



THE NORFOLK NATTERJACK

The quarterly bulletin of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

No.30

August 1990

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1990/91 PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP PROGRAMME

1990

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| Friday
7th Sept. | Members Evening: To renew acquaintances, to welcome new members, and to enjoy some of your holiday slides at the first indoor meeting of the new session. Please bring up to 12 slides each. |
| Monday
8th Oct. | " Deserts, Canyons and Caves ".
Lecturer: Mr. Max Smith. |
| Friday
2nd Nov. | " Some Techniques in Nature Photography ".
Lecturer: Mr. Norman Carmichael. |
| Monday
10th Dec. | " Look and Listen ".
Lecturers: Rex and Barbara Hancy. |

1991

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| Monday
14th Jan. | " Photographing though the year ".
Lecturer: Mr. Reg Jones. |
| Wednesday
13th Feb. | " Walking in the Lake District ".
Lecturer: Mr. Michael Poulton. |
| Monday
4th March. | " From Newborough to New Jersey ".
Lecturer: Mr. D. Paul. |
| Wednesday
7th April. | " In the Eye of the Beholder ".
Lecturer: Mrs Joyce Robinson. |

To commence at 7.30 pm. (1930hrs.), all of the above meetings are being held in the Sir Edmund Bacon Room, at the Assembly House.

Good shooting in the months ahead, do not forget slides will be required in due course for our main lecture " Nature Photography in East Anglian Reserves" to be given to the Society on 8th May 1991.

Bob Robinson.

Please let me have your petrol gift vouchers to exchange for prizes for the Society Social Evening Raffle. Please give the vouchers to Colin Dack.

FOXLEY WOOD

20th May 1990

A perfect day for a visit to this famous wood, it coincided with a public open day by the NNT who have recently purchased most of the wood. Large areas of deciduous trees had been replaced by conifers in past years and had led to the decline of many of the rare plants and insects that one time survived here. Efforts were now being made to return the area to it's former glory. It is to be hoped that one day the Purple Emperor butterfly will again fly in its old haunts.

The Early Purple Orchids were numerous but just past their best, Twayblades were prominent as were the Greater butterfly orchids which were extremely common along the side of the main drive, but not quite in full flower. Large patches of Yellow Pimpernel coloured the ground as we made our way beneath Small leaved Limes. Many of the leaves on the Aspens were infested by the Petiol gall-midge *Syndiplosis petioli*. Oak leaves also had been rolled up to form the pseudogalls by the red weevil *Attelabus nitans* while another red weevil *Apoderus coryli* rolled the leaves of the Hazel bushes. The bright red Cardinal beetle *Pyochroa coccinea* was on the wing in many of the glades.

Another colourful insect, the iridescent green Tachinid fly *Gymnochachaeta viridis*, was often seen basking on the tree trunks. Butterflies seen were Speckled Wood, Red Admiral, Peacock, Orange-tip and Green-veined White.

A Curious form of fasciation was in evidence amongst the Water Avens where numerous flowers produced another flower head from the centre of an existing one. Judging by the number of these freak blooms photographed there may possibly be examples shown at our Social Evening in November.

Ken Durrant

PROGRAMME, AUTUMN 1990

The Programme Committee would like to add a few notes about forthcoming meetings this autumn.

The talk entitled "An Introduction to Fungi" on 1st October aims to help beginners and those who have not yet managed to get to grips with fungi to have more success in identifying them. The Fungus Foray on 7th October provides an opportunity to put this new knowledge into practice.

Bob Robinson has run the Photographic Group for many years, and his talk on 15th October on "The Many Faces of Nature" is sure to include some excellent slides.

Dr Malcolm Thain's lecture on 14th November is a review of the discovery and natural history of sex attractants in moths and other insects. He will deal with the chemicals involved and their use in pest control.

CONTRIBUTIONS FOR THE NEXT NATTERJACK. I must have all contributions for the next Natterjack well before the 1st October 1990. So that the information about the Society's Social Evening can be with you in good time. Contributions to Colin Dack, 12, Shipdham Road, Toftwood, Dereham, Norfolk. NR19 1JJ. Why have I not received a contribution for Natterjack from you?

GRASSHOPPERS

The modest attendance at the grasshopper workshop in July highlighted the challenge facing the county's naturalists if the distribution maps for grasshoppers and bush crickets are to be updated in this, the last year, of the national mapping project.

