton centre on 23rd May

and a **Mother Shipton** was at Bloody Oaks. Both **Silver Y** and **Cinnabar** moths have been seen but not in abundance. A **Small Purple-barred** record from Ketton Quarry was more unusual.

Thanks to the following for sending me their records: V Arnold, P Bennett, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, R Follows, M Grimes, J Harvey, M Markham

## ORTHOPTERA

### RECORDER Phil Rudkin

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

E-mail: phil.rudkin@talktalk.net

### May/June 2016

A very cold April was followed by a mixed weather pattern in May. To cap it all, we then experienced one of the the wettest Junes on record (June also had periods of little sunshine). So, what effect will this have on Rutland's insects? It will be interesting to monitor the Rutland Orthoptera in the next few months, and I encourage members to send in their records (with images if possible), so we can continue our coverage of the county.

As expected, only a small number of records has been received. May *Fieldfare's* early reports of the Slender Groundhopper were followed up with more sightings in early May (see below) again in Burley Woods but at a different location. The first bush cricket nymphs of this poor spring were reported by Martin Grimes, David Needham, Gill Chiverton and Tim Caldicott. Martin and Dave sent photographs of their findings. There were a few sightings of grasshoppers.

### Groundhoppers

#### **Slender Groundhopper**, *Tetrix subulata*

About six, located in deep dry muddy ruts on ride of compartment 12 (the northern part), on May 4, SK 888099. This is a good distance away from the main stronghold in the southern end (compartments 18/20, SK 889095). However, this new spot just squeezes inside the same tetrad.

### Bush Crickets

#### **Dark Bush Cricket**, *Pholidoptera griseoaptera*

One nymph on brambles, Clipsham Park Woods, 8 May. Two nymphs observed on Dogs Mercury, Newell Wood, 11 May.

On-line reports with images: one male nymph, Tinwell Meadows, 30 May, TF 011061. One nymph on bramble leaves, Verge 8, 5 June. Two nymphs close to entrance ride, Burley Woods, 8 June.

One nymph in grasses, Walk Farm, 21 June, TF 016108.

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

Two nymphs on track at Martinsthorpe, 23 June. One, late instar, male nymph, found in the BBQ area of Ketton Quarries, 26 June. SK 978054 (with photograph).

#### **Speckled Bush Cricket**, *Leptophyes punctatissima*

One located on railway embankment, Crown Well Bridge, Wing, 18 June. Possibly the same one, at the same spot, 27 June.

### Grasshoppers

#### **Field Grasshopper**, *Chorthippus brunneus*

One adult on track close to pond on west side of The Lodge, Leighfields Fishponds, 30 June.

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

Seven nymphs, by track, near pond, on west side of The Lodge, Leighfield Fishponds, 19 June.

Thanks for records received: T Caldicott, G Chiverton, M Grimes, D Needham, P Rudkin

## OTHER INSECTS AND INVERTEBRATES RECORDER Gill Chiverton

20 Victoria Road, Stamford PE9 1HB. Telephone: 01780 753820  
E-mail: gill.chiverton@gmail.com

### May/June 2016

In this report is a record for the Ant Woodlouse. Although common, its lifestyle makes it difficult to spot. It's a very small creature (>4 mm), pure white and blind. Living solely underground in ant colonies (usually yellow meadow ants) it probably feeds on ant droppings and fungi.

Do look at the snail records. I know snails are not popular, especially this year. However, there are an amazing number of different species, and yes, the glass snails really do look as though they are made of glass. (And see the photo of the Roman snail on page 2.)

### Odonata DAMSELFLIES

**Banded demoiselle**  
*Calopteryx splendens*

**June** One noted at River Gwash, Tolethorpe. Male and female by river Chater, Wing. One female at Leighfield Fishponds.

