



Nightjar on residents fence in Wing. Photo P. Comben

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Sometimes, you really don't have to go far outside your back door to spot some unusual wildlife in Rutland. They make their appearance in places you don't expect them to be, but what is even more astonishing, is that a Wing resident had a camera to hand, to photograph a Nightjar in the daylight, sitting on a garden fence! The photograph above says it all.

August and September months have seen other unusual sightings throughout the county too, with a report of a misplaced Grass snake on someone's "Pyrocantha" which needed to find a better home on some allotments, (see Amphibian report). A late cuckoo was heard on 28th August over Martinthorpe, and with the first stirrings of a new season to come, 120 linnets spotted also at Martinthorpe (Bird report). People have been out and about finding some rare and nationally rare species for our recorders to report. Two Blue underwings, (a beautiful and rare moth) were caught during a moth trapping session at Lyndon (Moth report). You wouldn't think that someone would have the patience to record a weevil gall, but there it is, in the Plant gall report for Rutland - a nationally threatened species. Harvest mice nests were reported for the first time in a couple of years near the Badger hide at RWNR (Mammal report). Our recorders have also noted some not so welcome flora and fauna in the county. See the Botany record, which informs us about an invasive species that lives and thrives around the lagoons here at Rutland water. What a name - New-zealand Pygmyweed!

Things are beginning to come back together after the last 18 months of covid precautions. The outdoor walks have seen the lifting of restrictions since July, and we are finally almost back to normal with the indoor talks at VAR, but restrictions on places still apply for the present. Book early as places are on a first come - first served basis. Also, take a look at the new website for any new instructions, or to renew your subscription for next year or even to order the new 2022 calendar. You will also see that we are advertising for a new treasurer to take over from Margaret Conner who has been our joint membership secretary/ treasurer for the last 8 years. Tricia Marston is welcomed as our new membership secretary, so if you think you may have time to spare, please contact Margaret for details.

And finally, keep your eyes and ears open and don't be put off by the colder weather to come. You may just spot a "first" or even, an endangered . . .

Linda Biddle, RNHS Chair

RNHS NOTICES

A New treasurer for RNHS needed.

An appeal for a new treasurer for RNHS has been posted on the front page of the website for a month now with no enquiries so far. Margaret has been a valuable member of the committee for 8 years and feels that now is the time to step down and allow someone else the opportunity to become more involved. Please read the notice below, and if you think you may be interested, do get in touch with her on the attached email address.

"The Treasurer is responsible for maintaining the accounts and keeping accurate financial records. Tasks include making payments as required, accounting for money received, and liaising with the Membership Officer about subscriptions.

The Treasurer also makes the annual claim for Gift Aid. They prepare the accounts and present them to the membership at the Annual General Meeting. The treasurer will normally attend 4-6 committee meetings annually, and advise on the financial situation, but also be able to input to the Society's plans and help with other activities as they choose. It is not essential to have professional accounting knowledge, just to be numerate with a good attention to detail, and ideally an understanding of Excel spreadsheets (but can develop different systems if preferred)."

Margaret will continue to be available to handover and help as needed. If you would like to discuss further what is involved, please contact Margaret on mjconner100@gmail.com or call 01664 454532.

DIARY DATES



RNHS Indoor evening meetings

The last two indoor meetings for this year will be held at Rutland Community Hub (VAR) Lands'End Way as in previous years. Spaces will be limited to 25 people only, on a first come – first served basis. If you wish to attend, please contact either Jeff Wilcox-smith or Linda Clark (details on back cover Contacts page) as soon as possible to book your place. To keep us all as safe as possible, no refreshments will be served, and windows will be opened for fresh air. We leave the choice of whether to wear a mask to your own discretion.

Tuesday 2nd November. 7.30pm – 9.30pm.

John Tinning. Secretary of the Zoological photographic club.

Recent ramblings of a wildlife photographer (including lots of superb photos of wildlife).

Tuesday 7th December. 7.30pm – 9.30pm.

Members and Recorders evening.

As in previous years, this will include some short presentations by our recorders, followed by a look at some of the photographs going into the 2022 calendar. (Members may also be able to participate through zoom but refer to website for further information).

Tuesday 4th January 2022. 7.30pm – 9.30pm.

Wildlife and the Police.

Retired Police Inspector, Neil Hughes, formerly Leicestershire and Rutland Constabulary wildlife officer will discuss the role of the Police. With examples of intervention.

RNHS Outdoor meetings

As with other meetings, it is still IMPORTANT TO BOOK your place for this meeting with Jeff or Linda C. as above.

Sunday 14th November. 2pm – 6pm.

Welney Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust.

Address; Welney Wetland Centre, Hundred foot bank, Welney, Nr. Wisbech PE14 9TN. There will be an approximate £10.00 booking fee payable on the day as this will be a "Meet and greet" to include a guide for one hour. More information on this when you book with Jeff or Linda C. as above. Refreshments and toilets available.

New year walk. (Date to be announced).

Morkery woods.

Blow away the cobwebs with a walk in the woods to discover what January holds. Please refer to website for further details as they become available.

Other society meetings

LRWT Events. Rutland Group and Leicestershire and Rutland Badger Group.

All the following events are online zoom meetings. Go to events page on LRWT to book your place.

Thursday 11th November 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

Badgers.

Their bizarre biology and behaviour with Dr. Pam Mynott, chair of Leicestershire and Rutland badger group.

Thursday 13th January 2022. 7.30pm – 8.30pm.

Otters.

Illustrated talk on the natural history of the Otter with Derek Crawley, recorder for Staffordshire



George Henry wood. Photo C.Baxter

2022 CALENDAR

By the time your October Fieldfare drops through the door, the RNHS 2022 calendar will have been produced. The number of entries for the photo competition, which ended at the end of September, has grown year by year, resulting in a headache for the judges but a delightful calendar which always make good Christmas presents or are just nice to hang somewhere at home. As last year, we are asking members to pre-order

the calendar, and these will be hand delivered or posted to distant members. The price will be £8.00/copy (additional charge for posting) as last year, with payment on delivery. If you wish to order a copy, (or more if you like) please email Margaret as soon as you can at mjconner100@gmail.com with your details and how many copies you wish to order. Thankyou.

WEATHER

RECORDER Roy Lemmon

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August 2021

Atmospheric pressure and wind. In the first 3 weeks of the month, pressure was low, and then high to the end. The lowest was 997 mb on the 6th and the highest, 1031.5 mb on the 24th. A feature of this latter period was persistent low cloud, which, combined with northerly winds must have contributed to the cool conditions, as seen below.

Temperature. There was a considerable difference in the mean minimum and mean maximum for the month. The former was 12.67 °C which placed it 4th in the decade 2012–2021, whereas the latter at 21.53 °C, was 9th in the same decade. The lowest overnight minimum was 7.7 °C on the night of 27th–28th, and the highest daytime maximum was 26.4 °C on the 4th.

Precipitation. A very dry August with just 18.9 mm (0.74 inches) of rain recorded. This equates to 31% of the long-term mean of 31 years and was the lowest August rainfall since 2003 at 6.6 mm, and 1995 at 2.5 mm.

September 2021

Atmospheric pressure and wind. Essentially a high-pressure month. On the 27th 1001 mb was recorded but apart from this, pressures were mostly above 1015 mb, the highest being 1032 mb on the 1st and 2nd. Winds started N-NE but from the 9th to the end of the month were generally S-W. Wind speeds were generally low until the 22nd, and in the last 8 days of the month there were gusty conditions.

