

# The Norfolk *natterjack*

The quarterly bulletin of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society



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Wildlife*



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# Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

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Tel. 01263 712282. E-mail: tonyleech3@gmail.com

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Tel. 01263 588410. E-mail: owensnw7@gmail.com

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E-mail: francis.farrow@btinternet.com

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Tel. 01603 871000

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Tel 01263 821538. E-mail: carrigeor@aol.com

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Tel 01603 440444 E-mail jim@froud.org.uk

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NR35 2DW. Tel. 01986 894277

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Tel. 01603 810327. E-mail: srmartin@uk2.net

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*Secretary:* P.W. Lambley, The Cottage, Elsing Road, Lyng, Norfolk, NR9 5RR

Tel. 01603 872574 E-mail: Plambley@aol.com

*Editor, Transactions:* S. Harrap, 1 Norwich Road, Edgefield, Melton Constable,

NR24 2RP Tel 01263 587736 E-mail: simon@norfolknature.co.uk

*Editors, Bird & Mammal Report:* (*Birds*) A. M. Stoddart, 7 Elsdon Close, Holt, NR25 6JW

(*Mammals*) F. J. L. Farrow, 6 Havelock Road, Sheringham, Norfolk

NR26 8QD. E-mail: francis.farrow@btinternet.com

*Research Committee:* R.W.Ellis, 11 Havelock Road, Norwich, NR2 3HQ

Tel. 01603 662260. E-mail: bob@elymus.demon.co.uk

*Secretary:* Mrs M.P.Ghullam, 5 Beech Drive, Cromer Road, North Walsham, Norfolk NR28 0BZ

Tel. 01692 402013. E-mail: mylia@btinternet.com

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Articles with the camera symbol have associated  
photographs in Nats' Gallery (centre pages)

# Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society Recorders

## Mammals

General	Francis Farrow, 6 Havelock Road, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8QD E-mail: francis.farrow@btinternet.com
Badgers	John Crouch 2, Chestnut Cottages, Guton Hall Lane, Brandiston, Norwich, NR10 4PH E-mail: norfolkbadgers@yahoo.co.uk
Bats	John Goldsmith Barn Cottage, Wheelers Lane, Seething, Norwich, NR15 1EJ E-mail: john@aurum-ecology.co.uk
Cetaceans	Carl Chapman Falcon Cottage, Hungry Hill, Northrepps, Cromer, NR27 0LN E-mail: Carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk

## Birds

Dave & Jacquie Bridges 27, Swann Grove, Hempstead Road, Holt, NR25 6DP E-mail: dnjnorfolkrec@btinternet.com

## Reptiles & Amphibians

John Buckley 77, Janson Rd, Shirley, Southampton, SO15 5GL  
E-mail: john.buckley@arc-trust.org

## Fish

Freshwater	Position vacant
Marine	Rob Spray & Dawn Watson 1 Town Houses, Yoxford Rd, Sibton, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2LX E-mail: hello@seasearcheast.org.uk

## Molluscs (Land)

Position vacant

## Insects

Butterflies	Andy Brazil 47 Cavell Road, Lakenham, Norwich, NR1 2LL E-mail: recorder@norfolkbutterflies.co.uk
Moths	Jim Wheeler Iveygreen, Town St., Upwell, Wisbech, PE14 9AD E-mail: jim@norfolkmoths.org.uk
Beetles	Martin Collier Four Winds, Church Close, West Runton, Cromer, NR27 9QY E-mail: norfolk.beetles@gmail.com
Bumblebees / Grasshoppers & Crickets	David Richmond 42, Richmond Rise, Reepham, Norwich, NR10 4LS E-mail: richmond.42rr@btinternet.com
Lacewings, Sponge & Waxflies, Antlions, Alderflies, Snakeflies, Scorpionflies & Snow flea	Paul Cobb 34, Staithe Road, Heacham, King's Lynn, PE31 7EE E-mail: paulcobb@outlook.com
Aphids	Dr J I T Thacker 38, Gladstone, Street, Norwich, NR2 3BH E-mail: jit@caleopteryx.com
Dragonflies	Dr Pam Taylor Decoy Farm, Decoy Rd, Potter Heigham, Gt Yarmouth, NR29 5LX E-mail: pamtaylor@british-dragonflies.org.uk
Parasitic Hymenoptera	Graham Hopkins 15, Matlock Road, Norwich, NR1 1TL E-mail: hopkinsecology@yahoo.co.uk
Solitary Bees & Wasps	Tim Strudwick 16, Beech Way, Brundall, Norwich, NR13 5ND E-mail: timstrud@tiscali.co.uk
Ants	Doreen Wells 1, Cobden Terrace, Northgate Street, Gt Yarmouth, NR30 1BT E-mail: wells_doreen@hotmail.com
Hoverflies	Stuart Paston, 25 Connaught Road, Norwich, NR2 3BP E-mail: stuartpaston@yahoo.co.uk
Terrestrial Heteroptera (Land bugs, excld. Aphids, leaf-hoppers etc.)	Rob Coleman, Springfields, North Walsham Road, Felmingham, North Walsham, NR28 0JU E-mail: mail@rob-coleman.co.uk
Other Insects	Dr Tony Irwin Natural History Dept., Shirehall, Market Avenue, Norwich, NR1 3JQ E-mail: tony.Irwin@norfolk.gov.uk

## Spiders

Phillip Collyer, 9 Lowther Road, Norwich, NR4 6QN  
E-mail: pipcollyer@yahoo.co.uk

## Harvestmen

Peter Nicholson, Greystone House, Castle Howard Rd, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 7AT E-mail: petenich@btinternet.com

## Woodlice & Pseudoscorpions Centipedes & Millipedes

Dick Jones 14, Post Office Rd., Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6PH E-mail: rej@johalpinjones.eclipse.co.uk

Freshwater Invertebrates (including Mayflies) Dr Dan Hoare, Wheatfen Broad, Covey Lane, Surlingham, Norwich, Norfolk, NR14 7AL Email: [daniel.j.hoare@gmail.com](mailto:daniel.j.hoare@gmail.com)

Marine Invertebrates (incl. Molluscs) Rob Spray & Dawn Watson 1 Town Houses, Yoxford Road, Sibton, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2LX  
Marine Algae (Seaweeds) E-mail: [hello@seasearcheast.org.uk](mailto:hello@seasearcheast.org.uk)

Galls Anne Hickley, 23 Biggin Hill Way, Watton IP25 6NZ  
E-mail: [anne@penguinofficeservices.co.uk](mailto:anne@penguinofficeservices.co.uk)

#### Vascular Plants

East Norfolk Bob Ellis 11, Havelock Rd., Norwich, NR2 3HQ,  
E-mail: [bob@elymus.demon.co.uk](mailto:bob@elymus.demon.co.uk)

West Norfolk Richard Carter 67 Doddshill, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE30 4DJ  
E-mail: [rcarter@rsk.co.uk](mailto:rcarter@rsk.co.uk)

#### Mosses & Liverworts

East Norfolk Mary Ghullam 5, Beech Drive, Cromer Road, North Walsham, NR28 0BZ E-mail: [mylia@btinternet.com](mailto:mylia@btinternet.com)

West Norfolk Robin Stevenson 111, Wootton Rd., King's Lynn, PE30 4DJ  
E-mail: [crs111@talktalk.net](mailto:crs111@talktalk.net)

Lichens Peter Lambley The Cottage, Elsing Rd., Lyng, Norwich, NR9 5RR  
E-mail: [plambley@aol.com](mailto:plambley@aol.com)

Fungi Dr Tony Leech 3, Eccles Road, Holt, NR25 6HJ E-mail: [tonyleech3@gmail.com](mailto:tonyleech3@gmail.com)

Other Taxa Martin Horlock Biodiversity Information Officer, R301 County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2SG E-mail: [martin.horlock@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:martin.horlock@norfolk.gov.uk)

#### Referee:

Charophytes Alex Prendergast, Bramble Cottage, Low Road, Tasburgh, NR15 1AR  
E-mail: [mushroom\\_alex@hotmail.com](mailto:mushroom_alex@hotmail.com)

#### **Special interest groups**

##### *NNNS Photographic Group:*

B D Macfarlane, 10 Peregrine Road, Sprowston, Norwich, NR7 8JP  
Tel 01603 408647 E-mail: [david.brian.macfarlane@gmail.com](mailto:david.brian.macfarlane@gmail.com)

