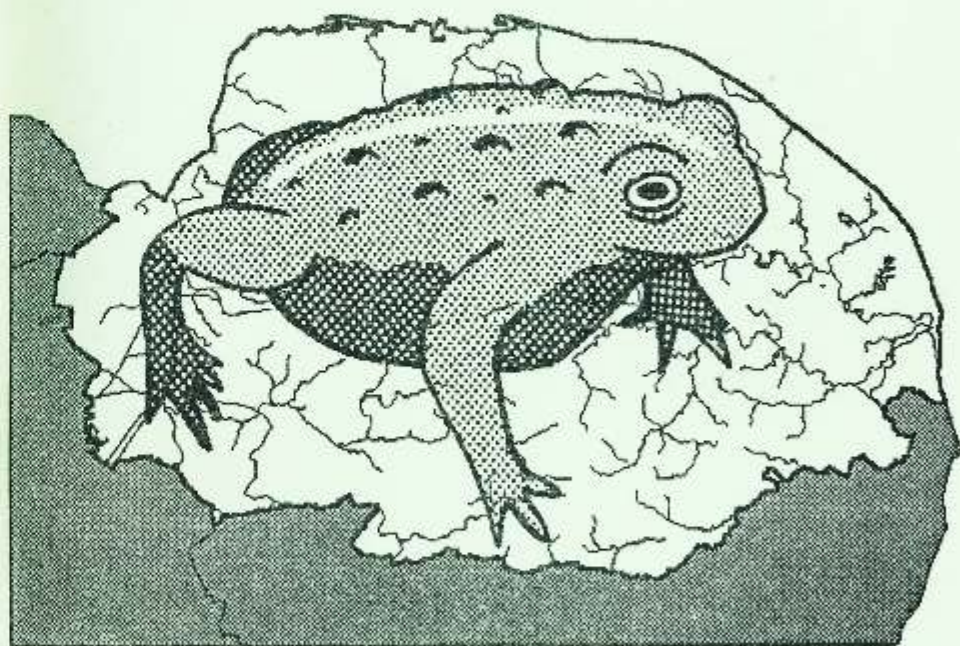


The Norfolk



Natterjack

The quarterly bulletin of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society



Number 92

February 2006

www.nnns.org.uk

Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Founded 1869

Reg. Charity No. 291604

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Toad-in-the-hole....

Welcome to the first edition of 2006 and the all new format of 'The Norfolk Natterjack'. I hope it will become a cherished addition to the excellent range of publications that the Society already produces. The newsletter relies, of course, on your contributions so I trust there will be an added interest to spur all the photographers to send in their pictures to Simon. Any article that has an associated photograph in the 'Nat's Gallery' has the following camera symbol by its title.  FF

Norfolk Young Nature Writer 2005

A nine-year-old Guernsey girl has won the Young Nature Writer award set up in memory of Michael Seago for her diary recording what she saw during a holiday visit to the Norfolk Broads. The judges felt that Sarah Keirle not only wrote good descriptions of a variety of species, illustrated with promising drawings, but also conveyed her excitement at seeing wild creatures, some of them for the first time. The other entrants in the under 11 category were highly commended. There were no entrants in the 11-15 category.

Here are some extracts from Sarah's diary:

Egyptian goose: Our first exciting spot was an Egyptian goose. The male goose snapped up the bread we threw into the water. The female sped towards the crumbs that fell from the boat. Apparently Norfolk is the only place in the UK where you can see Egyptian geese. I was really pleased to see them.

Grey seal: Horsey Gap is a great place to see seals. There we were, swimming in the sea, when a cute seal pup popped his head up right by our legs. He had a round speckled belly. We followed him up and down the beach while he played in the breaking waves and rolled on the sand. This is an experience I will never forget.

Avocet: At How Hill nature reserve I looked through my binoculars to see what birds were in the scrape. I was very surprised to see four beautiful avocets dipping their coal-black beaks through the murky water. A few days later we drove up to Cley Marshes and saw more, wading gracefully through the shallow stream.

Cuckoo: We were sitting on the sofa in our holiday boat when suddenly a strange bird flew on to the bird table. A cuckoo! On the ground it looks rather like a sparrowhawk. Her elegant stripes are brown, blue and grey.



Black swan: A strange creature appeared at the front of a small private dyke and swam to the boat. It had a fire-red beak with pink stripes and feathers as black as night. Apparently, black swans came from Australia.