Temperature. A warm September with a mean temperature of 16.87 °C, which was warmest in the decade 2012–2021 with September 2016 being second warmest at 16.66 °C. It was also the second warmest September I have recorded since 1994, with that of 2006 at 17.73 °C.

Precipitation. A total of 44.3 mm (1.74 inches) was recorded here, being 90% of the long-term mean. 64% of this total fell in the last 5 days of the month.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore

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August & september 2021

Only four different species were recorded in these two months with Grass Snakes being the most numerous.

Common Frogs were seen in two Oakham gardens in both months and in Martinsthorpe and Wing at the end of August. Wing, especially the allotments, provided all the Common Toad records, including one road casualty.

Viviparous Lizards were seen at Clipsham Park by Martin Grimes in both August and September. On August 15th, he saw five young and a similar number on September 26th.

In August, Grass Snakes were observed at four different sites in Wing, including a garden pond under Linda Clark's refugium, in the allotments and basking on a *Pyrocantha*, where it was not welcome, and so it was removed to the allotments. In September one was found under a shelter at Exton Park, another by the roadside in Brooke and another was observed swimming in Eye Brook reservoir. There was also a road casualty in Wing.

My thanks to the following who provided records: - T Caldicott, L Clark, I Day, M Grimes, J Harris and J Orr.

BATS

RECORDER Jenny Harris

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Most bat recording activity during these two months, except for grounded bat records, involved the Bats in Churches Project, relating to some of our Rutland churches: Egleton, Greetham and Whissendine.

Egleton Church. 6th August: A dawn swarming survey (part of the ecological information required to assess how bats use the church) took place as a public engagement event for people in the village. We began watching the soprano pipistrelles return to the roost at 4.30am, when it was still only just beginning to get light. It was a spectacular sight, with large numbers of bats taking a last foraging opportunity around the lime trees, then circling around the entrances to the roost, flying up and back to the small cracks before one by one, judging the time was right to slip inside. By 5.40am, only a few stragglers were still returning in ones and twos, which is when we saw a sparrowhawk fly through the churchyard, having a chilling effect on the watchers below. The last bat disappeared into the roost at about 6.00am.

31st August: A public engagement event, with talks by Matt Cook, the consultant ecologist, myself and Ann Gleave from the Bat Group. The emergence of around 380 soprano pipistrelles was much reduced compared to the June adult counts, being probably mainly juveniles, but was still thrilling to watch.

Greetham Church. There were further surveys of the Natterer's bat colony and a single Brown Long-eared bat, by the ecologist Matt Cook. I assisted Ann Gleave from the Bat Group to man a stand at the church fete on 21st August, which attracted much interest from local children.

Whissendine Church. 2nd September: An emergence survey arranged by consultant ecologist Matt Cook, to gather more information of where the Natterer's bats roost within the church, how they use the interior of the church and what routes they use between the roost and access point. A final total of 73 bats was counted.

20th September: A public engagement event was held at the church, with talks by Matt and Ann from the Bat Group. This was followed by an emergence survey, where we all answered questions from members of the public.

Grounded bats: August and September 2021

Thirteen bats of four species were taken into care during the two-month period. The most surprising rescue was of a juvenile female Leisler's bat in Ketton, which was rescued by a member of Lincolnshire Bat Group, after it was taken to Stamford College. This uncommon species has only been recorded three times previously in Rutland, but never before in Ketton. The Soprano Pipistrelle found at Burley-on-the-Hill had a very heavy parasite load – mites, lice and fleas, but once these had been eliminated it went from strength to strength and weighed 5.8g when released. As it flew off, it was joined by four Sopranos from the local colony. Two female juvenile Soprano Pipistrelles found at Egleton church, including one found grounded in the church on 21st July, were released on 7th September, and although they looked rather uncertain as they flew off, it is hoped that they will learn how to forage from juveniles still present and follow them back to the roost.

Date	Species	Location	Age/sex/etc.	Cause/outcome
4 Aug.	Soprano Pipistrelle	Eggleton Church SK876075	Juv. M. f/a 28mm, 3.5g	Grounded inside church, retained in care
4 Aug.	Soprano Pipistrelle	Eggleton Church	Juv. F. f/a 29mm, 3.6g	Grounded inside church, released 7 Sept.
9 Aug.	Soprano Pipistrelle	Burley-on-the-Hill, SK884101	Juv. F. f/a 31mm. 4.1g	Thin, poor condition, released 4 Sept.
11 Aug.	Common Pipistrelle	Oakham, SK866090	Ad. F. f/a 32mm. 5.3g	Possible cat strike. Released 28 Aug.
12 Aug.	Leisler's Bat	Ketton SK977043	Juv. F. f/a 38mm, 8.0g	Still in care with Lincs. Bat Group
21 Aug.	Pipistrelle sp.	RWNR Eggleton SK878067 Nr Mallard Hide	Ad. F. f/a 31mm. 5.2g	Caught on Burdock, injured, died E. 23 Aug.
25 Aug.	Unknown, not seen	Market Overton SK889177	No info., phone advice only	Found in office, released by finder 25 Aug.
1 Sept.	Pipistrelle sp.	Ketton SK979045	No details	Left wing badly damaged. Died E 2 Sept.
4 Sept.	Common Pipistrelle	Oakham SK866115	Ad. M. f/a 31mm. 4.7g	Broken pelvis, wing damage (cat?)
4 Sept.	Whiskered Bat	Uppingham School. SP865996	Juv. F. 4.27g	Trapped indoors. Thin, Released 24 Sept.
12 Sept.	Soprano Pipistrelle	Langham SK838111	Juv. F. f/a 31mm. 4.0g	Came down chimney. Released 16 Sept.
21 Sept.	Common Pipistrelle	Oakham SK857081	Ad. M. f/a 32mm	Dead on arrival.
25 Sept.	Common Pipistrelle	Ketton SK977042	Ad. M. f/a 31mm	Broken right wing (cat?) Died E 27 Sept.

Key: Ad. – adult; Juv. – juvenile; M. F. – Male, Female; f/a – forearm; E- euthanasia by vet.

Weight quoted is the weight of the bat (if known) when it was admitted to care. Where any details are missing it is because these were not taken when the bat was admitted to care, occasionally because examining the bat would have caused unacceptable distress.

Guided walks: two walks were held at Lyndon Nature Reserve on the south shore of RW, both starting from the visitor centre.

10 September walk for RNHS members

It was quiet along the nature trail, but at the entrance to Gibbet Gorse, at about 8.00pm, we could hear bat activity among the trees on the south side of the service track. Most of the bats were **Soprano Pipistrelle**; we heard numerous feeding buzzes (indicating that the bats were catching insects) and could see the bats twisting and turning to catch the insects. On several occasions we saw a particular bat stoop after an insect, folding its wings to its side to gain speed, just as birds of prey do. This action was something I had never seen before. Several **Common Pipistrelles** were foraging around the large oak tree on the southern side of the track plus more sopranos on the reserve side. Standing on the track next to Field 1, we heard the calls of a **Nathusius' Pipistrelle** as it flew over the track. This was repeated several times but here was the only place we heard this species. When we reached Teal hide, we could hear plenty of pipistrelles foraging around the hide, but only saw

one **Daubenton's** bat in our torch light, foraging low over the water, quite far out over the reservoir; there was a bit of a swell in front of the hide which may have kept them further out. No noctule bats were heard.

