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NOTICEBOARD

MEMBERSHIP, PROGRAMME AND PERMIT CARD

This comes with your Fieldfare – please sign it NOW – family member/s under 18 should sign on your card/s – and carry the card when visiting Eyebrook or Burley Wood or if buying books at Uppingham Sports and Books. We very much hope you will join in and enjoy your outdoor visits this summer.

HELP!! Verges

We need at least four volunteers for Verge Recording. We record everything seen – birds, bees and other insects as well as flowers on some dozen verges in central to eastern Rutland. It requires about three or four visits to a verge between April and August – more if you become besotted with the job. Verges obviously vary in length, so some could be split if necessary.

Please contact Graham Worrall on 01572 747302 asap if you are interested – you could join one of our long established recorders for an exploratory run if you would like. PLEASE HELP – many of the recorders are getting rather old and may soon have to give up.

Graham Worrall
RNHS Botany Recorder

HELP!! Bats

As many of you know, a number of bat roosts are counted in Rutland for the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP) and for local records. Some new roosts have been added but at the same time several local counters have moved out of the area. I would really like some help with counting these roosts, which include the Fox and Hounds pub in Exton, so that could make a really nice night out! There are just two counts in June, and everything you need to know about the method is contained in the information that comes from the Bat Conservation Trust. A bat detector would be available to help with the counts. Please could you get in touch with me on 01572 755274 if you are able to help – it would be much appreciated.

Jenny Harris
RNHS Bat Recorder

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 6th March 2012

70 members were present at Oakham C of E School, our first AGM in the new building. Thanks were given to our retiring President, Sir Clifford Boulton, for all his advice and encouragement, and the incoming President, Joss Hanbury, stressed how he hoped the Society would continue to enjoy the natural history in his woods at Burley. Clive Jones and Philip Rudkin were also acclaimed as Vice-Presidents. Two members of the Committee, Andy Lear and Linda Worrall, stood down and were thanked for their contributions; Roy Edwards was elected as a new Committee member and Linda Biddle became Secretary. Other officers and committee are: Chairman: Ann Tomlinson; Treasurer: Martin Grimes; Membership Secretary: Graham Worrall; Programme Secretary: Dawn Whitefield; *Fieldfare* Editor: Hendrina Ellis; Website and Publicity: Peter Scott; Jenny Harris and Gill Chiverton. We were very glad to welcome George Kirk as Independent Examiner for the accounts.

The Treasurer reported that the number of members had dropped slightly, and that money on reserve had enabled donations to the BTO towards work with nightingales and to the Wildlife Trust for work with ospreys, sand martins, bird ringing and local school natural history projects. Members were asked to let the Chairman or Secretary know if they wished to suggest further donations, appropriate with our charity status, for consideration by the Committee.

The Chairman found herself surprised at how quickly the year had passed and that it was spring again! Attendances at meetings had been healthy and we were fortunate to have been invited to continue to use Oakham C of E school. Ann particularly urged more members to join in outdoor visits, which were very enjoyable, and thanked those who had worked hard to make meetings possible.

Advocacy work for wildlife with local and national bodies had been carried out. Members were urged to look for people they could recruit for the Society.

Study our spring and the other seasons, the Chairman said; watch, paint or photo things going green and life developing, **and send in your cards with notes and sightings to our Recorders.**

Full Reports will be in the 2011 *Annual Report* later this year.

Linda Worrall
RNHS Honorary Secretary



THANK YOU, LINDA!

As noted above, the AGM saw the stepping-down of Linda Worrall after 19 years as Honorary Secretary of the Society, a post she has held whilst at the same time acting as Society Recorder for Glow-worms and Mycology, important and intensive activities themselves.

And of course, Linda being Linda, she has a myriad of non-RNHS interests which occupy her time as well. Not surprisingly, she deserves a bit of a break!

Linda has been an amazing Hon Secretary to successive Chairmen. Her knowledge of all things natural history, and of the Society itself, is encyclopaedic. She can always be relied upon for sound and calm advice, for assiduous attention to detail, and for real warmth and friendship.

Ann Tomlinson
Chairman

RUTLAND NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY EVENTS

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

OUTDOOR EVENTS

Sunday 25 March **CLIPSHAM PARK WOOD** **9.30 am**

Note the earlier start than usual. Phil Rudkin, RNHS Orthoptera recorder, is leading this walk.

Directions: meet in the car park, OS Landranger 130, Grid Ref SK 981169.

