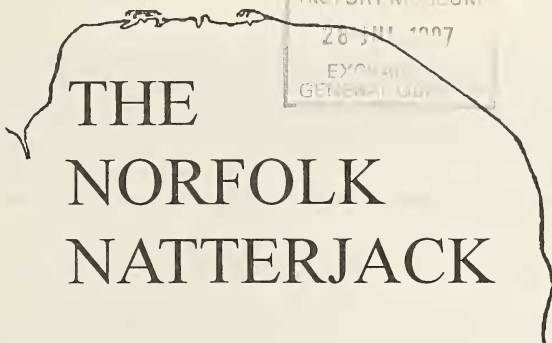


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THE NORFOLK NATTERJACK

The quarterly bulletin of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

1997 PROGRAMME

All evening talks will be held in the Pierce Room, The Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich at 19.00 hrs, except for the Photographic Group meetings on 27 October and 24 November which will be in the Sir Edmund Bacon Room. There is some car parking behind the Assembly House at 40 pence after 1730 hrs and more in front and side at 60 pence after 1830 hrs. The Society meetings are always on the second Tuesday in each month, the Photographic Group meetings on the fourth Monday. If you require coffee before or after the meetings there is the Oliver Mussell bar at the back of the foyer which sells coffee at 75 pence a cup up to 2230 hrs.

Recording forms will continue to be available at all outdoor meetings and it is hoped that you will take the opportunity to record whatever are your interests. All meetings are full day, some are guided all day, others only in the mornings, leaving time to record in the afternoons, which start at 1400 hrs. Please bring portable lunch if staying all day.

Tuesday 9 September

Birds of Norfolk, an illustrated talk by Chris Knights, well known TV wild life film maker and one of the country's leading farmers and vegetable growers.

Saturday 20 September

Fungus foray in Bacton Wood. Meet in car park, TG 318311 at 1030 hrs. Leaders: Reg and Lil Evans.

Sunday 12 October

Getting to know fungi. A guide to their identification and cookery. Meet at Gresham's School, Holt, TG 088393 at 1030 hrs. The day will consist of an introductory talk in the Biology lab, followed by a foray into the woods, led by Tony Leech. Then a mushroom cookery demonstration by Mike Strong followed by lunch in Dave's Diner, max charge £5. After lunch, a short foray followed by time in the lab for identification. Finish about 1600 hrs. Places are limited to 20 so please book by ringing Stephen Martin on 01603 810327 or John Mott on 01603 810442.

Tuesday 14 October

'Recording the Norfolk Flora', an illustrated talk about the state of our county's flora going into the next millennium, and how we have set about recording it, by Gillian Beckett, plant recorder for West Norfolk.

Monday 27 October

Photographic Group member's evening. This meeting is in the Sir Edmund Bacon Room, The Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich.

Tuesday 11 November

'County Wildlife Sites and the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society', an illustrated talk by Reg Land. The Norfolk Wildlife Trust recently completed a re-survey of the Norfolk County Wildlife Sites and are now seeking assistance for recording species.

Thursday 13 November

Morning field meeting at Breydon for birds. Meet in ASDA car park, Great Yarmouth, TG 518080 at 1030 hrs. Leader: Michael Scago.

Sunday 16 November

Full day field meeting at Marham Heath for mosses. Meet TG 177234 at 1100hrs. Leader: Robin Stevenson. Marham Heath has varied habitats which include conifers and deciduous trees as well as open areas. Robin is County Recorder for mosses and liverworts and teaches geology at King's Lynn Tech.

Monday 24 November

'Out and about with a camera'. An illustrated talk by Brian MacFarlane. This meeting is in the Sir Edmund Bacon Room, The Assembly House, Theatre Street, Norwich.

REYDON MARSHES

On a cold April morning 13 members set off for a walk around Reydon marshes and woods. Mike Poulton who was the leader for the day led us across the heath and golf course where we came across some scrapes with various wading birds and ducks. Snipe, Ringed Plover, Shoveler, Wigeon, Gadwall and Pintail.

By this time the sun had begun to shine, and the Black tailed Godwit and Ruff looked magnificent in their breeding plumage.

We then walked on up the hill and across the heath. Woodland birds were now beginning to sing, Willow Warbler, Chiffchaff and Blackcap.

Many of us had not visited the area before, so it was exciting to explore. We walked on and the gorse was out in full flower and butterflies were flying about, Peacock, Painted Lady, Orange tip, Hollyblue and Tortoiseshell.