11th September 2021 Bat walk for Leicestershire and Rutland Bat Group.

Again, both **Common** and **Soprano Pipistrelles** were seen and heard at Gibbet Gorse. A possible **Nathusius' Pipistrelle** was heard over the track, but this brief pass was not verified. One member of the group had an Echo Meter Touch detector attached to a Tablet, and occasional passes by *Myotis* bats were heard but these could not be identified to species. During harp trapping for *Nathusius' Pipistrelle* in the past, we have caught small numbers of Whiskered, Daubenton's and Natterer's bats in this part of the reserve. Back at the reserve car park several members of the group heard a **Noctule bat**. At Teal Hide, a pipistrelle bat was flying inside the hide but left when we entered. Initially all we heard was pipistrelles and saw one or two **Daubenton's bats** far out over the water. Later however, as it got dark,

the Daubenton's came in closer to the shore and the hide, there were more of them and we observed their behaviour, as they appeared to be relatively undisturbed by the torch light following them. We saw bats dip down to the water with a tiny splash as they picked an insect off the surface. On several occasions we also saw a moth in the torch light, which picked out a pipistrelle, dash in to take it, but then swerving away,

perhaps disturbed by the light or realising it was getting too close to the water.

In my July report, I omitted to thank Linda Clark for taking in and caring for an infant pipistrelle found at Barnsdale Avenue, Exton. Thank you also to Linda for her help with various releases of bats following care.

BIRDS

Recorder Terry Mitcham

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August 2021

Highlights. Rutland Water had a Glossy Ibis (23rd-31st), seven Sandwich Terns (21st) and a Short-eared Owl (10th). A late Cuckoo was at Martinsthorpe (28th).

Rutland Water. The count (24th) produced 90 Egyptian Geese, 1112 Gadwall, 353 Teal, two Pintail, 102 Shoveler, 3269 Tufted Ducks, 844 Cormorants, 60 Little Egrets, 11 Great White Egrets, 103 Little Grebes and 518 Great Crested Grebes. There were three Ruddy Shelducks (4th) and a Goldeneye (11th). One or two Marsh Harriers were regularly seen at Egleton. A good wader passage included maxima of two Oystercatchers (24th), an Avocet (24th), 408 Lapwings (24th), a Grey Plover (4th), five Ringed Plovers (24th) and four Little Ringed Plovers (24th). There were also five Whimbrel (21st), eight Curlew (24th), 14 Black-tailed Godwits (1st), a Turnstone (14th), six Knot (17th) and four Ruff (21st). A Sanderling was seen (29th) and there were two Little Stints (30th). Nine Green Sandpipers were present (24th) with a Wood Sandpiper (27th), four Spotted Redshanks (21st) and five Greenshanks (21st). 61 Common Terns were counted (24th) with an Arctic Tern (19th) and a Black Tern from (1st) and two (8th-22nd). A Hobby was noted (3rd).

Eyebrook Reservoir. There were two Garganey from (1st) and a Red-crested Pochard. Two Ospreys were seen (22nd). Waders on (22nd) included 242 Lapwings and a Wood Sandpiper. Also seen were nine Ringed Plovers and six Little Ringed Plovers (21st), a Black-tailed Godwit from (10th), two Knot (21st), a Ruff (22nd, 31st), three Common Sandpipers (14th) and 11 Green Sandpipers (21st). There was a Spotted Redshank (30th) and one or two Greenshank (7th – 28th). A Yellow-legged Gull was present (22nd) and there were six Common Terns (22nd). A Whinchat was noted (24th) with three (31st) and a Wheatear was seen (4th).

Other Sites. Ten Little Grebes were at Leighfield (10th). Two Whimbrel flew over Martinsthorpe (14th). Two Ospreys flew south over Pilton (18th). 13 Red Kites hunted over a hay meadow in Exton Park (26th). Four Barn Owl chicks were ringed there (17th) and a Hobby flew over (1st). Hobbies fledged two young at a regular site. Little Owls were at Lyndon, Pilton and Bisbrooke. Spotted Flycatchers were at nine sites. Up to three Redstarts were at Martinsthorpe (10th-28th) with a Wheatear there (12th) and an overflying Tree Pipit (24th). A sign of autumn were the Linnets, 120 of them at Martinsthorpe (24th) and 100 Goldfinches there (25th).

September 2021

Highlights. Rutland Water had a Glossy Ibis to (5th) and a Bittern (8th, 24th). An immature White - Tailed Eagle roosted (17th-18th). A Pectoral Sandpiper was at Eyebrook Reservoir (11th – 21st). On (10th) there was a Pied Flycatcher at Greetham garden centre, and a Nightjar was photographed in a Wing garden (11th).

Rutland Water. The count (12th) produced 460 Wigeon, 1131 Gadwall, 619 Teal, 44 Pintail, 247 Shoveler, 3528 Tufted Ducks, 986 Cormorants, 16 Great White Egrets and 59 Little Egrets. There were two Ruddy Shelducks (22nd), a Garganey (27th) and a Common Scoter (19th). An Osprey was seen (19th) and there were up to three Marsh Harriers all month. Some peak wader counts included 237 Lapwings (12th), 13 Ringed Plovers (2nd), two Little Ringed Plovers (1st), eight Black-tailed Godwits (12th), a Turnstone (12th), four Ruff (7th), two Little Stints (2nd – 5th), 19 Snipe (12th), 15 Green Sandpipers (12th) and four Greenshanks (12th). A Black Tern was seen (19th). Up to three Hobbies remained to at least (24th). A Redstart was at Gibbet Gorse (4th). A Stonechat was at Manton Bay (28th, 29th) and there was a Wheatear and ten Yellow Wagtails at the dam (29th).

Eyebrook Reservoir. Two Garganey were present to at least (20th) and there was a Common Scoter (13th). A Great White Egret was spotted (14th) and an Osprey (12th). Waders included an Avocet (4th), 204 Lapwings (12th), 19 Ringed Plovers (12th), five Little Ringed Plovers (1st), two Curlew (12th), two Black-tailed Godwits (9th), Knot (6th-11th), five Ruff (3rd), 11 Dunlin 3rd), a Little Stint (3rd) and six Green Sandpipers (2nd).

Other Sites. Fort Henry Ponds had 26 Shoveler, 55 Gadwall, 101 Teal (all 23rd), two Great White Egrets (19th) and five Green Sandpipers (23rd). Water Rail (5th, 18th) and a Green Sandpiper (5th, 7th) were at Leighfield Fishponds. Ospreys passed through Greetham Valley GC (10th) and Wing (12th). A Barn Owl was at Fort Henry and two Little Owls at Normanton. Hobbies were noted at Leighfield (7th – 23rd) with Peregrines at Martinsthorpe (9th) and Lyndon Top (12th). Two Ravens flew over Oakham (22nd). A Cetti's Warbler sang at a new site (5th). 16 Mistle Thrushes were at Leighfield Fishponds (24th). Spotted Flycatchers were at Leighfield Fishponds (7th – 12th) and Normanton (12th). Redstarts were at Martinsthorpe (5th, 7th) and Leighfield Fishponds (7th). A Whinchat and two Wheatears were at Cottesmore Airfield (11th) and two Tree Pipits flew over Martinsthorpe (16th).