Sunday 15 April **PRIOR'S COPPICE** **10.30 am**

A walk around Prior's Coppice with Dr Andy Lear of the RNHS and the Leics & Rutland Wildlife Trust.

Meet at OS 141 Grid Ref SK 833049.

Wednesday 9 May **HAMBLETON PENINSULA** **7.30 pm**

An evening stroll along the peninsula to listen for Nightingales. It is also worth bringing along the bat detectors to this excellent location.

Meet at the Fishermen's Car Park near Old Hall, OS 141 Grid Ref SK 901071.

18–21 May **FARNE ISLANDS weekend**

Sunday 10 June **HERBERT'S MEADOW** **10.00 am**

As a follow-up to his talk on Ulverscroft Nature Reserve, Steve Woodward will take us around the adjacent Herbert's Meadow. Please feel free to bring a packed lunch and make a day of it.

Meet at OS 129 Grid Ref SK 489124. There is limited parking along Whitcroft's Lane adjacent to the reserve.

Wednesday 26 June **COLLYWESTON DEEPS NATURE RESERVE** **7.30 pm**

An evening walk to look at the important botanical species and possibly bats and glow-worms, if you are still awake by then.

Meet in the lay-by on the A43 at Easton on the Hill. OS 141 Grid Ref TF 004034.

Saturday 30 June **SEATON MEADOWS NATURE RESERVE** **2.00 pm**

An afternoon visit to Seaton Meadows. A joint meeting with the Leicester Literary and Philosophical Society, to look at the array of meadow plants and associated wildlife. Bring your wellingtons if conditions have been wet. To be led by Graham Worrall.

Meet at OS 141 Grid Ref SP 915979. From Morcott turn left on the B672 towards Caldecott. Park under the viaduct.

INDOOR EVENTS

RNHS indoor meetings are held at the Oakham Church of England school, Burley Road, Oakham. The new car park is in full working order.

Tuesday 27 March **ULVERSCROFT NATURE RESERVE** **7.30 pm**

Steve Woodward, an expert local naturalist, talks about a reserve close to his heart. He is leading a walk to Uverscroft Meadow on June 10th.

Indoor meetings will start again in October.

LEICESTER AND RUTLAND WILDLIFE TRUST RUTLAND GROUP

Indoor events, starting again in October, are held at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre, Egleton; admission £1 includes tea/coffee/biscuits. See www.lrwt.org.uk, or phone 0116 272 0444 in office hours, for other events in Leicestershire and Rutland, including guided walks, for which it is often necessary to book.

Sunday 17 June

BLOODY OAKS RESERVE

2.00 pm

Details in next Fieldfare.

LRWT and other events

These include:

Dawn chorus with breakfast

Saturday 14th April, Saturday 21st April, Sunday 29th April, 5:30 a.m., at Lyndon Nature Reserve, Rutland Water.

An early start will be rewarded by the sound of a memorable dawn chorus. We'll also have time to visit the Osprey nest before returning to the visitor centre for a well earned breakfast. Bookings can be made online at www.ospreys.org.uk or call the Osprey Team on 01572 737378.

Our Woodland Wildlife

Saturday 14th April, 10:00 a.m., Barnsdale Woods, Rutland Water

The Wildlife Trusts' Centenary Year Event, part of a series of 'Our Wildlife' events held by Wildlife Trusts across the UK in 2012. More details on www.lrwt.org.uk.

Volunteering Information Session

Thursday 19th April, 10:30 a.m., Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre

These sessions aim to provide you with everything you need to know about volunteering at Rutland Water Nature Reserve! There is no obligation to sign up to being a volunteer with us, it's simply a chance to find out whether volunteering with us would suit you!

To book a place call Becky on 01572 770651 or visit www.rutlandwater.org.uk to book online.

Midnight Nightingales (in case you can't make our event)

Saturday 5th May, Tuesday 8th May, Friday 11th May, 23:00 p.m., Hambleton Wood, Rutland Water

Full details and online booking available at www.ospreys.org.uk or call the Osprey team on 01572 737378.

Osprey and Wildlife Cruises

Saturday 19th May, 15:45 p.m., on the Rutland Belle, the first of this year's Osprey and Wildlife cruises at Rutland Water.

For the full list of dates and times for this year's cruises, please visit www.ospreys.org.uk or call the Osprey team on 01572 737378.

LINCOLNSHIRE WILDLIFE TRUST

See www.lincstrust.org.uk, or phone 01507 526 677 in office hours, for details of the LWT Bourne Group's events and other Lincstrust events in Lincolnshire.