We carried on walking down to the woodland area. We stopped and look for the Blackcap again no luck, but we saw and heard the Bullfinch. In all we saw fifty three species.

Philip Howard.

APHIDS

Of the (physically) small animals covered by Wildlife 2000, aphids have the distinction of being simultaneously the most poorly known but also most familiar group. Our 'millennium objective' is to establish a good check-list, which should be in the region of 350 species from a British list of 600 species. Recent recording has been somewhat haphazard and concentrated towards the taxonomically simplest family, the Drepanosiphidae (callaphids & chaitophorids), with about three quarters of the British list found in Norfolk.

Some very exciting finds have already been made, the highlight probably being Tony Irwin's tiny spiny broom aphid (*Ctenocallis setosus*) which feeds on broom. At the time of discovery this was only the second British record although a few other sites have since turned up nationally. In Norfolk, despite extensive searches in the Brecks, it appears to be restricted to the Earham Road region of Norwich.

The UEA campus has turned up some nice species, including the third British site for the rare field maple aphid *Periphyllus obscurus*, while a visit to Great Yarmouth cemetery to see Camberwell beauties in 1995 produced an oriental elm feeding aphid new to Britain, *Tinocallis nevskyi*. This *Tinocallis* was introduced to Europe in the 1970s and is spreading rapidly, with the other Norfolk sites being on Earham Road in Norwich.

If anyone is interested in working on aphids I'd be happy to provide advice and help. Our efforts in 1997 will be concentrated on galling aphids, tree and sedge aphids, and aphids from the Brecks. I'd be happy to receive specimens of these, although please contact me first if a great deal of effort is likely to be expended on collecting since it's very easy to collect only the very common pest species. I'm also keen for records of *Tinocallis*, which is small, pale straw colour, fully winged as an adult and feeds on the underside of elm leaves (but is easily confused with other bugs and Psocoptera).

Graham Hopkins, Population Biology, Biological Sciences, UEA, Norwich, NR4 7TJ; Tel.:01603-592262; E-mail: G.W.HOPKINS@UEA.AC.UK

WILDLIFE 2000 - A PROGRESS REPORT

This, the most ambitious project ever undertaken by our society, gathers ever increasing momentum and everything looks to be on course to a successful conclusion. The extent of that conclusion is entirely dependent on the support given by data gathering naturalists all over the county, so for the benefit of new members who are unclear on what we are attempting, I will summarise our objectives.

Within the next few years we will publish the information at our disposal on every known species living in Norfolk. A simple enough statement, an enormous commitment but think of the importance of such an inventory for naturalists and other interested parties well into the next century!

Such a task is impossible without the aid of specialists in all areas of study. Their efforts, however much time and energy they devote between now and the millennium, would never cover the whole of the county without the help and practical support of members and friends. The list of County Referees and Co-ordinators is long and draws our attention to obscure corners of the natural world many of us have never explored before. That is all to the good for we are all learning to broaden our view of what is observable and to be recorded. In other words, we are all learning as we go.

During 1996 we published the first two editions of the Wildlife 2000 Newsletter which set out all this in much more detail. There was a wide distribution which included all members of the Society. The second included an invitation to request subsequent editions. With such a financial outlay when it comes to publishing we needed to know our efforts were going to receptive eyes! The response was most encouraging. A healthy core of information gatherers is busily filling notebooks and passing on the results.

This is only part of the story. Everyone could be helping. Even the most obvious and easy identification goes unrecorded if no one takes the trouble to pass a note on. The huge oak tree at the end of the lane may not officially exist! Going on from there, what is living on it or in it? If you don't know the names, find out or ask. We learn as we go!

There are forms for sending in observations available on request. We want to see them go out. We hope to see them return, filled with data.

Rex Hancy Chairman Wildlife 2000 Committee

RE DEFORMED RAT'S TEETH.

Your note interested me, as I can remember during the war, my Father commenting on the fact that he had broken off the long front teeth of rabbits on the point when he was an Aux: Coastguard. They used to sit still or hop towards him for "treatment," scampering away after it. I'm afraid I have no notion of the time of year, or the weather.

Mrs. K. M. Ferroussat,
Blakeney.

