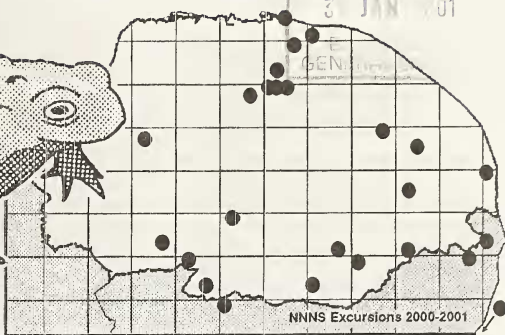
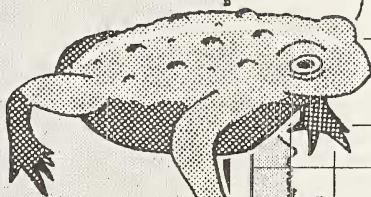


THE NORFOLK NATTERJACK



Toad-in-the-hole...

A belated 'Happy New Year' to all Society members and other readers. I trust the new 'Millennium' has started well. My thanks to all contributors, again a good selection, covering a variety of interests. If you are, however, desperate for Bob Ellis's excellent Christmas Crossword solution it can be found on the back page. Anne Brewster continues charting the Saxthorpe Clouded Yellows in the Northern Soya field and Geoffrey Kelly again puts us casual birders to shame. Thanks also to Garth Coupland's humorous contribution - does it remind you of anyone?

FF

Sign ...em up!

We have enrolled 36 new members into the Society in the year 2000, ranging from our youngest member (aged 16) to the venerable natural history library at Harvard University.

But, of course, every year we lose members, a few who, sadly, set off on the final field trip and others who don't renew their subscription, even after a reminder.

So here is your chance to help us recruit even more new members in 2001. With this *Natterjack* is a membership application form.

Many of you must have friends interested in natural history who would find in our meetings and excursions and publications a mine of useful information, not to mention the excellent company!

Even if you can't think of anyone at the moment, keep the form with you, in your car or tucked into your favourite field guide, and some time this year thrust it into the hand of a potential member and persuade them that they will receive a very warm welcome in the Society.

David Paull, Chairman,
Membership Committee

Congratulations to:



75 Years
Protecting Norfolk's Wildlife
1926 - 2001

YOUR COUNCIL

On the face of it, the Council of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society is an unwieldy body; if all Vice-Presidents and representatives of other organisations were to attend there could be 38 sitting round a very large table at Easton College five times a year. In practice, attendance is usually about 25 and meetings hardly

ever last more than two hours, in part, due to a well-established structure of sub-committees. Twelve members of the Council are 'ordinary' members and hold no office. Of these, four are elected every year and each remains on Council for three years. I would always be interested to hear from anyone who might consider standing as such a member of Council.

Tony Leech

The quarterly bulletin
of the
Norfolk & Norwich
Naturalists' Society



Founded 1869
Registered Charity No. 29164

Number 72
February 2001

CLOUDED YELLOW SAXTHORPE DIARY

(see 'Natterjack' No. 71)

Sept 30 - 6 seen over bean field
Oct 4 - 6 seen between 12-12.45.
 None feeding. 2 chasing each other - brief sunny spells, windy.
Oct 6 - Sun shining but wind cold - visited site 10 - 10.30 - no butterflies seen. It had been a very cold night.
Oct 6-11 - Conditions not satisfactory - plenty of rain, wind and still cold.
Oct 13 - Hazy sunshine after foggy day. No butterflies seen.
Oct 15 - 1.45. Sunny and very light wind. 2 seen in 'weed' area. Rest of field not checked.
Oct 17/19/26 - Sunny but cold winds. No butterflies seen over field. Leaves now dying on bean plants.
Nov 1 - Richard Buxton, Park Farm, Heydon called at workshops. Remembers seeing 2-3 Clouded Yellows earlier this year. His beans have not yet been harvested owing to bad weather - recommended time mid-September. No butterflies seen.
Nov 4 - Sunny but cold light wind. No butterflies seen. Field also not harvested but most of the leaves now withered.