**Emerald damselfly** *Lestes sponsa*

**June** One female at Leighfield Fishponds.

**White-legged damselfly**  
*Platycnemis pennipes*

**June** A single one at Leighfield Fishponds. Three on two occasions, also at Leighfield.

**Large red damselfly**  
*Pyrrosoma nymphula*

**May** One noted at RWEgleton. One at Verge 8. One at Leighfield Fishponds and eight observed at Burley Wood.

**Red-eyed damselfly**  
*Erythromma najas*

**May** One observed at Leighfield Fishponds.

**June** Thirteen seen over the month at Leighfield Fishponds.

**Azure damselfly**  
*Coenagrion puella*

**May** 3 + 20 noted over two days at Leighfield Fishponds.

**June** 65 + 130 noted on two occasions at Leighfield Fishponds.

**Common blue damselfly**  
*Enallagma cyathigerum*

**June** Noted on two occasions at RWEgleton.

**Blue-tailed damselfly**  
*Ischnura elegans*

**June** 55 recorded in one day at Leighfield Fishponds.

### DRAGONFLIES

**Hairy dragonfly**  
*Brachytron pratense*

**May** Two recorded at RW ponds near Lagoon 4.

**Four-spotted chaser**  
*Libellula quadrimaculata*

**May** Noted at RW fishponds lane. One noted RW ponds near Lagoon 4.

**June** Seen in good numbers at RWEgleton.

**Broad-bodied chaser**  
*Libellula depressa*

**June** Observed RWEgleton. Single males noted twice at Leighfield Holygate Rd. One female noted Crown Well Bridge.

**Ruddy darter**  
*Sympetrum sanguineum*

**June** One female seen at Leighfield Holygate Rd.

### HEMIPTERA Bugs

**Hairy Shieldbug**  
*Dolycoris baccarum*

**May** A total of 10 noted on Dog's Mercury at Bloody Oaks Quarry - two mating pairs and 6 singles.

**Red-and-black Froghopper**  
*Cercopsis vulnerata*

**June** Three adults seen at Clipsham Park Wood.

### NEUROPTERA Lacewings

**Green Lacewing** *Chrysopidae* sp.

**May** One seen at Loves Lane Empingham

### COLEOPTERA Beetles

**Cockchafer**  
*Melolontha melolontha*

**May** A single chafer came to an outside light at Barrowden.

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Soldier beetle</b> <i>Rhagonycha fulva</i>            | <b>June</b> Several noted on Verge 8.   |
| <b>7-spot Ladybird</b><br><i>Coccinella 7-punctata</i>   | <b>May</b> Single insects noted at Stretton, Ketton Quarry and Bloody Oaks. Two noted at Clipsham Park Wood and 5 seen at Woodhead Castle.<br><b>June</b> One noted on Verge 8. |
| <b>False Blister beetle</b><br><i>Ischnomera cyanea</i>  | <b>May</b> One observed on Verge 8.   |
| <b>Swollen-thighed beetle</b><br><i>Oedemera nobilis</i> | <b>May</b> One female observed on Verge 8.  |
| <b>Leaf beetle</b><br><i>Chrysolina brunsvicensis</i>    | <b>May</b> Two noted on Verge 8 on Perforate St John's Wort plant.  |

## CADDIS FLIES Trichoptera

|   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>Brown Caddis Fly</b><br><i>Limnephilidae sp.</i> | <b>May</b> One seen at Loves Lane Empingham. |
|---|--|

## FLIES Diptera

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>St. Mark's fly</b> <i>Bibio marci</i>     | <b>May</b> Noted in good numbers over verge road next to Newell Wood.                                 |
| <b>Common bee-fly</b> <i>Bombylius major</i> | <b>May</b> Three seen at Clipsham Park Wood, 2 active at Bloody Oaks and 6 active at Woodhead Castle. |