##### *For NNNS Microscopy enquires:*

S M Livermore, 70 Naseby Way, Dussindale, Norwich, NR7 0TP  
Tel 01603 431849 E-mail: [stephenlivermore@outlook.com](mailto:stephenlivermore@outlook.com)

Other *Special Interest Groups*, although not part of the NNNS, have similar aims to that of the Society:

*Norfolk Amphibian & Reptile Group:* P Parker, White Row Cottages, Leziate Drove, Pott Row, King's Lynn, PE32 1DB Tel 01553 630842  
E-mail: [philipparkerassociates@btconnect.com](mailto:philipparkerassociates@btconnect.com)

*Norfolk Bat Group:* J G Goldsmith, The Barn Cottage, Seething, Norwich, NR15 1EJ  
Tel 01508 550003 E-mail: [john@aurum-ecology.co.uk](mailto:john@aurum-ecology.co.uk)

*Norwich Bat Group:* S Phillips E-mail: [info@norwichbatgroup.org.uk](mailto:info@norwichbatgroup.org.uk)

*Norfolk Flora Group:* S Harmer / R Carter, 67 Doddshill, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6LP.  
Tel 07711870553 / 07711870554 E-mail: [sharmer@rsk.co.uk](mailto:sharmer@rsk.co.uk) / [rcarter@rsk.co.uk](mailto:rcarter@rsk.co.uk)  
R W Ellis, 11 Havelock Road, Norwich, NR2 3HQ  
Tel 01603 662260 E-mail: [bob@elymus.demon.co.uk](mailto:bob@elymus.demon.co.uk)

*Norfolk Fungus Study Group:* Dr A R Leech, 3 Eccles Road, Holt, NR25 6HJ  
Tel 01263 712282 E-mail: [tonyleech3@gmail.com](mailto:tonyleech3@gmail.com)

*Norfolk Lichen Group:* P W Lambley, The Cottage, Elsing Road, Lyng, Norwich, NR9 5RR Tel 01603 872574 E-mail: [Plambley@aol.com](mailto:Plambley@aol.com)

*Norfolk moth Survey:* K G Saul, Albion, Main Road, Filby, Gt Yarmouth, NR29 3HS  
E-mail: [kensaul@stone-angel.co.uk](mailto:kensaul@stone-angel.co.uk)

*Norfolk Spider Group:* P Collyer, 9 Lowther Road, Norwich, NR4 6QN  
Tel 01603 259703 E-mail: [pipcollyer@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:pipcollyer@yahoo.co.uk)

*Norfolk & Suffolk Bryological Group:* Mrs M P Ghullam, 5 Beech Drive, Cromer Road, North Walsham, NR28 0BZ Tel 01692 402013 E-mail: [mylia@btinternet.com](mailto:mylia@btinternet.com)

## Toad-in-the-hole....

Welcome to the 127<sup>th</sup> edition of 'Natterjack' - this is a real bumper edition with three articles on unusual butterflies, a new ant species for Norfolk, an unusual fungus and of course the fourth (and final year) of the Norfolk Rook Nest Survey. Birds from Strumpshaw and waders from the Yare Valley also feature as does Excursion Reports from Beeston Common, Ringstead Downs and Winterton Dunes. Read and relive the highs of summer, or see what you missed by not attending. Check out Nats' Gallery for some stunning images from around the County plus your pictures of interesting insects from your gardens. My thanks to all contributors and look forward to receiving your autumn and winter observations.

FF

## A First Record for Norfolk

Doreen Wells



During May 2014, ants of the species *Formica cunicularia* were recorded for the first time in Norfolk, bringing the total ant species recorded in Norfolk to 27. This species has been recorded before in other parts of East Anglia, but never before in Norfolk, so it was a very exciting find. These ants were discovered nesting in St. Mary's Churchyard, Haddiscoe by the County Recorder, Doreen Wells and confirmation of their identification was made by Mike Fox, BWARS (Bees, Wasps & Ants Recording Society).

This churchyard is under the Churchyard Conservation Scheme maintained by Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Its position on a hot south-facing hillside makes it ideal for nesting ants. The soil is sandy, well-drained, and the grassland, rabbit grazed, providing short grass sward in many areas. The habitat is rich in wild flowers, trees and shrubs encircle the northern perimeter and there are a few trees within the churchyard itself.

Five species of ant were recorded on this site: *Formica cunicularia*, *Formica fusca*, *Lasius flavus*, *Lasius niger* and *Myrmica scabrinodis*. The two *Formica* species are similar, but *F. fusca* is entirely black, whereas *F. cunicularia* has reddish areas on the body of varying degrees, such as red cheeks, thorax and legs, as can be seen from the photo.

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## Request for Ant Records

Please do send me any ant records that you have recorded this year or any historical records not previously sent to me or NBIS. Alternatively, if you have any ant specimens, mounted or in alcohol, that you want me to i.d. or confirm i.d. please contact me by e-mail, letter or telephone. I am always happy to receive ant specimens for identification. Mounted specimens are less easy to send through the post, but we could arrange to meet for a hand-over if convenient. Many thanks.

Doreen Wells, County Ant Recorder, e-mail: wells\_doreen@hotmail.com, tel: 01493 332274, address: 1 Cobden Terrace, Northgate Street, Great Yarmouth, NR30 1BT.

# Unusual Butterfly Colours

Hans Watson



It has been very pleasant to witness the good numbers of some of our butterfly species this year. On the 1<sup>st</sup> July at Winterton Dunes, I was very impressed by the number of Dark Green Fritillaries that were flying about. Most appeared to be freshly emerged males, and it was whilst examining photographs that I had taken of some of these, that I noticed that some had small metallic blue spots on their hind wings.

I have never seen this colour on any species of fritillary before, and can find no reference to blue spots in any of my books on butterflies, or on the Internet. I am fairly sure that the butterfly specialists in the society with much more knowledge of this species than me, are aware that blue spots do occur on this species, occasionally if not commonly. It is however a puzzle to me, that field guides make no mention of it. As I always see these occasions as opportunities to learn, I would welcome any of their comments regarding the frequency of these blue spots\*. This is yet another of those occasions when I have found that the camera records things that sometimes go unnoticed in the field, and can be a very useful aid to learning. By co-incidence, it was another species of fritillary that presented me with a colour variety delight. The Norfolk population of Silver-washed Fritillaries seems to be thriving and spreading, and after being told by a friend that very good numbers were on show at Holt Country Park, including examples of the colour variety *Valesina*, I went along to see for myself. There appeared to be at least two of this greenish-grey colour variety, which is only seen in females of the species. Apparently, this colour variety is not uncommon in some populations of Silver-washed Fritillary, and in some areas may be as high as 10 per cent of females. I cannot but wonder if this colouration has some survival value, perhaps by making the female less conspicuous to predatory birds, when in the process of laying eggs on tree bark. They certainly do not look as obvious in flight as normally coloured females.

\*Dr. Bernard Watts (Norfolk Branch-Butterfly Conservation) commented on the Dark Green Fritillary with blue spots - Only one of my pictures (out of 100 from around Europe) had such scales (a Scottish female) and then even fewer than Hans' picture, so he should think what he found is very unusual.

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## A New Butterfly

Francis Farrow

Norfolk saw a new species of butterfly added to the County list last July - it was the Yellow-legged or Scarce Tortoiseshell (*Nymphalis xanthomelas*). Apparently a large number of these butterflies appeared in Holland and a few stragglers were blown across the North Sea to the UK. It is a native of Eastern Europe and Asia.

## Butterfly polymorphism

Nick Owens



This season I have been receiving the contents of yellow water traps from Abbey Farm, Flitcham to identify the aculeates. The August catch included a Clouded Yellow butterfly of the form *helice*. (Butterflies are an occasional by-catch of these traps). At first glance this form of the Clouded Yellow looks rather like a Large White, having dark edges to its almost white wings. However, in the Clouded Yellow, the broad black bands extend around the edges of both the fore and hind wings. The figure of eight mark on the underside of the hind wing is another difference from the Large White. Like the *valezina* form of the Silver-washed Fritillary (see August Natterjack p.5), this form of the Clouded Yellow occurs in females only. Each forms around 10% of the female population according to Jeremy Thomas (*The Butterflies of Britain and Ireland*).

E.B.Ford, the famous butterfly geneticist, tells us in his New Naturalist book *Butterflies* (1945) that forms *helice* and *valezina* are both attributable to a dominant gene, which is expressed in females only. He suggests that this gene confers some advantage to females in the heterozygous state (Aa), but that it is a disadvantage (or lethal) when homozygous (AA). This means that as the gene becomes more common in the population, its benefits decline, because the frequency of matings between two butterflies carrying the gene increases. The offspring of such crosses would contain 25% homozygous dominant individuals:  $Aa \times Aa \rightarrow 25\% aa$  (normal form), 50% Aa (*valezina* in females), 25% AA (lethal), ie one quarter of them would be seriously impaired and unlikely to survive.