Anne Brewster

The Windmill

On 23rd November, 2000 at South Walsham I watched the delicate task of a large crane gently easing the buck into position on Richard Seago's postmill. All went well despite the rain in later stages. A great shame Michael was not there to see this historic event. He would I am sure, have been very proud.

Tony Howes



FUNGUS GROUP

A Norfolk Fungus Study Group has been set up with the joint aims of recording the distribution of the County's fungi and assisting members in the difficult business of identifying fungi. An enormous amount of recording has been done by Reg and Lil Evans, 'grand-parents' of the new Group, and one of our tasks will be to get these into the British Mycological Society's database, now accessible on the Internet. The Group levies a small subscription and is independent of other organisations but hopes to affiliate with the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society.



Further details can be found on the Group's web site:

<http://homepages.tesco.net/richard.shotbolt/nfsg>

or from: **Tony Leech,**
Group Organiser.

Earth Tongues

Walking to my local shop to collect the daily paper I noticed little black spikes sticking out of the grass on a lawn I pass by. Leaning over the wall I was able to see there were about 100 of a fungus known as Earth Tongues. Looking back to an article in 'Natterjack' (No. 68) by Tony Leech it appears that there are about a dozen species in Britain, mostly only distinguishable by their microscopic characteristics. I looked carefully at all the lawns that I passed on this half mile walk, but no more were found.

Tony Howes

Fungus Foray

The Meeting was billed as a Bird Of Prey Walk with the Suffolk Naturalists Society at Waveney Forest Fritton. TG 465011. on Saturday 11th November 2000. Although accepted as the northern most recording area of Suffolk it is also included in the Norfolk recording area. I think that this article will appeal to both county Naturalists.

Blustery south-westerly winds most certainly put down the raptors and whilst dodging rain showers we knew that the bird life would suffer.

Luckily we were able to spend the afternoon looking at the fungi present and although nothing unusual was found we did gather quiet a list in two hours.

Colin A Jacobs

Species present were:

Baeospora myosura
Boletus badius Bay Bolete
Clitocybe flaccida Tawny Funnel Cap
Clitocybe nebularis Clouded Agaric
Collybia butyracea Greasy Tough Shank
Collybia maculata Spotted Tuft Shank
Coriolus versicolor Many-Zoned Polypore
Crepidotus variabilis
Ginnopilius penetrans
Hygrocybe russocoriacea
Hypholoma fasciculare Sulphur Tuft
Laccaria laccata The Deceiver
Lactarius tabidus
Lycoperdon perlatum Common Puffball
Mycena alcalina The Bonnet
Paxillus involutus Brown Roll Rim
Pluteus cervinus Fawn Pluteus
Russula atropurpurea Blackish-Purple Russula
Russula emetica The Sickener
Russula ochroleuca Common Yellow Russula
Scleroderma citrinum Common Earth Ball
Stropharia aeruginosa
Stropharia aurantiaca
Tricholomopsis rutilans Plums & Custard

FUNGAL FIND

On March 18th 2000 I was crawling along the verge of a narrow lane in Wacton. As I scuffled about in the dead leaves and debris under some large hawthorn trees I noticed some small - about the diameter of a pencil lead - cup fungi sitting tight on the soil surface after I had scraped away the loose dead leaves. Each fungus was pale buffy brown and around the rim of the cup was a ring of inward pointing white hairs. They were spread about, singly or in pairs, and looked quite attractive but not worth collecting being so small (even big fungi are difficult with good books) and reasonably 'common'. Well, there were thirty or so in the area I had swept clean between my knees and the extended reach of my arms, so I crawled on.