## HYMENOPTERA Bees, Wasps, Ants & relatives

|  |   |
|--|---|
| <b>Birch Sawfly</b> <i>Cimbex femoratus</i>                | <b>May</b> One observed (see photo page 1) in Burley Wood.  |
| <b>Ichneumon Wasp</b><br><i>Amblyteles armatorius</i>      | <b>May</b> One seen at Stretton.  |
| <b>Yellow meadow/hill Ant</b><br><i>Lasius flavus</i>      | <b>June</b> Many nests/mounds seen throughout site at Quarry Farm.  |
| <b>Hornet</b> <i>Vespa crabro</i>                          | <b>May</b> Queen hornet noted at Barrow. Hornets noted at two sites at RWEgleton.<br><b>June</b> Singles noted at Clipsham Park Wood and Verge 8.               |
| <b>Ashy Mining Bee</b><br><i>Andrena cineraria</i>         | <b>June</b> One seen on Hogweed on Verge 8.   |
| <b>Hairy-legged Mining Bee</b><br><i>Dasypoda hirtipes</i> | <b>June</b> One female settled near recorder at set-aside field gate on Verge 8.  |
| <b>Tree Bumble Bee</b><br><i>Bombus hypnorum</i>           | <b>June</b> One very active nest at Barrow. Many noted nectaring in garden at Barrowden.  |
| <b>Red-tailed Bumble Bee</b><br><i>Bombus lapidarius</i>   | <b>May</b> Queen bee at Bloody Oaks.<br><b>June</b> Good numbers of workers at Quarry Farm. Observed regularly at Barrow. Singles noted in Verge 7 and Verge 8. |
| <b>White-tailed Bumble Bee</b><br><i>Bombus lucorum</i>    | <b>May</b> One noted at Bloody Oaks Quarry.   |
| <b>Common Carder Bee</b><br><i>Bombus pascuorum</i>        | <b>May</b> One female seen at Bloody Oaks. Two active bees noted at Woodhead Castle.  |
| <b>Forest Cuckoo Bee</b><br><i>Bombus sylvestris</i>       | <b>May</b> One female seen at Clipsham Park Wood.   |

## OTHER ARTHROPODS

### ISOPODA Woodlice

|  |  |
|--|--|
| <b>Common Shiny Woodlouse</b><br><i>Oniscus asellus</i>  | <b>May</b> Many recorded in both Ketton Quarry woodland and Bloody Oaks. |
| <b>Ant Woodlouse</b><br><i>Platyarthus hoffmannseggi</i> | <b>May</b> Noted in a nest of Yellow Meadow ants at Bloody Oaks Quarry.  |

**Common Pill Woodlouse**  
*Armadillidium vulgare*

**May** Very common at Ketton Quarry and also noted at Bloody Oaks.

## SLUGS Gastropoda

**Large Black Slug** *Arion ater ater*

**June** Noted in large numbers at Barrowden – including the brown/red form. Six of the black form seen at RWLyndon.

**Dusky Slug** *Arion subfuscus*

**May** Recorded in woodland at Ketton Quarry.

**Common Grey Field Slug**  
*Derocerus reticulatum*

**May** One recorded at Woodhead Castle.

## LAND SNAILS Gastropoda

**Common Garden Snail**  
*Cornu aspersa*

**May** Live snails noted at Ketton Quarry and Bloody Oaks Quarry.

**Brown-lipped Snail**  
*Cepaea nemoralis*

**May** One empty shell at Ketton Quarry.

**June** One live specimen noted at Bloody Oaks.

**Kentish Snail** *Monacha cantiana*

**May** One empty shell noted at Ketton Quarry and good numbers of live snails seen on Verge 5. Two young snails seen at Bloody Oaks Quarry.