In Malaysia we met with more complex examples of butterfly polymorphism among birdwing butterflies. In some birdwing species there are several forms of the female. One of these resembles the male, but 3 additional forms occur, each of which mimics a different poisonous butterfly of another species (Batesian mimicry). The advantage of being a mimic depends on the number of mimics relative to poisonous models in the population. As the number of a mimic increases, its advantage declines because birds (predators) are less likely to have tried a poisonous form first!

These butterflies are of great interest to geneticists. In the 1940s and 50s Sir Cyril Clarke bred polymorphic butterflies as a hobby and discovered that each form is controlled by many genes which are closely linked on the chromosome – sometimes called super-genes. This led him to realise that human blood groups are also controlled by super-genes. He was able to find a solution to the problem of the rhesus factor, in which second and subsequent rhesus negative children conceived by a rhesus positive mother do not survive pregnancy. The solution was simple: inject the mother with the antibody to the rhesus positive antigen immediately after each birth. The antibodies mop up any rhesus positive antigens that have leaked from the baby into the mother's blood. This means that she does not develop an immune response and the next baby to be conceived is not attacked by her immune system. All this from studying butterflies!!

# Butterfly Variants

John Furse



While visiting Gramborough Hill, on the shingle ridge at Salthouse last September I spotted two unusual butterflies. The first, on 15<sup>th</sup> September, was a Small Copper, which had unusual hind wings. Instead of the usual solid copper marginal band it was divided into streaks. This is a known but uncommon aberration *radiata* (Tutt 1896). The second butterfly to catch my attention was a Wall Brown on 22<sup>nd</sup> September, which was a very pale individual. Both images were sent to Bernard Watts and he has sent the following comments:

Small Copper ab. *radiata* - I once saw something similar near Blakeney Point in the autumn many years ago. Maybe this type of aberration is a regular occurrence here. In general, it is known that the Small Copper is prone to being aberrant in its third brood.

Wall Brown - A strange-looking individual at first glance, with a very pale appearance. It is definitely female. Actually (with one crucial exception, see below) all dark markings are present, but paler than normal. Most of them are of normal size, though some are a bit smaller than average. The ocelli, too, are of normal size. The remarkable feature is the absence or near absence of the normally present dark suffusion in the basal region of the upper hind wing. It is arguable that there is some suffusion but if so, it is very faint. In a way this insect resembles the form/ssp/ species *paramegera* of the Wall Brown found on some Mediterranean Islands, which is notably pale, however, certain upperside markings whose absence is diagnostic of f. *paramegera* are actually present.

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## Species Guides

David Richmond

**SHIELDBUGS of Norfolk** is the latest species guide to be added to the Society website. Compiled by David Richmond and Rob Coleman (county recorder) with additional photographic material from Hans Watson, the guide provides an introduction to most of the shieldbug and leatherbug species that have been recorded in Norfolk in recent years. Rob would be pleased to receive new records for the county database and is happy to help with identification from digital photos.

There are now 14 species guides on the website, and Jim Froud has taken this opportunity to enhance this section of the site and present the guides in an attractive and easy to use format. Do have a look. The guides cover:

**Invertebrates** – bumblebees, butterflies, dragonflies, grasshoppers, shieldbugs, woodlice.

**Vertebrates** – freshwater fish, mammals, reptiles & amphibians.

**Flora** – Ferns, Orchids, Trees (3 parts).

The website format helps us to meet our charitable objectives of encouraging education of the public in natural sciences, and ensures that as a charity, we can meet our legal requirement to deliver public benefit to a wider audience than just our own members.

# *Strumpshaw and beyond*

*Brian Macfarlane*



As you read this article the clocks will have been put back an hour. This means that winter is just round the corner. Let's hope it is no worse than the last one. As a photographer I would enjoy seeing a 'brief' period of snow, but not if it is too deep so I cannot get out of the door.

Strumpshaw fen has been relatively quiet still, but so has Cley, and Minsmere where I went last week. I walked right round the reserve, and it was two and a half hours before I saw something moving to photograph. No one I have spoken too can say why there is a big drop in the numbers of birds generally.

The water level at Strumpshaw has been lowered to allow the annual reed cutting to take place. That means there is little water outside the fen hide, so the Kingfisher, seen regularly, has to fish in the main dyke out of camera range. Sightings of the Otter has been spasmodic, well at least for me. Despite the mud round the edges of the water not many waders have shown up. There is the usual mix of ducks, Heron, Little Egrets, Cormorant, and occasionally a Water Rail.

I was surprised to see Swallowtail caterpillars feeding on Fennel as I thought their main food was Milk-parsley. Swallows (bird variety) have been scarce this year, and I have probably seen more Sand Martins. While driving in the Horsey area I saw three Common Cranes fly over. Of course that is where you would expect to see them!



This year my garden has been particularly busy with a nucleus of 30 sparrows emptying my hanging feeders. Unfortunately a Sparrowhawk had left it's calling card with a pile of feathers on the lawn. So I am sadly down to 29 sparrows. I have noticed regular Hedgehog dropping on the lawn in recent weeks, so I have built a bungalow for it in case it needs to hibernate. Curtains will follow later if it stays.

I have been told that Autumn has come three weeks early this year. In which case I think

Spring has come 6 months early as I have Cowslips growing in the garden. Every year is different, and this year is no exception. We are lucky to have changing seasons. It would become uninspiring if nine months of the year was the same weather every day. Worse still, there would be no topic of conversation when you meet someone in the street.

# WADERS IN THE YARE VALLEY

*Tony Howes*



Certain areas in the Yare Valley are very attractive to waders. During the autumn months, these birds are migrating down from their Northern breeding grounds and find rich pickings here in Norfolk.

Over the last few weeks I have spent some time at Cantley, many of these migrating waders drop in there to rest and refuel before continuing their long journey South. The muds at Cantley are rich with small worms and insects, the birds spend much time picking small flies and other items of food from the surface of the water.

By using a small hide discretely put in place near a feeding area, I can get near enough to be able to use my camera and get some decent images. Watching at close range you can see that the birds will quite happily congregate together, different species all feeding together in an orderly manner, there are small sparring bouts from time to time, but nothing too serious.

Species seen and photographed so far are Ruff, Redshank, Curlew, Greenshank, Snipe, Common Sandpiper, Green Sandpiper, Dunlin, and Wood Sandpiper. A real privilege to spend some time with these beautiful birds.

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## Pheasants as carnivores

*Alec Bull*

One morning recently (late August,) I was looking down our 1 acre paddock when I spotted a commotion in the bottom corner. Four hen Pheasants appeared to be attacking a fifth bird which was trying desperately to escape. The grass was a bit long, so I could not see quite what was going on and the plot thickened when the pursuit reached about half way across the paddock, when a Magpie joined in followed by 2 more at the three quarter stage. Although attempts had been made to halt the fleeing bird, she eventually managed to dive under an over hanging Sallow in the further bottom corner from the one she had started from. By now, I had my binoculars trained on her and, as she dashed the last 5 yards, I discovered that she was carrying a Mole by its hind leg, which appeared to be dead.

Consulting "The Handbook of British Birds" as to the diet of Pheasant, I find that they will eat anything, and, with regard small mammals, "Up to the size of Field Vole has been recorded." Mole is considerably larger than Field Vole.