WEATHER SUMMARY Roy Lemmon

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



January 2012

Atmospheric pressure and winds What is noticeable about the atmospheric pressure this month is that there were two periods, 13th to 17th and the last four days of the month, when pressures were high. During these periods the winds were generally northerly and also of low velocity, indeed at 0900 hours they were often nil although they usually picked up during daylight hours only to die down again at night. It was also during these periods that the lowest overnight minima occurred. For the rest of the month winds were generally SW-W and from the 3rd to 5th there were gales.

Temperatures From my records this was the fourth warmest January in the last decade, 2005, 2007 and 2008 were all warmer, the last two by a considerable amount. The lowest overnight minimum was on 15th–16th at -5.0°C , though the preceding night was close at -4.8°C . Daytime maxima were often very good for the time of year and there was a period of four days at the beginning of the month when the lowest maximum recorded was 10.6°C on the 4th and this was followed by the highest for the month, 12.0°C on the 9th.

Rain This was another drier than expected month with a total recorded of 28.2 mm (1.1 inches) or 65% of my LTM. There was a period of 11 days, 6th to 16th, when no precipitation was detected, nor was there any in the last four days of the month, this latter period tying up with the high pressure occurrence referred to above. None of the precipitation fell as snow. Averaged nationally, rainfall was 66 mm (2.59 inches) or 73% of the LTM for the standard reference period 1981 to 2010. Nationally 25 Januaries in the last 100 years were drier.

Sunshine Averaged nationally over England and Wales this amounted to 73 hours or 118% of the mean referred to above.

February 2012

Atmospheric pressure and winds This was essentially a high pressure month and apart from the 8th when I recorded 1008 mb at 0900 hours, the pressures were all in excess of 1022 mb and often considerably more. Nationally it was the 8th most 'anticyclonic' February in 140 years of records. Apart from the 1st and 2nd of the month when they were NE, winds were SW-NW and mostly of low velocity although there was a period, the 18th to 22nd, when they were often higher and also gusty at times.

Temperatures This was by far the coldest February in the last decade and the overnight minimum on 9th–10th was -14.0°C , which is certainly the lowest I have recorded in this month since I started recording temperatures in 1993. Looking at the records left to the Society by John Hollands, I see that the lowest night minimum recorded at RAF Wittering for February was -12.8°C in 1956. Nor was it compensated for by the mean daytime minimum which was 4.0°C for the month, well below the rest for the past decade.

Rain The total I recorded was 17.0 mm (0.67 inches) or 46% of my LTM and this ties in nicely with the rainfall averaged over England and Wales, which was 47% of the mean for 1981 to 2010. Nearly all of the total here fell in the first half of the month, and this mostly as snow, but by the afternoon of the 14th it had melted. After this only 0.8 mm fell in the rest of the month.

Sunshine This was a sunny month and averaged over England and Wales 79 hours of sunshine were recorded. This is 95% of the LTM.

National figures are taken from Philip Eden's monthly summary in the Sunday Telegraph.

HIGH TIDES IN NORTH NORFOLK Nola Thurlow

High tides for Kings Lynn. Times in BST.

April				May			
Sunday	1	1.42	14.11	Sunday	6	7.05	19.21
	8	8.10	20.24		13	12.40	–
	15	2.37	14.37		20	9.58	17.11
	22	7.56	20.07		27	10.59	23.40
	29	12.09	–				

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

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



January/February 2012

The first sign of amphibian activity was on 16th February when two small female Smooth Newts were seen in my garden pond in Wing. By 28th February there were eight present. Although Great Crested Newts reappeared a bit later there were seven males in my pond on 24th February plus an eighth on my back doorstep, and by 28th two females had appeared in the pond.

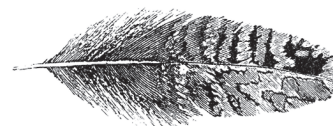
The only frog records for these two months was seven in the Worralls' pond in Barrowden on 22nd February.

An organisation called Pond Conservation is carrying out a 'Big Spawn Count' this year, which seeks to record the presence of frog spawn in garden ponds, which of course are generally regarded as an important refuge for frogs. I would be very pleased to receive lots of records of frog spawn in garden ponds (and any other ponds, of course).

My thanks to L&G Worrall for their record.