**June** Single live snails at Quarry Farm and Bloody Oaks Quarry.

**White-lipped Snail**  
*Cepaea hortensis*

**May** Numbers of this snail in 3 colour seen at Ketton Quarry and one record at Priors Coppice.

**June** One noted at RWLyndon centre. Two seen at Hambleton Wood.

**Rounded Snail** *Discus rotundatus*

**May** One noted under bark of fallen tree at Priors Coppice.

**June** Two live snails at Bloody Oaks and one noted Hambleton Wood

**Strawberry Snail**  
*Trochulus striolatus*

**May** One snail noted in woodland at Ketton Quarry. Live snail seen at Bloody Oaks.

**June** Live snail at Quarry Farm. Juvenile snail at Clipsham Park Wood. Two seen at RWLyndon and several seen at Hambleton Wood.

**Plaited Door Snail**  
*Cochlodina laminata*

**May** Two empty shells noted at Ketton Quarry and one live snail at Woodhead Castle.

**Prickly Snail** *Acanthinula aculeate*

**May** One empty shell of this very small species noted at Ketton Quarry.

**Cellar Glass Snail** *Oxychilus allarius*

**May** One live snail noted Woodhead Castle.

**Draparnaudi's Glass Snail**  
*Oxychilus draparnaudi*

**May** One live snail found at Priors Coppice.

*Many thanks to the following members for all their records: J W Ansley, D & J Ball, P Bennett, A & L Biddle, T Caldicott, G Chiverton, M Grimes, R Lemmon and L Worrall*

## GLOW-WORMS

**RECORDER** Linda Worrall

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

E-mail: worrall6redland@talktalk.net

### May/June/to 13th July 2016

This year is looking poor for glow-worms. The weather, as always, will have played its part – I think with the cold nights and wet cool days, with few hot spells, the soil may not have been warm enough to encourage pupation and maybe this is one of those years when some larvae will overwinter for a third time. There also seems to have been larger than normal grass growth, making sightings difficult and encumbering larvae and adults. But perhaps there will be a huge flourish into August! I would be very pleased to have any records of further sightings, and am also interested to know if you went to look and found none in their usual places.

On July 2nd I was hunting in Barrowden and met a young Dutch couple. They were walking back from North Luffenham by torchlight, and gladly helped look for glow-worms. We found none. However, the girl kept looking up at the cloudy sky and

then said 'Look, there's a star!' with as much happy amazement as if she'd found a glow-worm. They told me there were no glow-worms in the Netherlands, and they are sad as there is so much roadside lighting everywhere that nobody can stargaze. I explained how adult glow-worm males also get dazzled by artificial lights and then cannot find a mate. They seemed indignant.

#### **Barrowden Verge 17, Back Road SK 945003**

**Note:** Site has been visited almost every night since early June by R and V Fraser of Barrowden. Grass on verges quite high. A cut was made early in May and much growth occurred.

- 18.6:** **North**, dry and mild for a change - **First glow**, 1 in Drift Close field entrance. Field has barley this year. Farmer has this year ploughed and planted several metres, half the width, of Stone Close, the western field edge, next to the big old hedge at field entrance, which runs a considerable length to the A47 and was formerly untouched. Such ploughing is now allowed by government. This is extremely bad for the glow-worms because in a professional survey of 2007 the surveyor counted over 27 along this long stretch of natural stony limestone grassland. The farmer did not accept that it deserved to be designated as a local wildlife site.
- 20.6:** **North**, 1 in same place. Snails noted.
- 21.6:** **North**, 1 in same place.
- 27.6:** **South**, 1 low in long grass 2 ft from road, opposite about half way along the width of the Drift Close field.
- 10.7:** **North:** 1 just inside field entrance; 1 about 8m from entrance towards Drift Close, in long grass 1.5m in from road; 1, 2m further towards Drift Close.

#### **Barrowden Verge 3, Luffenham Road SK 948005**

**Note:** Site has been visited almost every night by R and V Fraser of Barrowden. Grass on verges quite high; a cut was made early in May and much growth occurred.

- 1.7:** **West, First Glow**, 1 a foot in from road about 20 m up from village sign on opposite verge; this location is often the main area for glows.
- 4.7:** **West**, 1 in similar place.

