

# NATS' GALLERY : Winter 2014



A good summer is welcomed by many insect groups but particularly the dragonflies. With the emphasis on some of the smaller damselfly members, a search of Strumpshaw and Winterton turned up the Emeralds - real gems!

See article page 1.

**Common Emerald** (top),  
**Willow Emerald** (centre) and  
**Southern Emerald** (bottom)



*Photos: Hans Watson*



Photos: Mark Cocker



**Crab Spiders** at home and abroad are often capable of taking very large prey. Above with a Common Carder Bee and opposite with a Southern White Admiral.

See article page 3.



When you find your goldfish are attacked set up the camera!

A marauding **Otter** returned to the garden, which is at least a mile from the nearest water course, and at midnight was *captured*.

*Photo:* Tony Howes

See article page 7.



A photographer / naturalist is always looking out for subjects, be they great or small **White-letter Hairstreak** (top left), a secretive **Bittern** (top right) in flight, **Avocets** (opposite) attacking the chicks of another pair at Cley and the strange-looking **Puss Moth** caterpillar (below) .

See article page 10.



*Photos: Tony Howes*



Photos: Steven Rutherford MBNA

Visiting naturalists from South Yorkshire certainly got their *eye in* while staying at an NNNS members South Norfolk cottage.

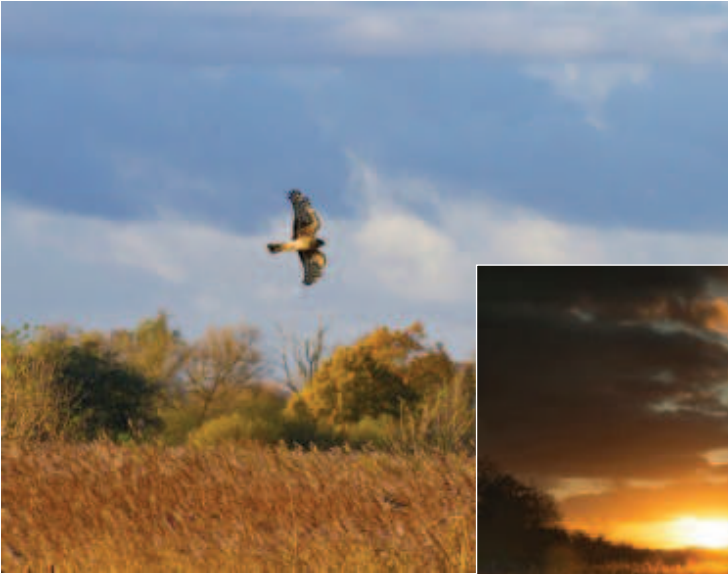
This was in 2012 and again in 2013 and they turned up an astonishing range of unusual specimens, including (top left) **Fen Raft Spider**, (top right) **Box Bug**, (centre left) **Buzzing Snail-hunter** beetle, a **bat roost** (centre right) with five bat species recorded later in the vicinity. A pale-coloured **Comma** (opposite) that was also found was described by the Natural History Museum as **ab. nov** and is possibly only the second example to be found in Britain.

See article page 11.

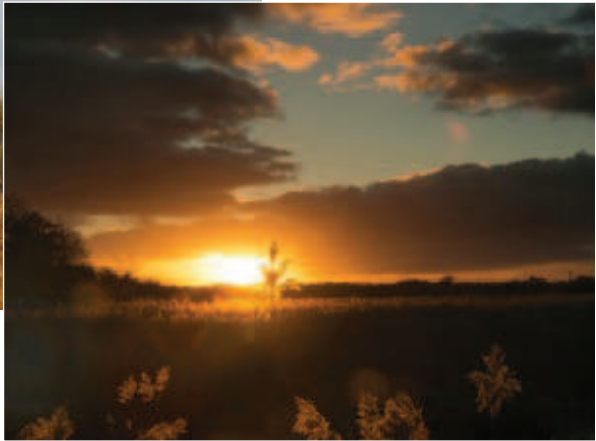




Gulls in the garden can be a nuisance in that they eat all the bird food, however, a simple wire netting tunnel that allows birds up to Blackbird size to feed in peace could be the answer.



*Photos: Brian Macfarlane*



A passing **Hen Harrier** and a **sunset at Strumpshaw** can set up a reflective mood. Or on another occasion it can be the glory that was seen all around in the **2013 autumn**. See article page 13.





The evening of Thursday December 5<sup>th</sup> will remain in many memories as the night of the **North Sea surge**, but here the following morning, the high tide is still a force of destruction. To think that a little more than 18 hours earlier the Christmas show at the end of the pier was in full swing. See article page 13.

*Photos:*  
Brian Macfarlane





A New Year walk to find flowering plants turns up the fruiting body of the **Sandy Stillball** (top left) - a rare fungus. See article page 14.

*Photo: Jenny Kelly*



A small white disc (top right) on a dead Ash leaf from Beeston & Sheringham Commons, which later turned brown (centre right) had the finder Francis Farrow and County fungus recorder, Tony Leech somewhat baffled.

What looked like a discomycete was discovered by Tony to be sclerotia (the fungal equivalent of a bulb), but any connection with a particular fungus was not forthcoming.

Luckily a microbiologist, Anne Edwards, who was working on Ash dieback disease at the John Innes Centre, offered to investigate the mystery fungus as it was found on Ash leaves. Having sequenced the DNA it turned out that both the white and the brown sclerotia were ***Typhula phacorrhiza*** - a spindle fungus (bottom right) that had previously turned up in a North Norfolk garden in 2003.



*Photos: Tony Leech (top right)  
Francis Farrow (centre right)  
Anne Harrap (bottom right)*



The intrepid Bryophyte Group get down with the dinosaurs at Weston Park on the track of the elusive **Bryosaurus** - did they find it? See article page 15.

*Photos:*

Richard Fisk (top left / centre right)

Julia Masson (centre left)



An unusual fasciated **Alder catkin** was found and photographed by Robin Stevenson at Bawsey Country Park, near Kings Lynn.

Fasciation (or cresting) is a relatively rare condition of abnormal growth in vascular plants in which the apical meristem (growing tip), that normally is concentrated around a single point and produces approximately cylindrical tissue, instead becomes elongated perpendicularly to the direction of growth, thus producing flattened, ribbon-like, crested, or elaborately contorted tissue. Any occurrence of fasciation has several possible causes, including hormonal, genetic, bacterial, fungal, viral and environmental (Wikipedia).