A yard or so further on I cleared another patch of ground I noticed one of these fungi had been knocked out of the ground and had a long - about as long as a pencil thickness - stalk attached to a small clod of soil. Carefully I picked the fungus up by the lump of soil attached to the stalk but found the soil hard and unyielding instead of soft like the other clods, which seemed to be pieces of broken wormcasts.

A quick scratch with my thumb nail revealed the clod to be a half-decayed hawthorn berry with the fungus growing out from the stalk

end. Now a fungus with a specific host is easier to identify so I carefully dug up two or three more of these, with my pencil, (handy things pencils, I always keep one behind my ear, somewhere!) and found they all grew on old hawthorn berries. These fungi I took home and sent a couple to Reg and Lil Evans.

I duly received a reply informing me the fungus was called *Monilinia johnsonii* and has been rarely recorded in Norfolk, but more interestingly it is one of those fungi that have two distinct forms. One form occurs as dark brown or black patches on the leaves of hawthorn that produce spores like mildews and is the only form that has been recorded and appears to reproduce itself satisfactorily.

In the second form, the ascophore stage, the fungus generally undergoes a resting period and then produces what most people would recognise as a 'toadstool' fungus albeit in this case a 'cup' fungus. This 'double life' has resulted in both forms being separate names and much confusion to mycologists.

Robert Maidstone

OBSERVATIONS MADE IN MY GARDEN FROM OCTOBER 1st 1999 TO SEPTEMBER 30th 2000

The garden, at Old Catton, Norwich, has been chemical free for about 20 years. It is designed and planted to encourage native flora and fauna and is not large.

As is usual 34 species of bird have been recorded, but from having 32 pairs of nesting house sparrows in the 1960s, this 12 months has seen none.

The jays are very adaptable and clever. There is a log feeder by the bird table, suspended from a branch. This log has a compart-

ment drilled at each end and is filled with black sunflower seeds at one end and peanuts at the other. The jays fed regularly from the bird table, and then in early spring the male developed a new skill. Positioning himself on a nearby stout twig, he aimed himself like a missile at the log, snatching out a peanut and flying on to give it to his mate who hung about in a tall tree nearby. This became a common sight. Later, presumably having watched the tits feeding, he managed to hang upside down on the log and prize out nuts. Notably other birds do not resent or fear the jays who have raised 3 or 4 chicks this year.

A sparrowhawk has a taste for the garden's flock of collared doves, some 30 strong at present. I have never before seen a sparrowhawk mantling its prey except at raptor centre displays. This hawk performs on ours and the neighbour's lawn. Other birds are seldom attacked judging by the feathers found where the hawk has struck and de-feathered its prey.

Tawny owls have frequented and have nested in this garden or one nearby for at least 40 years. This year has seen stray visitors only, since the oak which they used, recently, has split at the crown. Formerly they nested in a cluster of 200 year old elms at the road end of the garden, along with some 52 pairs of rooks and jackdaws. Sadly all these were dispersed by the elms dying from elm disease.

Goldfinches - indeed a charm of them - visit the teasels but also display acrobatically on the lavender seed heads. I have been constrained by these beautiful birds to leave pruning back the lavenders until the spring.

Late flowering red hot pokers are a great attraction to blue and great tits, rather as to house sparrows in late summer, when

the sparrows were still here. My theory about the decline of house sparrows is that house roofs are no longer available for nests and winter roosting since most are sealed at eaves level and are also very cold because of thermal layers beneath the roofs and in lofts to prevent heat loss. Is there a special nestingbox for sparrows? I have never seen one.

Mosses and lichens have flourished in the 12 month period and have provided a new source of interest in what until recently, has been a dry garden. This has led to buying even more books for identification purposes.

Newts and frogs have increased in numbers and hibernation continues to be later than formerly. The great crested and common newts often hibernate between bricks on a terraced bank in the back garden. These bricks become ever more decrepit but cannot be discarded for the sake of the newts. Fortunately in early spring this bank is where the aconites, early crocus and snowdrops grow, so the bricks are generally well disguised.