#### **Essendine, Verge 5 and mainline cutting top TF 943129**

- 6.7:** 2 seen on verge, cut some time ago. Grass very high on cutting top.

#### **Ketton Quarry Reserve SK 978053**

- 9.7:** One of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's 60th Anniversary walks, led by Jenny Harris, who reports a good evening. 'The vegetation in the geology trail and The Valley at Ketton is rather long, but we found 9 glow-worms in the flat area next to the car park, a further 2 were seen from a distance in the barbecue area, and an intrepid soul went up The Valley and found 2 more there. None appeared to be being mated when we looked, at roughly 11.00 pm.' As I write in mid-July, this total of 13 is certainly the best count of the season.

### **Outside the County**

#### **Fineshade Top Lodge Northants SP 980982**

- 10.7:** 1 glowing well near front gate of observer's house, about 5 ft from where one was seen last year on 2.7.

#### **Duddington road from Wakerley village/A43 junction Northants SP 977997**

- 19.6:** There was delight when 3 were found glowing on north verge in heavy rain, but see Note below.
- 4.7:** 1 on each verge, about 75 m from junction corner.
- Note:** The site is at very high risk of being destroyed by the imminent construction of a new road across fields to exit to the A43 at this point, to be used by heavy lorries. This is because an Old Mining Permission to quarry at the north west of Wakerley Woods is now being activated with limestone extracted in this way. A count of 40 glows on one night and dozens of males and no glows the next was made at the



site some years ago, and there are likely to be larvae along the length of proposed road and at the new quarry site. There is currently liaison between the owners' contractors and Councillors from Wakerley and Barrowden (recently officially joined for the Neighbourhood Development Plan) but it has been found that a professional species specific survey for glow-worms has not been planned. After the Rio Earth Summit in 1992, when the UK committed to conserving biodiversity, Severn Trent willingly laid new water pipes down the middle of the Duddington road nearer to Wakerley, instead of down verges there with glow-worms - a good precedent. Unfortunately, glow-worms are not considered of 'Principal Importance' in the 2006 Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act.

#### **Barnack Hills and Holes NNR** Northants TF 075046

**29.6:** On a guided walk with the Warden, 4 were seen.

#### **Charnwood Lodge Reserve** Leicestershire SK 458155

**24.6:** On one of Leicestershire and Rutland Wildlife Trust's 60th Anniversary walks, 2 were seen. Jenny Harris notes that on 5th June grass was already very long in the area where the glow-worms are usually found.

*Many thanks for reports: G Brown, B Galpin, A & G Chiverton, R & V Fraser, C Gardiner, M Griffiths, J Harris, L Worrall*

## PLANT GALLS

### RECORDER Roy Lemmon

*87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU. Telephone: 01780 762051  
E-mail: Roy.Lemmon@yahoo.co.uk*

#### May 2016

In the early part of the month, the only galls reported were rusts; but towards the end of the month the ranged broadened and gave a total of 14 galls from Prior's Coppice on the 26th, a single record of the mite gall on Cleavers from Verge 5 on the 27th, and 6 galls from Ketton Quarry on the last day of the month.

#### June 2016

Most of the records this month were from the end of the month, the exception being Clipsham Park Wood, which gave a total of 8 on the 4th.

#### Galls in the Morvan

It would perhaps be appropriate to give an impression of the galls noted on the Society's visit to the Morvan area of France, from the 13th to the 20th of the month. Galls were generally not as numerous as here, for example there was a lot of Meadowsweet but no midge galls, which in Rutland are legion. The Meadowsweet rust was well in evidence as they were on several other species of plant. All the galls I saw were familiar to me or were of a type I recognised, and therefore easy to identify.

Back at home, Hambleton Wood on the 24th yielded 17 galls, and Quarry Farm, Little Casterton Road, Stamford, a new venue, produced 8 galls on the 27th. On the last day of the month Ryhall Heath gave us a total of 11 galls. The presence of small-leaved lime there gave a couple of mite galls, one of which seems to be new to us.