BIRD REPORT compiled by T. Mitcham

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



January/February 2012

Records were received from 28 observers, an excellent start to the year, with a good response to the LROS appeal for raptor records. At the reservoirs good numbers of Smew were reported along with the long-staying Bewick's Swans and Long-tailed Duck. The cold weather in February concentrated Rutland Water's waders on the tertiary treatment beds. We recorded a 'full set' of owls with Short-eared Owls at several sites and a good spread of Barn Owls – how good to see them so widespread once again. The main rural species to seek food in gardens during the cold spell was the Reed Bunting, with some remaining to the end of February.

My thanks to the following for their records: P Bennett, L Biddle, M A Branston, P & C Brown, T Caldicott, D P Cole, J & A Comber, J Crosby, R Edwards, Dr C H Gallimore, G & M Griffin, M Grimes, T Land, A L Lawrence, LROS, S Lister, I Misselbrook, T Mitcham, D Needham, C Nelson, B & L Nicholls, J Ostler, L Park, P Rudkin, P Scott, A R & M A Thorp, D Whitefield, G & L Worrall

Bewick's Swan Four remained at RW(Eggleton) throughout both months.

Pink-footed Goose On 13.01 five flew north at RW and 117 flew NW over HMP Stocken.

Egyptian Goose Away from RW, Jan pairs were at Lyndon village and Martinthorpe with birds heard over Wing, where there were two on 28.02.

Shelduck One was at FHP throughout Jan, with a pair from 28.01. Four were at EBR on 04.02.

Mandarin Duck There was a pair at FHP on 07.01 and four at RW(Normanton Church) on 12.02.

Gadwall Good nos remained at FHP in both months, with a peak of 131 on 07.01.

Teal 20 were at Geeston on 22.01 and 52 were at FHP on 20.02.

Green-winged Teal The EBR male was present to at least 31.01.

Pintail A male was at FHP on 07.01 and there were three at EBR on 04.02.

Red-crested Pochard A male was at EBR on 04.01.

Tufted Duck 78 were at FHP on 28.01 increasing to 96 on 25.02.

Scaup A female was at EBR on 02.01 with all other records from RW, where there were varying nos throughout both months with a max of 15 on 19.02.

Long-tailed Duck The female remained at RW(North Arm) throughout both months.

Smew Present at EBR and RW throughout both months with max counts of eight at EBR on 07.02 and 31 at RW on 12.02.

Goosander A pair flew over Leighfield on 26.02.

Grey Partridge A pair was near Mounts Lodge on 06.01.

Bittern One was seen irregularly at RW(Eggleton) from 16.01 to the end of Feb, with two seen on 23.02. One was at EBR inflow on 14.02.

Little Egret Now wintering regularly in the county with singles at Belmesthorpe, Toilethorpe and near Braunston. Three were at FHP on 28.01 with four nearby at Horn Mill on 31.01.

Grey Heron One visited a Wing garden pond on 25.02.

Little Grebe There was a max of 16 at FHP on 20.02.

Slavonian Grebe One was at EBR between 29.01 and 01.02.

Black-necked Grebe One was at RW(Normanton) between 11.02 and 14.02.

Red Kite Records came from seven sites with four at Barrowden and three at FHP and HMP Stocken.

Sparrowhawk Garden records came from Oakham (two sites) with others noted at RW(Eggleton), Exton Park, HMP Stocken and CPW.

Buzzard Very well reported with max counts of seven at Leighfield on 08.01 and five over Lady Wood on 25.02.

Kestrel Noted at fourteen well distributed sites, from CPW in the north down to EBR.

Merlin Singles were well seen near Eggleton on 26.01 and Morcott on 30.01.

Peregrine A pair were hunting Woodpigeons near Barrow on 01.01, an imm. was at FHP on 28.01, a pair were over Wardley Wood on 25.01 and one flew over Leighfield on 14.02. An excellent set of records.

Water Rail One was at FHP on 07.01 and 28.01. Two were by a lake at Geeston on 22.01.

Crane Two were reported flying over Uppingham on 02.01.

Avocet Two were at RW(Eggleton) on 29.02.

Ringed Plover One was at EBR between 04.01 and 08.01 with three on 28.02. At RW two were present from 22.02 to the end of the month.

Lapwing 1437 were at RW on 15.01, with just 53 there on 12.02. On 17.01, 50 flew east at HMP Stocken and 40 south at Bisbrooke. Four were apparently back on territory near Mounts Lodge on 26.02.

Golden Plover 32 were at RW on 15.01 with only one present on 12.02.

Knot One was at RW(North Arm) on 09.02.

Dunlin Present at RW throughout both months with a max of 151 on 15.01. Two were at EBR on 26.02.