As I write these notes, in November 2000, which is strictly in the next observation period, a goldcrest and long tailed tits are dancing through the trees and shrubs and the wrens are swearing at them.

Mary Manning

Tideline Corpse Surveys of the Past

During the opening years of the 1950's Two Lowestoft Field Club Members, Colin Ayers and the late Harold Jenner took part in a very important survey of the tideline corpses of birds. The survey would run from 1st October to 31st March & the pair would walk the beaches from Lowestoft to Gorleston once a week usually on a Sunday. They would diligently

Photo.
Francis Farrow



Ray's Bream - Sheringham 1978

record the dead birds and publish the results in the following year's annual report.

The 1951 report states 38 individual birds of eleven species were found during January 1st to March 31st. 17 of these were Common Scoter of which nine were found to be oiled.

The wind during October 1951 was predominantly in the east becoming westerly by early November. 216 birds of 35 species were found dead on the tideline. 87 Redwings, 15 song thrushes, Three Gannets and a Merlin were notable finds. Oiled birds found were the three Gannets along with one Herring Gull, four Razorbills and eight Guillemots.

The 1952 report informs readers that although there was no severe weather, 340 birds of 32 species were found. Typically in the October of that year fatalities were high with 28 Starlings, 61 Redwings and 56 Fieldfares were found.

As we know October is the peak period for avian passage, when Scandinavian passerines set out for the perilous cross over the North Sea. The mortality rate is commonly much higher in this month.

1953 the year of the great North Sea floods also produced 136 species including a Budgerigar!

At present the groynes along this stretch of coastline doesn't allow a good tideline, as most, if not all of the tideline corpses are being continually pushed back out with the tide. Colin is in his 60's now and he tells me that he often found

rare fish such as Ray's Bream washed ashore.

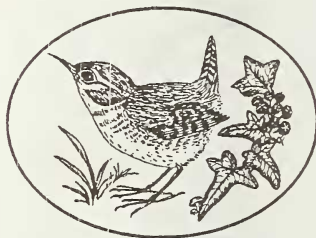
I have, during the winter of 2000 / 2001, walked this same stretch without finding any birds at all. But I will keep trying.

Colin Jacobs

House Visitor(s)

The item entitled "House Guests" in the November *Natterjack* prompts me to write about our visitor(s?).

Often, when our bedroom window is open, we have awoken to a wren singing on the windowsill before hopping inside to glean round the window frame, having checked the outside cobwebs around the window and on the thatch. We suspected that if the window was open more often, we may well have had a cock's nest, even a brood, in our bedroom.



Wren by Cherry Tancus

More recently, a wren came in through the back door and presumably got a shock when the ex-weaver nest that it investigated fell to the floor in our conservatory! It left its visiting card on an item of washing that was airing there!

Particularly in the autumn, our thatched roof and its invertebrate lodgers and cobwebs are very attractive to wrens, robins, great and blue tits. We often awake to watch them through the window.

Rowena Langston

Patience is a Virtue

During the British Plant Gall Society joint meeting with the Norfolk Naturalists' Society on Sunday August 13th 2000, at North Cove Suffolk Wildlife Trust Reserve, near Beccles, one of the group found a small Bug (Heteropteran sp.) settled on the stem of Common Reed *Phragmites australis*. By checking our field guides we were unable to determine the species but I had taken notes and was keen to identify it as soon as possible.

Unfortunately I went the other way and started to collect references on the Shield Bugs, which it looked like, and became annoyed that I was still unable to identify it.

Some three months later whilst attending an illustrated talk at a meeting of the Lowestoft Field Club One of the slides that came up was of a Ten-spot Ladybird *Adalia decempunctata*. But not, of course the text book individual but of a variable form with a yellow and green "Norwich City" colours around the edges of the wing cases. The rest of the back

was orangy brown in colour.