*Contributions from M Grimes and R Lemmon*

## MAMMALS

### RECORDER Linda Biddle

*21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford PE9 1BH. Telephone: 01780 762108  
E-mail: rnhs mammals@talktalk.net*

#### May/June 2016

A **Pygmy Shrew** was seen at the ringing hut at RWNR in early May, recorded on 4th May, and one of two recorded this time – the other sadly being found dead in Dr Gallimore's garage. **Bank Voles** have been seen twice, once at Pickworth Wood, where one scooted across my toes when walking through the ride, and a second similarly made us jump at RWNR when walking across the edge of the lagoon close to Redshank Hide (or where it used to be!) Under one of the reptile shelters a family

of young voles (too young to identify species) clustered together in a little carefully constructed nest.

At 21 Waverley Gardens there has been a large population of **Long-tailed Field Mice**, which thanks to the RNHS small mammal traps have been relocated from the kitchen and garden shed to a field just over the border in Rutland! (I hope that members will not feel that this is an incorrect use of the traps, but I'm sure the mice would agree to it being much better than the alternative.)

Only one **Badger** report this time, a road casualty on the Oakham bypass, since Marian Markham's regular garden visitor has been elsewhere recently. I'm sure there have been more road casualties than this locally, but the only ones I've seen have been outside Rutland. In mid-May a **Stoat** ran across the road at the edge of Manton on the Edith Weston road and in June one was observed on the Leighfield track west of Prior's Coppice. A **Fox** was observed at RWNR on the track close to the wood at Field 16 on June 8th. Unlike the badger the fox has not deserted Marian Markham's garden, and put in appearances on 10 nights in May and 12 in June, often twice nightly. The **Grey Squirrel** also calls regularly in the daylight hours and **Brown Rats** appeared on 5 occasions. Other squirrel reports come from Burley Wood, Lyndon, Gibbets Gorse, Pickworth Wood, Tickencote and Clipsham Quarry. **Hedgehogs** are still very regular visitors to Marian's Langham garden, appearing between 10 pm and 3 am almost every night. The Barrowden hedgehogs have also been out and about in Linda Worrall's garden. In mid-May five were counted in the garden at 9.50 pm, two courting, two feeding and one on the patio eating nuts. At the end of May one hedgehog was found sleeping on stones by the pond, possibly a warm spot, and was relocated to a nest nearby. Within 30 minutes it was back outside again! Several hogs were seen on most nights in May and June. In Stamford we were surprised on the afternoon of 30th May to see a hedgehog scurrying away from us down the garden path, happily unnoticed by the resident dogs. In Oakham too a hedgehog has made visits to Phil Langstone's garden, the first he has seen there for around 10 years. Road casualties are recorded from Empingham and Edith Weston.

**Otters** have been active at RWNR, and left evidence in the form of spraint, and much scratching of clay on mink rafts (10 records). Mick Lewin took photos of an otter (see page 20) from Waderscrape Hide in July. Our regular inspection of rafts at RWNR has shown **Water Vole** activity near Badger Hide, on the channel between lagoons 2 and 3(?) and at Field 16 ponds and Heron Bay.

A couple of **Rabbit** reports have come in, one from Quarry Farm Great Casterton, and the other at RWNR close to the VTC, both in May. (Visitors to Stamford Morrison's car park will no doubt have seen the numerous rabbits which boldly graze on the verge outside at all hours of the day. These are of course outside Rutland so can't be included officially here.)

At Greetham Valley golf club the occasional hare and no rabbits have been seen over the past three months, but recently 7 **Brown hares** were observed at one time, 4 in a line, two together and a seventh odd one. A single rabbit was also seen. In the field below Lax Hill at RWNR two Brown hares are very often seen, and on 26th May four were seen together on the track. At Ryhall Drift and Mount's Lodge track, Great Casterton, hares have also been recorded.