Ruff Apart from two at EBR on 02.01 and one there on 17.01, all records were from RW with birds noted to at least 19.02 and a max of 16 on 15.01.

Jack Snipe Singles were at RW(Eggleton) between 01.01 and 10.01 and on 12.02.

Snipe One or two were at LFP in Jan with four at FHP on 09.02. At RW there were 21 on 15.01 and an impressive 100 on 12.02.

Woodcock After a meagre showing before Christmas, there was quite an influx with two at TW on 07.01 and singles at RW (Gibbet's Gorse), CPW, PW, Morcott and Gunthorpe.

Black-tailed Godwit Noted at RW to at least 19.02, with a max of three on 03.01 and 12.02.

Curlew Five were at RW on 15.01 and 12.02, and one flew over Manton on 29.02.

Green Sandpiper Present at RW between 06 and 09.01 and from 12.02, with three on 24.02.

Redshank 19 at RW on 15.01 declined to six on 12.02. At EBR there two on 02.01 and one on 15.01.

Mediterranean Gull Singles adults were at RW on 26–27.01 and EBR on 30.01 and 23.02.

Yellow-legged Gull An adult was at RW(Dam) on 14.01 and 24.02.

Iceland Gull A first winter roosted at RW and EBR on four dates between 26.01 and 03.02. An adult was at EBR on 04.02.

Glaucous Gull An adult roosted at RW on 01.01 and 26–28.01.

Collared Dove A fresh eggshell from which young had hatched was found in a Stamford garden on 23.02.

Barn Owl Birds were seen at eight well-scattered sites, one being dead by the A1 north of Tickencote.

Little Owl Pairs were at regular sites at EBR and FHP.

Tawny Owl Birds were heard at PW, TunnW, Wing and Barrowden.

Long-eared Owl One was photographed as it roosted in a hedge near Barleythorpe on 21.01.

Short-eared Owl A large irruption of this species has brought many to the UK this winter – up to fourteen have been at a site in Leics. We have attracted up to four at RW(Eggleton), with singles at Leighfield on 08.01, near Cold Overton on 21.02 and Gorsefield the next day.

Kingfisher Singles were at Leighfield between 01.01 and 14.02 and on the R. Chater at Manton Junction on 24.02.

Green Woodpecker Regularly seen and heard at Park House, Normanton, FHP and Exton Park. Also noted near Hot Hollow Farm, Empingham, PW and Clipsham Park.

Great Spotted Woodpecker Drumming was reported only from TW and Exton Park on 09.02. Regular at Normanton feeders in Jan, with a pair in a Wing garden on 10.02. Display was noted in Clipsham Park on 23.02, with other records from Wardley and Pickworth Woods.

Jay Heard calling at TunnW, FHP and Wardley Wood. Excellent views of a pair were had at RW(Egleton) on 24.02.

Raven In Jan there were reports of a pair in the east of Rutland and singles in the north and west.

Goldcrest Noted at CPW – Yew Tree Avenue with six singing there on 23.02. One took up residence in a Stamford garden and was present on 10.01, and from 01.01 to 26.02.

Coal Tit Noted irregularly in a Stamford garden throughout both months and in CPW and Wardley Wood (song on 25.01).

Willow Tit One was singing at Manton Junction on 07.02, with other records from RW(Gibbets Gorse) and Leighfield. One in Stretton Wood on 26.02 was our first here for many years.

Marsh Tit A pair were regular at TunnW feeders in both months. Pairs were also noted at CPW, RW(Gibbets Gorse) and Wing with singles at Hambleton, Manton, Martinthorpe, PW, and Leighfield.

Long-tailed Tit Noted in two Oakham gardens, with 15 at one feeding station. A pair were nest-building at Normanton on 22.02.

Blackcap A pair remained in a Manton garden from 04.01 throughout Feb. A male was in an Oakham garden on 29.01 and 06.02.

Chiffchaff One was near the R.Gwash at Martinthorpe on 17.01.

Nuthatch Fed at the TunnW feeders in both months. Well reported from many sites – CPW, PW, FHP, Woodhead, Preston, RW(Gorse Close and Berrybutts Spinney), Wing, and Lyndon Wood.

Treecreeper There were records from Normanton, RW(Egleton), FHP and TunnW.

Blackbird At HMP Stocken one collided with a window and died after being chased by a Sparrowhawk on 18.01. Full song was heard there on 28.01.

