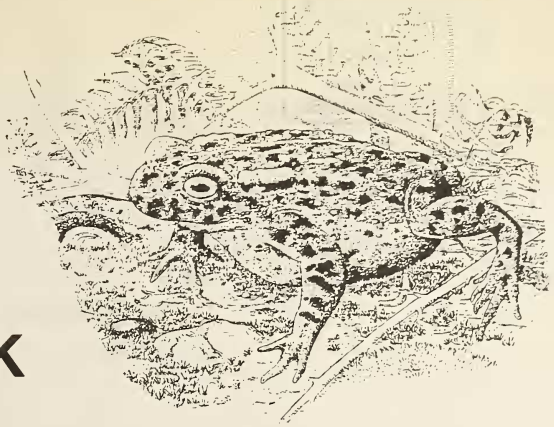

THE NORFOLK NATTERJACK

The quarterly bulletin of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists´ Society

No.16 February,1987

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E Y E

ORMESBY WEEK 6-14 JUNE

As part of European Year of the Environment East Anglian Water Company are planning a week to introduce Ormesby Broad to the public.

East Anglian Water Company (not to be confused with the Authority) have been using the Broad for 135 years and during this time have been vitally interested in it´s conservation and protection.

It is planned that school parties and individual naturalists will be given access to areas alongside the Broad to study fen and carr flora and fauna during the week. Activities will be based on the waterworks at ormesby St. Michael where an information room and small exhibition will be set up.

If you are interested or could offer help with information Keith Clarke would be glad to hear from you.

Keith Clarke, General Manager EAW Co, 163 High St, Lowestoft, Phone Lowestoft 2406

MANNINGTON COUNTRYSIDE PROJECT

The Mannington Countryside Project are holding an open weekend on Saturday 3rd May from 11.00hrs to 18.00hrs and on Sunday 4th May from 11.00hrs to 17.00hrs.

The weekend marks the launching of the Mannington Countryside Project. The Project which started in July 1986 has 5 Main aims.

1. The establishment of a network of footpaths on the estate for public use.
2. Practical conservation management of woods and meadows.
3. The provision of maps of trails and footpaths and other information.
4. Recording and protecting of wildlife on the estate.
5. Lectures, course and guided walks on wildlife and the countryside.

To mark the launch of the project we are holding the Countryside weekend with the aim of introducing the public to the Project and to the pleasures of the Countryside.

About 25 organizations representing all aspects of Countryside management will be represented. Most of these will be organizing activites for the public to join in with, as well as providing displays of their own work. AS well as the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists´ Society these organizations will include the Nature Conservancy Council,

the Farmworkers Union and the newly formed Norfolk Rural Community Council.

In addition of couse the full network of paths and trails around the estate will be open for the first time. The estate covers some 2500 acres of farmland. woodland, water and meadows.

Mike Appleton

WANTED VOLUNTEERS to help on the Society Stall or act as guides on the Nature Trails, if you are interested please contact Colin Dack.

RARE PLANTS

It is now ten years since the Nature Conservancy Council carried out a survey of nationally rare vascular plants (ie those listed in the British Red Data book) We are therefore hoping to review the status of these plants in the county during 1987 and would appreciate the assistance of anyone familiar with the locations of the following:

Alisma gramineum	Ribbon-leaved Water-plantain
Alopecurus bulbosus	Bulbous Foxtail
Alyssum alyssoides	Small Alison
Arnoseris minima	Lamb´s Succory
Artemisia campestris	Field Wormwood (Breckland Mugwort)
Atriplex longipes	long-stalked Orache
Bromus tectorum	Drooping Brome
Dryopteris cristata	Crested Buckler-fern
Eriophorum gracile	Slender Cottongrass
Gnaphalium luteo-album	Jersey cudweed
Hammarbya paludosa	Bog Orchid
Herniasria glabra	Smooth Rupturewort
Limonium bellidifolium	Matted Sea-Lavender
Liparis loeselii	Fen Orchid
Maianthemum bifolium	May Lily
Muscari atlanticum (neglectum)	Grape Hyacinth
Najas marina	Holly-leaved Naiad
Orobanche purpurea	Yarrow (Purple) Broomrape
Phleum phleoides	Purple-stem Cat´s-tail
Scutellaria hastifolia	Norfolk (spear-leaved) Skullcap
Silene otites	Spanish Catchfly
Thymus serpyllum	Breckland Thyme
Veronica praecox	Breckland Speedwell
Veronica spicata	Spiked Speedwell
Veronica triphyllos	Fingered Speedwell
Veronica verna	Spring Speedwell
pilularia globulifera	Pillwort

The task need only involve visiting the site you know of once during the season and a rough map and count (or estimate) of the number of plants. However the more information that can be gathered the better.

