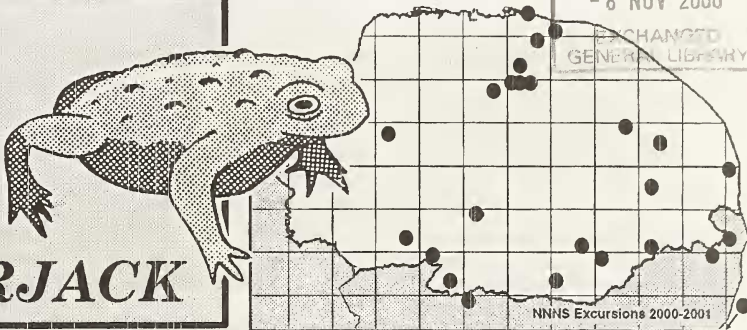


- 8 NOV 2000

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THE NORFOLK NATTERJACK



Toad-in-the-hole...

A bumper edition - many excursion reports, articles and your very own Christmas Crossword from Bob Ellis (maybe for the quiet time after the turkey and plum pud!). Happy Christmas to all members.

I have had a very large postbag and even by sneaking in another page (hope the Treasurer doesn't notice) I still have articles remaining. My apologies for not putting everything in but some of the notes are more appropriate for other times of the year and will be used nearer those times. My thanks to everyone who has contributed over the year and I look forward to receiving more from members in 2001.

FF

Norfolk First Again?

In *British Wildlife* (Vol. 11, No. 5) during a general discussion on moths, the Norfolk Moth Group (in which many Society members are active) is highlighted as probably the first organisation (started 1985) of its kind of the many now established countrywide.

R.A.R

I'm collecting material together about the late Richard Richardson, with a view to writing a biography about this well-known, popular ornithologist and artist who lived at Cley in Norfolk from 1949 until his death in 1977.

At this stage I am gathering the names of Richard's friends and acquaintances who might be prepared to share their memories and let me have any anecdotes or stories involving him for inclusion in the book. I am also very keen to locate as much memorabilia as possible, be it letters or post cards sent by Richard, his personal birding diaries, or sketches and paintings by him.

One reason for deciding to embark on this project is the appearance of an early draft of a proposed book about the birds of Cley, handwritten by Richard in about 1960, which has recently come into my possession. Almost twenty species' texts have been completed and I believe that they merit publication. Therefore, I plan to include them all in Richard's biography, along with articles he wrote for various bird journals, and, of course, a wide selection of his line drawings and paintings. All contributions to the contents of the book will be fully acknowledged.

I am keen to make contact with as many of Richard's friends as possible, particularly anyone who may be able to provide me with information about his early days before he moved to Cley in 1949.

I would be delighted to hear from anyone who thinks that they could contribute to the book.

Moss Taylor,
4 Heath Road, Sheringham, Norfolk,
NR26 8JH. Tel: 01263-823637.
E-mail: mosstaylor@care4free.net



R.A.R

Bittern design (1970) by Richard Richardson and first used on the cover of the Norfolk Young Naturalists newsletter - Issue 16.

The quarterly bulletin
of the
Norfolk & Norwich
Naturalists' Society



Founded 1869
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Number 71
November 2000

SCALE INSECTS

I was interested to read Reg Jones article in the *Natterjack* no 70 about the Scale insects on Limes *Tillia* sp.

In 1998 The Late Brian Brown & Charles Barsted of The Lowestoft Field Club informed me of these insects on Limes in Lowestoft High Street. On inspection I too identified them as possible *Partenolcanium corni* but I did not seem to be 100% sure.

In the August of that year I was given for my Birthday the RHS Pests & Diseases book by Pippa Greenwood & Andrew Halstead. There on page 137 was the insect that I had seen on the Limes. Known as the Horse Chestnut Scale Insect *Pulvinaria regalis*. It is a sap feeding insect that has one generation a year. I have found the heaviest infestations on road side Limes in Church Road Lowestoft & on Sycamores in Bell Vue Park in the town it is believed that they are able to exist where a micro climate is formed by the heat reflecting off roadsides and cars in car parks and the like. The females lay their eggs under a white cotton wool like substance. This substance appears from the rear of the insects shell. Most scales I measured were 4-5mm in length and were found up on the trunks of the trees and into some of the lower branches. After egg laying the adults die leaving small white eggs on the bark. I have found that by looking on the undersides of the leaves you can see the young scales. Later on around October time they are seen to go onto the bark and overwinter as nymphs.

These Scale insects have never, as far as I know ever been seen in the Lowestoft district before. On talking to Rex Hancy he says that they

are steadily moving northwards from the south of Britain.

My occupation with these strangers is to try and find them on other trees within the town as I believe Rex is doing in Norwich.

Colin A Jacobs

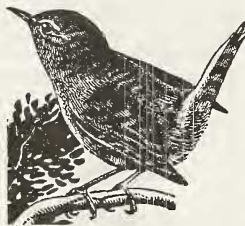
House Guests

During a recent visit, our friends from Massachusetts, told us about a family of wrens. A wren flew into their kitchen by way of a gap at the bottom of the door and proceeded to build its nest in the corner of a kitchen shelf. Using the base and corner walls as part of the nest, a top cover was constructed and a small aperture left for entry.