I knew that I would find the identification some how but little did I know how I would come across it. So in conclusion never give up the ghost. The answer is somewhere.

Colin A Jacobs

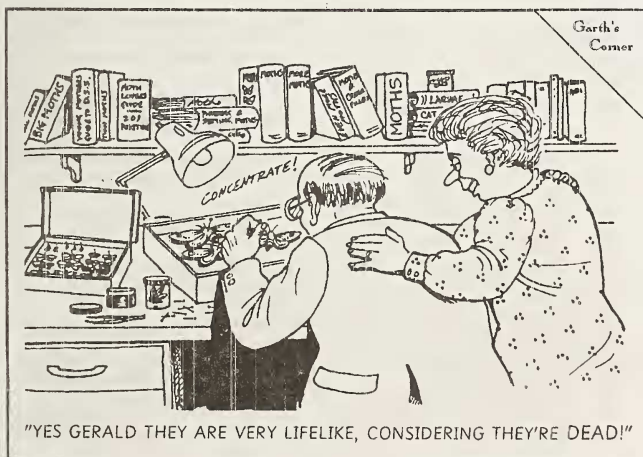
COLD COMFORT

A road close to my home in Thorpe St Andrew is planted both sides with Beech trees. For several years now during the winter months, and into the spring, it has been the practice of large numbers of Collared Doves to roost in these trees, by then of course completely bare of leaves. The doves can be seen clearly outlined against the sky as you walk along the path after dark. I have counted as many as 60 at one time.

The strange thing is that this species prefer dense conifers when nesting. There are plenty of these in the surrounding area, both garden varieties and those close by in Thrope Wood. So I wonder why they do not use them for roosting, they would provide far more protection and comfort during those bitterly cold nights.

As my old Grandfather used to say 'Thas a mistress Bor'.

Tony Howes



Garth's Corner

Fox Carcasses Wanted

As part of a three-year study at The University of Bristol I am collecting fox carcasses from across Britain to obtain information on the age, sex, diet, reproductive output and health of foxes in this country. This data will be used to look at regional differences in population structure and output.

I urgently need more fox carcasses for this, and would be very grateful for any assistance with carcass collection.

To help, simply pick up any fox carcass you find (providing it is fairly intact) and call me on the number below. I will then arrange for its immediate collection. The only information I need is the date and location (preferably including a six-figure OS grid reference) at which the carcass was found, and the cause of death (if known). I can provide heavy duty plastic bags for packaging of carcasses.



Please contact:

Charlotte Webbon
School of Biological Sciences
University of Bristol
Woodland Road
Bristol BS8 1UG
Email: C.C.Webbon@bristol.ac.uk
Tel: 0117 9287593

Shortly after receiving the above information I spotted a dead fox by the roadside at Bale and contacted Charlotte. She gets Parcel Force to collect - very efficient and it is nice to think of some scientific use being made of a roadkill.

Tony Leech

HOME BIRDS - 2000

Readers may recall that a list of birds recorded on, over or from my home at Frettenham (TG240171) during 1998, appeared in *Norfolk Natterjack* #64. During 2000, I again maintained a daily list. As in 1999, I actually managed to record on 343 days (2000, a leap year, having 366 in all). The 'blanks' were as follows: January 11; February 19, 27; March 22, 30; May 10, 29; June 21, 29; August 30; September 6, 7, 16; October 12; November 7, 9, 13, 15; and December 1, 4, 5, 6, 24. There were no blank days in April and July. In general, daily observations were gathered over periods of between one and six hours; two hours having been the average. The 2000 daily average of 22.7 species, compared with 20.2 in 1998, can generally be ascribed to a clear increase in the local population or presence of a number of highly visible species; particularly Cormorant, gulls, Red-legged Partridge and crows. Of the 74 species seen, 65 were also recorded in 1998.