Fieldfare Widely reported with some large flocks as follows: 350 at Leighfield on 15.01, c.250 in Clipsham Park on 23.02, 250 on pasture near Stretton Wood the following day, and 200 over Manton and c.300 near Mounts Lodge on 28.02. The cold weather forced some into gardens with 30 in Barrowden on 15.01, with 40 on 14.01. On 05.02, 40 fed on crab apples at Manton, and one or two were again at Barrowden and Stamford to 26.02, when 'hundreds' were reported to the west of Barrowden.

Redwing Few reported with 17 in Exton Park on 20.02 – the highest count. One was in a Barrowden garden on 05.02.

Mistle Thrush Singing birds were at Ketton Quarry, Barrowden, Wardley Wood, Wing, Holywell Cottages, Belmesthorpe, Ketton Quarry and Toilethorpe. Four were at HMP Stocken on 16.01.

Stonechat A male was at RW(Egleton) to at least 27.01.

House Sparrow The best garden count was 28 in Oakham throughout Feb.

Tree Sparrow 16 were at RW(Lyndon) feeders on 04.01. c.25 were reported to be regular at EBR feeders on 04.02. Singles were in an Oakham garden on 06.02 and at GHW on 26.02, with 15 at Manton Junction on 13.02.

Grey Wagtail Singles were noted at RW(Dam and Tertiary Treatment Works), Geeston, Morcott sewage works and an Oakham garden, where one was seen on several dates from 05.02.

Pied Wagtail There was a max count of 47 at HMP Stocken on 21.02.

Chaffinch A large roost at Leighfield throughout both months peaked at 440 on 19.02. Other flocks were much smaller, with 30 in Exton Park on 20.02 and 20 at Dawn' Paddock throughout Feb.

Brambling One was in Exton Park on 21.01 and six at the Leighfield Chaffinch roost on 29.01, with two there on 14.02 and 26.02.

Greenfinch There was a good count of at least 25 at feeders at Park House, Normanton in Jan.

Goldfinch Interesting late afternoon counts of birds preparing to roost were received from Manton and Uppingham for Jan. 60 were at Manton and 50 in Uppingham. 20 fed on teasel at Geeston on 22.02.

Siskin Nos at Leighfield increased to c.160 on 29.01. c.80 were at RW (South Shore) on 04.01 and two were in song at PW on 29.02.

Linnet Up to 160 were at Leighfield in Feb. 20 were at Beaumont Chase Farm on 04.02, and 60 were at RW(Berrybutts) on 22.02.

Lesser Redpoll On 08.01 there were two at EBR Plantation and 18 at Wing, with 14 at this site on 31.01.

Common Crossbill Three were in conifers at Leighfield on 29.01.

Bullfinch Well reported with seven at HMP Stocken on 05.01, six in a Wing garden on 10.02 and five at RW(Egleton) on 25.02. Ones and twos were at TunnW, Barrowden, CPW, Wardley Wood and Stretton Wood.

Snow Bunting A female remained at RW(Old Hall) to 19.01.

Yellowhammer c. 70 were at Mounts Lodge on 06.01.

Reed Bunting Song was heard at FHP on 28.01 but cold weather forced birds into gardens with six at Stamford on 31.01, and up to four throughout Feb, and singles at North Luffenham, Manton and Oakham.

Corn Bunting Six were at Mounts Lodge on 06.01, with two on 28.02.

Wildfowl Counts January/February 2012

	Rutland Water		Eyebrook Reservoir		Fort Henry Ponds and Exton Park		Holywell Lake	
	15.01.12	12.02.12	15.01.12	12.02.12	13.01.12	09.02.12	14.01.12	14.02.12
Mute Swan	248	229	98	104	11	5	7	7
Bewick's Swan	4	4						
Pink-footed Goose		14						
Greylag Goose	382	292	93	57	3	110		4
Canada Goose	575	266	56	140			12	96
Barnacle Goose	14							
Egyptian Goose	53	32						
Shelduck	25	8	4	2	1	3		
Wigeon	2786	3698	515	914	27	6		
Gadwall	1344	905	62	12	116	45	22	4
Teal	1309	471	503	82	29	33	40	34
Mallard	1137	721	92	164	110	193	99	74
Pintail	11	7	13	1				
Shoveler	74	1			7	3		
Red-crested Pochard		12						
Pochard	64	243	6	1				1
Tufted Duck	1051	2625	311	7	49	9	86	8
Scaup		15						
Goldeneye	502	386	21	10				
Smew	5	31	3	4				
Goosander	26	22						
Little Grebe	75	92	3		12	9	10	8
Great Crested Grebe	190	184	51	6				
Black-necked Grebe		1						
Cormorant	49	97	25	3	2			
Little Egret	2	2						
Grey Heron	12	5	2	1	1		1	
Water Rail		13						
Moorhen	59	47	2	2	17	11	28	7
Coot	1257	928	302	11	58	46	56	28