Eggs were laid and nestlings hatched and fed by mother who consistently entered the room via the bottom of the door. Evacuation day arrived. Mother could not persuade her young to follow her out into the big wide world. Finally our friends opened the door and the family flew away. Three days later one of the young wrens returned to the door and entered the kitchen using its mother's under door route. It flew into the nest, flew out again and away.

We wondered if anyone in the Society had come across a wren being so confident among humans or of a young bird making a solo return to its birthplace.

Susan & Tom Pallister



MYSTERY OF MOSSES

You may never have looked at a moss or liverwort, except perhaps in your lawn, when perhaps you wished it wasn't there. They don't like competition from other plants, so mowing your lawn too short will encourage them. Cutting with a mower without a grass box will increase the moss because small pieces can often grow again.

So what is a moss or liverwort? They are small primitive plants which don't have roots, only rhizoids, which enable them to cling onto soil, trees or rocks. All their water and nutrients are absorbed through their leaves which in most cases are only one cell thick. To reproduce they require water and so there are far more of them in the west and north than in East Anglia. Norfolk has about 260 mosses and 80 liverworts, whilst in Britain as a whole there are about 600 mosses and 280 liverworts.

Liverworts are of two types, thallose or leafy. An example of a thallose liverwort is *Marchantia polymorpha* which you may have seen at a garden nursery on pots or inside plastic greenhouses. The thallus is robust, several cells thick, and regularly forked. On the top surface will be cups containing gemmae. These are splashed out by rain to start fresh plants.

A leafy liverwort has three rows of small leaves on a stem. The leaves do not have nerves, and may have their leaves divided into lobes such as *Lophocolea bidentata*, which has each leaf divided into two points, or bidentate. This is very common in damp areas, growing through mosses on the ground.

Mosses are of two types: single stems with the seta growing from the top, usually forming cushions,

and feather mosses where the main stem is long and trails on the ground with side branches giving the impression of a feather, with any seta arising from the side of a branch. They all have leaves usually spirally around a stem. They mostly have a nerve or midrib; this can be any length, even protruding out of the end of the leaf. The edge of the leaf can be entire or indented with small teeth, sometimes double teeth.

Leaves are of many different shapes, some with hair points which makes the tips look white. Cell size and shape is important in identification. Some cells are round, others long and narrow. Some leaves may have auricles at the bottom with cells of different shape to the main cells.

To look at these features requires first a 10x lens. Some mosses you can tell just by looking at them and by where they are growing. *Bryum argenteum*, as its name suggests, is silvery. It grows on the edge of asphalt paths, even in towns. Half the secret is in knowing what grows in each habitat.

Once you get interested you will need a handbook. The best one to start with is E V Watson's *British Mosses and Liverworts*, Cambridge University Press. Next you will need a microscope. I have a binocular dissecting one with both top and bottom light and magnification of 10x and 30x. This is excellent for a first look at a moss. I dunk the moss in some water to clean it and bring it back to life. In fact you can do this after having been dried for several years. This magnification is often enough to identify a specimen, but to look at cells you need a compound microscope. I bought a second hand one from Brunel Microscopes, it has 4x, 10x, 40x and 100x objectives, but I only use

the first three for bryophytes. With a 10x eyepiece, this gives 40x, 100x and 400x magnification. It has built in illumination and a measuring graticule in the eyepiece for measuring cell size.

The best way to get into bryophytes is to go on outings with other bryologists. You will find a list of our meetings in this issue.

You need to collect small specimens in a herbarium. They are collected in the field, a pinch is enough. I put them in old DL envelopes which I always open by cutting off the right hand end to get the letter out. This makes a useful packet on which you can write the name, habitat, map reference, date and who has confirmed it. When you get them home, stand the packets up on a window sill above a radiator to dry. Once dry they will keep forever. To examine the specimen, soak in a little water to revive, squeeze out the water and tease out so that you can see the different parts of the plant. After examining, they can be kept in paper packets. I use an A4 sheet of paper, an old letter will do. Fold it up with the letter inside, first a third up, then each side in one inch and finally the top down a third. This gives a packet roughly six inches by four inches which just fits in an old shoe box. Headings can be printed on the front flap with a computer, plus fold marks to make life easier.

John Mott
Bryophyte Recorder
East Norfolk (VC27)



2000 Year of the Clouded Yellow Saxthorpe

SEPT 4 - Fine sunny day. Few light showers during the morning. Checked fields on Aylsham Road. Saxthorpe for Golden Plover. Noticed yellow butterflies amongst beans. This is the first year A Mitchell & Co. are growing NORTHERN SOYA for seed. Sown early May - exceptional leaf growth and beans now forming. 26 Clouded Yellows counted mainly in one area.

SEPT 5 - Dull - no butterflies seen.

SEPT 6 - Fine morning - rain later. Sunny afternoon - very windy. 2 Clouded Yellows seen. Also checked fields at Heydon and Cawston - no butterflies seen.

SEPT 8 - Rain early then fine but no sun. 5 Clouded Yellows seen. One resting on a bean leaf - wings closed - blends in and very difficult to see. One feeding on Scentless Mayweed.

SEPT 9 - 45 Clouded Yellows seen flying over field and also feeding. Watched feeding on heartsease, Persian speedwell, corn sowthistle, nipplewort and scentless mayweed. Other plants not visited were mugwort, fat hen, black bindweed, knotgrass, redshank and corn mint. Walked across potato field to many other flowering plants as above but no butterflies seen here.