A **Mole** was found wandering on the tarmac outside the Egleton centre RWNR on 4th June. 3 had been found dead nearby within a few days, and there was concern that the waterlogged ground could be causing them problems. Several records of molehills have been sent in, and these will be included in a separate report.

Reports of **Roe deer** are increasing in our area. In early May a single Roe deer was close to the Priors' Coppice track, and another was seen in Quarry Farm field, Great Casterton. At Barnsdale later in the month, another single Roe deer appeared at 7.20 am near to the apple tree area, and in Burley Wood separate observers saw a Roe deer on the same day, possibly the same animal. In June at Beaumont Chase Farm another roe was seen, our first record in this part of Rutland. **Fallow deer** are seen less often than previously, only 2 reports this month, a single animal in Pickworth Wood in May, and on June 4 in Clipsham Quarry close to

Pickworth Wood. **Muntjac** are still very common, though only three visits to Marian Markham's garden in May are recorded, none in June. At Wing Muntjac were seen on 3 occasions, another at RWNR field 29, and also at Burley and Morkery woods.

Many thanks to the faithful band of recorders: D & J Ball, A Biddle, P Bennett, T Caldicott, G Griffin, C Gallimore, M Grimes, P Langston, C & M Lewin, A Lawrence, M Markham, T Mitcham, L Park, P J Rudkin, L Worrall

## BATS

### RECORDER Jenny Harris

41 Woodland View, Oakham LE15 6EJ. Telephone: 01572 755274.  
E-mail: [jharris@lrwt.org.uk](mailto:jharris@lrwt.org.uk)

No report this time, please continue sending in any records.

## RIVERS

### RECORDER David Roome

5 Main Street, Ridlington. Telephone: 01572 821416. E-mail: [davr333@btinternet.com](mailto:davr333@btinternet.com)

No report this time, please continue sending in any records.



Flixweed. Photo, M Grimes

### Look out for Flixweed in Rutland!

Roy and myself had some excitement (we are easily pleased!) after we left you in Great Casterton last Wednesday. When we got to the site of the old barn (SK99951065) we found a tall crucifer we did not recognise. We took photos (attached) and later tentatively named it as Flixweed (*Descurainia sophia*). This is very scarce in VC55 and more so in Rutland. Andy Lear (LRWT) was contacted and he agreed with ID, but to make sure he went to have a look and then confirmed it.

Nature Spot have not accepted it yet!

**Martin Grimes**

### And two more from the French trip



Greater Yellow Rattle,  
Morvan.  
Photo, L Biddle



Field Cricket, Pont  
Brisson.  
Photo, A Tomlinson



Photo, M Lewin



Photo, M Lewin

### Otters at Rutland Water

Here are some otter photos I managed to take at 5.15 pm last Saturday. Considering the excitement in Waderscape hide, I am more than surprised that I managed to point my camera in the right direction.

Mick Lewin

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## RNHS CONTACTS

### Chairman

21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford PE9 1BH  
01780 762108

### Linda Biddle

abiddle21@talktalk.net

### Secretary

### Position vacant

### Treasurer/Membership

24 Burrough Rd, Somerby, Melton Mowbray LE14 2PP  
01664 454532

### Margaret Conner

mjconner100@gmail.com

### Programme Secretary

10a High Street, Braunston in Rutland, LE15 8QU  
07723046806

### Dave Carrier

dcarrier@hotmail.co.uk

### Website Editor

12 Tees Close, Oakham, LE15 6SP  
01572 720349

### Peter Scott

peter.scott27@btopenworld.com

### Fieldfare Editor

Old Hunt's Maltings, Water St, Stamford PE9 2NJ  
01780 482048

### Hendrina Ellis

hendrina@efgh.demon.co.uk

### Wildlife Recorders

Contact details can be found on  
RNHS website

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