My thanks to the following for their records for August and September: -

T.Appleton, D.& J.Ball, T.Caldicott, T.Collins, P.Comber, C.Debney, Dr.C.H.Gallimore, M.& G.Griffin, J.Harris, C.Hubbard, P.Langston, LROS, D.Masters, I.Misselbrook, T.Mitcham, B.Moore, J.W.Nourish, P.Robinson, RWNr, T.Sexton

August & September 2021 Wildfowl Counts

	RW 24.08.	RW 12.09.	EBR 22.08.	EBR 12.09.	FHP and Exton Park Lake 21.08.	FHP and Exton Park Lake 11.09.
Canada Goose	852	646	434	529		
Greylag Goose	925	713	577	867	12	
Mute Swan	389	308	190	138	7	7
Egyptian Goose	90	47	1			
Mandarin Duck	6	2				1
Garganey			2			
Shoveler	102	247	1	2	9	12
Gadwall	1112	1131	73	36	43	43
Wigeon	17	460		5		1
Mallard	1119	895	292	356	112	108
Pintail	2	44		7		
Teal	353	619	22	226	8	48
Pochard	81	38				
Tufted Duck	3269	3528	5	33	2	
Goldeneye				1		
Little Grebe	103	142	4	1		
Great Crested Grebe	581	632	82	55		
Glossy Ibis	1					
Grey Heron	12	25	1	8	3	2
Great White Egret	11	16				
Little Egret	60	59	8	4	1	
Cormorant	844	968	19	17	1	
Water Rail	4	5				
Moorhen	73	68	4	2	25	46
Coot	1277	1793	215	605	32	28
Kingfisher	1	2				
TOTAL	11283	12406	1930	2892	255	296

	Banthorpe GP 20.08.	Banthorpe GP 10.09.	Holywell Lake
Canada Goose			101
Greylag Goose			123
Mute Swan	3	3	
Gadwall			3
Mallard	1	25	88
Teal		9	8
Tufted Duck			4
Little Grebe			14
Grey Heron		2	2
Little Egret			1
Moorhen	2	3	31
Kingfisher	1		
TOTAL	7	42	375

BOTANY

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A group of BSBI members recently spent some time looking at the plants which border lagoons at Rutland Water Nature Reserve. Tim Sexton, head of projects at RWNr, wants to understand what is growing there and its distribution as a base line for future survey work, by studying how changes in water quality and the changing climate affect the flora and fauna of the reserve. This produced a long list of records, some of them being specialised plants of water margins. There are not many wet areas in the county other than the reservoir, and even those are not often surveyed, so we don't have many records of such plants.

The most obvious plant found on these excursions was New Zealand Pygmyweed, (*Crassula helmsii*) an introduced and

invasive species which grows in water in such profusion that it can form blankets on the surface blocking out light and oxygen thus killing off native species. There is a lot of it on the lagoon edges and reserve officers must take great care to ensure they do not carry even tiny pieces of the plant on their boots; even a one-centimetre piece is sufficient to propagate the plant in a new location.

Amongst the grasses, sedges and rushes on the lagoon shores there was a lot of Gipsywort, Watermint and both Nodding Bur-marigold and Trifid Bur-marigold, which haven't been reported in recent years except from Eyebrook or Egleton. These latter plants have the genus name *Bidens*, which refers to the spine at each end of the fruit. The derivation is from bis (two) and dent (tooth). The family name of the American President apparently comes from an ancestor born in Sussex in the eighteenth century, and probably has nothing to do with the plant. Another unusual plant, which grows on the edges of water, is Mudwort (*Limosella aquatica*). This has tiny (2mm) flowers and very distinctive spatula shaped leaves on a long stalk, a bit like the spoons used for eating Knickerbocker Glory.

Among other records received was Clustered Bellflower reported from Bloody Oaks Quarry and from Loves Lane in Empingham. Not many records, considering it is the County Flower of Rutland according to Plantlife! Soapwort was found along Barrowden Lane at Ketton, and Ragged Robin in Prior's Coppice. Two other less common plants were Devil's-bit Scabious at Bloody Oaks Quarry and Common Bistort near Uppingham. It's the first time this last has been recorded since 2006.



Clustered bellflower. Bloody Oaks. Photo C. Baxter

There is an article in August's edition of British Wildlife which describes the success of Essex Wildlife Trust and others in a planning appeal for a well-loved area in Lawford, N Essex. The inspector's decision very much depended on records submitted by the Trust. In this case the main records showing the importance of the site were of moths, but the outcome shows the importance of careful recording of all wildlife.

Records were received from D and J Ball, C Baxter, A and L Biddle, M Grimes, J Harris, T Land, R Lemmon and BSBI study group including G Hall, S Woodward, H Ikin, P Stroh and T Sexton. Thank you to all those.



Ragged robin. Photo C.Baxter

BUTTERFLIES

RECORDER Martin Quinlan

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Although dry, August was cool and cloudy and not the best weather for butterflying! September had an early hot and sunny spell from 5th to 9th but was also largely dry and cool, though wet for the last 3 days.

Only 1 record of LARGE SKIPPER was sent in at BLOODY OAKS QUARRY (BOQ) on 15th August. I'm sure that many other "skippers" were unreported. There were many records from all over the region of LARGE WHITE and SMALL WHITE but no reports of GREEN-VEINED WHITE, which was a surprise. The maximum count of Large White was 6 at Oakham Arboretum (OA) on 2nd August.

In August, BRIMSTONE was seen at OA on 4th, Manton (M) on 7th, Pickworth Woods (PW) on 11th (2, a male and female) and BOQ (2) on 15th. The final record was at OA on 4th September.

August records of SPECKLED WOOD were "several" on 5th at Quarry Farm (QF), 1 at Ridlington (R) on 15th, and 1 at OA on 23rd. September saw 4 at Egleton (Eg) on 2nd, 7 at Eg on 13th with 2 at Wardley Wood (WW) also on 13th.

Only 2 records of SMALL HEATH with 1 at Lyndon Meadow/ Gibbet Gorse Meadow (LM/GGM) on 4th August and 5 at Toilethorpe on 12th September. Ketton Quarry (KQ) had 4 RINGLET on 3rd August with 3 there on 9th August.

MEADOW BROWN was widely reported from KQ, BOQ and PW in August.

The GATEKEEPER was also widely reported in August with 48 at LM/GGM on 4th, 5 at KQ on 9th, 40 at LM/GGM on 11th, 5 at PW also on 11th, 1 at OA on 14th. Recorded in Uppingham (U) throughout the month.

SILVER-WASHED FRITILLARY was seen in August at KQ with 7 on 3rd, OA on 4th, 4 at BOQ on 7th, a single at M on 7th, with the final record of 4 at KQ on 9th.

The only August records of DARK GREEN FRITILLARY were 1 at KQ on 9th and 3 at BOQ on 15th.

There was a single record of PURPLE EMPEROR at Burley Fishponds at RW on 4th August. Great record!

There are also 2 very significant late records of PURPLE EMPEROR for July. One was seen in Westland Wood on the Exton Estate on 20th July. Photographic proof exists and has been seen and confirmed.

Also, one was seen outside our recording at Morkery Wood in Lincolnshire on 12th July. Not Rutland, but it shows the northward expansion of this beautiful butterfly.