SEPT 11 - Checked fields at Heydon and Cawston again. No butterflies seen.

SEPT 14 - 10am Fine but not sunny - very little wind. 10 butterflies seen flying across tops of beans - not feeding on weeds. Beans approximately 24 inches high. Many leaves with holes but not necessarily caterpillars. No caterpillars seen. Hairly Snail on one leaf. Evidence of snails on other plants. Plants still very green.

SEPT 21 - Windy, sunny - 4 Clouded Yellows seen.

SEPT 27 - 7 Clouded Yellows seen.

SEPT 28 - 5 Clouded Yellows seen.

Anne Brewster

The Sinister Queen of the Tower

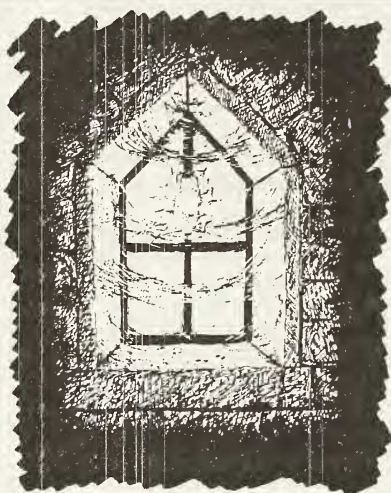
The air was fetid as I climbed the cramped spiral steps of the tower. My torchlight stabbed into the darkness above and my boots crunched on the dry, mummified bodies of pigeons lying on the thick carpet of droppings that filled each stone step. An updraft of rank air bowed the enormous cobwebs that brushed my head. I was in a most unpleasant place.

I had been on duty in a Police riot van when we received a call to attend Gt. Yarmouth's St. Nicholas Church where a man had been seen on the roof. With my colleagues surrounding the building I was ascending a small side tower to gain access to the roofs of England's largest parish church.

The owners of the cobwebs were huge. They waited menacingly in tubes at the point where the sheet web met the old flint and brick interior walls of the tower. I had never seen such large spiders and my excitement quite overwhelmed my apprehension at blundering into a burglar waiting at the top of the tower.

What awaited me in that small domed chamber was the sinister "Queen" of all these spiders. Much larger than the others she had pride of place by a small leaded window where no doubt the flies who fed on the death, filth and decay below gathered at the light in hope of escape from the tower.

Her majesty sat upon a beautifully suspended white, cocoon-like web in the centre of which could be



discerned a whiter sphere. This was her egg sac but the impression was of a fearsome guardian of some mystical runic treasure.

Tegenaria parietina, the Cardinal Spider, is one of four contenders for the title of Britain's largest spider. The others are the Raft Spider *Dolomedes plantarius*, who is generally bulky all round. A female *Araneus quadratus*, heavy with eggs is reputed to weigh the most. *Segestria florentina*, of south coast walls, has the longest body length. This Queen was visibly larger than any of these. She had an enormous abdomen and a body length later measured at 22 mm. Each leg was about 50 mm long!

The species is distributed throughout South and Eastern England and unknown elsewhere on mainland Britain. It is generally uncommon and appears to prefer undisturbed buildings. It was a thrill to find such thriving colonies in all the side towers of the church.

I examined the contents of her lair; a bag shaped web below her tubular retreat containing mangled corpses of her prey, and was surprised to find no flies at all. The odd woodlouse and the chitinous remains of the equally fearsome woodlouse feeding spider, *Dysdera crocata* were the only recognizable prey.

Oh! The burglar? He escaped somehow into the night. Or perhaps he made it to the top of the large bell tower where his macerated cadaver will one day be discovered in the web of an even larger and more sinister -

"Queen of the Tower".

Garth M. Coupland
PC 215 Ade Police Station

The Halcyon Bird

Recently I spent a day fishing at a Norfolk Lake where the water is surrounded by willow and alder trees. During the day I had a frequent companion in the form of a Kingfisher. This jewel of the bird world would announce its passage by a shrill, high pitched call as it flew across the lake. On a couple of occasions it perched on a branch in full view.

It sat very still scanning the water below, sometimes changing its position to face the other way, but always intently watching the surface. I marvelled at its ability to discern small fish in the water below, for there was a strong ripple on the rather murky lake, but see them it did and several minnow size fish met their fate. This lovely bird seems to be holding its own in Norfolk, long may it do so.

Tony Howes

TALES FROM THE MOTH TRAP

With the summer nights so full of big catches, 100 species of moths in the moth trap is easily encountered on many nights, I have witnessed 180 species at Thorpe-ness in Suffolk and 155 at Wicken Fen, but its not just moths that I have found in my traps over the past twelve years, not even the wasps, flies or those terribly smelly burying beetles that one often finds, but what about the things that really should not be in the trap. I remember the times when I lived in Shetland and it was always so disheartening to find only about ten species, if this were not bad enough imagine finding our cat inside the moth trap eating what little there was!

Once trapping in North Wales I had a Tawny Owl sat above the trap not only frightening the daylight out of the moths but me as well, as I was feeling rather uncomfortable due to a car being continually driven passed me on a number of occasions with the driver looking like a mad axe man.