Reference:- Witherby H.F. Jourdain F.C.R. Ticehurst N.F. & Tucker B.W.  
The Handbook of British Birds Vol.5 1941 H.F

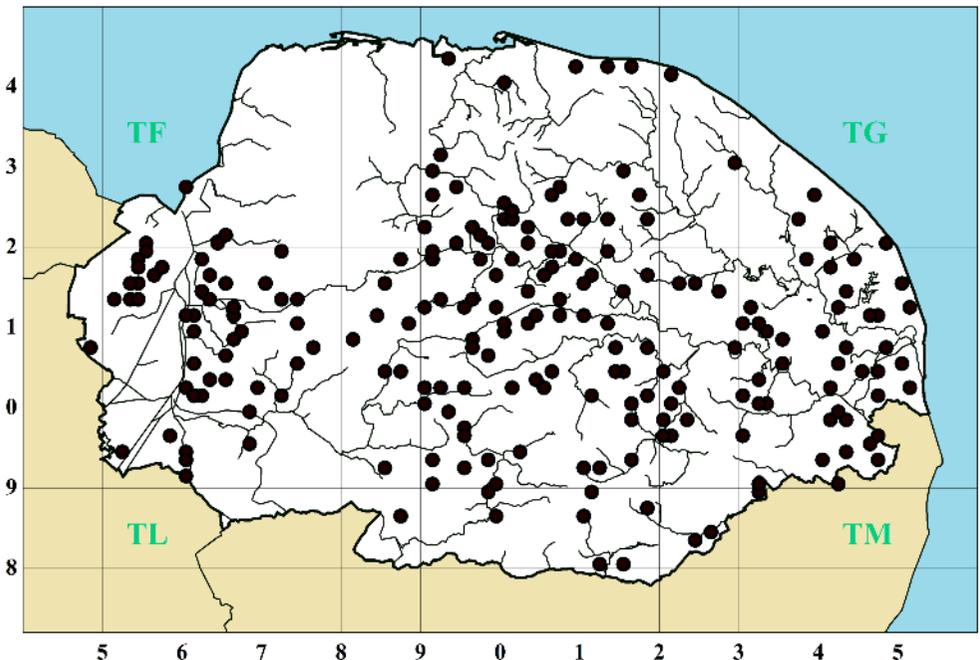
# 2014 Norfolk Rook Nest Survey

*Malcolm Metcalf*

Grateful thanks to all subscribers to my 2014 survey. Some site numbers were down on the 2013 survey, and some increased. Thirty sites had 100 nests or more. Jonathan Hall and Alan Hale found over 5,000 nests, many in North Norfolk. Another big contributor was Cliff Maidstone, his grand total was 6,500. At Overa Farm, Larling where he had permission from the farmer to enter, he countered 550 nests from three sites.

I am afraid that this will have to be my last survey owing to the fact I have many, so many more interests and commitments. I have made many friends during these four years without whose invaluable help the surveys would not have been possible. Many thanks again.

## DMAP of parish tetrads in which a rookery has been recorded in 2014



*(Interestingly the North-west of Norfolk appears to be a Rookery-free zone - Ed.)*

Location	2011	2012	2013	2014	Comment
Acle (next to market)	-	14	26	24	
Acle (old road)	-	-	-	10	NEW
Aldeby (Church Farm)	10	20	32	31	
Aldeby (near church)	84	78	59	58	
Ashill	40	38	28	32	
Ashill (Recycling centre)	-	-	30	60	
Attleborough (B1037)	31	128	109	112	
Attleborough (next to church)	-	12	10	10	
Bagmore	-	-	31	32	
Bawdeswell (Reepham Rd., 2 groups)	22	59	156	150	
Beachamwell	-	120	122	92	
Beccles (Morrisons car park)	-	-	24	22	
Beccles (Puddingmoor)	-	-	22	20	
Beeston	-	12	30	29	
Beetley (1)	-	-	30	34	
Beetley (2)	-	-	-	36	NEW
Belton (Sandy Lane)	-	7	4	5	
Bergh Apton	-	-	20	21	
Bexwell	-	-	50	31	
Billockby	50	92	100	101	
Bilney	50	92	100	101	
Bintree	-	-	-	20	NEW
Blickling Hall (near car park)	-	-	-	17	NEW
Blofield (Church area)	-	18	15	18	
Blofield (Corner Cucumber Lane)	-	-	4	4	
Blofield (Garden Centre)	19	20	16	30	
Blofield (Heath)	11	33	11	18	
Blofield (near A47)	-	-	7	13	
Blofield (near school)	-	-	-	8	NEW

Location	2011	2012	2013	2014	Comment
Boughton	-	-	-	132	NEW
Bracon Ash	60	120	110	112	
Bradwell (Bradwell Hall)	-	-	40	38	
Bradwell (Burgh Hall)	-	-	-	18	NEW
Bradwell (Doles Lane)	-	-	-	2	NEW
Bradwell (Lords Lane)	-	-	-	10	NEW
Brandon Creek	-	-	50	89	
Breckles (A1075)	-	-	-	67	NEW
Breckles (St. Margaret's Church Hall)	-	-	-	59	NEW
Breckles (St. Margaret's Church)	-	-	-	32	NEW
Brisley	20	21	23	22	
Buckingham Marshes	25	30	26	24	
Bungay (Golf Club)	-	-	6	6	
Bunwell (2 sites)	-	-	-	13	NEW
Burgh Castle (Back Lane)	42	170	145	140	
Burgh Castle (Church)	16	50	29	30	
Burgh St. Peter (marshes, 3 sites)	(	311	)	264	
Caister (opposite Tesco)	17	24	22	20	
Carbrooke (2 sites)	-	-	36	96	
Carleton Road	-	40	38	36	
Caston (4 sites)	-	-	-	227	NEW
Cawston (Bird Lane)	-	-	74	70	
Claxton (near Beauchamp Arms Rd.)	-	60	55	54	
Clenchwarton (Main Road)	-	-	-	7	NEW
Clippesby	-	-	35	36	
Colkirk / Whissonset	-	-	-	161	NEW
Colney (next hospital)	-	-	6	N/A	
Crimplesham (2 sites)	-	-	55	51	

Location	2011	2012	2013	2014	Comment
Cromer (2 sites)	46	56	40	45	
Croxton (Frog Hill)	-	-	65	64	
Croxton (Sheep Pen)	-	-	92	89	
Denver	-	-	10	10	
Dereham (2 sites)	-	50	40	42	
Dereham (Crown Road)	-	7	7	6	
Dereham (Watering Farm)	-	-	10	14	
Diss (behind Desira Garage)	-	-	40	40	
Downham Market	-	-	101	120	
Dunstan Hall, Norwich (near)	15	63	56	133	
Earsham	-	-	62	58	
Earsham (A143)	-	-	11	12	
East Harling	-	-	76	66	
East Winch	14	16	60	55	
East Wretton (A1075)	-	-	-	86	NEW
East Wretton (across heath)	-	-	-	12	NEW
Easton (Bawburgh Road)	-	-	102	111	
Easton (C of E office, Dereham Rd.)	130	155	149	156	
Easton (Marlingford Road)	46	61	74	63	
Easton (near St. Peter's Church)	77	85	87	158	
Easton College	-	-	-	61	NEW
Elsing	-	-	-	11	NEW
Fakenham (High School)	-	-	-	84	NEW
Fakenham (Langham Glass)	-	-	-	18	NEW
Foxley (2 sites)	-	31	42	36	
Fransham (A47)	82	137	108	121	
Fransham (Church)	-	-	-	47	NEW
Gayton (2 sites)	35	40	38	37	
Gaywood	-	33	30	31	

Location	2011	2012	2013	2014	Comment
Gillingham (3 sites)	62	82	82	77	
Gorleston (Hall Farm)	3	16	21	17	
Great Dunham	43	90	70	68	
Great Hockham	-	-	161	200	
Great Plumstead	43	47	45	43	
Great Yarmouth (Caister Road)	5	10	6	6	
Griston (Lynda Pierson's garden)	19	11	16	15	
Griston (near farm)	29	19	90	93	
Griston (Park grounds)	159	164	142	124	
Hackford	-	-	-	7	NEW
Haddiscoe (Thorpe Road)	-	60	68	70	
Halvergate	40	42	40	41	
Hardingham Hall	-	-	-	36	NEW
Harleston	26	49	37	50	
Hay Green (High House)	-	-	-	4	NEW
Hay Green (Waterflow Road)	-	-	-	12	NEW
Heathersett (near First School)	-	-	-	7	NEW
Hethersett (Church and nearby)	-	46	40	42	
Hethersett (Hall/Farm shop)	122	134	87	98	
Hethersett (Whitegates Fire HQ)	0	31	12	21	
Hillgay	-	80	155	138	
Hingham (near church)	20	22	10	47	
Hockering (2 sites)	14	22	21	63	
Hoe (Cross roads)	-	-	11	10	
Hoe (Manor Farm)	-	-	144	135	
Hoe (near church)	-	-	7	7	
Honingham (2 sites)	-	33	30	32	
Honington	-	-	15	15	
Horsford (Church Lane)	87	161	157	168	
Horsham St. Faiths	-	66	68	64	