If you are able to help with this task please contact Rhodri Thomas at the Nature Conservancy Council office, 60 Bracondale, Norwich (Tel.Norwich 620558), from where "population recording forms" are available. All records will be treated in confidence. All recorders will be sent a report on the survey, which will outline the status of these 27 plants in the county though no mention of specific localities will occur in this report. All help will be gratefully received, as it is only by identifying the sites and population trends of these plants that steps can be taken to ensure their survival.

Rhodri Thomas, Conservation Assistant Norfolk

SOCIETY NOTICE BOARD

Workshops

Sunday 29th March 1987 2.30 p.m. 14.30hrs at Lound Waterworks laboratory for a further look at **DIATOMS** with Keith Clarke and at the Castle Museum on Wednesday 1st April 1987 7.30 p.m. 19.30hrs to discuss the formation of a **MICROSCOPY** Group. These workshops to replace the meetings canceled due to the heavy snow in January. A **DRAGONFLY** identification workshop will be held at the Castle Museum on Tuesday 28th April At 7.30 p.m. 19.30hrs.

LETTERS

You ask, in ´Natterjack´ No. 15, for suggestions for future Society workshops. I would like to suggest that we have a workshop on birds. In particular I would like to learn to identify more birds by their song, perhaps through having some early morning and late evening sessions in spring / summer. I would also welcome the opportunity of doing, or rather assisting with, mist net trapping and ringing. I´m sure the bird experts in the Society could arrange some very interesting and instructive workshops, perhaps including a weekend away to view birds in a habitat not found in Norfolk, eg. to the Farne Islands.

Phyll Hardie.

Reply by Charles Neale

A bird identification morning lead by Mr Michael Seago at Strumpshaw RSPB Reserve on Sunday 17th May at 7.00 a.m. TG241066.

An evening visit to Sparham Pools N N T Reserve followed by dusk at Alderford common (for Nightingales I hope) on Thursday 4th June:- Details in 87/88 programme.

It is hoped to arrange an autumn visit to Holme Dunes Reserve and N.O.A. observatory where we hope Mr Peter Clarke may be able to show us some bird-ringing:- details in ´Natterjack´ / 87/88 Programme.

SOME DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

June 1987

Thurday 4th 19.00hrs	Alderford Common and Lyng Pits
Sunday 7th 11.00hrs	Castle Acre and River Nar
Wednesday 10th 19.00hrs	Manor Farm Wymondham
(conducted tour by Mr Phillip Richardson the farmer.)	
Sunday 14th 11.00hrs	Hockham Fen
sunday 28th 11.00hrs	Longmoor Point Catfield

ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS

These become due on April 1st 1987. Current rates are as follows:-

Junior £3.00	Ordinary £6.00
Family £7.50	Affiliation £15.00

Subscriptions to the Treasurer, please : D.A.Dorling, St. Edmundsbury, 6 New Road, Hethersett, Norwich, Norfolk. NR9 3HH

Bearing in mind the cost of publications and the very full programme of both indoor and outdoor meeting we offer to members, this is surely value for money second to none!

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT NATTERJACK should be sent to Colin Dack, 12 Toftwood, Dereham Norfolk. NR19 1JJ.

A NEW BOOK ON PLANT GALLS

A new book on plant galls has been Published by the British Plant Gall Society it is the PROVISIONAL KEYS TO BRITISH PLANT GALLS, Edited by F.B.Stubbs. This Book is £4.50 + .50p P.P. total £5. from Rex Hancy.

GALLS

These have been defined as any enlargement of a plant cell, tissue or organ, induced by the stimulus of a parasitic organism, as a regular incident in the life of the parasite.