I often have company with bats flying above the light taking incoming prey but as is usually the case nothing in late summer and autumn, especially in woodland, I am joined by hornets, not just devouring the moths but themselves as well, I have been at Foxley Wood and been joined by 40 plus hornets in one trap! I have just obtained thick rubber gloves and a beekeepers hat and netting for future trapping in woods at this time of year!

Imagine a friend of mine looking in disbelief at Fordham Wood in Cambridgeshire as a fox once took his wine rope (a rope soaked in

wine, treacle, etc, to attract and dope the moths) from a fence post and disappear full pace off into the distance with it slurping from its mouth!

I was once at Swanton Great Wood at the end of August and having loaded everything back into the car the morning after, I found a slow worm hiding under the trap, initially thinking a first glimpse it was an adder, the trap and electric's were flung some ten feet! If you think this rather amusing bare a thought for a 'critter' hunt in California USA and while trapping moths they had a diamond back come to light..... not the diamond back moth but a diamond back rattle snake!!!

I must admit that a few years ago, quite odd for a moth catcher, I used to be afraid of the dark, especially those dark, creepy woods when anything could jump out on you (I am glad I can admit I have conquered this now!) and while at Holt Loves one night going through the actinic trap there was a rustling in the undergrowth, it got closer and closer and then it jumped out at me..... it was a toad after a free meal!!!!!! The same night deep in the back and beyond away from the main road and at 2am the car would

not start and having to walk two miles into Holt to phone for help, the RAC found it one of there most unusual cases!

Even this year I have weird and wonderful things still happen, a survey at the RSPB's Lakenheath Fen in Suffolk with visits once a month, we have to drive three miles along a dusty and bumpy track, through reed beds to get to Botany Bay, an 'ancient' reed-bed where we trap, at the end of this rally I come across a ram-shack wooden bungalow. In the middle of no where is an understatement, and intrigues me that it should have net curtains, why? If you have ever seen the film 'Texas Chain Saw Massacre' then this is the place! I was bursting to knock on the door to see who lived there, and eventually plucked up courage in August with the excuse of letting them know what we were doing at 'not to be worried'; I waited to see who would come to the door.... I expected a thin gaunt man with string vest and blood shot eyes, Hannibal Lecter maybe..... imagine my disappointment when a little blonde lady came with just a night shirt on!!!!!! As I say, never a dull moment when moth trapping with me!

Jon Clifton

Copper Bryony

Although the chlorophyll is still there, it is difficult to imagine that the purplish colour in the leaves of plants such as the copper beech could confer any benefit on the plant. I have always presumed that the character arose by mutation and would persist only in cultivation



where survival of the fittest gives way to survival of the protected, so I shall follow with interest the fate of a 'copper' black bryony (*Tamus communis*) growing in a hedgerow near Holt. It appeared to be growing normally but has died back sooner than the typically pigmented plant beside it. Does anyone know of other examples of this pigmentation in wild plants?

Tony Leech

FIELD & INDOOR MEETINGS Nov 2000 - Jan 2001

Please note that start times are variable.

- Rubber boots recommended.
- Rubber boots essential.

Sunday 7th January ■
Breydon Water.
10.30 a.m. Full Day.

Directions: Meet in the ASDA supermarket car park. TG520080. The plan is to walk westwards at low tide and then follow the tide back in. With luck, there will be good numbers of waders.

Leader: Ian Robinson.

INDOOR MEETINGS

To be held at Room 7, The Sports and Leisure Centre, Easton College, Easton, Norwich. 7.30 p.m.

Tuesday 21st November
Millennium Conservation Forum:
"Management or non-intervention"

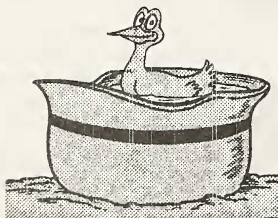
There is still an opportunity to submit written questions to the panel. These should be sent to Stephen Martin (address on back of programme) or e-mailed to smartin@redhotant.com
AS SOON AS POSSIBLE.

Tuesday 19th December
"Gall stories and galling friends"
Rex Hancy

By popular demand, there will again be festive refreshments provided. However, please note that members will be invited to make a small voluntary contribution towards the cost of these.

Tuesday 16th January
"Wildlife in the Stanford Battle Area"
Alec Bull

Bob Ellis, Chairman
Programme Committee



EAST ANGLIAN BRYOLOGICAL EXCURSIONS 2000 - 2001

The following excursions are planned for the Autumn & Spring of 2000-2001. Beginners will be most welcome; the only equipment needed is a hand lens (x 10 or x 20), and some paper packets for collecting into. Meetings will only be cancelled if it snows, or there is hard frost. All meetings will start at 10.30am, unless otherwise stated. For further information, contact either John Mott or Robin Stevenson. (See below - on page 9)

Sunday 29 October: Catfield Hall Estate.
Meet by war memorial at TG382213.

Sunday 12 November: Smallburgh Fen
NWT reserve. An SSSI, calcareous mire, 3 ha. Park on Union Road verge at TG326243.

Saturday 25 November: Roydon Common
NWT reserve. Heath, bog & fen carr. Car park at TF677227. The track in is fairly rough, so take it steady.

Sunday 10 December: Fen Covert,
Walberswick
Meet at car park at 5-way junction,
TM450727.

