Orthoptera, Annual Report, 2018.

Compiled by: Phil Rudkin.

The spring “Beast from the East”, caused slow development of the Rutland Orthoptera; with many nymphs caught and observed. This was followed by a wonderful summer (one of the driest and hottest on record), continuing in to September/October.

It was pleasing to find a few new sites for 2018, which will be listed in the species columns.

Four full surveys were carried out at Rutland Water: two at the Egleton reserve, and two on the Lyndon reserve. Martin Grimes added to the Lyndon Surveys during the year; with regular reports from there. Tim Caldicott contributed to the records, with regular reports from his domain, in the Leighfield, and Manton areas of Rutland.

First stridulating was heard on 18th June, (Common Green Grasshopper), followed by (Meadow Grasshopper), on 25th June.

The final stridulating of the season was on 10th October: from Roesel’s Bush Cricket, Speckled Bush Cricket, and Long-winged Conehead: all heard on this same day, from Quarry Farm, Stamford.

Each season, an Oak Bush Cricket appears in Clive Jones’s large tree lined garden, in Uppingham. There must be good numbers around that area; but, unfortunately, this species does not stridulate, therefore, it does tend to go “under the radar”. However, it is a frequent visitor to peoples’ bedrooms; when the widows are open, and the lights are on. Any member finding this lovely green bush cricket in season 2019, are gently urged to send me their record, thanks!

We attempt to visit most of the regular haunts in Rutland, but the reporters are declining; however, numbers of species are steady, and there are no declines noticeable.

Normal procedure for the species list, concentrates on the new sites in Rutland, with map references, and short comments. If there are any unusual occurrences: these will be mentioned.

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