They are an interesting study and there is a great deal more to be discovered. There are questions to be answered - such as why does our Contorted Willow Salix matsudana not bear galls, yet is within a few yards of Large Willow trees that do? What is the causal agent of the "Witches Broom" that we found on a Hawthorn tree?

Very few galls have been described on fungi, although we did find a new gall midge a few years ago, which produced swellings upon the surface of a bark encrusting fungus Peniophora cinerea.

A distorted resupinate fungus from Honingham fen had yellow swollen parts on a normally brownish surface Coniophora puteana and although reported from several counties the cause is still unknown. Fungus-gnats Mycetophila lunata we have bred from this material but these cannot be the cause, since we have also bred them from the normal fungus.

In October we collected distorted capsules of the Field poppy Papaver rhoeas by the roadside in Welborne. The causal agents are gall-wasps Aylax minor which emerged in May the following year. They cause enlargement and destruction of many of the ovules and those seeds which do mature must have dispersal difficulties.

When affecting capsules of the Longhead Poppy Papaver dubium the enlargement causes many of them to be globular and could be thought at first glance to be those of the Field Poppy Papaver rhoeas.

Members taking interest in galls would find this pursuit very rewarding.

L.&.R.Evans

A PARASITE, A WOODWASP AND A FUNGUS

Some years ago I noticed an unusual Ichneumon like black wasp in the garden. This was collected and found to be in good condition as if newly emerged. It was identified as Ibalia leucospoides a parasite of woodwasps. Such a woodwasp is Sirex noctilio which has been responsible for much damage to Pinus radiata trees in New Zealand.

It was not surprising when later that month two woodwasps were brought to me by people in the village. These woodwasps carry a fungus in special sacs, each time the ovipositor is inserted into the tree a quantity of this is liberated. The fungal threads that grow inside the wood form the chief food for the young larvae before they begin to tunnel. This is a symbiotic relationship of great importance.

The fungus clearly must be present somewhere in the area either introduced on timber, or occurring naturally. It is Amylostereum chailletii which we have found previously in Warwickshire, and have supplied material for research to Australia.

It is not at all common and does not seem to have been recorded in Norfolk. However due to the clues provided by the above insects we were not surprised to find this wood encrusting fungus at last in Hockering Wood this year.

R.&.L.Evans

PARASITES AND PREDATORS OF SPIDERS

Some flies Megeselia pulicaria and Megeselia nasonii lay their eggs in spider´s egg sacs, where the emerging larvae feed on the hosts eggs. Others have larvae which enter the body of the spider and consume it from within Acrocera. etc.

Spiders are also attacked by wasp like insects Hymenoptera whose offspring also eat their eggs Tromatobia, Gelis, Trychosis etc, or they may lay an egg on the spider´s abdomen where on hatching the larvae

proceeds to eat the unfortunate creature from the outside Acrodactala Polysphincta etc.

Other Hymenoptera paralyse the spider by stinging it, then take its body as food for their offspring Pompilidae.

The following account of a spider predator has some variation from others as noted above.

A curled Blackberry leaf found on Honing Common July 14 on examination was found to contain four white cocoons inside, with the remains of a spider Clubionidae. From these cocoons emerged Hymenoptera on 24/26 July. identified as Zaglyptus varipes.

This predator attacks and kills the spider in her egg nest. She lays eggs within the leaf, on hatching the larvae eats both spider and eggs- if no eggs are present they manage on the spider alone.

The attacks on spiders are by no means uncommon, representatives of all the groups mentioned above have been found in Norfolk.

Indeed, a spiders lot is not a happy one!

R.Evans

B.S.B.I. MONITORING SCHEME

A number of people have written expressing interest in this scheme, following my note in the last "Natterjack". Thank you all. Some of you have also wondered aloud whether you are ´high powered enough´, to use one phrase. I will put the situation to you, as it pertains to East Norfolk.

We have 4 10km squares involved in the monitoring scheme, of which one, TG31, the Ludham square, has been adopted by Mr R. Driscoll of Norwich Castle Museum, assisted by Mr E. T. Daniels. This leaves us with three squares to cover, namely TM08(Kenninghall), TG01(Hockering) and TG04(Blakeney). In these squares the same three tetrads have to be covered thoroughly, namely A,J,&W. To those of you not familiar with the BSBI tetrad numbering, taking the 10 km square, these are the bottom left tetrads (4xl km squares), the second from the left at the top, and the second from the bottom on the right hand side of the square. (Tetrad J in the Blakeney square is a couple of miles out to sea, so won´t feature!)