GRASSES 18th JUNE 1997 : LEADER ARTHUR COPPING

Nine members met at 11.00 am on Brewers Green, Roydon, near Diss, to study grasses. Recent heavy rains had created near perfect conditions with all species green and lush and a high proportion flowering.

The meeting began beside a patch of *Anisantha sterilis* with its large diffuse panicles and well separated spikelets which Arthur used to explain the structure of the grass inflorescence and outline some of the terms associated with it. Scarcely moving from this spot, the party found several more species which included *Arrhenatherum elatius*, *Avena sativa*, *Dactylis glomerata*, *Holcus lanatus*, *Poa trivialis*, *Phleum bertolonii*, *Lolium perenne* and *Alopecurus pratensis*, which well illustrated the diversity of form of the inflorescence in the poaceae.

A brief diversion was caused by the discovery of a puzzling and unidentified *Chenopodium* Goosefoot sp. growing beside a manure heap with *C. album* Fat Hen. It was left to develop further.

Arthur then led the group on a semi-circular tour of the green to take in different habitats. A depression contained a majestic clump of *Deschampsia cespitosa*, drier areas produced *Festuca rubra* and *Agrostis capillaris* and a trackway was rich in *Poa* spp. where it was eventually decided, after much debate concerning the presence (or absence) of hairs on the collars, that both *Poa pratensis* and *P. humilis* were present. Further on, a colony of well-defined *P. angustifolia* in fruit was examined and shortly after *Anisantha diandra* and *Avena fatua* were found, affording an opportunity for comparison with the *Anisantha sterilis* and *Avena sativa* plants studied earlier.

After lunch there was time to visit a damp area and pond for *Alopecurus geniculatus* and *Glyceria fluitans* before setting off for the afternoon venue at Wortham Ling in Suffolk. Most of the Ling is acid heath and the prolonged dry summer of 1996 had eliminated most of the perennial grasses and *Calluna vulgaris* Heather, leaving *Rumex acetosella* Sheep's Sorrel dominant. However, careful searching did reveal some regeneration of *Festuca filiformis* and *Agrostis vinealis*, while *Briza media* and *Koeleria macrantha* had survived the drought rather better on one of the small basic areas which occur on the Ling. Annuals, of course, are well adapted to drought conditions and both species of *Aira* and *Vulpia bromoides* were found.

Spergularia rubra Sand Spurrey, *Teesdalia indicaulis* Shepherd's Cress and *Trifolium glomeratum* Clustered clover, the last much photographed, provided relief for those whose enthusiasm for agrostology was less than all consuming. Because of the impoverishment of the Ling flora (*Helictotrichon pubescens* Downy Oat-grass, *H. pratense* Meadow Oat-grass and *Danthonia decumbens* Heath grass all having disappeared since the Society's previous visit), Arthur decided to move to Fair Green, Diss to see the dead remains of *Poa bulbosa* at one of its few inland stations and the swathes of *Puccinellia distans* which border the A 1066 as a result of winter road salting.

Finally, the by now depleted party visited Roydon Fen to see two *Calamagrostis* species and admire the work of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust management team whose rotations have resulted in encouraging regeneration of *Schoenus nigricans* Black Bog-rush, *Carex Viridula* ssp. *brachyrrhyncha* Yellow sedge, *C. panicea* Carnation Sedge, *Anagallis tenella* Bog pimpernel and *Samolus valerandi* Brookweed. *Valeriana dioica* Marsh Valerian in goodly quantity was observed before an energetic trudge through waist high *Cladium mariscus* Great Fen-sedge, *Phragmites australis* and *Galium aparine* Cleavers brought the meeting to a breathless close at 5.15 pm.