Sunday 17 December: Roman Camp
National Trust and Inceborough Hill.
Meet in car park at TG184413.

Saturday 6 January: Dunwich Heath.
Meet in National Trust car park by coastguard cottages (charge for non NT members) TM476678.

Sunday 21 January: East Winch
NWT reserve. Open heath, pools, woodland.
Park at side of lane off A47 at TF698160.

Saturday 3 February: Pigney's Wood.
In 1991 the North Norfolk Community Woodland Trust purchased 21 hectares of land within the parish of Knapton near North Walsham. Planting started in 1993. The wood is bordered on the NW side by the disused railway line, which is the Paston Way. The North Walsham and Dilham canal runs along the south side. Meet in car park off Hall Lane at TG 297323 on the east side.

Sunday 18 February: Thetford Heath.
Meet at TL849795. This is entrance to Gorse Industrial Estate. Park on edge of wide road, quiet at weekends.

Sunday 4 March: NNNS meeting.
An introduction to mosses & liverworts. Meet Woodland Trust car park, TM205893. Leader John Mott. Starts 11.00am.

Sunday 18 March: Horsey Mere,
202 ha, SSSI, open water, fen and grazing marsh, and Horsey Gap, coast. Meet in National Trust car park (fee possible?) at TG456223.

Excursion Reports

Parish Potter

July 23rd 2000.

Around ten members attended the Parish Potter at Wadon led by resident recorder Robert Maidstone. The dull weather continued as we began our walk along the road toward the common.

Many plant galls were found here & with five of the group members of the British Plant Gall Society many eyes made light work. One of the first galls found was the Midge Gell *jaapiella veronicae* on *Germander Speedwell Veronica chamaedrys* which causes the terminal leaves to be thickened into a hairy pouch.

As we were graced with the presence of Rex & Barbara Hancy It was good to see the gall that inspired them into further study all those years ago.

Not far from here on *Salix* sp we found the rosette gall of the Midge *Rabdophaga rosaria*. The rest of the walk to the common was taken up with the plants. One such notable plant was the pink flowered form of the Hedgerow Bindweed *Calystegia sepium* forma *colorata*. Which is locally common here & mentioned in the current Norfolk Flora.

During an enjoyable lunch in the Village hall much discussion took place about Natural History and Rex remarked how pleased he was to see younger Naturalists taking on the study of plant galls.

After lunch the group shrunk to four members when we went to the Wadon village boundary with Long Stratton. We found a very good ditch here with signs of good water vole activity noted.

Along the Long Stratton bank of this ditch we found the sedge *Carex pseudoaxillaris* The hybrid sedge of False Fox Sedge & Remote Sedge *C. otrubae* x *C. remota*. This was considered a remarkable find in Norfolk. Near-by both parents were growing in profusion and as Rex said "They have been rather naughty."

Many thanks to Robert for such a good day.

Colin A Jacobs

SHELFANGER TOWN MEADOWS MEETING

11th June 2000

On a perfect summer day twelve members attended this meeting whose primary purpose was to study the vascular flora, with particular emphasis on grasses. The venue at Shelfanger was a long narrow stretch of unimproved grassland extending over 26 acres through which runs a tributary stream of the River Waveney. Much of the area is marshy and subject to seasonal flooding and is managed by the taking of a late hay cut each year. It has been an SSSI since 1988.

None of the participants had visited the site before and it was rapidly apparent that the plant communities present were quite exceptional. The first grass to attract attention was *Hordeum secalinum* (Meadow Barley), a species local in Norfolk. However, this was almost immediately overshadowed by the discovery of *Bromus racemosus* (Smooth Brome) in the damper areas and *Bromus commutatus* (Meadow Brome) on the periphery and drier parts. Thousands of plants of both species were present and the populations would repay study for the presence of intermediates, possible hybrids, which have been reported in the south and west of England where the species grow together (see P.M. Smith, *Watsonia* 9 pp. 326 - 328). Apart from three casual records in the west, the most recent at King's Lynn in 1993 by R.M. Payne, *B. racemosus* has never been discovered in Norfolk and escaped detection in the tetrad survey for *A Flora of Norfolk* published in 1999. The Shelfanger discovery is therefore one of major importance for the county.

One other noteworthy grass find was *X Festulolium loliaceum* (Hybrid Fescue), the sterile hybrid between *Lolium perenne* (Perennial Rye-grass) and *Festuca pratensis* (Meadow Fescue), most

often found in old pasture like that at Shelfanger where both its parents were present.

Leaving aside the grasses, members were particularly pleased to note four *Dactylorhiza* species, *D. fuchsii* (Common Spotted-orchid), *D. incarnata*, (Early Marsh-orchid), *D. maculata* (Heath Spotted-orchid) and *D. praetermissa* (Southern Marsh-orchid). Additionally the well-known population of *Persicaria bistorta* (Common Bistort) was much admired.

After lunch the party moved on to Boyland Common, shared between Shelfanger and Bressingham, an area of grazing land on acidulous to neutral or weakly basic soils. Only fruiting specimens of *Orchis morio* (Green-winged Orchid) remained, but there were many compensations. *Agrostis canina* (Velvet Bent) was just showing panicle and three species of *Juncus* growing in the proximity of one another, *J. effusus* (Soft-rush), *J. inflexus* (Hard Rush) and *J. conglomeratus* (Compact Rush), were compared. We were too early to find *Genista tinctoria* ssp. *tinctoria* (Dyer's Greenweed) and *Silene silaus* (Pepper-saxifrage) in flower, but saw vegetative material of both.