Kingfisher: We were chugging down the River Ant when suddenly a flash of sky blue flew round our boat and back. We'd been wanting to see a kingfisher and we were really excited when we saw it. Another day a kingfisher was sitting on a branch really close to our boat.

Sarah and her family were hoping to see swallowtail butterflies but it was the wrong time of year. However, they did see peacock, speckled wood, gatekeeper and red admiral.

Sarah concludes: We came to Norfolk for our holiday, hoping to see lots of rare animals and birds. We visited several reserves and marshes and saw many creatures and interesting plants. We were also lucky enough to see many birds, animals and butterflies in areas that are not protected. This shows that Norfolk has lots of areas where nature can still live without protection and in its natural environment.

David Paull



House Cricket at Hindolveston *by Jon Clifton*



We attracted a female House Cricket to a 125w MV Robinson Moth Trap on the nights of the 1st and 2nd September 2005 and on both occasions we found it underneath the trap. It was caught, photographed and released on the second night. This coincides with several indoor records of Dark Bush Cricket and Oak Bush Cricket over the same weekend.

Dave Richmond informs me that "the last authenticated record in Norfolk was at Wayland Wood in 1990, when Mike Hall found three while moth trapping. There are old records from land fill sites, particularly Strumpshaw, where they were still present in the late 90's (anecdotal evidence)."



Another new gall for Norfolk

by Robert Maidstone

Over the past year it seems that we have had less members turning out for the field meetings, sometimes I think this may be due to the feeling that the meeting is not for 'my interest', whatever that may be. However once at any meeting there are usually enough people with different interests for anything to be found.

I am not particularly interested in fungi, especially terrestrial fungi, except those that I can eat. However, I turned up at the Fungus foray at Mousehold Heath in October more as an excuse for a walk than any serious foraging.

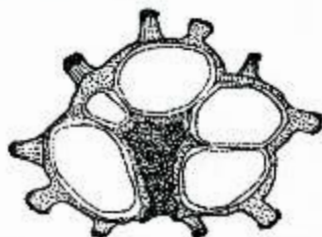
While the other scoured the ground for toadstools, I just wandered about looking at the leaves of the trees and bushes around me. I found a few fungi - Oak Mildew and a rust on the brambles and pointed out the occasional bracket fungi, until we were on our way back to the cars when I pulled down an Oak branch and picked off what looked like an odd shaped Knopper gall, but it was not quite right.

It was more or less round with a number of short blunt spines, but was not attached to an acorn cup but seemed to be on an old male catkin stalk. I did not say too much at the time but took it home to investigate.

Using the 'new' keys in *British Plant Galls*, it sort of fell between *Andricus lucidus* or *A. grossulariae* eventually I plumped for *A. grossulariae* and sent a drawing to Robin Williams of the British Plant Gall Society for confirmation. However before I received his reply the postman delivered the autumn issue of *Cecidology*, the BPGS journal, and inside were some beautiful pictures of *A. grossulariae* - identical to the one I had found!

Also Michael Chinery had written to report the finding of one of these galls near Sudbury, Suffolk. He wondered whether this species was spreading as fast as the Rams Horn gall, which is now well established in south Norfolk.

It appears both these species are moving north rapidly.



A new visitor

by Tony Howes



I have had my present pond in the garden for eight years now, and over that period many different birds have been seen drinking and bathing there, and much pleasure they have given Wendy and me.

This week a new visitor, a moorhen, called on us, it must have flown in as the garden is fenced all round. I first saw it standing on the edge of the pond having a good look round, it clearly liked its new surroundings and was soon sampling the mixed bird food scattered over the lawn. At first it ran for cover when a pigeon or dove flew down, but it quickly got the hang of things and joined in.

Later in the day it was seen perched on top of a small conifer preening, looking quite content with life. It reappeared the following morning, walking up the path beside the pond as if he owned the place. He is very welcome, provided he does not want to rearrange my garden.

A truly stunning little creature

by Simon and Anne Harrap



We had occasionally heard mention of the Starlet Sea Anemone *Nematostella vectensis* as something that was notable in some way or other, and one day last September we decided to find out more. The Internet revealed that it has a strange world distribution, being found in North America and in England, but nowhere else, and that it was rare, occurring in a few coastal lagoons on the South Coast and in East Anglia. In Norfolk it is found around Cley and Salthouse, with the best-known spot being the Half-moon Pit - right next to the coastguard's car park at Cley. Accordingly we nipped down to Cley and had a look. There was not much to see - until we realised that they are tiny! It then became obvious that they were abundant, and trying hard not to drop the camera in the water we got some pictures of a truly stunning little creature. Oh, they are protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981, but they seemed happy enough for us just to look at them and we don't think we will have our collar felt quite yet!