Location	2011	2012	2013	2014	Comment
Ingham (near church)	20	26	22	22	
Ingham (near village)	30	32	30	31	
Keswick Hall	-	-	21	21	
Kimberley (near B1108)	-	-	5	5	
King's Lynn (Hardwick)	-	-	12	20	
King's Lynn (roundabout)	7	12	20	18	
King's Lynn (The Walks)	26	30	20	15	
Kirstead	-	227	217	214	
Langham	40	44	42	43	
Larling	-	120	110	-	
Larling (Overa Farm – 3 sites)	-	-	-	550	Largest
Lenwade	-	40	38	37	
Letton (Gordon's Plantation)	-	-	80	75	
Letton (Norton's Grove)	-	-	92	96	
Lingwood	6	6	6	6	
Litcham	-	-	60	69	
Little Melton	-	66	64	66	
Little Plumstead (3 sites)	-	55	56	54	
Little Plumstead (Water Lane)	-	-	55	76	
Ludham (near church)	25	29	27	28	
Lyng (Manor Farm Riding School)	-	-	-	17	NEW
Magdalen	-	14	11	11	
Marsham (Plough Inn)	20	24	22	22	
Martham	150	162	170	172	
Mattishall (Church)	-	-	26	38	
Mattishall (South Green)	-	-	67	91	
Mautby	20	24	21	22	
Methwold	82	85	78	74	
Methwold (no. 4 Main Road)	-	12	10	36	

Location	2011	2012	2013	2014	Comment
Methwold (The Globe)	-	163	150	148	
Middleton (Church)	40	42	50	48	
Middleton (near church)	20	25	24	25	
Mileham (Back of School)	-	-	150	150	
Mileham (Burwood House)	14	16	14	38	
Morton-on-the-Hill	20	84	84	150	
Mulbarton (off Long Lane)	-	22	12	16	
Nar Valley Fisheries	-	-	75	72	
Narborough	55	96	90	88	
Necton	20	20	18	20	
Newton Flotman (3 sites)	-	53	53	51	
North Elmham (Hall)	-	-	-	49	NEW
North Elmham (Village)	-	-	-	30	NEW
North Runcton	-	38	60	58	
North Tuddenham	18	38	27	31	
North Walsham (4 sites)	35	35	33	34	
North Wooton	29	55	47	50	
Norwich (UEA)	10	24	28	27	
Ovington South	-	-	-	18	NEW
Oxborough	-	-	68	65	
Oxborough (Oakwood – A10)	-	-	18	19	
Pentney	-	-	40	38	
Pickenham (A47)	-	47	50	58	
Pickenham (Church)	-	-	-	43	NEW
Podmore	-	-	10	10	
Postwick (2 sites)	41	28	75	53	
Potter Heigham	15	20	10	16	
Pulham	20	20	32		
Rackheath	-	17	15	15	
Reedham (Church)	48	55	100	112	

Location	2011	2012	2013	2014	Comment
Reedham (near church)	-	-	11	10	
Reepham	-	20	12	11	
Reepham (Eynsford House)	-	-	-	12	NEW
Reepham (Moor House)	-	-	-	51	NEW
Reepham (Near Farm)	-	-	-	7	NEW
Reepham (Rookery Farm)	-	-	-	23	NEW
Runcton Holme	-	-	5	5	
Ryston	-	20	20	7	
Saham Toney (5 sites)	-	-	147	271	
Saxlingham Nethergate	-	37	34	35	
Scarning (Chapel Dale)	-	-	-	20	NEW
Scarning (Chapel Road)	-	-	-	17	NEW
Scarning (Oak Manor)	-	-	-	12	NEW
Scole	30	36	33	30	
Scratby	35	43	25	31	
Seething	-	15	21	20	
Setchy	-	30	30	28	
Sheringham (A149)	10	14	11	12	
Sheringham (Weybourne Road)	-	4	4	4	
Shipdham (4 sites)	-	-	-	235	NEW
Shipdham (Blackmoor Wood)	16	20	53	-	
Shotsham	-	15	33	30	
Shouldham	-	-	25	44	
Shouldham Thorpe	-	-	-	6	NEW
Shropham (3 sites)	-	-	-	420	NEW
Snetterton	52	192	160	220	
Somerleyton (behind station)	-	60	32	93	
Somerleyton (near station)	45	46	42	43	
Somerleyton (opposite Post Office)	-	30	32	42	

Location	2011	2012	2013	2014	Comment
Somerton	30	36	33	32	
Southey	-	5	4	-	
Sparham	-	-	24	35	
Spixworth (2 sites)	90	158	152	198	
Sporle Priory	12	40	N/A	106	
Stanford (Curlew Cottage)	-	-	53	N/A	
Stibbard	116	142	137	187	
Stowe Bedon	-	-	-	43	NEW
Straddsett	-	40	42	45	
Sutton (London Road)	-	32	28	27	
Swaffham (7 sites)	-	-	-	270	NEW
Swaffham (Church)	20	16	15	-	
Swainsthorpe	-	34	32	31	
Swannington	-	-	8	7	
Swanton Morley (2 sites)	-	80	53	133	
Tasburgh	51	40	43	41	
Taverham (Beech Avenue)	-	-	64	42	
Taverham (behind school)	-	16	12	20	
Taverham (Hall grounds)	50	180	140	145	
Ten Mile Bank	-	-	-	50	NEW
Terrington St. Clements (Church)	-	-	-	19	NEW
Terrington St. Clements (Suttons)	-	-	-	6	NEW
Terrington St. Clements (The Lodge)	-	-	-	15	NEW
Terrington St. John (Church)	-	-	-	50	NEW
Terrington St. John (School Road)	-	-	-	4	NEW
Terrington St. John (Stud farm)	-	-	-	12	NEW
Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe	54	120	115	116	
Thurlton (lower)	51	113	114	110	

Location	2011	2012	2013	2014	Comment
Thurlton (north end)	30	75	70	71	
Thurton (A146)	52	42	46	44	
Thurton (Vale Road)	-	-	15	14	
Tibbenham	12	10	11	11	
Tilney All Saints (By-pass)	-	-	-	5	NEW
Tilney All Saints (The Limes)	-	-	-	19	NEW
Tilney St. Lawrence (Hirdling House)	-	-	-	13	NEW
Tilney St. Lawrence (School Road)	-	-	-	11	NEW
Tottington (St. Mortimer's Range)	-	-	70	N/A	
Tuddenham (near A47)	-	-	-	41	NEW
Tuddenham (North)	-	-	-	16	NEW
Twyford	-	-	-	14	NEW
Watlington (2 sites)	-	20	42	45	
Watton (Beaufort Park entrance)	25	26	21	27	
Watton (Bluebell Close)	-	8	10	12	
Watton (Cadman Way)	-	-	4	4	
Waxham	13	16	14	15	
Welney (County border)	-	-	-	173	NEW
Welney (near village)	-	-	-	26	NEW
Wending	60	62	58	87	
Wereham	18	22	15	20	
West Tofts (Alder carr)	-	-	44	N/A	
West Tofts (roadside)	-	-	63	N/A	
West Winch	-	34	32	44	
Westland	-	-	5	5	
Weston Longville	60	56	50	88	
Wheatacre (behind church)	46	64	44	-	
Wickhampton	-	-	15	16	

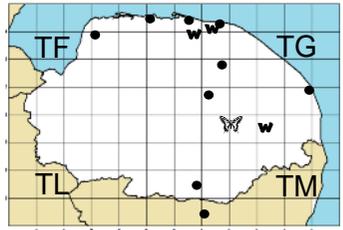
Location	2011	2012	2013	2014	Comment
Wimbotsham	-	-	20	18	
Winburgh (Home Farm)	-	-	-	11	NEW
Winburgh (Shop/Church Road)	-	-	-	130	NEW
Winch Holm	-	-	16	16	
Winfarthing	21	26	24	-	
Winterton	13	40	36	38	
Wood Dalling	110	128	122	88	
Worlingham	-	-	60	64	
Wormegay (new site)	-	-	35	30	
Wormegay (Priory Farm)	-	160	225	215	
Wortwell (behind Goodwin's Garage)	24	27	25	28	
Wortwell (Mill Lane)	6	4	5	4	
Wortwell (opposite Bell Inn)	9	9	5	4	
Wortwell (Sayes Farm)	16	18	25	15	
Wreningham (2 sites)	-	-	22	24	
Wretton (East 2 sites)	-	-	30	98	
Wymondam (near Mid-Norfolk rail stn)	-	-	20	20	
Wymondham (along River Tiffy valley)	-	-	46	44	
Wymondham (Becket's Well)	-	-	5	16	
Wymondham (near car park)	-	-	20	20	
Wymondham (rear Feather's Pub)	-	-	25	25	
Yaxham	-	-	-	9	NEW
Totals	4,115	8,243	12,020	14,845	