One interesting diversion on the common occurred when we interrupted a Small Copper butterfly (*Lycaena phlaeas*) laying an egg on *Rumex acetosa* ssp. *acetosa* (Common Sorrel), its food plant. Afterwards we examined the egg on the underside of a leaf, its sculpturing through a lens plainly apparent, making it look like a tiny golf ball.

Finally we looked at *Scandix pecten-veneris* (Shepherd's-needle) at the edge of a nearby wheat field and *Crepis biennis* (Rough Hawk's-beard), of which just two plants were growing on the road verge, one in flower and much photographed. The grass total for the day was 32 taxa.

The Society wishes to thank Mr W. J. Butler of Shelfanger Hall for allowing us to visit the Town Meadows site and Mrs M. Brown of Old Boyland Hall, Bressingham for granting permission to park cars on her land.

A. Copping

List of Grass Taxa Recorded
Species seen at Boyland Common
only are marked with an (*)

Festuca pratensis Meadow Fescue
**Festuca arundinacea* Tall Fescue
Festuca rubra ssp. *rubra* Red Fescue
X Festulolium loliaceum
Hybrid Fescue
Lolium perenne Perennial Rye-grass
Cynosurus cristatus
Crested Dog's-tail
Briza media Quaking-grass
**Poa annua* Annual Meadow-grass
Poa trivialis Rough Meadow-grass
**Poa pratensis*
Smooth Meadow-grass
Dactylis glomerata
Cock's-foot Grass
**Glyceria fluitans*
Floating Sweet-grass
Glyceria notata Plicate Sweet-grass
Helictotrichon pubescens
Downy Oat-grass
Arrhenatherum elatius
False Oat-grass
Trisetum flavescens
Yellow Oat-grass
**Deschampsia cespitosa* ssp. *cespitosa* Tufted Hair-grass
Holcus lanatus Yorkshire Fog
Anthoxanthum odoratum
Sweet Vernal-grass
Phalaris arundinacea
Reed Canary-grass
Agrostis capillaris Common Bent
Agrostis stolonifera Creeping Bent (Vegetative only)
**Agrostis canina* Velvet Bent
Alopecurus pratensis
Meadow Foxtail
**Alopecurus myosuroides*
Black-grass
Bromus commutatus
Meadow Brome
Bromus racemosus Smooth Brome
Bromus hordeaceus ssp. *hordeaceus* Soft Brome
Bromus x pseudothominei
Lesser Soft Brome
Anisantha sterilis Barren Brome
**Elytrigia repens* ssp. *repens*
Common Couch
Hordeum secalinum Meadow Barley



MILLENNIUM MEETING

It was the intention of the Society to add a visit in the first year of the present millennium to its list of previous recorded field meetings to Heggatt Hall, Horsted, where the very first meeting of the Society had been held in 1869, as had the meetings for our 100th and 125th anniversaries. Unfortunately due to the restrictions caused by the recent Swine Fever outbreak in the county, it was not possible to follow in our footsteps of previous occasions due to the presence of a large number of pigs in the fields that we would have to cross.

We were, however, able to visit Burnt Wood on the opposite side of the estate, where our host had kindly enlarged a number of pathways in the wood which had become overgrown due to the wet weather in previous months.

On Sunday August 20th, a large party of members assembled in front of the Hall where we were welcomed by Mr. and Mrs. Richard Gurney who led us into a small dell in which grew a number of American Pokeweed *Phytolacca acinos* and also Deadly Nightshade *Atropa belladonna*. Emerging from the dell we were confronted with a Chinese Hankerchief tree *Davidia involucrata*, the leaves of which resemble large Lime tree leaves. Unfortunately the tree was not exhibiting the showy white bracts from which it takes its name.

We made our way along the public

footpath via a field of Flax that had seeded and was ready for harvest. The edges of the field were bordered with Wild Radish *Raphanus raphanistrum* the flowers of which were attracting various insects. Large White *Pieris brassicae* and Small White *P. rapae* butterflies. Hoverflies *Helophilus pendulus*, *Episyrphus balteatus* and *Syrphus vitripennis*. Plant Bugs *Scirpus bicolor* and Common Froghopper *Philaenus spumarius*. The hedge alongside the track was notable for its abundance of Spindle (*Euonymus europaeus*).

On entering the wood Mother of Pearl moths *Pleuropteryx ruralis* were disturbed from the nettles. A nest of the Common Carder Bumble Bee *Bombus pascuorum* had been exposed on the path by the tractor wheels but was still active. Green Shieldbugs *Palomena prasina* in various stages of growth were common along the paths. In the grassy areas Grass Moths *Crambus stramineella* and *Agriophila tristella* together with the Craneflies *Tipula paludosa* and *Nephrotoma submaculosa* took flight as we walked along, as did Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria* butterflies and Silver-y *Autographa gamma* moths. In cleared areas Hemp-nettle (*Galeopsis tetralix*). Climbing Corydalis (*Ceratocarpus claviculata*) and Wall Lettuce (*Mycelis muralis*) were among the less common species noted.