Beaver Release

by Brian Macfarlane



I had an invitation to go to Gloucestershire to photograph the release of beavers into an enclosure for scientific observation. It is the first time in 500 years that they had set foot on English soil. They were exterminated for their meat, fur, and medical properties. In fact, in those days a kill gave the person the equivalent of three years salary for their effort.

It was 27th October 2005 that I had to arrive at 6-30 am to be ready to photo the interview for BBC breakfast television. It was still dark while they set up, but the sun was beginning to show as the interview took place. It was a glorious sunrise, which preceded the hottest October 27th for a century.

The beavers were expected to arrive at 11 am from Devon where they had been in quarantine for 6 months. They are the European variety, which are much less destructive than their North American cousins. They live mainly on willow leaves, and build their lodges from willow trees. Two temporary lodges were built, housing three beavers each, round the edge of the 22 hectare lake.

I was being employed by the owner, Jeremy Paxton, to record the event for his estate. Because they did not want to cause too much distress to the animals, I was the only photographer allowed at the point of release, plus one television cameraman. There was little room at the site for extra bodies. There was a 4 feet run between the release box, and the lodge, so I had to anticipate it's movements.

For the benefit of the public and newspaper reporters, they let one beaver out onto a grass area for photographers to record their shots. It cautiously came out for three minutes, and then went back to its box, and went to sleep. Not really in the script! The proper release went well, and we retreated to the hide to observe the monitor set up to watch through the camera lens erected in the lodge. Within the hour the first beaver had gnawed his way out of the lodge to swim in the lake much to the excitement of the viewers.

The plan is to scientifically record their lives for five years. After that, the plan would be to hopefully able to release them into the wild. Who knows we could be seeing them in the broads within 10 years or less. The weather was perfect for the occasion, and the day was a really exhilarating experience for me.



Chinese Water Deer

by Tony Howes



In recent years the water deer have done very well in the wetlands of Norfolk river valleys, but they will also venture up into the arable fields bordering the rivers and broads, often some distance from water. I have seen road kills some way from the nearest marsh, but generally they seem to prefer the wet fen type of habitat, here they are happy to browse the mixed herbage of the typical fen plants.

They can be out feeding any time of the day or night, but late afternoon seems the most likely time to see them. Often single animals, some times two or three together, they move through the vegetation slowly, lifting their heads up every now and again to keep a careful lookout for danger. They have very good eyesight, also a very keen sense of smell, so the would be observer must bear this in mind.

For some time now I have been trying to photograph these beautiful animals, at the moment a canvas hide is my means of keeping myself hidden, despite it being rather restrictive. Standing by a gatepost dressed in camouflage clothing is better for the all round view it gives, but the deer soon spot you.

Getting into the hide early is an advantage, then all can settle down before the deer emerge from cover during the late afternoon, they are certainly creatures of habit, the same animals showing in the same parts of the fen each day. One old friend is usually the first to show him self, I have known him for three years now and have named him 'Floppy ear'. At some point in the past he probably had a set to with one of his kind, and received at least a couple of injuries, one of which is a badly ripped ear, the other being a broken canine, although a new one appears to be growing now. On one occasion recently (Dec 20th) he was observed to mate with a female.

Now and again when two deer meet up on the fen they will chase around for a minute or two, becoming quite skittish, jumping and jinking at speed before settling down to feed once more. They have the uncanny knack of being able to crouch low and move at speed if danger threatens, even in quite short vegetation.

Maybe a fox would pick up a fawn if found, but apart from man these deer don't seem to have any predators, many get killed on the rail track and on roads. Unlike the coypu, the last large mammal (now extinct) to inhabit the fenlands, they don't seem to cause much damage.



The feeding habits of the Snaketongue Truffleclub

by Tony Leech



Like animals, fungi need a supply of organic food and many species get that supply directly from other organisms; they are parasites. When Anne Harrap's sharp eyes picked out a couple of reddish-brown club-shaped fungi poking just a couple of centimetres above the leaf litter on Holt Lowes, she did not immediately realise what a complex feeding relationship she had come upon. The fungus was *Cordyceps ophioglossoides*, now known, as a result of the British Mycological Society's project to coin English names for one thousand common or striking fungi, as the Snaketongue Truffleclub.