In 2000, 25 species were observed in each month. Four more species, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Pheasant, Song Thrush and Red-legged Partridge, 'missed-out' only in February, November, November (again) and December, respectively.

Habitats visible from my vantage point include gardens, a small fish-pond, rough pasture, species-rich hedges, arable farmland, a worked-out chalk pit, partly used for landfill, and the Stone Beck valley, dividing Frettenham from Spixworth and Crostwick parishes.

The list provided is in ranking order, viz.: name and number of days - the suffix M meaning recorded in every month.

I trust that I will be able to carry out this exercise again in 2002.

Geoffrey Kelly

1=	Wood Pigeon	343M
1=	Starling	343M
3	Blackbird	342M
4	Collared Dove	331M
5	Blue Tit	324M
6	Stock Dove	320M
7	Great Tit	313M
8	Chaffinch	308M
9	Magpie	290M
10	Carriac Crow	282M
11	Black-headed Gull	281M
12	Duncock	273M
13	Greenfinch	271M
14	House Sparrow	261M
15	Robin	233M

16	Rook	231M
17	Mistle Thrush	226M
18	Jay	199M
19	Pied Wagtail	190M
20	Jackdaw	165M
21	Common Gull	162M
22	Kestrel	133
23	Green Woodpecker	128M
24	House Martin	126
25	Lesser B/B Gull	125
26	Swallow	123
27	Swift	106
28	Pheasant	105
29	Great B/B Gull	103
30	Wren	96M
31	Song Thrush	93
32	Red-legged Partridge	83
33	Lapwing	74M
34	Skylark	72
35	Turtle Dove	69
36	Yellowhammer	66
37	Goldfinch	65
38	Gt. Spotted W/pecker	62
39	Mallard	58
40	Cormorant	51
41	Redwing	49
42	Whitethroat	43
43	Sparrowhawk	33M
44	Long-tailed Tit	32
45	Fieldfare	28
46=	Blackcap	21
46=	Coal Tit	21
48=	Herring Gull	16
48=	Cuckoo	16
50	Willow Warbler	10
51=	Goldcrest	7
51=	Linnet	7
53	Chiffchaff	6
53	Canada Goose	5
55	Sand Martin	4
56=	Teal	3
56=	Tawny Owl	3
56=	Brambling	3
56=	Bullfinch	3
60=	Mute Swan	2
60=	Barn Owl	2
60=	Lesser Whitethroat	2
60=	Spotted Flycatcher	2
64=	Pink-footed Goose	1
64=	Egyptian Goose	1
64=	Shelduck	1
64=	Marsh Harrier	1
64=	Hobby	1
64=	Golden Plover	1
64=	Whimbrel	1
64=	Green Sandpiper	1
64=	Common Tern	1
64=	Redstart	1
64=	Reed Bunting	1

FIELD & INDOOR MEETINGS
February - April 2001

- Rubber boots recommended.
- Rubber boots essential.

■ Sunday 4th March

Tyrell's Wood. 11.00 a.m. Full Day.
Directions: Meet in the Woodland Trust car park. TM205893.

This will be an introduction to mosses and liverworts. Tyrell's Woods is an old deciduous wood with varied soil types so there should be a good range of bryophytes. Leader: John Mott.

■ Sunday 1st April

Wayland Wood. 11.00 a.m. Full Day.
Directions: Meet in the NWT car park. TL923996.

If we are lucky, we may find the elusive Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem in flower at its only Norfolk site.
Leader: Paul Newport (the NWT voluntary warden).

INDOOR MEETINGS

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

Tuesday 20th February

THE PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS
Tim Peet

"Glittering prizes:
a natural history of Guernsey"

Tuesday 20th March

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Followed by "From gannets to albatrosses via volcanoes and glaciers" an illustrated talk on New Zealand by *Mike Poulton*.

Tuesday 17th April

"A celebration of the seasons: autumn"

A presentation to the main Society by the Photographic Group.