On reaching the sunny side of the wood Dragonflies were hawking, the Southern Hawker *Aeschna cyanea* and the Migrant Hawker *A. mixta*, one of which

Plant Gall list from Heggatt Hall

(Galls listed under host plants, inducers in brackets)

Acer pseudoplatanus (Sycamore)
Artactris cephelonea (mite)
Eriophyes pseudoplatani (mite)

Aesculus hippocastani (Horse chestnut)
Vasates hippocastani (mite)

Crataegus monogyna (Hawthorn)
Phyllocoptes gomothorax (mite)

Dryopteris spp. (Ferns)
Chirosia betuliti (fly)

Euonymus europaea (Spindle)
Eriophyes convolvens (mite)

Fagus sylvatica (Beech)
Hartigola annulipes (midge)
Eriophyes nervisequus nervisequus (mite)
Eriophyes nervisequus lagueus (mite)

Fraxinus excelsior (Ash)
Psyllopiopsis fraxini (psyllid)
Pseudomonas savastanoi var. *fraxini* (bacterium)

Galium aparine (Goosegrass)
Cecidophyes galii (mite)

Glechoma hederacea (Ground ivy)
Rondoniola bursaria (midge)

Ilex aquifolium (Holly)
Phytomyza ilicis (fly)

Prunus spinosa (Blackthorn)
Phytoptus similis prunispinosae (mite)

Quercus robur (English oak)
Andricus kollari (wasp)
Andricus fecundator (wasp)
Andricus anthracina (wasp)
Andricus lignicola (wasp)
Andricus quercuscalicis (wasp)
Andricus quercuscorticis (wasp)
Andricus quercusrostris (wasp)
Eiorhiza pallida (wasp)
Cynips divisa (wasp)
Cynips longiventris (wasp)
Cynips quercusfolii (wasp)
Neuroterus aliopeis (wasp)
Neuroterus numismalis (wasp)
Neuroterus quercusboaccarum (wasp)
Trioxa remota (psyllid)

Rosa spp. (rose)
Diplolepis rosae (wasp)

Rubus fruticosus (Bramble)
Dasineura plicatrix (midge)
Phragmidium violaceum (micro-fungus)

Stellaria holostea (Greater stitchwort)
Brachycolus stellariae (aphid)

Tilia sp. (Lime)
Phytoptus laiosoma (mite)

Veronica chamaedrys (Germander speedwell)
Jaapiella veronicae (midge)

Also recorded:
Periphyllus acercola, non-galling aphid on Sycamore

Rex and Barbara Hancy

The Christmas Crossword

Compiled by Bob Ellis

Across

7. *Chrysanthemum* ____, the corn marigold. (7)
8. ____ *dulcamara*, bittersweet. (7)
10. Could be sickle or bur. (6)
11. A resident woodland bird. (8)
12. Could be roseate or sandwich. (4)
13. *Leucanthemum vulgare*. (2-3,5)
14. A summer-visiting warbler. (11)
19. *Ligustrum vulgare*. (4,6)
22. A fruit. (4)
23. A type of carnivorous dinosaur. (8)
24. ____ *fliculoides*, water fern. (6)
25. A name sometimes given to the chough. (3,4)
26. ____ *speciosa*, yellow-oxeye. (7)

Down

- 1 A type of damselfly. (3-4)
- 2 In botany, a name often applied to the calyx and the corolla together. (8)
- 3 Could precede bee, wasp or pint. (6)
- 4 A concoction made from dandelions, for example. (4,4)
- 5 A common alien goose. (6)
- 6 ____ *pratensis*, devil's-bit scabious. (7)
- 9 An animal that feeds mostly on invertebrates. (11)
- 15 A culinary herb. (8)
- 16 Could be Scottish or bog. (8)
- 17 *Crassula* ____, mossy stonecrop. (7)
- 18 Could be hoary or moth. (7)
- 20 *Silene* ____, red campion. (6)
- 21 Used by fullers. (6)

kindly posed long enough for close examination. A few insects were swept from this area, the Mosquito *Aedes punctor*, Plant Bugs *Deraeocoris ruber*, *Calocoris norvegicans* and *Lyctocoris campestris*, Sawfly *Selandria serva*, Beetles 7-Spot Ladybird *Coccinella 7-punctata* and *Exochomus quadripustulatus* also a number of small flies *Opomyza germinationis*.

Tortoise beetles *Cassida rubiginosa* and their curious larvae were found on the Thistle leaves, where a male wasp *Cerceris rybyensis* was also resting.

In the afternoon a reduced party made a further excursion but the cloud had gathered and insects were scarce. The many Gatekeepers (*Pyronia tithonus*) noted earlier in the sunny glades were no longer to be seen, although we did find Heath Speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*) along a track not previously visited.

We were very thankful that the weather had held good for us on this occasion, also my thanks to those members that passed on their records for this report.

Ken Durrant

BRYOLOGICAL EXCURSIONS

Continued from page 6

Saturday 31 March: Swannington Upgate Common. Park on road side at TG142183.

Sunday 8 April: Scarning Fen & Rush Meadow.