Related species of *Cordyceps*, including the medicinally revered Chinese Caterpillar Fungus (*C. sinensis*) parasitise insect larvae or pupae but the Snaketongue Truffleclub attacks false truffles. Anne's careful excavation revealed the truffleclub's yellow mycelial cords growing into the underground fruitbody of *Elaphomyces muricatus* a few centimetres below. This false truffle looks somewhat like a small earthball although not at all related to it, or indeed to the true truffles.

In one sense, the truffle, too, is a parasite for it gets its organic food through a mycorrhizal association with a tree, probably Beech although birch trees were nearer, but the benefit is not one-sided; the tree gains minerals, especially phosphate, liberated by the truffle's decomposition of humus so both thrive. This makes three organisms in this food chain: tree – truffle – truffleclub and not an animal in sight. But wait, some of the living truffleclubs have an as-yet unidentified white mould growing on them; this must be the parasite's parasite!

THE PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

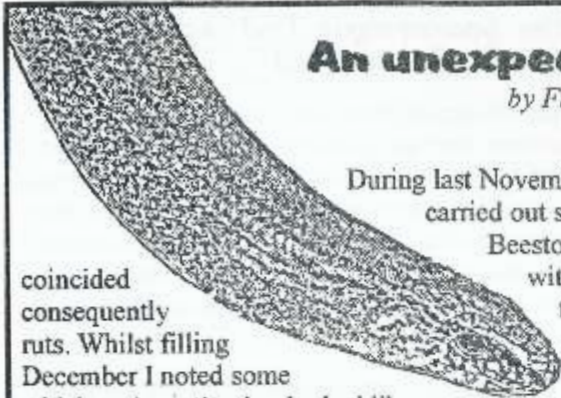
I am writing to inform you of a change in the photographic section of the society. Tony Howes has been the chairman for the last 7 years. I would like to thank him on behalf of the group for all his hard work and dedication to the job. He is also dedicated to using film as opposed to digital, and felt it the time to hand over to someone who is more interested in digital. For my sirs, (in Tony's eyes) I am that person who has taken over as chairman. We already have people who use digital cameras within the group, but I feel more would come if they knew help to understand the software were available. May I take this opportunity to invite anyone who is interested in learning, and seeing more subjects on digital photography. They would be most welcome to join us at the John Innes centre, on the 4th Monday in the month between October and March. I am aiming to provide this for the 2006-2007 meetings. Of course film will not be entirely excluded as some people do not want to give it up just yet!

Brian Macfarlane



An unexpected encounter

by Francis Farrow



coincided
consequently
ruts. Whilst filling
December I noted some
which on investigation looked like

slowly through the mud. I picked it up and noted it was a gold colour on top with blackish sides. This was no eel and closer examination showed it to be a young slow-worm. This individual was about 6" long and must have been disturbed either by the tractor or myself as they are normally hibernating in burrows from October to February. Slow-worms, which are 'legless' lizards, normally produce 6 to 12 young, which are around 2" in length, in August or September. The young are fully independent and able to fend for themselves, at first catching insects then slugs. Since slow-worms prefer to eat slugs, in particular the small greyish-white one that is a pest of all vegetable growers, gardens are often home to these reptiles. Many gardens can be hazardous to these creatures, especially if slug pellets and pesticides are used; also domestic cats attack and kill many. Like other lizards, however, they can shed their tail, which may keep the predator busy while they make their escape. An adult slow-worm can attain a length of 18" but on average they are generally in the region of 12". The illustration above is from a 'reworked' digital photograph taken by my daughter Ellie of an 18" long female slow-worm found in the garden last year.

NAT'S GALLERY NOTE

The following pages are the first featuring the colour photographic section. As you will see they are a mix of action shots and the more sedentary. The idea of these pages is for members to send in their photographic material (digital, slide or print) of a natural history subject or even of members themselves out on an excursion. If it is interesting the shot does not necessarily have to be the best, so all armatures get out with the camera and find the unusual or the usual being extraordinary! Please send all pictures to Simon Harrap - see end cover for details.



NAT'S GALLERY - February 2006



CHINESE WATER DEER

Although mainly restricted to the Broads area, this introduced species is occasionally seen further afield. In 2004 a female with fawn was seen at Cley. Photo and article: *Tony Howes*.



STARLET SEA ANEMONE

Nematostella vectensis

This rare species, found in North America and England, is rather more attractive than the brackish pools which it inhabits (see article).