BOTANY NOTES compiled by Graham Worrall

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January/February 2012

January started as if it were spring. **Hazel** catkins were fully out on Manton Hill on the 3rd and **Lesser Celandine** was in flower on a verge south of Seaton churchyard on the 4th – not the earliest ever by some three weeks, at this site which has been monitored over a number of years.

Red Champion was spotted in Dog Kennel Field Oakham on the 8th but this was probably a 2011 left-over, unlike the **Colt's-foot** at Stocken prison on the 23rd January. The weather then turned very cold and new flowering ceased.

February started to warm up in the second week and **Snowdrops** and **Aconites** were spotted in Dawn's Paddock at Braunston. By the third week, Verge 7 (from Gt Casterton to Pickworth) was in good flower: **Common Field-speedwell**, **Spurge-laurel**, **Hazel catkins**, **Snowdrop**, **Dog's Mercury** and **Groundsel** were found. On the footpath from Taylor's Farm, Woodhead, appeared the first **Sweet Violet** of the year. Exton Park produced **Red Dead-nettle**, **Primrose** was in good display in Horn Spinney, and on the 23rd out came the **Colt's-foot** again – 25 at Stocken and 5 at Ketton Quarry in 'radiant sunshine'.

Thanks to: J Crosby, R Lemmon, T Mitcham, M Grimes, G Worrall, D Whitefield and one recorder who failed to name him/herself.

BUTTERFLY NOTES compiled by Alistair Lawrence

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January/February 2012

There are a few butterfly sightings to report over the past two months during the unusually warm spells of weather.

On 20 January a single **Red Admiral** was seen in a Barleythorpe garden, and on 23 February a single

male **Brimstone** was observed on the wing in Barrowden.

On the same day male and female Brimstones were recorded in flight at Ketton Quarry, as was a single **Peacock**.

My thanks to the following contributors: A Lawrence, D Perril, P Scott, L & G Worrall

With spring now hopefully just around the corner this seems an appropriate time to remind members, especially any new ones, of the instructions for submitting butterfly records:

- 1 Please send record cards to arrive not later than the 2nd of the month in which Fieldfare is produced.
- 2 Please enter the species seen, 6-figure map reference, number of individuals, sexes where appropriate, and any other information which might be of interest, such as weather conditions and type of habitat.
- 3 Reports should be included for the more common species with emphasis being given to first and last sightings during individual flight periods.
- 4 If a site is visited where a number of species are present, the record card should be used as a group list, with the reverse of the card being used as necessary. Needless to say, only one site per card.

ORTHOPTERA REPORT compiled by Phil Rudkin

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

There are no reports for this period.



MOTH NOTES compiled by Jean Harvey

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January/February 2012

Moths are obviously few and far between at this time of year and most people only observe the odd one in car headlights. The garden trap at Barrowden was tried a few times with negative results and just one Satellite was found in it on February 24th.

The trap in the reed beds at Rutland Water was operated weekly with only one exception during these two months, when it was considered to be too cold due to the snow and ice at that time. Six macro-moth species were recorded there, these

being the Chestnut, Early Moth, Mottled Umber, Pale Brindled Beauty, the Satellite and Small Quaker. Two species of micro-moths were also identified.

The very mild night of February 28th gave a very different story, when the temperature remained at 9.5 °C and sixty moths were attracted to the light! This total was made up of eleven macro- and four micro-species, giving the feeling that the new 'moth season' is about to start!

My thanks to R Follows for this information.

PLANT GALLS REPORT compiled by Roy Lemmon

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January/February 2012

As is to be expected, there were no galls reported in these two months and so, as I did last year at this time, I will take the opportunity to review the literature currently available on this subject. The best publication for the person starting in this field is the Field Studies Council's fold out chart *Plant Galls in Britain*, which is usually available at the Egleton Centre cost £3.50. This deals with many of the commoner galls one is likely to find and is an excellent start to the subject. Much more advanced and indeed virtually comprehensive, is the new (2011) edition of *British Plant Galls* by Redfern, Shirley and Bloxham, which is much enlarged over the 2004 edition but unfortunately much more expensive. It too is published by the FSC.