There were only 2 records of RED ADMIRAL in August at OA on 4th and M on 7th. On 5th September there were 10 at OA and a single in Oakham.

Tim Caldicott counted a fantastic 42 on a buddleia at Wing Hill allotments (WHA) on 6th September. A great record!

There were 2 at Toilethorpe on 12th and the last at Egleton on 13th.

There were plenty of records of PAINTED LADY from many locations with the first at Great Casterton (GC) on 1st August, the maximum being 4 at M on 7th August and the last at M on 24th September.

The PEACOCK was seen in August at KQ on 3rd when a maximum of 12 were counted, at OA on 4th, at KQ on 9th (a count of 4) and at M also on 9th. The next records were in September with 2 at Oakham on 5th and 3 at Pickworth on 12th.

Only 1 August record of SMALL TORTOISESHELL at OA on 4th. September records were 2 at OA on 1st, 2 at Egleton on 2nd and 1 at Oakham on 5th.

Only 1 COMMA was reported at OA on 6th September.

Also, only 1 SMALL COPPER was reported at LM/GGM on 7th August.

David Needham found 2 PURPLE HAIRSTREAK at KQ on 5th August - the first record at that site for over 70 years - well done!

There were also 7 at LM/GGM in the oaks on 7th August.

There were a few August records of HOLLY BLUE with 2 at OA on 2nd and singles at M on 7th, KQ on 9th and Wing on 15th. The last was 1 at OA on 8th September.

One BROWN ARGUS was seen at BOQ on 15th September.

Finally there were a few August records of COMMON BLUE with 1 at KQ on 3rd, 2 at KQ on 9th, 1 at Wing on 15th and 2 at OA on 28th.

I would like to thank the following for sending in their records: Nigel Messenger, Jenny Harris, Cliff Hillyer, D & J Ball, Diane Masters, A & L Biddle, Tim Caldicott, Jacky Morrell, Robin Ingall, David Needham, Alistair Lawrence, Terry Mitcham, Carolyn Baxter.



Speckled Wood. Photo S. Widdowson

FUNGI

RECORDER Linda Clark

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August, September & October

Long spells of days in August and September were without a drop of rain which isn't good news for fungi or Mycologists, but we have had some spectacular and easily identifiable fungi reported. As always there are many which have been found but are the fungi equivalent of LBJs. Identification of these fascinating organisms is still fraught with difficulty and it is a bonus if a specimen can be correctly named to species level. In some fungi specimens there is a huge range of colour variation; they can appear to be completely different specimens depending on whether they are wet, dry, young



Stinkhorn. Photo L Clark

or old. Some can only be identified by looking at the spores under the microscope.

The following have been positively identified unless otherwise noted. Dryads Saddle, (Polyporus squamous) on an old felled tree trunk on Glaston Road Wing, Glebe Field Wing and also on Holygate Road, Ridlington. Oyster Mushroom, (Pleurotus ostreatus) on Glaston Road Wing. Yellow Fieldcap (Bolbitius titubans) on field entrance Wing. These were found in the same location in 2020. Blackening Waxcap, (Hygrocybe conica) on front lawn Uppingham. Milky Conecap, (Conocybe apala) front lawn Uppingham. Pleated Inkcap, (Coprionus plicatilis) school field Uppingham. Common Earthball, (Scleroderma citrinum) in Wing garden in gravel. Giant Polypore, (Meripilus giganteus) on large old tree stump in Wing playing field. Rooting Shank, (Hymenopellis radicata) in Wardley Woods in a wet grassy ride. Brittlestem, (Psathyrella sp.), Oysterling, (Crepidotus sp.) and Lilac Bonnet, (Mycena pura) all at Pilton. A Red-cracked Bolete, (Boletes chrysenteron) (TBC) Wing Garden.

The following were found in Gibbet's Gorse Lyndon NR. Beefsteak Fungus, (Fistulina hepatica) a bracket fungus. Easily identified, this Fungus will 'bleed' when it matures. Yellow Stagshorn, (Calocera viscosa). This is a small fungus which has branched ends. Stinkhorn, (Phallus impudicus). The young form of this fungi is called an ovum/egg, which develops rapidly into a fruiting body. At the tip of this is a mass which produces the smell (stink) to attract insects to disperse the spores. The ovum of the one found here, weighed 29 grams! Scaly Earthball, (Scleroderma areolatum). Numerous specimens were found in leaf litter on the path. Dead Man's Fingers, (Xylaria polymorpha). Turkey Tail, (Trametes versicolor). Bootstrap Fungus. These are the rhizomorphs of the Honey Fungus Armillaria sp. Collared Parachute, (Marasmius epiphyllus) (tbc). Bolete sp. found in Gibbets Gorse, Wing and Ridlington garden. Some of these had scaly caps. The one in Ridlington is possibly a Bay bolete which is commonly found on acid soil with conifers and Beech as there were Scot's pine and larch nearby. A very old bolete was also

found at Wardley woods. Shaggy Inkcap, (*Coprinus comatus*). Numerous species found on Lyndon Reserve and on Eggleton Reserve Wet Meadow, in front of Swan hide. Resupinate/ Bracket sp. on a Prunus tree in an Oakham garden, was possibly a Hoof fungus, both young and old forms seen. This is to be further investigated.

In Priors Coppice 9th October. 31 species were found, including: - Green ElfCup, (*Chlorociboria aeruginascens*). This fungus stains the wood green on which it grows, and this stained wood is used in Marquetry. The fruiting bodies are not often seen. Deer Shield (*Pluteus cervinus*), Violet Bonnet (*Mycena pura*), Violet Webcap (*Cortinarius violaceus*), Pale Oyster (*Pleurotus cornucopiae*), Burgundydrop Bonnet (*Mycena haematopus*), Funeral Bell (*Galerina marginate*), *Ganoderma australis*, Blushing bracket (*Daedaleopsis confragosa*), Nut Disco (*Hymenoscyphus fructigenus*), Yellow Disco (*Bisporella citrina*), The Deciever (*Laccaria laccata*), Fairy Inkcap (*Coprinellus disseminates*), Pleated inkcap (*Parasola pilicatilis*), Stump Puffball (*Lycoperdon pyriform*), White fibrecap (*Inocybe geophylla*), Butter-cup (*Colybia butyraceae*), and Pale oyster (*Pleurotus pulmonarius*).

Apart from fungi, we also found some interesting Slime moulds in Prior's coppice; *Fuligo septica* var. *flavie*, found at

the plasmodium stage, a yellow spongy mass, found on a branch recess on dead wood and *Stemonitopsis typhina*, also at the plasmodium stage look like clusters of white projections, found on dead wood.

Thanks to all those who sent in their records.



Beefsteak fungus. Photo L Clark

MAMMALS

RECORDER Linda Biddle

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The reports this month come from my regular recorders who do a great job, and I value all contributions – however don't forget – the rest of you too could be telling me what you have seen. It is all important to find out what is going on in our county, which species are doing well, and which are less common, which species are being killed on the roads, and which are creating havoc in your garden! It doesn't matter if you send a computer recording sheet, an email or a paper record, they all count, (although a recording sheet makes it easier for me).