# Excursion

## Reports

- 2014-15 Field Meeting location
- St. Andrew's Hall Eaton
- ✈ Workshop Centre



## ***BEESTON COMMON, SHERINGHAM***

13<sup>th</sup> JULY 2014



Fifteen members and friends gathered in the lay-by adjacent to the Common on the south side of the A149 Cromer Road on a day for which rain was forecast, though weather conditions were initially reasonable. We were fortunate to have as leader Francis Farrow, very much on his local patch as Honorary Warden and member of the Beeston Common Management Group. Many NNNS members will be familiar with the 63-acres of grassland, heath, marsh, fen and secondary woodland that make up the Sheringham and Beeston Regis Commons SSSI, which acquired SAC status at the turn of the millennium as part of the Norfolk Valley Fens designation, thus recognising the site's remarkably varied habitats and the rich diversity of flora and fauna they support. For instance, some 40 species of scarce and rare flowering plants have been recorded including 14 orchid species - a small fraction of plants in general that have been seen - which in turn have supported round about 26 butterfly and a score of dragonfly and damselfly species. For impressively extensive species lists, see the Group's website [www.beestoncommon.org.uk](http://www.beestoncommon.org.uk) which underline the extreme selectivity necessarily exercised in mentioning species here in this brief account.

On entering the site, led by Francis, we crossed the stream by what is becoming fondly known as 'Ken's Bridge' in memory of our much-missed and distinguished member Ken Durrant, who was of course closely associated with Beeston for many years. We then found ourselves immediately among Marsh Helleborines *Epipactis palustris* and Common Spotted Orchids *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*. There were some whitish-flowered specimens of the latter, but we didn't see on this occasion the form of Marsh Helleborine with pallid flowers lacking brown and purple pigments. When I saw and photographed it at Beeston in July 1999, I assumed it to be the variety *ochroleuca* with yellowish-white flowers, as recorded both earlier and contemporaneously in the Norfolk 'Floras' of 1968 and 1999, but I believe more acute observers than I have since characterised it as variety *albiflora* in which the interior of the basal part of the flower's lip lacks the purple veins still present in var. *ochroleuca*. Be that as it may, the flowers of the typical form of Marsh Helleborine itself were more than attractive enough to elicit our admiration with their combination of colours claimed to be 'unique in our flora'. As we proceeded in this area and beyond the Marsh Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia densiflora* was also seen. Beeston is well known for its population of Pugsley's Marsh Orchid, *Dactylorhiza traunsteinerooides*, though the true type is now difficult to find as hybrids abound. Many other

good plants were seen such as Butterwort *Pinguicula vulgaris* with more common or less showy, but still interesting species such as Fen Bedstraw *Galium uliginosum*, Marsh Lousewort *Pedicularis palustris*, Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*, Hemp Agrimony *Eupatoria cannabinum*, an Eyebright *Euphrasia* spp, Yellow Rattle *Rhinanthus minor* and Remote Sedge *Carex remota*. Francis remarked that Alec Bull had found the unusual White-spiked Bramble *Rubus leuchostachys* at Beeston, which I think is currently its northernmost known station. Also contending at Beeston for the status of being currently the most northerly British plant of its species in the wild (though a garden plant grown at all points of the compass), Francis pointed out the long-standing single clump of Crested Buckler Fern *Dryopteris cristata*, which species is also found in Broadland, not much further south. Close by grow Beeston's Lesser Butterfly Orchids *Platanthera bifolia* which once produced a best-ever total of 11 flower spikes, though this year the single spike had been eaten by a Roe Deer. It was interesting to see and compare with ease two insectivorous species of the Droseraceae family, Greater Sundew *Drosera anglica* and Round-leaved Sundew *Drosera rotundifolia* in flower and growing with rosettes almost overlapping. The variety of plant habitats at Beeston was underlined by our seeing Wood Sage *Teucrium scorodonia* - and Bracken - in some places and Quaking-Grass *Briza media* in others: species usually suggestive of heathy acid conditions on the one hand and a more alkaline grassland situation on the other, as well as differing degrees of dryness and dampness.

Butterflies seen on our walk included Small Skipper and Essex Skipper, Ringlet, Gatekeeper, Painted Lady, Small Copper and Red Admiral, but searching near elms revealed no White-letter Hairstreaks on this occasion. Among dragonflies, a female Keeled Skimmer was seen as was an Emperor Dragonfly later at the pond - one of 12 species that have been seen there and which small reed-fringed sheet of water a Bittern had frequented for a month in 2008. Five-Spot Burnet Moths were in evidence which prompted Francis to speak of the identification difficulties at Beeston and other sites posed by the presence of both Five-spot and Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnets though the Narrow-bordered had also been positively identified here from a rare variety. Other insects seen included Bog Bush Cricket, Common Green Grasshopper, and Drinker Moths. An adder was briefly seen before slithering away to cover under bracken near the old pillbox.

A final sighting as we crossed the stream back to the cars for lunch was Flat Sedge *Blasmus compressus*, which has only handful of East Norfolk stations. A few members stayed after lunch and were fortunate to discover a Birch Sawfly larva and a mass of juvenile Parent Bugs. Many thanks to Francis for a fascinating walk pointing out this and many other interesting species, and for wardening and playing such a prominent part in conserving and recording Beeston's riches.



Stephen Martin

# RINGSTEAD DOWNS

10<sup>th</sup> August 2014

It was a wet and windy outing as a small but determined group braved the remnants of Hurricane Bertha for a walk through Ringstead Downs.

Ringstead Downs is a shallow but steep sided valley cut into the Chalk by glacial outflow waters during the last ice age. It runs approximately east – west and is one of the few areas of chalk grassland in the county.

Our outward walk in heavy rain was uneventful. The only fungus of the day was the Fairy Ring Champignon (*Marasmius oreades*). Also evident was Creeping Thistle (*Cirsium arvense*) exhibiting the chlorosis indicative of infection with its specific race of the bacterium *Pseudomonas syringii*, a new disease to the UK. Some of the small Oaks along side the approach track were infected with both Knopper and Common Spangle Galls, both caused by gall wasps. Similarly Robin's Pincushion gall on Dog Rose (*Rosa canina*) and galls on Creeping Thistle caused by the picture winged fly *Urophora cardui*.

At the Western end of the reserve we found a single bush of Barberry (*Berberis vulgaris*). This is now a rare species because it is the alternative host of the Wheat rust fungus *Puccinia graminis* and has hence been widely destroyed.

Fortunately at this time the rain ceased and we began the return leg in dry but increasingly windy conditions.

At the Western end of the valley is a small wet area where a tributary of the Heacham river rises and here we found Gipsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*) and Water Mint (*Mentha aquatica*). Further down the valley we encountered the more typical chalk land flora; Large Thyme (*Thymus pulegioides*), Wild Basil (*Clinopodium vulgare*), Catmint (*Nepeta cataria*), Sweet Briar (*Rosa rubiginosa*), Musk Thistle (*Carduus nutans*), Dwarf Thistle (*Cirsium acaule*), Carline Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*), Rock Rose (*Helianthus-erum nummularium*), Gromwell (*Lithospermum officinale*), Vervain (*Verbena officinale*) and Chalk Knapweed (*Centaurea debeauxii*).

In the hope of finding butterflies we entered the woodland and chalk-pit area at the East end of the Downs and here found Sanicle (*Sanicula europaea*), Harts-tongue Fern (*Phyllitis scolopendrium*), Marjoram (*Origanum vulgare*), Water Figwort (*Scrophularia auriculata*) and Small Toadflax (*Chaenorhinum minus*).

The days total of butterflies was rather thin with Meadow Brown (*Maniola jurtina*), Green Veined White (*Pieris napi*), Wall Brown (*Lasiommata megera*) and Comma (*Polygonia c-album*), and no sign of the Chalkhill Blues (*Lysandra coridon*) which had been reported a week earlier.

All in all it was an enjoyable outing and everyone involved determined to visit again perhaps earlier in the year and definitely in better weather.

Keith Fox

# WINTERTON DUNES

7<sup>th</sup> September 2014

A dozen members and friends gathered at Winterton in the busy Dunes Café car park on a late-summer day initially cloudy with some wind, but mild and pleasant enough, with sunshine attempting to assert itself. The visit was hosted by Bob Ellis and Research Group specialists as part of the Society's two-year Winterton research and recording project.