Photo: *Simon Harrop*

IN THE GARDEN! Not many of those who keep a garden bird list can claim Moorhen but Tony Howes photographed this winter visitor in his garden (see article).



Although the
in Norfolk for
this specimen
(see



IT'S NEARLY MARCH

The Brown Hare population in Norfolk appears to have stabilised after a long period of sustained decline. County Mammal Recorder Mike Toms welcomes records of this and all other Norfolk mammals.

Photo: Brian Macfarlane.



RAMPING FUMITORY *Fumaria muralis*, near North Walsham. In Norfolk almost restricted to the north-east of the county. Photo: Tony Leech



THE CRICKET CAUGHT OUT-OF-DOORS

The species has not been recorded for fifteen years, Jon Clifton found it in his garden at Hindolveston (note). Photo: Jon Clifton.



CHAIRMAN SHOOTS ORCHID Simon Harrap photographs Green-winged Orchid *Orchis morio* for *Orchids of Britain and Ireland*, by Simon and Anne Harrap. It grows on the same lawn in Holt as Autumn Lady's-tresses *Spiranthes spiralis*. Photo: Tony Leech.

DIGITAL CRICKETS Due to the proportions of the lens and sensor, compact digital cameras are excellent for macro-photography. Photos: Simon Harrap.

Left to right: Dark Bush-cricket *Pholidoptera griseoaptera*, Bog Bush-cricket *Metrioptera brachyptera* and Short-winged Conehead *Conocephalus dorsalis*





FUNGUS ON FUNGUS ON FUNGUS

The yellow mycelium of the Snaketongue Truffleclub fungus *Cordyceps ophioglossoides* parasitises a False Truffle *Elaphomyces muricatus*. In turn, a white mould parasitises the truffleclub; see article.

Photos: Simon Harrap.



BEAVER RELEASE

Brian Macfarlane took this photograph of a European Beaver when he witnessed the release of six into a large fenced area in Gloucestershire (see article).

LOVE KNOT

Romantics might speculate that the Chaffinches which built this nest (found by Peta Benson in Holt) tied the knot to seal their affections. We suspect that they were just recycling unnatural objects.

Photo: Tony Leech.



The following letter was received from Godfrey J. Curtis after publication of Paul Banham's account in the last 'Natterjack' (no. 91) - Paul subsequently got in touch and a compromise was reached between the parties by way of two crabbes! Ed.

"I have always read the Natterjack with great avidity and nevermore so than this last with the account of the crab Crawlle. However, I have it on good authority - none other than the Crawlle himself - that the event was somewhat different. He also being an ancient crab was able to corroborate that not every "e" ending a word in Chaucer was so pronounced. On the strength of these findings I thought I ought to put the record straight!"



The True Tale of Crawlle

There was a fat crabbe of fayre fame
Hard was hys shelle and Crawlle was hys name.
He nether bitte nor farte nor grabbe
He was indeed a verie parfait crabbe.

There came a childe of nosey park and more
Catched was the crabbe and bucketed galore
Back to the char-a-banc in Staithe Streete
There to beguile the parents, as is mete.

"Ezook, wot ist", they gasp'd, "I wot not wot"
Replied the ladde, "I brought it for the potte". "
Enough" quoth they, and with a mighty flyng
Did sledge in edge of hedge the luckless thyng.



Paul replies:

"I was delighted to find someone as mad as me! These three verses have the true Canterbury Tales feel to them, obeying all the rules, but making real nonsense. I felt I couldn't leave it at that, so have added, as an "envoi":

"Two crabbes there were, both Crawlle Crab yclept,
The first well brayn'd, the second quite inept.
The second came to High Street in a pail,
The first one on his legs - to no avail!"



100 Years Ago - from the N.N.S. Transactions

The following paper was read on 27th November 1906.

HELIX POMATIA, L., AT GRIMSTON

By HENRY LAVER., F.S.A.

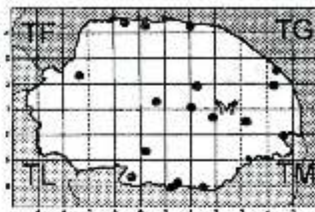
(Communicated by Mr. T. Southwell, F.Z.S.)