A really good record came this month from RWNr. **Several harvest mice nests**, 2 active, were found in the rough pasture near Badger Hide when clearing work was being carried out. It is a year or two since they were last reported to me, so we now know they're still there! Live **badgers** have not been recorded this month. All reports are of road casualties except for the sight of lots of badger latrines at the side of the Pickworth Drift track, and active setts in many of the usual sites. Dead animals were seen in the Pickworth area, and on the A606 near Burley wood. If you have seen others, then do please let me know! At RWNr two **otters** were seen as they ran along the bund near the osprey hide at 7.30am on 1st September. Lots of evidence of otters' presence has been seen on the mink rafts when they were surveyed in September too. One **weasel** report came from the Lyndon Road near the garden centre, but no **stoats** this time. Not a single **fox** has been reported this month, though I'm hoping that some records may come in later. In **Barleythorpe** a member reports that a **hedgehog**

was seen in their garden on 25th August, and a second seen on 8th September, the first seen there for 7 years! From Oakham comes a report that during September, hedgehogs have returned to a member's garden for the first time this year, arriving on camera before midnight and then again at around 4.00am, and nearby, another member saw a smallish one on 5th September. In Stamford in September a hedgehog was seen feeding on the lawn regularly until the 11th. Three road casualties were found between Cottesmore and Exton in early September. A **mole** was found dead by Redshank hide at RWNr, and molehills observed at Ridlington on the playing field, and in a member's garden in Wing. Molehills are also present at Exton in the fields adjacent to the small cemetery near Exton Park farm. Two young, almost fully grown **brown hares** came racing across the fields towards us as we walked near Pickworth in September. Catching sight of us they veered off at full speed and did a huge circuit of the field, eventually returning the way they had come, having demonstrated that we had no chance of keeping up with them! Others were seen at Greetham Valley Golf club and RWNr near Shelduck hide as well as more in the Pickworth area. Rabbits are frequently seen and were reported this time from Quarry Farm Great Casterton, Ridlington, Toilethorpe, Ryhall, and Greetham valley Golf club. **Grey squirrels** are still very commonly reported from our woodlands and in members gardens, including one youngster who decided to investigate Jenny Harris's sitting room when the door was left open, retreating when she arrived on the scene, but appearing very unafraid! A **bank vole** was sadly seen being consumed by a ginger cat at Quarry Farm

Great Casterton. **Short tailed voles** were present under a shelter along a limestone bank at Exton park on three occasions during September, and were almost stumbled upon by other observers on two occasions on the top of the hill near Fort Henry lakes. Similarly, individuals crossed the pathway at Quarry farm Great Casterton and at Walk Farm Pickworth. At Wing one is frequently observed feeding beneath the bird feeder in Linda Clark's garden. Evidence of **water voles** has been found as usual during surveys at Rutland water and Oakham canal, but really good news (though not in Rutland) comes from the mill stream in Stamford, where a population of water voles is flourishing and several individuals can be observed at one time. A **wood mouse** (otherwise known as long-tailed fieldmouse -or just field mouse) was found dead in Wardley woods in September. Two dead **common shrews**

were found on separate occasions in September at Quarry farm Great Casterton, and 2 dead **water shrews** were found behind Osprey hide at RWNr during summer clearance work. **Muntjac** remain common in the county, footprints seen at RWNr, and individuals observed in Pickworth wood. One report of **roe deer** came from Banthorpe gravel pits where a female and two well grown fawns were noted, and 4 **fallow deer** were seen at Walk Farm path near Pickworth and lots of evidence, droppings and slots from Pickworth Great Wood in August.

Many thanks to the reporters:-C Baxter, A Biddle, Tim Caldicott, Linda +David Clark, J Harris, P Langstone, R Lemmon, D Masters, Terry Mitcham, Jacky Morrell, P Scott, T Sexton, S+D Smalley, WO Smith.

MOTHS

RECORDER Paul Bennett

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August and September were heavily contrasting months, and this was reflected in the moth totals for each month. A cold and cloudy August dominated by north and east winds was followed by above average night temperatures in September with early autumn species then being seen in good numbers.

A trap was put out for the first time at the invitation of the owner of a private garden next to the entrance to Clipsham Wood, which produced good results and one significant find that encourage further visits to be made in future. Our first of 2 visits there was on 6th August when 105 moths of 44 species were in the one 20watt battery-operated trap. There were no unusual records and no large totals of individual moths but a varied selection of regular summer species. The highest total, were 18 of the tiny micro moth *Blastobasis adustella* which would have found the abundance of yew trees much to its liking.

Bloody Oaks produced a respectable 149 moths of 52 species when the same battery trap was set out there on 10th August. Among the species were 4 Black Arches and 2 Tawny-barred Angle with the latter being a regular at this site but rarely recorded elsewhere.

Lyndon wasn't recorded until 28th August with 43 species out of 2 traps. 3 Red Underwing were seen settled on the stone wall by the reserve sign, along with Centre-barred Sallow, a good harbinger of autumn, producing an overall count of 11. Other species of interest were Pale Eggar and White - point. The latter species was a first record for the site and until this year, only occasionally recorded in Rutland but in subsequent traps they were a regular feature. They have also appeared in garden traps in an area east of Leicester, while going unrecorded in the rest of the vice-county. The eastern bias to these records suggests they were part of a large influx coming from the south-east. As a species they are very similar to the more common Clay which caused plenty of online discussion as to their respective features and it is possible that there is some genetic variation taking place although that is only speculation.

The next session at Lyndon was on 15th September with 26 species recorded but it also included what for many trappers is the most desired moth of the season if not the year - two Clifden Nonpareil, more commonly known as blue underwing, and they appeared in immaculate condition. These moths are impressive, not just for the underwing which is a very rare colour in moths but for their size. With a wingspan of roughly 95 millimetres, (although this is never seen as the moth doesn't rest in this way) it is considerably bigger than its close cousin the Red Underwing and it also differs with the latter species, being rarely attracted to light. The common name is derived from the site of its first discovery, Cliveden House near Maidenhead, with the nonpareil "without compare". Linnaeus named it "fraxini", as the moth was believed to be first discovered next to an ash tree, although its main foodplant is aspen but it can feed on poplars if aspen is unavailable. It has been recorded with slightly more frequency in this area in the last few years but is still classed as rare and has immigrant status. These were not our only records of this species however, as another appeared in the trap on our second visit to Clipsham Wood



Clifden nonpareil. Photo R. Edwards.



Pale tussock moth caterpillar. Photo J. Rodgers.

on 25th September, not as immaculate but still a smart specimen. Another species of note at Lyndon was only the second record there of Webb's Wainscot. Wainscot moths are invariably pale white or straw coloured and are normally confined to reeds but occasionally fly away in search of better reed bed habitat. Webb's however is one of the rarer wainscots so was a good find.

Our final trap at Lyndon was on a humid night on 24th September with 99 moths of 30 species. All the regular sawfly species - Sawfly, Barred Sawfly and Pink-barred Sawfly, were present along with the common autumn moth Lunar Underwing. Also seen was a male Vapourer.

The final figures have been received from the bio-blitz held around Sharples Meadow and Lagoon 3 at Egleton, being 2065 moths of 184 species, with the main additional moth of interest to those mentioned in my previous report being Tree-lichen Beauty.

The new recording officer at Rutland Water is currently going through roughly 10 years of results from the Rothamsted trap which is permanently set up at the back of Egleton Birdwatching Centre. This trap is operated on most nights of the year so has generated a fair amount of data! He will give me a summary of these figures soon, but one feature he has noticed already is that the numbers of Round-winged Muslin caught in the trap, amount to the

low hundreds which are a very high count for a notifiable species. It would surely be beneficial if the reserve received more regular feedback from this trap rather than having to chase it.