Our efforts were first applied to walking the strandline at the seaward edge of the 109-hectare Winterton Dunes National Nature Reserve, itself part of the Winterton-Horsey Dunes SSSI and Special Area of Conservation, which extends beyond the Bramble Hill limit of the NNR to a point two kilometres from Horsey Village. Natural England describes the NNR as containing rare groups of plants and animals in a habitat more common in northern Europe than England comprising 'good coastal habitat succession from open sand and shingle beach, through embryo and fixed dunes to acid heathland and low-lying wet dune slacks with areas of scattered scrub'. Additionally, the Great Yarmouth North Denes Special Protection Area extends to Winterton Beach to cover its breeding little terns, unfortunately unsuccessful in 2014 after the upheavals and disruption of last December's severe North Sea Storm-Surge: our party in fact found a dead ringed juvenile bird half buried in dry sand close to the strandline, to be notified later to the BTO.

In addition to Bob Ellis and Mary Ghullam identifying mainly plants, we were fortunate to have Tony Irwin present and scanning the strandline detritus, who immediately pointed out a Bemdidium ground beetle and a juvenile Money Spider whose glossy, transparent legs distinguished it from an adult with fully-coloured legs. Later, Common Field Grasshopper, Lesser Marsh Grasshopper and both male and female Mottled Grasshoppers were in turn seen and identified, plus the bush cricket, Short-winged Conehead, and the bumblebee-like fly *Tachina grossa*, Britain's biggest parasitic fly. Grasses recorded along the strandline or just inland from it included Lyme Grass *Leymus arenaria*, Sand Couch *Elytrigia juncea*, the scarce Grey Hair Grass *Corynephorus canescens*, Rush-leaved Fescue *Festuca arenaria* and, unsurprisingly, Marram *Ammophila arenaria*. Other plant species included Sea Sandwort *Honckenya peploides*, Spear-leaved Orache *Atriplex prostrata* and Frosted Orache *A. lacinata*, Sea Holly *Eryngium maritimum*, Sea Spurge *Euphorbia paralias*, Sea Radish *Raphanus raphanistrum* ssp. *maritimus*, Sea Rocket *Cakile maritime*, Sand Sedge *Carex arenaria*, Autumn Hawkbit *Leontodon autumnalis*, Sea Poppy *Glaucium flavum*, Herb Bennet *Geum urbanum* and, as we moved through the 'proto dunes' and into the older dunes, Heath Dog Violet *Viola canina*, Lady's Bedstraw *Galium verum* and Heath Bedstraw *G. saxatile*, Common Centaury *Centaureum erythraea*, Small Cudweed *Filago minima* and Sheepsbit *Jasione Montana* with its pretty soft blue 'powderpuff' flowerhead. Curiously present also were a handful of alien species and Millett plants *Milium effusum*, which prompted the suggested explanation that it had germinated from seed deposited by bird photographers to attract Snow Buntings.

Packed lunches were consumed on the flanks of the largest old dune, apparently known as 'Hamburger Hill', whereupon the sun and various butterflies obligingly appeared, including a number of Grayling. Other butterfly species seen here or subsequently included Small Heath, Small Copper and Gatekeeper. Further progress to and between the various pools added to the number of dragonfly species seen, which included a female Ruddy Darter, Migrant Hawker and Brown Hawker. A Wheatear was also seen which remained obligingly quite close by for a time. Unsurprisingly at this season and time of day we saw nothing of the Reserve's celebrated Natterjack Toads, but there was the bonus of a Grass Snake seen swimming in the larger pond. Quantities of Royal Fern *Osmunda regalis* in almost weed-like profusion were seen in areas of some of the dune slacks which were currently mostly dry, but which still enable the roots to reach fresh water.

Mary Ghullam reports that after I left the party lots of the uncommon tiny annual, Allseed *Radiola linoides*, a member of the flax family, was found around the open ponds and, gratifyingly, also re-found along the track by the fence at the back of the Reserve where one of the Society's 'Wild Flowers Revealed' excursions had recorded it in 2003.

Also growing in the wet edges round the ponds with the Allseed, Mary found more Blunt-bud Thread-moss *Pohlia bulbifera*, Winterton being its only known Norfolk site, where it was first recorded in 1995. Even more notably, she found the tiny thalloid liverwort Weedy Frillwort *Fossombronia incurva*. Mary needed to grow this on in order to be certain of its identity, and, remarkably, found a mature capsule a little later on another plant at Weybourne which has subsequently gone down as the first East Norfolk (VC 27) record, though her initially less mature Winterton find strictly speaking precedes it! *Fossombronia* look like miniature lettuces, hence the name 'Frillworts'.

Winterton is a richly varied site and no doubt the specialists in the party would have included many species missing from my selection in this brief account. Many thanks to them, especially Bob Ellis and Mary Ghullam who instigated an enjoyable excursion.

*Stephen Martin*



## *How wild is 'wild'? — a man's view*

*John Vincent* (a personal slant)

Why gender specific? Because a woman sees, appreciates and reacts to a different score to a man. Simply that.

So Morocco, spring (late March) 2006 — a bird-watching tour. We had 'done' the Atlantic coast and were on our way across and down to the edge of the Sahara along the southern border of the eastern half of the country, from Midelt to Er Rachidia and beyond south. It was getting late in the afternoon. Still at altitude in the Atlas Mountains we made a brief turn-off east, just north of Er Rachidia, and to my complete surprise an extent (a kilometres' extent) of shallow water opened up, hemmed-in by high ground from where we were viewing but open to the east.

The impact was the common optical illusion, when looking down across an extensive body of water, of a rising perspective to the distant uncluttered horizon-line between water and sky — an anomaly at this altitude but presumably containment of the open waters shown on the map in the course of the Oued Ziz river which was paralleling our N-S road. I should have paid more attention to the guide but I was concentrating on getting to the amenities and the cool of our hotel after a long tiring drive.

Magically the stage was set. An entrancing display of softly muted colours in the fading light across the wind-ruffled shallow waters, enhanced by colour changes and irregularities in the bed, disparate water movement in drainage channels, and variable water depth. And centre stage in this cultured, captivating miscellany of subtle complementary colours a brightly illuminated focal point, beloved of artists to give life and meaning, bravura and interpretation of scale to the surrounding panorama. This beacon was a male Ruddy Shelduck, standing majestically alone centrally in the shallows, safe for now in his solitariness because of his uninterrupted view all around of impending encroaching danger.

It was a scene of rare beauty, changing by the minute in the dwindling light, awe-inspiring in its natural wildness and the frightening fragility of its central figure, surrounded by unseen unknown numbers of eyes ranging from appreciative, neutral and passive, to outright hostile and predatory. The latter, appraising him in terms of his flesh and blood vis-à-vis his embodiment of an artistic masterstroke, marking down his position and planning his grisly fate under cover of darkness.

How might William Blake have seen such a starkly contrasting role-reversal to his tiger? Perchance as:

Sheldrake! Sheldrake' Burning bright  
In the darkening waters' night,  
What immortal hand or eye  
Could weigh thy fearful destiny?

As we moved away to drive down to the comfort and security of our hotel, I knew intuitively that I had witnessed the true paradox of the wild, its awesome magnificence masking the ever present uneasy underlay of potential awfulness. Knew too that the image of a beautiful fragile life existing in the wild as portrayed by the Shelduck in his valiant vulnerable stand, had poignantly, irredeemably gripped my psyche and tempered my appreciation of the innate beauty and loveliness of the wild and its wondrous scale of solitude.

His total wildness in the wild was minimally protected, my tentative incursion incomparably more so. But to each his own. Life is, in its ultimate appraisal, what it is; not so? What more, in truth, is there for me to say?

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## VERPA CONICA

*Alec Bull*



The entrance to our property is down a former stretch of the A47 which was left behind when the road was straightened in 1969. Since then soil has encroached onto the tarmac and the bushes have grown over so we now have a single track road.

Tony Leech mentioned recently that Spring 2014 had been a good one for Fungi,. On April 11<sup>th</sup>, Rita spotted a strange fungus from the car as we were passing, so I went back and had a look and found, to my surprise that it was not *Mitrophora semilibera* which we had had once before, probably 20 years ago now, but *Verpa conica*, which I had not seen previously. Altogether there were a dozen specimens in varying stages of development scattered along about 20 yards on the sunny side of the carriageway.

I would be interested to know how common this species is in Norfolk.