Helix pomatia. The apple snail. The Roman snail. The question whether this snail is a true native of Britain, or whether those found in various parts of the southern counties of England were imported, especially in those districts where remains of Roman camps, towns, or villas occur, is of considerable interest to conchologists in coming to any conclusions on this subject. Popularly in many parts where they are found they are always spoken of as Roman snails, the opinion being, that they are escapes from those introduced by the Romans for use by their cooks. If it be a fact that we owe this snail to the Romans, it is strange we do not find it more frequently in Roman middens, in other than districts where the subsoil is calcareous, for these are the localities where it is generally discovered. However it became a denizen of Britain, it does not now live anywhere excepting in chalky or limestone districts, and even there it is very local. It appears that it is not found in any part of Norfolk at the present time, and the fact of large numbers of the shells of this snail having been found amongst the rubbish and in the middens of the Roman villa, excavated a few days ago at Grimston, must be a matter of interest to the conchologists of Norfolk. In this instance it is a fair presumption, the snail not occurring in the county, that their appearance here is due to the fact that they were imported by the inhabitants of this villa for food. But as Grimston is on the chalk it is impossible to say that this is an absolute fact. This snail may have been an inhabitant of many districts in England where it is now unknown, and Norfolk may have been one of these localities. Those who have studied the land mollusca of England, must have often remarked the fact, that districts where certain snails must have been fairly common, now know them no more, and the absence of *H. pomatia* from Norfolk may be a case in point. There is one fact in favour of the late introduction of *H. pomatia* into England, and that is the shells of *H. pomatia* are never found in ancient shell marls, although the shells of many other species now living in the south of Europe in districts where *H. pomatia* is found occur.



Excursion

Reports



Fungus Foray Report

Sunday 30th October 2005

Around a dozen people gathered at the car park on Mousehold Heath for the Fungus Foray with the Norfolk Fungus Study Group.

As is usual on Fungus Forays we found our first specimens before we had barely left the car park, a nice grouping of Common Puffballs (*Lycoperdon perlatum*). There were many stumps covered with Hairy Curtain Crust (*Stereum hirsutum*) and Sulphur Tuft (*Hypholoma fasciculare*) was also common. A couple of specimens of Dyer's Mazegill (*Phaeolus schweinitzii*) were found on a stump.

Close by this amongst some Amethyst Deciever (*Laccaria amethystina*) and its brother, Common Deceiver (*L. laccata*) Tracey Money handed me a fungus reminiscent of a small Plums and Custard (*Tricholomopsis rutilans*) but after microscopic examination and discussion with Tony Leech it turned out to be *Gymnopilus dilepis*, a tropical species introduced into this country and found by Tony on woodchips at Holt Country Park. There are few records for this fungus, only five or so, therefore this find was remarkable, even more so as no woodchips were seen. Woodchips are, however, occasionally noticed on other parts of the heath, therefore the possibility that some well rotted ones were present is a possible answer.

Ugly Milk Cap (*L. turpis*) was found in several places as was Birch Brittlegill (*Russula betularum*), Ochre Brittlegill (*R. ochroleuca*) and Purple Brittlegill (*R. atropurpurea*).

Two pristine specimens of Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*) were found on the higher part of the heath. On the return to the car park we found some *Peniophora incarnata*, a bright orange resupinate fungus which fades on drying, was growing on Broom (*Cytisus*).

In all around 40 species were seen and an enjoyable morning spent.

Trevor Dove.



RESEARCH

Round-up

RESEARCH COMMITTEE PROJECTS

A flurry of activity has seen the rejuvenated Research Committee engaged in surveys of three sites during the past summer and autumn, these being Hapton Common, Catfield Hall Estate and Oxborough Hythe.

Each survey is different and, in fact, once the Moss group has visited in January (weather permitting), the Hapton Common survey will be considered to be complete apart from finalising management recommendations and writing the survey up for Transactions.

The other two surveys are expected to continue throughout 2006. Oxborough Hythe is approaching 40 acres of grazed, mixed grassland and already has a good list of vascular plants, whilst the areas of chalk grassland within the site are proving good for grassland fungi, with a quite impressive list of 10 species of *Hygrocybe* sp. i.e. Waxcaps, so far, Catfield Hall Estate includes large areas of high quality fen, wet and dry woodland and alder carr, and is much more complex. As it is hoped to record as much of the flora and Fauna as is possible, we would like to hear from anyone with special skills who would be interested in recording on the site, as the ultimate aim is to produce a Society Occasional Publication which will, we hope, be a model of its kind. Toward this aim, we have been promised sponsorship by Mr and Mrs Harris of Catfield Hall towards colour photographs to enhance the publication, so if your special skills include photography, please get in touch. We hope to have a Society field meeting at Catfield during the summer, but individual visits can be arranged through the Chairman. To give you a foretaste of what the first season has revealed, we have so far recorded 223 vascular plants, 164 fungi, 42 hoverflies, over 30 species of water beetles including 7 red data book species and also a number of other RDB aquatic insects in groups other than Coleoptera. The moss group visited on November 14th so I am awaiting their results, and I imagine that other groups of invertebrates can provide similar impressive lists.