ADVANCE NOTICE

The first field meeting of the new season will be on Sunday 6th May at 11.00 a.m. - a full day at Sporle Wood (near Swaffham) by kind permission of Mr. Kilvert-Minor-Adams. Leader: Gillian Beckett. Meet on the beat pad at the end of the farm track that runs south from Sporle Road, Little Dunham. TF656122.

Bob Ellis, Chairman
Programme Committee

THE FIRST COUNTY FLORA

To produce a modern county flora is an enormous undertaking but imagine compiling one before the advent of identification guides or even Linnaeus's system of binomial nomenclature. Such was the achievement of John Ray whose *Catalogue Plantarum circa Cantabrigium nascentium* (Flora of Cambridgeshire) was published in 1660. Due to its rarity, and the fact that it is written in Latin, the original is inaccessible to most but in 1975 A. H. Ewen and C. T. Prime edited a translation which is still available*. The 146 page book includes a generous amount of background information but it is the 700 plus entries in the 'systematic' section which capture the browser's attention. Latin names (often polynomial) are arranged in alphabetical order and followed by Ray's vernacular name for the plant, the modern scientific name and the original comment on its distribution, often with specific localities. For those unfamiliar with Cambridgeshire the real joy of the book is in the notes appended to many of the entries. Whilst some of these are quotations from other authorities and refer to the plant's use (showing that Ray had not totally broken away from the herbals that preceded his innovative book), his own perceptive field-notes are even more interesting. I cannot imagine anyone interested in plants and their folklore not enjoying this gem.

Tony Leech

* From Mrs Frances Prime, Flat 13 Manor House, Attleborough Road, Hingham, Norwich NR9 4HP; price £5.50 including post and packing.

LORDS AND LADIES

Of the twenty-two titles in the New Naturalist Monograph series, only one, *Lords and Ladies* by Cecil Prime, ever featured a plant. The combination of such an intriguing species and a schoolmaster author who could meld together chapters on its folklore, ecology, uses and genetics generated what Peter Marren, in his more recent book on the New Naturalist series*, described as a '*smashing book, and we should be ashamed of ourselves for not buying it*'.

I first read the book just before going up to university and was inspired by it. I hope that it was the science that turned me on -



observations and investigations which were simple enough to be carried out by any amateur naturalist but which led to fascinating insights into the plant's

biology. But I am sure I was also captivated by accounts of its poisonous properties, its sinister manipulation of insect behaviour for its own sexual ends and, as a schoolboy, by the rudeness of many of its one hundred local names. The original monograph is now a collector's item and the 1981 reprint has long been remaindered but copies are still available from Dr. Prime's widow, Mrs Frances Prime, Flat 13 Manor House, Attleborough Road, Hingham, Norwich NR9 4HP for £8.00, including post and packing.

Tony Leech

* The New Naturalists, HarperCollins (1995)

The Flora of Roofs

Society member, Ron Payne, has set his sights higher. Following the successful publication of his 1998 *The Flora of Walls in West Norfolk* he has recently published a paper on flowering plants that grow on roofs. This subject - apparently a first in print - required the introduction of a suitable term (tecticolous) to denote roof-dwelling plants.

Although the modest paper covers the country, 90% of the records from the eight year study come from Norfolk. In all some 160 species of plant have been recorded growing in this very inhospitable man-made habitat. The 'habitat' section not only discusses roofs but also pays particular attention to thatch and pill-boxes. *The Flora of Roofs*' is a 22-page paper and comes bound in an attractive coloured cover depicting House Leeks in flower on an asbestos roof.

If I should have any criticism it would certainly not be on subject matter but the misspelling of my name! Having said that it is a booklet that can, and I am sure will, have a few botanists looking up instead of down this year.

The paper is available at a cost of £3.00 (including postage) from Mr. R.M. Payne, 'Applegate', Thieves Bridge Road, Watlington, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE33 0HL.