I have in my keeping the Society's copy of the Naturalists Handbook No. 17 *Plant Galls*, which in

99 pages of A5 size deals with what galls are, the gall causers, and also with the identification of a considerable number of galls found on a variety of hosts. This is available for any member to borrow; please contact me and I will get it to you.

Published in 2011 by WILDguides, Michael Chinery's *Britains Plant Galls: a photographic guide* is an excellent publication with superbly clear photographs of just over 200 plant galls or roughly one-fifth of the total for this country. It is very clearly laid out and it is refreshing to have photographs instead of line drawings, excellent though the latter are. Michael Chinery is the editor of the British Plant Gall Society's illustrated journal *Cecidology*, published twice a year, and he has generously donated the copyright of his book to the BPGS. This can be viewed on their website: www.british-galls.org.uk

INSECTS AND OTHERS compiled by Gill Chiverton

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January 2012

Hymenoptera

Common Wasp *Vespula vulgaris* – a single queen wasp was noted at Stocken on Jan 7th.

Bumble Bee *sp.* – On Jan 11th a large fast flying bumble bee was noted on two occasions at Barrowden. **Buff-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus*

terrestris – on Jan 2nd a large queen bee was noted at rest in the sunshine on some stonework at Lyndon; on Jan 14th one large insect was noted on two occasions on winter honeysuckle flowers at Barrowden.

Coleoptera

A **Rove Beetle** *Ischnoglossa prolixa* was noted under bark amongst a large number of woodlice at Lyndon. **7-spot Ladybird** *Coccinella 7-punctata* – up to 100 ladybirds were found hibernating in small groups of approx 15 insects deep inside foliage on mahonia bushes at Lyndon. **Harlequin Ladybird** *Harmonia axyridis* – approx 10 insects were noted in sunshine at Lyndon. A **Fungus Beetle** *Cerylon ferrugineum* – this very small beetle was recorded in bark debris at Lyndon. Previous four beetle records were all dated Jan 2nd. **Leaf Beetle** *Phyllodecta vulgatissima* – Jan 16th, approx 25 insects were noted hibernating in a pile of rotting logs at Egleton NR. Frost had penetrated into the log pile and there were ice crystals amongst the beetles but they were still alive.

February 2012

Hemiptera

A **Water Boatman** *Corixa punctata* – the first water boatman of the year – was noted on Feb 22nd

on a pond at Barrowden; with a further 3 being recorded on the 24th.

Hymenoptera

Common Wasp *Vespula vulgaris* – a single queen wasp was recorded on Feb 23rd at Barrowden.

Honey Bee *Apis mellifera* – up to a dozen bees were noted on Feb 23rd on winter heather and crocus flowers at Barrowden; on Feb 26th two bees were noted on crocus flowers at Ridlington; and on Feb 25th/26th one or two bees were visiting crocus flowers at Oakham. **Buff-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus terrestris* – on Feb 26th two large insects were feeding at crocus flowers at Barrowden. **White-tailed Bumblebee** *Bombus lucorum* – on Feb 23rd one insect was on crocus flowers at Stocken. **Bumblebee** *sp.* – two insects were on the wing at Stocken.

Coleoptera

7-spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* – on Feb 25th two insects were noted, one inside and one in the garden and on Feb 28th several were noted on seed heads, all recorded at Barrowden. On Feb 23rd seven insects were recorded along a woodland path at Ketton Quarry, all were active. On Feb 25th/26th several insects were recorded in a garden at Oakham. **Two-spot Ladybird** *Adalia 2-punctata* – one insect was noted at Barrowden.

Many thanks to the following for records: T Caldicott, J Crosby, J Harris, R Lemmon, T Newton and L & G Worrall.

MAMMAL REPORT

compiled by Linda Biddle

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Thank you for sending in your reports. Mammals have been active all over Rutland, even in the coldest weather, and foxes, water voles and otters will feature, but as I have just returned from holiday I will not be able to complete the

report in time for this month's *Fieldfare*. Please do continue to send in your sightings. They will not be ignored and will contribute to the report for the next *Fieldfare*!

BAT REPORT

compiled by Jenny Harris

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Not surprisingly, there were not many records for January and February and detailed notes of the hibernation visits will appear in the May *Fieldfare*. However, it was very exciting to find two of the

very rare **Barbastelle bat** *Barbastella barbastellus* in the Rutland hibernaculum in February.

Also, please see Noticeboard for Help!! needed with bat recording.