There is, however, one slight problem which has been discovered whilst organising, not just these surveys, but also, e.g. a bramble weekend for the Botanical Society of the British Isles. This is Public Liability Insurance, an aggravating and complex issue, which has to be faced. Each organisations' PLI policy seems to differ from all the others. For example, some stipulate that they are only valid so long as all recording activities are carried out exclusively for the organisation concerned. Furthermore, I have learnt that two organisations with differing PLI policies cannot be covered individually by these policies if they are operating in the field together, i.e. as 'joint meetings', as one policy cancels out the other. To overcome a possible clash of interests when recording at any sites being surveyed by the Research Committee, it must be understood by all parties that the activity will be covered by the Society's PLI, non-members being regarded as 'guests'. The Society's 3rd party provides coverage, which covers damage to property but does not cover personal injuries. We hope this will not deter anyone from joining us.

Alec Bull

Norfolk Dragonflies

2005 proved to be a rather quiet year, both for dragonflies and for records. Reports of migrants were few and far between and sadly there were no records at all of Southern Emerald Damselfly *Lestes barbarus*, which had been seen at Winterton between 2002 and 2004. Even the newly colonising Small Red-eyed Damselfly *Erythromma viridulum* seemed to be less evident in 2005, or is everyone just more used to seeing the species now, so are reporting it less often?

This brings me to my main point. We need your records! People regularly mention what they've seen to me at meetings and events around the county, but far too often these comments are not backed up with actual records and the information is lost.

I know recording forms can look daunting, but all I really need are a few basic details:- a (nearby) site name; a two-letter, six-figure grid reference; the date; the recorders name (and contact details); a list of the species identified and if possible an estimate of the numbers seen and a note of any breeding behaviour observed. Sightings should be grouped as site visits on the same date and if the site is regularly recorded (such as a garden pond), then a monthly record showing maximum numbers on any particular day in that month will be sufficient.

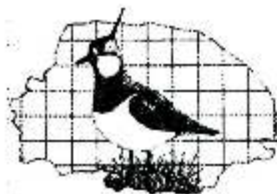


Record cards (RA70) can be obtained from me or printed out from the British Dragonfly Society's website page on 'Recording' (www.dragonflysoc.org.uk). This BDS webpage also gives detailed instructions on how to fill in the cards.

Within Norfolk, to simplify the flow of records and to avoid unnecessary duplication, all dragonfly records should first be sent to me as County Recorder. Once I have checked the records and entered them onto our database, they are forwarded to the BDS national database and then passed on the National Biodiversity Network (NBN). At this point you can view the records via the NBN website.

Unfortunately, records sent direct to the Norfolk Biological Records Centre (NBRC) at Gressenhall are not passed on to me, are not therefore verified by the BDS, and do not follow this route into the public domain. Furthermore, if you send your records to more than one place in the county, it could result in unnecessary duplication once formal data exchange agreements have been set up between the BDS and other organisations. Hence my plea at this time to send your dragonfly records direct to me, so that there is just one clear route for all records in Norfolk and so that your records can be of maximum benefit to conservation.

Dr Pam Taylor,
Decoy Farm, Decoy Road, Potter Heigham, Norfolk, NR29 5LX



**Can you help in these Norfolk
Bird Atlas tetrads?**

The Fens & NARVQS recording area - Fred Cooke, Larkins Cottage, 6 Lynn Road, Castle Rising, King's Lynn. PE31 6AB tel. 01553 631076 - responsible for TF40, 41, 50, 51, 52, 60, 61, 62, 70, 71, 72, 80, 81, 82, 90, 91 & 92, TL49, 59, 68 & 69.

The Brecks - Bill Landells, North Haven, Mark Lane, Santon Downham, Brandon, Suffolk, IP27 OTG; tel. 01842 812558; responsible for TL78, 79, 87, 88, 89, 98 & 99 (Peter Feakes is organising coverage for Stanford Training Area).