Francis Farrow



Dear Natterjack Readers,

**Photography Group
Slide evening
23 October 2000**

Having been an (albeit very dormant) member of the NNNS for many years, I recently re-awakened, and one of the first meetings I attended was the above slide evening. As an amateur photographer myself, I was delighted that I had gone along. The standard of photography was (as I had expected) high, with just discernible differences between those who were, say, botanists first and photographers second, and others who were photographers first and perhaps entomologists second.

I came away with the feeling that it was just a crying shame that very few non-photographer members had come along, because they missed many images that were inspirational - not only to other photographers, but to anyone with an interest in natural history.

As an objective observer, please do consider my recommendation to go to any other such evenings which may be arranged in future.

Jane Cushman

**Christmas Crossword
Solution**

ACROSS

7. SEGETUM
8. SOLANUM
10. MEDICK
11. NUTHATCH
12. TERN
13. OX-EYE DAISY
14. WHITETHROAT
19. WILD PRIVET
22. PLUM
23. ALLOSAUR
24. AZOLLA
25. SEA CROW
26. TELEKIA

DOWN

1. RED-EYED
2. PERIANTH
3. CUCKOO
4. ROOT BEER
5. CANADA
6. SUCCISA
9. INSECTIVORE
15. TARRAGON
16. ASPHODEL
17. TILLAEA
18. MULLEIN
20. DIOICIA
21. TEASEL

**PHOTOGRAPHIC GROUP
MEETINGS 2001**

Easton College Leisure Centre
7.30 pm

ROOM 4

Monday February 26

**'Botswana and the Okavango
Delta'**

Illustrated talk by Hans Watson

This is not one to miss. Hans is a very good naturalist and excellent wildlife photographer. He will take us round this remarkable area right in the heart of Africa, showing some of the animals and birds that live there.

Monday March 26

'A Fensman with a camera'

Illustrated talk by George Taylor,
NWT warden

George spends his working hours out in the Fens. He is in daily contact with the 'great outdoors'. He will share with us some of his vast experience working in an environment most of us only dream about.

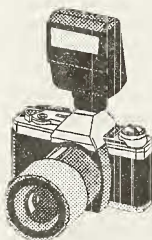
ROOM 7

Tuesday April 17

**'A Celebration of the Seasons:
Autumn'**

Photographic Group Lecture

This annual event gives the society photographers an opportunity to show us their work based on a theme. Last year we saw the glories of Summer, this time Autumn will be the subject. The season of mellow fruitfulness, mists, damp leaves etc., you can almost smell the richness of it all. Come and see how a camera can be used almost like an artists brush, creating works of art.



**Norfolk Wildlife
e-mail discussion group**

For those Norfolk wildlife enthusiasts who have access to the net (not the one you catch insects with - the other one!), here's an invitation to join a newly set-up discussion group, Norfolk Wildlife. The idea is that if you have any comments, questions, recent sightings or amusing anecdotes with relevance to any sort of wildlife in the county then you send an e-mail to the group. Everyone else in the group then receives that e-mail and can reply or not as they wish. You can either choose to receive all e-mails as soon as they are sent or receive a daily digest of the day's messages. The group is absolutely free to join and you can leave the group at any time you wish.

The group is similar to those set up at a national scale for discussion of various topics (e.g. there is one concerned with UK Moths) but it is hoped that a more local group will be of interest. The more people who get involved, the more useful the group will hopefully become. You don't have to be an expert (although a few would be useful!), just to have an interest in Norfolk's wildlife. The group is moderated by Andy Musgrove (who works at the British Trust for Ornithology in Thetford although the group is not a BTO project).

If you think you'd be interested then please e-mail Andy at:
andy.musgrove@bigfoot.com.

A note to CONTRIBUTORS.

The next *Natterjack* will be in May. It would be much appreciated if any correspondence could be sent to the following address, *as soon as possible by April 1st*, 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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