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## Norfolk & Suffolk Bryological Group Meetings 2014 - 2015

Beginners are always very welcome - the only equipment needed is a handlens (x10 or x20) and some paper packets (old envelopes are fine) for collecting specimens. Meetings begin at 10.30am and will only be cancelled if there is snow or hard frost. The Norfolk and Suffolk Bryological Group (a sub-group of the British Bryological Society) is an informal interest group with no formal status or legal identity. All attendees at the events set out in the annual programme participate in those events entirely at their own risk and no responsibility for any injury loss or damage shall lie against the organisers of the events. The distribution of the programme of events is not intended to and does not form any contract or any other legal relationship between the organisers and the participants.

**Sunday 2 November 2014** – Mossing for Beginners at Winterton Dunes. Meet at the Beach Car Park (parking fee payable) at TG499198 at 10.30am. All welcome!

**Saturday 15 November 2014** – One last try to do Old Buckenham Fen, but this site is so weather-dependent that if you would like to come please contact Chris in the week before for details. If it's not possible, an alternative site will be circulated.

**Sunday 7 December 2014** – Wet and dry woodland on the Frogshall Estate, Southrepps. Small car park TG266379.

**Saturday 3 January 2015** – Marshes and woodland in Cringleford, visited by NFG this year, and worthy of a bryo visit. Park on Colney Lane at TG 190068 – please car share if you can, as there are not loads of spaces.

**Sunday 18 January 2015** – Gayton Hall – a joint meeting with Cambridge bryologists. A large estate with water gardens, wet woodlands, lakes, streams & bridges. Take B1153 off B1145 in Gayton, then immediate turn right into Back Street, then left into the hall after 150-200m. Keep left where road forks, bend left and park on parkland.

**Saturday 31 January 2015** – Earlham Cemetery, visiting the older parts of the site. Park on the main drive at TG212085 or on Earlham Road (the B1108).

**Sunday 15 February 2015** – Broad Fen, Dilham. Park just off Oak Road in front of the big modern barn at TG34422608 (please do not block doors/access).

**Saturday 28 February 2015** – Ringstead Downs & Chalkpit Plantation. Park at TF707400 on track south of Ringstead. Small car park for 3-4 cars, with additional parking permitted on field edge adjacent. Woodland, chalkpit, arable fields and chalk grassland.

**Sunday 15 March 2015** – Bradmoor Plantation, part of the West Acre estate. Turn east off B1153 at southern end of bends, at TF 749149 into field through gates (which will be open). Follow track down to edge of wood to park. Map available nearer the time.

**Saturday 28 March 2015** – Burgate Wood SSSI, Suffolk. The group recorded in the southern end of this wood in 1999, and is now moving on to the northern end. Meet in the lay-by on the A143 Bury Road at TM 071762, on the south side of the road.

British Bryological Society Recorders:

Robin Stevenson, 111 Wootton Road, King's Lynn PE30 4DJ. 01553 766788.  
[crs111@talktalk.net](mailto:crs111@talktalk.net) (West Norfolk)

Mary Ghullam, 5 Beech Drive, North Walsham NR28 0BZ. 01692 402013.  
[mylia@btinternet.com](mailto:mylia@btinternet.com) (East Norfolk)

Richard Fisk, 35 Fair Close, Beccles, Suffolk NR35 9QR. 01502 714968.  
[richardjfisk@waitrose.com](mailto:richardjfisk@waitrose.com) (Suffolk)

**Programme:** Chris Roberts, 21 The Street, Burgh-next-Aylsham NR11 6TP.  
01263 732772 [chrisroberts\\_500@hotmail.com](mailto:chrisroberts_500@hotmail.com) Mobile: 0788 7914047

## From the NNS Transactions

The following is an entry from the **Norfolk Mammal Report for 1964** (page 245)  
Editor: P. R. Banham

### **Coypu** (*Myocastor coypus*)

There is no doubt that there has been a moderate recovery from the near-extinction at the beginning of 1963. In central Norfolk several contributors saw none during the year, but a few have survived in the upper Yare and its tributaries. The main stronghold is still, of course, the Broads, where there has been a small encroachment into areas which had been cleared, e.g. the marshes between Breydon and the Bure. There was renewed intensive trapping in the autumn, however, and by the end of the year there were few left in the Yare valley. Seven were found dead during the year on the road between Yarmouth and the Stracey Arms.

In other parts of the County there has also been some sign of recovery. Coypus have been moving back into disinfested parts of North Norfolk, including Cley and Holkham.

*(N.B. It wasn't until 1989 that the Coypu was finally eradicated. Their fast breeding cycle - up to five litters in two years and producing up to nine young at a time - obviously aided their recovery after the very cold winter of 1962-63. - Ed.)*

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### **Transactions Available**

Dr. Bob James, formerly of the School of Biological Sciences and an NNS member since 1972, died earlier this year. His collection of Bird & Mammal Reports and Transactions has been passed onto the Society along with a donation of £360.00 sent in his memory. If anyone is interested in acquiring the publications could they please contact Tony Irwin:

Email: [tony.irwin@btinternet.com](mailto:tony.irwin@btinternet.com) / Tel: 01603 453524.

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### **Anyone for Magazines?**

Would anyone like a complete set of Flora Facts and Fables, the magazine edited by Grace Corne and featuring mainly Norfolk flora? I have all 47 issues from Winter 1994 to Autumn 2006, when the magazine ceased publication. Contact: Carol Haines on 01603 867825 or email [ch\\_miles@yahoo.com](mailto:ch_miles@yahoo.com)



The next issue of *'The Norfolk Natterjack'* will be February 2014. Please send **all articles / notes and photographic material** to the editor as soon as possible by

**January 7<sup>th</sup> 2015** to the following address:

Francis Farrow, 'Heathlands', 6 Havelock Road, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8QD. Email: [francis.farrow@btinternet.com](mailto:francis.farrow@btinternet.com)

**Nats' Gallery:** *All photographs are very welcome, especially to accompany an article or document a record, occasionally however, because of space limitations, preference may have to be given to Norfolk-based images, or to those subjects depicting interesting or unusual behaviour, or are less commonly (or rarely) seen in print.*

## **Membership subscriptions**

The N&NNS membership year runs from 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March. During this time members will receive four copies of the quarterly *Natterjack* newsletter, and annual copies of the Transactions of the Society, and the Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report. A full summer programme of excursions and a winter programme of talks are also organised annually.

**Membership renewals** are due on *1<sup>st</sup> April each year* and should be sent to the treasurer:

- David Richmond, 42 Richmond Rise, Reepham, Norfolk, NR10 4LS.

**New memberships** should also be sent to:

- David Richmond at the above address.

**Current rates are £20 for individual, family and group memberships** (£30 for individuals living overseas).

*Cheques payable to: Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society.*

# Contents

Toad-in-the-hole.....	Page 1
A First Record for Norfolk <i>Doreen Wells</i> ( <i>Ant: Formica cunicularia</i> ) Request for Ant Records <i>Doreen Wells</i>	
Unusual Butterfly Colours <i>Hans Watson</i> ( <i>Dark Green Fritillary / Silver-washed Fritillary</i> ) A New Butterfly <i>Francis Farrow</i> ( <i>Yellow-legged or Scarce Tortoiseshell</i> )	Page 2
Butterfly Polymorphism <i>Nick Owens</i>	Page 3
Butterfly Variants <i>John Furse</i> ( <i>Small Copper / Wall Brown</i> ) Species Guides <i>David Richmond</i> ( <i>Shieldbugs</i> )	Page 4
Strumpshaw and beyond <i>Brian Macfarlane</i>	Page 5
Waders in the Yare Valley <i>Tony Howes</i> Pheasants as carnivores <i>Alec Bull</i>	Page 6
2014 Norfolk Rook Nest Survey <i>Malcolm Metcalf</i>	Page 7
NATS' GALLERY ( <i>Members photographs</i> )	Centre
Excursion Reports:	Page 18
Beeston Common, Sheringham <i>Stephen Martin</i>	
Ringstead Downs <i>Keith Fox</i>	Page 20
Winterton Dunes <i>Stephen Martin</i>	Page 21
How Wild is 'Wild'? - a man's view <i>John Vincent</i>	Page 23
VERPA CONICA <i>Alec Bull</i> Norfolk & Suffolk Bryological Group meetings 2014-2015	Page 24
From the NNNS Transactions:	Page 26
Norfolk Mammal Report for 1964 (Coypu) <i>Ed. P.R. Banham</i>	

## **Illustrations:**

House Sparrow (Page 5), Rook (Page 17), Adder (Page 19), Fern (Page 22) -  
*Computer/Clip-art*