A number of individual records were sent in by members, and of these, the most interesting was an Orange Sawfly seen in Barleythorpe. This is a lime tree feeder which is unusual in moths. Records of Lunar Underwing and Burnished Brass were received from Oakham houses, Hummingbird Hawk-moths were seen in Oakham and Manton while Silver Y and Cinnabar were in several locations but in fairly small numbers. Two caterpillar records were of Elephant Hawk-moth in Bisbrooke and Grey Shoulder-knot at Lyndon.

A selection of leaf miner records from Lyndon, Shackwell Spinney and Ketton Lower Priory were of Stigmella, Parornix and Phyllonorycter species with Hazel and Hawthorn being the most common larval plant. The numerous Hemp Agrimony plants around Lyndon Centre had a Udea lutealis feeding on them and the larva of a Hemp-agrimony Plume was revealed by a hole at the base of a flowering stem which is indicative of its presence! Another micro moth record was of a Nemophora metallica, sometimes known as Brassy Long-horn, feeding on scabious in Empingham. (See photo, back page). Finally, and as an interesting aside on Latin names, I have found out that any species that needs protection and financial support from government will apparently only receive it if it is given a common name. This is a problem for micro moths as many of them don't have one or not one that is universally accepted. Four-dotted Pin-palp or Unequal Smudge not surprisingly being typical examples. One moth proposed for biodiversity support was first named Dorset Clothes Moth as it was restricted to that county and was part of the clothes-moth family but quickly re-named Richardson's Case-bearer to make it less unappealing as the caterpillar was discovered by Richardson and the caterpillar live in a type of case. I don't know whether its sponsors succeeded in getting support but sometimes "necessity is the mother of invention"!

Thank you to the following for sending me their records: - P Bennett, T Caldicott, L Clark, A Dejardin, R Edwards, G Finch, Dr C Gallimore, M Grimes, J Harris, A Lawrence, R Lemmon, T Mulvany, P Scott, T Sexton, W Smith.

ORTHOPTERA

RECORDER Phil Rudkin

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June, July, August & September 2021

This report covers June to September 2021, so this is the "bumper" report which Carolyn mentioned in the August edition. This is also the first time I was unable to carry out the annual Orthoptera Survey at the Rutland Water Nature Reserves. Therefore, I am very grateful to the new 'Species and Recording Officer' at Rutland Water, Tim Sexton who carried out an extensive Orthoptera Survey on the Egleton

reserve, June to September 2021. The ever-dependable Tim Caldecott's spreadsheets were received for all the above months, with the famous Wing village allotments featured. Marian Markham kept the Langham area going, and supplied photographs; as did Carolyn Baxter, from Wardley Woods and the Bloody Oaks, SSSI nature reserve. My small contribution during this period consisted of visiting regular sites, just inside Rutland, to check on the health of the populations.

Species list

Crickets

Oak Bush Cricket, *Meconema thalassinum*.

One adult, found in the regular habitat at Wing Village allotments, SK889028, 15th August.

Dark Bush Cricket, *Pholidoptera griseoptera*.

25 plus, early nymphs in shrubbery at Stretton Woods. New site, SK956170. 14th July.
Ten plus, stridulating males in Bramble bushes on Little Casterton verges, TF018098. 20th August.
14 stridulating males, in regular habitat on bramble patches, Verge 7 Great Casterton. TF999101. 17th Sept.

Roesel's Bush Cricket, *Roeseliana, roeselii*.

Two stridulating males in thick grasses, Bloody Oaks SSSI nature reserve, Empingham. SK970108. 9th July.
Many nymphs observed in Stretton Woods, 14th July. SK956170.
Regular inhabited strongholds visited: Little Casterton Road verges, Verge 7, Great Casterton verges, all 17th September. Tim Caldicott's records include from the 16th to the 30th June, regular sites visited in the Chater Valley SK868040, Gunthorpe SK877056, and Martinthorpe SK872046. All were nymphs. Pleasing new site: Lyndon village lane, 4 stridulating males in grass verges, 31st August, SK909040.

Long-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus fuscus*.

Nymphs observed in the Wing Village allotment, 19th July, in the Butterfly Meadow Gibbetts Gorse, 6th and 19th July SK903059. Adults stridulating in Tim Caldecott's plots in the Wing village allotments, 7th to the 29th August, SK889028. Twelve plus stridulating males in thick grass verges, Little Casterton Road, Stamford TF018098

Short-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus dorsalis*.

Only sightings received are from Rutland Water, Egleton Reserve, supplied by Tim Sexton 9th September. Tim photographed an adult female, (macropterous form) in wet vegetation, adjacent to Fran's Pond, SK879067, along with several normal forms, males and females.

Speckled Bush Cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima*.

Nymphs seen in scrub on Wing Village allotments, 6th and 10th June. One adult in shrub, Baulk Road, north of Bisbrooke, (a new site), 26th June, SK881010. One nymph, at Leighfield fishpond 6th June. One adult in Wing Village allotments, 13th August. One male, taking a liking to Marian Markham's cornflower in the garden for a few days, 24th August (new site) Bridge Street, Langham, SK843011. A large colony stridulating in thick hedgerows on protected Verge 7, Great Casterton, SK999101, 17th September. Another large colony located in hedgerow trees, Little Casterton Road verges, TF018098, 20th August. Six plus, stridulating males in hedgerow tree, Lyndon village lane, (new site) SK909040, 31st August. Eight stridulating males in Linda Clark's front garden hedges, Middle Street, Wing, SK890029, 31st August.

Finally, a very large colony located with Bat-Detector @ 35 kHz, in a tree-lined avenue (both sides), Tinwell (New site) SK997069, 24th September.

Groundhoppers

Slender Groundhopper, *Tetrix subulata*.

One near the pond in Wing village allotments, 6th September, SK889028.

Common Groundhopper, *Tetrix undulata*.

One resting on stones, Wing Village allotments, 31st July

Grasshoppers

Common Green Grasshopper, *Omocestus viridulus*.

Only one report this period (in July). Three sightings; all in rich habitat, Butterfly Meadow close to Gibbetts Gorse, Rutland Water. One stridulating male, on 9th July, seven on 17th, and four on the 22nd, a regular haunt of this lovely hopper!

Field Grasshopper, *Chorthippus brunneus*.

Most of these hoppers were reported from the Wing village allotments. Tim Caldicott's plot had nymphs in June through to adults in July, and up until 13th August, SK889028.

Linda Clark had one final instar nymph, in her allotment plot on 12th July. Finally, one adult photographed in vegetation, at Bloody Oaks, SSSI nature reserve on 15th August.

Meadow grasshopper, *Chorthippus parallelus*.

Ten plus, stridulating males in rough grasses in Bloody Oaks SSSI nature reserve, 9th July.

Fourteen, stridulating males in grassy woodland ride at Stretton Woods. This is a regular site, 14th July. SK956170. Wing village allotments held 2 adults on 23rd August.

Two stridulating males, in grass verges on protected Verge 7, Great Casterton, on 17th September, a regular stronghold. SK99911.

Finally, circa 14 stridulating males, and a late instar nymph, (nymph photographed), in Wardley Woods, 13th September. New site: SK842002.