News from Ireland, that Brian Eversham and colleagues have achieved that country's first records of Short-winged Conehead, highlights the opportunities for amateur recorders to make exciting new discoveries when working with this group.

Norfolk presents its own challenges:

- Why are there no records of Dark Bush-cricket from the west of the county when its familiar autumnal chirp is so common from hedgerows and brambles elsewhere?
- Is Meadow Grasshopper really absent from the East of the county, north of the River Yare, or is it just awaiting discovery?
- How many inland colonies of lesser Marsh Grasshopper are there, how close to Norwich and Thetford does it range along respective river valleys?

These and many other questions await answers.

Please try to secure as many records as possible of the orthopteran group during the summer, and send details to: **D. Richmond, 42, Richmond Rise, Reepham, Norfolk. NR10 4LS.**

Data required are: *species, grid ref, locality, habitat, name of recorder.*

Live or dead specimens can be sent to Tony Irwin at the Castle Museum for identification.

Records of earwigs are particularly required. This species, allied to the orthopterans, is covered by the national mapping project and is particularly under-recorded in Norfolk. Details to David Richmond (Norwich 871000) of all localities that you know (grid refs please).

David Richmond, County Orthoptera Recorder.

SWANTON NOVERS GREAT WOOD

Despite the rain, members had a most enjoyable guided tour of the wood by the NCC Warden, David Henshilwood on 2nd June. Swanton Novers vies with Foxley Wood for the title of the most important remaining area of ancient woodland in Norfolk. Small Leaved Lime is one of the tree species used for coppicing, the newly cut areas provide light for a very rich ground flora. Both sessile and pedunculate oak are found as standards, along with their hybrids, and in one block the trees have been grown so close together that they have become "drawn", and the deep leaf litter only supports large balls of moss. The rare May Lily, *Maianthemum bifolium*, was in flower. It was first recorded here in 1955. It is remote from houses, but it is not known whether it was introduced.

Carol Haines.

Have you paid your subscription yet? Subscription rates are Ordinary £8. Family £10. Junior £3. Affiliated £15. Subscription were due on 1st April.

VISIT TO ROOSTING HILL PITS

Sunday 24th June

Barker Bros kindly allowed us a visit to their gravel pits. It's a series of small pits edged by willows with grassland between.

A newly formed hedge beside the drive constitutes all that remains of arable. We walked it rather rapidly on the way down being distracted by the display of Poppy and Corn Marigold. However on the way back we found Night Flowering Catchfly, Venus Looking Glass, Small Toadflax and Parsley Piert. Barbara Hancy found an unusual gall on Mugwort which has only occasionally been recorded in Norfolk. The terminal leaves were bunched together, curled downwards and deformed and of a dull port wine colour.

In the afternoon a small select party went down again. We found the Artemesia gall in several other places in the area. We watch Little Ringed Plover with chick, Plover with four chicks and three Greenshank flew in.

Taking to a fisherman by one of the pits we were able to assure him the two little birds that were diving under the water were not Sparrows but must be baby Kingfishers ! We did not see them but saw a parent flash by.

David Mathias.

SOCIAL EVENING - 7.30 P.M. ON SATURDAY NOVEMBER 10th 1990

Please Note Venue : St. Margaret's Church Hall, Catton

Unless we have any objections from members, or indeed suggestions to improve the celebrations, we intend to go ahead with providing refreshments in the same format as last year. The buffet will be held in St. Margaret's Church Hall, Catton.

We would again like to have offers from any members, male or female to make up one of their favourite recipes so that the choice of food is as wide as possible. Reimbursement will be made for any dishes brought along. Please phone or write beforehand with offers of what you would like to bring so that we can assess how much more food is necessary to feed the flock.

Due to price rises during this year, tickets will be at a cost of £3.00 each. I'm sure that everyone will agree that the amount of food (and drink) provided is good value for this cover price. Numbers will be limited to around 60 persons and tickets will be on sale at the commencement of the autumn meetings, but you can book by phone or letter. Cheques should be made out to R.C. Hancy.

As usual the first part of the evening will be taken up with the showing of slides brought along by members of up to 12 each, which is always a very enjoyable entertainment.

Rex and Barbara Hancy, Ardea, 124, Fakenham Road, Taverham, Norwich. NR8 6QH. Telephone (0603) 860042.