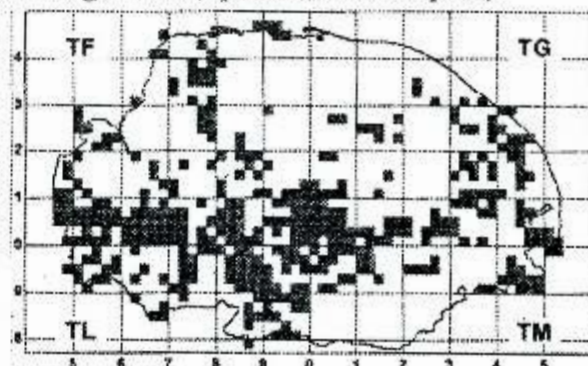


Diss, Attleborough & upper Waveney - John Marchant, BTO, The Nunnery, Thetford, IP24 2PU; tel. 01842 750050; responsible for TM07, 08, 09, 17, 18, 19, 27, 28, 29, 38 & 39.

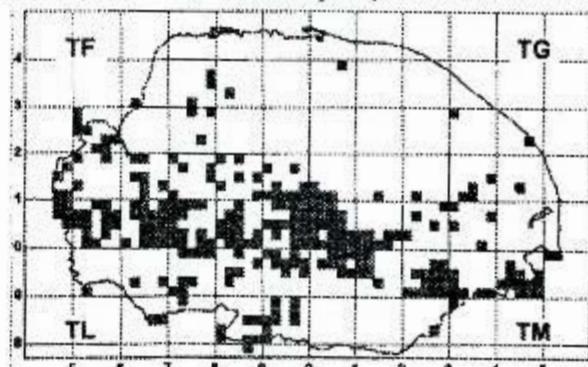
The Broads - Phil Heath, 3 Lock Cottages, Lock Road, Honing, North Walsham, NR28 9PJ; tel. 01692 535145; responsible for TG30, 31, 32, 40, 41, 42, 50 & 51.

Elsewhere (and project co-ordinator, dealing with general queries) - Moss Taylor, 4 Heath Road, Sheringham, NR26 8JH; tel. 01263 823637; mosstaylor@care4free.net; responsible for TF63, 64, 73, 74, 83, 84, 93 & 94; TG00, 01, 02, 03, 04, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 20, 21, 22, 23, 24 & 33; TM49 & 59.

Breeding season (Apr-Jun, 71% complete):



Winter (Dec-Feb, 80% complete):



The shaded squares still need two timed visits each. Please contact the relevant local organizer (details above) if you can offer your help, particularly in the spring this year.

Moss Taylor



Norfolk Biodiversity Action Plans

Members are invited to help in the final consultation of the plans for Corn Bunting, Turtle Dove and Tree Sparrow. Those of you who are already helping with the 'Norfolk Bird Atlas' can submit records through their area recorder. All other records from outside the scheme should go as usual to The County Bird Recorder:

Giles Dunmore,
49 Nelson Road, Sheringham,
Norfolk, NR26 8DA.

Opposite are the 2000-05 (breeding season) records from the NBA database. The larger dots indicate more birds and the grey squares have not yet been covered.

Turtle Dove



Tree Sparrow



LATE NEWS:

Research Committee

Are there any members out there who would like to do a bit of recording of whatever subject you are interested in? The Research Committee is doing a project at Catfield Hall with its wonderful Fens with the aim of producing a Society Occasional Publication following this full year of recording. There is to be a Society meeting there on Saturday June 17th, but members of the Research Committee will be going down on the last Monday in every month from March 27th to November 27th, both dates inclusive. If you are interested and would like to join us, we meet at 10.30 and finish at about 4.30, but give me a ring if you want to join us so that I can direct you to our meeting place. We shall also be visiting Oxborough Hythe in May to see if we can add to the plant list made last year by the West Norfolk Flora Group, and at the same time look for possible Grizzled Skippers as the site is similar in parts to Foulenden Common which is only 2 miles away. Also in May, we are hoping to make a first recording visit to the Little Ouse Headwaters project which will be continued on August 19th. Give me a ring nearer the time either of these meetings, when I will give you with a Society recording visit if you would like to join us on a date, time and where to meet.

Alec Bull



The next issue of
'The Norfolk Natterjack'
will be May 2006.

Please send all articles and notes to the editor as soon as
possible by
April 1st 2006
to the following address:

Francis Farrow,
'Heathlands',
6 Havelock Road, Sheringham,
Norfolk, NR26 8QD

Email: francis.f@virgin.net

Please send all photographic material to:
Simon Harrap,
1 Norwich Road,
Edgefield, Melton Constable,
Norfolk, NR22 2RP

Email: harrap@onetel.net

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