LIST OF GRASSES RECORDED WITH SITE OF PRINCIPAL POPULATION

B G = Brewers Green, W L = Wortham Ling, F G = Fair Green R F = Roydon Fen

Scientific name	Common name	Site
<i>Festuca arundinacea</i>	Tall Fescue	B G
<i>Festuca Rubra ssp. rubra</i>	Red Fescue	B G
<i>F. filiformis</i>	Fine-leaved Sheep's Fescue	W L
<i>Lolium perenne</i>	Perennial Rye-grass	B G
<i>Vulpia bromoides</i>	Squirreltail Fescue	W L
<i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Crested Dog's-tail	B G
<i>Puccinellia distans</i>	Reflexed Saltmarsh-grass	Verge of A 1066
<i>Briza media</i>	Quaking Grass	R F
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass	B G
<i>P. trivialis</i>	Rough Meadow-grass	B G
<i>P. humilis</i>	Spreading Meadow-grass	B G
<i>P. pratensis</i>	Smooth Meadow-grass	B G
<i>P. angustifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved Meadow-grass	B G
<i>P. bulbosa*</i>	Bulbous Meadow-grass	F G
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's Foot	B G
<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	Floating Sweet-grass	B G
<i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i>	False Oat-grass	B G
<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild oat	B G
<i>A. sativa</i>	Oat	B G
<i>Trisetum flavescens</i>	Yellow Oat-grass	F G
<i>Koeleria macrantha</i>	Crested Hair-grass	W L
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass	B G
<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	B G
<i>Aira caryophylla</i>	Silver Hair-grass	F G
<i>A. praecox</i>	Early Hair-grass	W L
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal-grass	B G
<i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>	Reed Canary-grass	R F
<i>Agrostis capillaris</i>	Common Bent	B G
<i>A. vinealis</i>	Brown Bent	W L
<i>Calamagrostis epigejos</i>	Wood Small-reed	R F
<i>C. canescens</i>	Purple Small-reed	R F
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail	B G
<i>A. geniculatus</i>	Marsh Foxtail	B G
<i>Phleum bertolonii</i>	Smaller Cat's tail	B G
<i>Bromus horeaceus ssp. hordeaceus</i>	Soft brome	F G
<i>B. x pseudothominei</i>	Lesser Soft brome	F G
<i>Anisantha diandra</i>	Great Brome	B G
<i>A. sterilis</i>	Barren Brome	B G
<i>Brachypodium sylvaticum*</i>	False Brome	R F
<i>Elytrigia repens</i>	Common Couch	B G
<i>Hordeum murinum</i>		
<i>ssp. murinum</i>	Wall Barley	B G
<i>Phragmites australis*</i>	Common Reed	R F

*Not flowering. 42 taxa recorded in total.

A. Copping, The Nook, Brewers Green, Roydon, Diss, Norfolk. IP22 3SD.

CHINESE WATER DEER SURVEY AT WHEATFEN

I am carrying out a survey of Chinese Water Deer on the Ted Ellis Nature Reserve at Wheatfen in Surlingham. Many people have suggested that numbers are increasing here and in the mid-Bure reserves, but nobody seems to have more precise information; I am hoping to be able to find out a little more. Does anyone in the Society have information on Chinese Water Deer numbers/behaviour at Wheatfen from the past which might be helpful? I have also compiled a 'Sightings' form and I would be very glad of any sightings information that members may like to pass on to me for this year. Form available at the Reserve or from me, Alan Scowen, of Foxgloves, The Common, Surlingham, Norwich, NR14 7AP Telephone: 01508-538791. I will be walking around a route on the reserve on two evenings each month and logging my findings and carrying out a full census of the Reserve at a later date. If you would be interested in assisting with the census work let me know and I will get in touch when the details have been arranged.

PAST MEMBER - PHILIP CAMBRIDGE

I first met Philip Cambridge in 1965 in Aden. We first met on a bus trip around Aden organised by Philip but run by the Armament Officer Squadron Leader Fieldhouse. On a later bus trip we went to the BP oil refinery at Little Aden. Shortly after that I was moved to work on the same team as Philip. It was then that he told me about a midden (a very old rubbish tip) at Little Aden that he, with the help of Joe Warren, had been excavating. By what they had found it appeared that it was stone age. On the next trip over to little Aden I went with them, it was very hard work in the heat of Aden. There were traces of fire hearths where wood had been burnt to cook food. By the remains it looked as if they had just about lived on sea food - fish and shell fish. Philip sent samples off to get them identified and one snail shell turned out to be found only on mangrove.

Philip came to the conclusion that mangrove had once grown on the coast of Aden and that man had wiped it out by using it for fire wood.

Colin Dack

If you have any reminiscences of past members please let's have them for Natterjack.

PARASITES OF THE PUSS MOTH

Some parasites brought to me had been obtained from the half grown larvae of the Puss Moth. These were *Cotesia affinis* (nees) which is said to be not very common in Britain. After many rearings yearly in captivity this was the first record of the parasite on this host.

Reg & Lil Evans.

Please send items for November Natterjack before 1st October to Colin Dack 12, Shipdham Road, Toftwood, Dereham, Norfolk.

NR19 1JJ.