As I am not available at week-ends, I propose to hold a mid week evening meetings in each tetrad except W in TG01, in which I live. If you have been confused by my description of the tetrad numbering, you can look up from the following list where the various are. Most of the recording will be done from lanes and public rights of way, but where obvious features of importance are known to occur, permission to enter these will be sought. If you come to any of these meetings and as a result, feel you are ´high powered enough´, I shall be pleased to allocate either a square, or a tetrad to you. The list of evenings planned is as follows. The time of the meeting in every case is 19.00hrs.

Tuesday May 12th. Dereham. Dumpling Green TG000119.
Wednesday May 20th. Bawdeswell Heath. TG033198. (roadside layby and perhaps off road).
Tuesday June 2nd. Langham at end of lane, TG019410.
Tuesday June 16th. Kelling Heath. TG100420 (entry is from the next tetrad!)
Tuesday June 30th. near Broomscot Common, Garboldisham TM005802.
Tuesday July 14th. Quidenham. TM037883.
Tuesday July 28th. Bressingham ´Common´ Tm092827.

Alec Bull

WEST HARLING MEETING
14th September 1986

This is a list of insects found by Ken Durrant

LEPIDOPTERA
larvae

Fox Moth	Macrothylacia rubi L.
Yellow-tail	Euproctis similis Fuers.
Grey Dagger	Acronicta psi L.
Broom Moth	Ceramica pisi L.
Coxcomb Prominent	Ptilodon capucina L.
White Ermine	Spilosoma lubricipeda L.
White-spotted Pug	Eupithecia tripunctaria H-S.
Lime-speck Pug	" centaureata D&S.
Comma	Polygonia c-album L.

Imagoes

Silver Y	Autographa gamma L.
Lesser Yellow Underwing	Noctua comes Hb.
Small Tortoishell	Aglais urticas L.
Small White	Pieris rapae L.
Speckled Wood	Pararge aegeria L. tircis.
Common Blue	Polyommatus icarus Rott.

DIPTERA
Nephrotoma scurra Mg.
Syrphus ribesii L.
Helophilus pendulus L.
Catabomba pyrastri L.
Sphaerophoria scripta L.
Episyrphus balteatus Deg.
Eristalis tenax L.
Meliscaeva cinctella Zett.
Mesembrina meridiana L.
Echinomyia ferox Panz.
Sarcophaga carnaria L.
Prosena siberita Fab.
Syritta pipiens L.
Xylota sylvarum L.
Chyromya flava L.
Chlorops scalaris Mg.
Machimus aticapillus Fln.

COLEOPTERA
Nicrophorus humata Goez.
" vespillo L.
" investigator Zett.
Oiceoptoma thoracicum L.
Phosphuga atrata L.
Anatis ocellata L.
Coccinella 7 punctata L.
Subcoccinella 24 punctata L.
Propylea 14 punctata L.
Exochomus quadripustulatus L.
Galeruca tanaceti L.
Aphodius contaminatus Hb.
Sermylassa halensis L.
Agapanthia villosoviridescens Deg.
Sphaeroderma testaceum Fab.

HYMENOPTERA
Vespa crabro L.
Paravespula germanica Fab.
Bombus lapidarius L.
" lucorum L.
Halictus albipes Fab.
Pimpla instigator Fab.
Heplopelmus variegatorius Panz.
Enicospilus ramidulus L.

ORTHOPTERA
Leptophyes punctatissima Bosc.
Chorthippus albomarginatus Deg.

PSOCOPERA
Graphopsocus cruciatus L.

HEMIPTERA
Homs.
Aphrophora alni Fln.
Strongylocephalus agrestis Fln.
Evacanthus interruptus L.
Stenocranus minutus Fab.
Hets.
Picromerus bidens L.
Dolycoris baccarum L.
Palomena prasina L.
Stenodema laevigatum L.
Dolichonabis limbatus Dahl.
Himacerus apterus Fab.
Nabis ericetorum Schol.
Polymerus palustris Reut.

NEUROPTERA
Chrysopa carnea Stphs.
Hemerobius lutescens Fab.
Micromus variegatus Fab.