Lesser Marsh Grasshopper, *Chorthippus albomarginatus*.

Nymphs featured in June. 25 observed near the pond in Leigh Lodge on 6th June, a stronghold for this species! SK828041, and another 20 located in the nearby Leighfield fishponds, on 12th June. In early August, nymphs and mainly adults, in Tim Caldicott's plot, at Wing village allotments. Finally, an excellent photograph, from Marian Markham, of a female Lesser Grasshopper, where 2 were found, in the long-meadow area of Langham churchyard, 24th September. (New site: SK844112).

Rutland Water sightings on the Egleton reserve, supplied by Tim Sexton. Tim humbly stated, "There has not been specific surveys this year, so these are just casual records from me". However, I received an excellent spreadsheet from Tim, dated October 5th, 2021, listing the numbers of: Oak Bush Cricket, Roesel's Bush Cricket, Long-winged and Short-winged Coneheads, Speckled Bush Cricket, Slender and Common Groundhoppers, Meadow and Lesser Marsh Grasshoppers, all on the Egleton reserve, from 2nd June to 28th September 2021. These records are included in the RNHS data, (as usual), and in the Rutland Water reserves data, which are deposited to 'Nature Spot' each year.

Many thanks to our reporters, for their contributions:
Carolyn Baxter, Tim Caldicott, Linda Clark, Marian Markham, Phil Rudkin, Tim Sexton.

INSECTS & INVERTEBRATES

RECORDER Jayne Walker

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As I sit typing up this report, I can't believe the wonderfully warm weather we are having at the moment. Torrential downpours and warm sunshine, you would think it was spring rather than autumn, but the trees losing their leaves and the dark nights tells us otherwise. It's hard to believe we will soon be turning the clocks back and winter will be on its way.

There have been over 60 records received for August and September, so thank you to everyone for sending them through.

In August a variety of insect species were spotted with a number of excellent sounding species such as Hairy Shieldbug, *Dolycoris baccarum* which was recorded in Wardley Woods, SP 840 999. A Denticulate leatherbug, *Coriomerus denticulatus* was recorded in a garden in Exton, SK 1278 1098. This was identified from the conspicuous bristles on its pronotum.

Beetle records have proved interesting with a Red Longhorn Beetle, *Stictoleptura rubra* spotted on a rotting log in Clipsham Great Park, SK 9702 1706 in August. This is noted as 'rare in Leicestershire and Rutland' with very few records for VC55. A female was recorded earlier this year in Exton

A burying beetle, *Nicrophorus vespillo* was recorded at Wing Hill Allotment. This species ranges in size from 12 to 22mm and has very colourful and distinctive markings and they are often attracted to light and can be found in moth traps.

August and September have been good months for dragonfly and damselfly records, with beautiful species such Emerald, *Lestes sponsa* and Red-eyed Damselfly, *Erythromma najas* being seen at Leighfield Fishponds, SK8314 0374 in September. A White-legged damselfly, *Platycnemis pennipes* was recorded in Bloody Oaks Quarry SK 970 108 in August.

Large Red, *Pyrrhosoma nymphula* and Common Blue Damselfly, *Enallagma cyathigerum* were also recorded in September.

Willow Emerald Damselfly *Lestes viridis*, which is a rare immigrant, was first recorded at Eyebrook Reservoir in 2019, and recorded in 2020 at the same location. We have

had a single record so far in 2021, with a member having this wonderful species resting on a wall at their home in Uppingham at SP 858 993.

A Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa* was recorded at SK 8891 0288, with several Emperor Dragonflies, *Anax imperator*, seen hawking over field boundary hedgerows adjacent to Exton Great Park at SK 9304 1098. A record for a common Darter, *Sympetrum striolatum* has also been submitted in September.

It was very pleasing to get some more records of spiders in August and September to add to those already received in previous months. Several Zebra spiders, *Salticus spp* have been recorded in a greenhouse in Uppingham SP 858 993, with a Garden spider, *Araneus diadematus* seen in Uppingham at SP 859 991. I have received photographs of a spiders that I'm still working my way through and will report them in the next FieldFare.

The pollinators have been making the most of the sunny days we have had over the last two months, although sunny days in August were few and far between. A Common Furrow-bee, *Lasioglossum calceatum*, was recorded at Wing Hill allotment, SK 8891 0288 as well as a Hornet, *Vespa crabro*.

Tree bumblebees, *Bombus hypnorum* have been seen in Manton. Tree wasps, *Dolichovespula sylvestris* have been recorded at the east edge of Gibbet Gorse, Rutland Water at SK 9022 0586.

And finally, a pair of Yellow Slugs, *Limacus flavus* were recorded in Oakham at SK 856 081. These are noted as 'rare/uncommon in Leicestershire and Rutland'. It is noted by NatureSpot that this species is declining as it is being replaced by *L. maculatus* and hybridisation between the two species is contributing to their decline.

I would like to thank the following members who have submitted records for August and September: Tim Caldicott, Linda Clarke, Dave Needham, Carolyn Baxter, Roy Lemmon, Peter Scott, Martin Grimes and Ian Day. My apologies if I have left anyone off.



Nemophora metallica. Photo A. Dejardin.



Red Longhorn beetle. Clipsham.

PLANT GALLS

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August 2021

This is the busiest time of the year for galls, and we have seen some quite full lists, such as at RW Lyndon on the 3rd with a total of 37 galls, Exton Park on the 12th with 31, Prior's Coppice on the 24th with 27, and RW Egleton on the 31st with 36.

Many results are run of the mill – all very welcome – and there have been a few new ones, as well as some we don't find very often. Lyndon produced the first gall caused by a moth that we have never seen, and RW Lagoon 4 on the 29th, had a report of a weevil gall, not only new to us but nationally threatened!

As well as this last one there have been other individual reports. There was a rust gall reported from Wing on the 18th and a wasp gall on Bramble from Clipsham Yew Tree Avenue on the 21st.

Thanks to L. Clark, M. Grimes, R. Lemmon and T. Sexton (Species and Recording Officer LRWT) for their reports.

September 2021

A quieter month with reports from 8 sites producing a total of 106 galls. Many are of course, the common ones but nevertheless all are important. With the breeding season for birds at Rutland Water being over, there has been the opportunity for guided access to otherwise inaccessible places and this has included the search for galls.

Among the more noteworthy galls was the reappearance of a midge gall on Redshank which hadn't been recorded since 2017; this was on RW Lagoon 2 and was in a slightly different area on the site. Lagoon 3 saw a midge gall which produces a leaf curl on Osier wood which hadn't been reported since 2019.



There were two new records this month, the Gwash at Great Casterton on the 15th had a sawfly gall on Crack Willow; and at Pickworth on the 22nd, Ergot was noted. There are quite a number of sawfly galls on Willows, all basically similar in appearance but this one had escaped notice till now.

Ergot is a fungus which produces galls on the flowers of many grass species, in this case Couch grass or Twitch. It was infamous in the Middle Ages, especially in Europe where the common grain cultivated was Rye. The condition it induced in man was called St Anthony's Fire. It could lead to gangrene of the extremities and/or death. Britain was less affected as wheat was the preferred grain crop.

Thanks to L. Clark, M. Grimes, R. Lemmon and T. Sexton (Species and Recording Officer LRWT) for their reports.

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