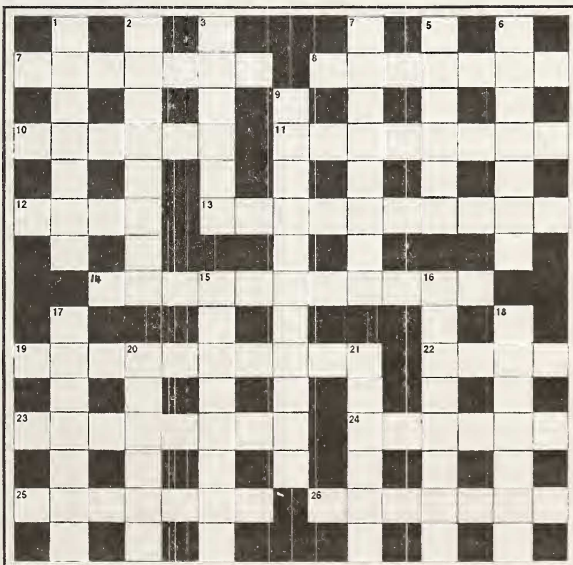
Parking at Scarning is difficult; best to park on verges at TF980123, before/after the bend in the road. For Rush Meadow, park at TG977136 by sewage works.

Saturday 28 April: Swanton Novers
Great Wood NNR. Meet at 'phone box in Swanton Novers village, TG020322. The warden, Robert Baker, will lead us into the wood.

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Tel (01553) 761144 x 248, or
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John Mott,
62 Great Melton Road, Hethersett,
Norwich, NR9 3HA. Tel (01603) 810442.



The Birds of Norfolk

Following the success of the initial publication of the book *The Birds of Norfolk* last October, a reprint containing some amendments and additional information, has now been published by Pica Press. This soft back version with a cover price of £25 is available from local bookshops and the Visitor Centres at the reserves of the Norfolk Wildlife Trust and RSPB at Cley, Holme, Hickling, Minsmere, Ranworth and Titchwell.

The royalties arising from the sales of the first edition totalled £4,100. This sum has been distributed to the RSPB for use on the Berney Marshes Reserve (£1,900), the Norfolk Wildlife Trust for its 'Securing the Future Appeal' (£1,900) and the How Hill Trust (£500).

It is hoped that buoyant sales of the reprint will result in further sums becoming available for conservation projects within Norfolk.

Moss Taylor (01263 823637)

Peter Allard (01493 657798)

Don Dorling (01603 810318)

PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP

MEETINGS 2000 - 2001

Room 4 Easton College Leisure Centre 7.30 pm

Monday November 27

'Birds on the rocks'

Illustrated talk by Alan Dixon

Monday February 26

'Botswana and the Okavango Delta'

Illustrated talk by Hans Watson

Monday March 26

'A Fensman with a camera'

Illustrated talk by George Taylor,
NWT warden

A Flora of Norfolk

Last August I received a review of the 1999 'Flora'. The review was sent by Ryszard Ochrya, a Bryologist in the Institute of Botany, Polish Academy of Sciences, Cracow who had written the account in: 'Chronmy Przyrode Ojczysta' (Let Us Protect Nature in Our Homeland). Unfortunately it was all in Polish and meant little to me. I did, however, visit Poland later where a friend, Maria Nowak, translated the text into English for me. Copies of the translation have been sent to the authors of the 'Flora' and to 'The Norfolk Natterjack'.

Arthur Copping

Review Highlights

Situated in the south-east of England, Norfolk now has a marvellous new treatment of its vascular and bryophyte flora, thereby making it floristically one of the best documented parts of the British Isles. Not only has the county a tradition of botanical research stretching back

more than 200 years, but it is the birthplace of many eminent botanists who occupy an important place in the history of world botany.

Readers interested in the history of botany would do well to read A. Bull's well written account devoted to the botanists of Norfolk, which forms part of the introduction to the Flora.

The distribution maps for vascular plants have been compiled with the utmost accuracy, being based on a grid of two kilometre squares (tetrads). ...Numerous species are illustrated in excellent coloured photographs

The work has been expertly edited and superbly produced, so reading it is a pleasure indeed. Although its relevance to a Polish readership may appear slight, it serves well as a model for other local Floras, of which we are desperately short, instead of spending money on nature projects of dubious value. Polish botanists would be well advised to concentrate on producing such local treatises which have a lasting place in literature, rather than trivial accounts which end up as forgotten pieces of paper, gathering dust on the shelf of some local official.

Ryszard Ochrya

'An Evening in the Countryside'

Wed. 22nd November 2000

An evening event (7.30pm) at
The Playhouse, Norwich in aid of the
'We care 2000' Appeal

Presentation of slides followed by a question
and answer session featuring the EDP
nature correspondents:

Grace Corne - Rex Hancy

Moss Taylor - Percy Trett

Tickets £5 (cheques made payable to

We Care 2000 Appeal) call

01603-625321 or send SAE to

We Care 2000 Appeal c/o EDP,

Prospect House, Rouen Road,

Norwich, NR1 1RE.

Please submit your question when
applying for tickets

A note to CONTRIBUTORS.

The next *Natterjack* will be in February. It would be much appreciated if any correspondence could be sent to the following address, as soon as possible by January 10th, and marked with NNNS on the envelope. For those with access to a computer a WORD document or an ordinary text file on disc would be most helpful, or you can send an e-mail to: francis.f@virgin.net

FF

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