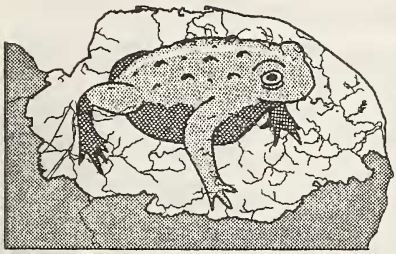


The Norfolk
NATTERJACK

Website: www.nnns.org.uk

Number 89
May 2005

Toad-in-the-hole....

Again my thanks to all contributors. Mike Hall continues delving into his moth trap for other insects and there is also an update on tree aphids. We have requests for information on wood ants, spotted flycatchers and anything from the Blakeney area and Colney Wood near Norwich. For a more light-hearted moment check out the articles under the 'What's in a name' banner. There is also a chance to test your knowledge of 19th century south Norfolk local names for birds.

FF

NORFOLK SPOTTED FLYCATCHER PROJECT 2005

The Spotted Flycatcher, an attractive summer visitor, is the subject of a study by Norfolk ringers which commenced in 2003. The population of this delightful species in the UK declined by 78% between 1972 and 1996. It is therefore a species of high conservation concern, and is listed as a red data species. It nests in scattered locations across Norfolk, and there are probably no more than 600 breeding pairs in the county.

The aims of this study are to determine the preferred habitat and site fidelity of the Spotted Flycatcher in Norfolk, and to monitor their breeding success and over-winter survival. In 2003 and 2004, we invited members of the public to report sightings of nesting flycatchers to us, and made arrangements to ring the nestlings. In all, 22 pairs of flycatchers were monitored and 54 nestlings were ringed in 2003, and 29 pairs and 20 nestlings in 2004, a less successful nesting season. In 2005 our aim is both to determine whether or not 2003/2004's nestlings will return to their natal sites, and also to expand the study to include new sites. In order to collect more information in 2004, we are hoping that both birdwatchers and non-birdwatchers (whether they participated in 2003 or not) will report any breeding pairs that they come across.

We also complete a "Nest Record Card" for the British Trust for Ornithology for each nest. This contributes valuable information to a national database used for analysis of breeding biology. If sufficient data is collected, we would be able to determine whether changes in breeding success are contributing to the population decline, and, if birds prove to be site-faithful, whether over-winter survival is declining. If the owner of the land on which they are nesting is happy for us to do so, we shall arrange for a local bird ringer to visit the site to ring the nestlings with a colour ring and a metal BTO ring. In this way it will be possible to monitor if the same birds return to the site in a subsequent summer. Birds will only be ringed if the landowners give their consent.

If you find a Spotted Flycatcher nesting in Norfolk, or the birds appear to have set up territory in your area, please contact me during the day/early evening and leave a message if necessary. I will send you a simple form on which you can record your flycatchers' breeding activity. If you would like to help with the project but have no flycatchers nesting close by, you can volunteer to help monitor the sites so that nest record cards can be completed to determine hatching and fledging success or failure, and to look for colour ringed birds from the 2003 and 2004 seasons.

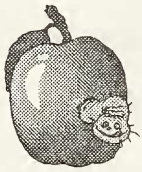
Rachel Warren
SPOFL Project Organiser
rfwarr@care4free.net or
telephone 01603 593912

Contents

The quarterly bulletin of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society
Founded 1869
Registered Charity No 291604

What's in a name?

The following three articles were sent in independent of each other yet they all deal with the naming of species, whether it is scientific, local or foreign - Ed.



Are they serious?

Scientists take their jobs very seriously. But sometimes, just sometimes, they let the mask slip. Here is a list of Latin names given to creatures whose discoverers were in a more flippant mood than usual at the time:

Agra cadabra..... a carabid
Apopyllus now..... a spider
Ba humbugi..... a Fijian snail
Cyclocephala nodanotherwon..... a scarab beetle
Dissup irae..... fossil fly, very hard to see
Eubetia bigaulae..... a moth, yes it is, you betcha by golly
Ittibittium..... a tiny mollusc
Heerz lukenatcha..... a braconid
Kamera lens..... a protist
La cucaracha..... a pyralid
Notnops, Taintnops, Tisentnops..... spiders
They were originally in the genus *Nops*, but were separated out into these new genera in 1994
Pieza kake..... a fly
Ptomaspis, Dikenaspis, Ariaspis..... types of fish
Remove the '-aspis' to get it
Tabanus rhizonshine..... a horse fly
Verae peculya..... a braconid
Vini vidivici..... a parrot
Ytu brutus..... a water beetle

Other unbelievable names can be found on the following website:
Curiosities of Biological Nomenclature -
http://home.earthlink.net/~misaak/taxonomy

Submitted by
Hans Watson

LOCAL BIRD NAMES

- from the Rev. Gilpin's "The Flowering Plants and Birds of Harleston in Norfolk (1888)

Blackcap
Blood Olph
Brown, Grey or Red Linnet
Butcher Bird
Cuckoo's Mate
Devil or Deviling
Dow-fulfer
Dobchick
Fulfer
Fulfer
Green Linnet
Ground-oven
Half Snipe
Harnser
Kentish Crow
King Harry
Mavis
Nutcracker
Peewit
Penny Wagtail
Reed-bird
Spink
Titlark

Reed Bunting
Bullfinch
Linnet
Red-backed Shrike
Wryneck
Swift
Mistle Thrush
Little Grebe
Fieldfare
Mistle Thrush
Greenfinch
Willow Wren (Willow Warbler)
Jack Snipe
Heron
Hooded Crow
Goldfinch
Song Thrush
Nuthatch
Lapwing
Pied Wagtail
Reed Warbler
Chaffinch
Meadow Pipit

Submitted by *Mike Hall*

Test your knowledge?

The following five birds were also in the Rev. Gilpin's list. Can you give them their usual English name?

1. Cadder
2. Capering Longtail
3. Hayjack
4. Puddingpoke
5. Smee Duck

Answers on page 8

The Boreal Gossip

Older members may recall that in earlier times (before Wells) I used to teach French. I still keep in touch, with trips to France when possible, and regularly by listening to French radio news before getting up. In mid-February there was mention of an incursion of Waxwings into Eastern France, so later that morning I "googled" the French for Waxwing: Le Jaseur Boreal, and found a good web-site, one of a series covering all French birds.

I noticed that Google offered a translation, so, in a spirit of mischief, I called it up. It began with the English for Waxwing, which you will see as the heading for this piece. Under "nesting" it states: "It builds its nest in a shrub starting from vegetable elements, and papers the bottom of sleeping bags and hairs." ("Duvet" can mean sleeping-bag or down.)

I tried "Song Thrush", and found: "the grive musician often does not come on the manger, however, she visits the surfaces of nourrissage discreetly." You will have realised by now that, if they can't find the English word they will stick in the French (grive musicienne) hoping that no-one will notice!

Under "Starling": "Young people: because of their grey plumage mice and of their dark nozzle, the young people are often confused with other species." (here, "young people" = juvenile). Or how about the Black-headed Gull: "In winter, it has a task sinks behind of the eye"? This perhaps needs an explanation: "tache" can mean "task" or "patch". "Sombre" means "dark", but it is also part of the verb "to sink" (as of a ship). Oh, the perils of machine translation!

Paul Banham

Illegal immigrants from West Africa

The amusing account of an Adder that was smuggled back to Norfolk from Hampshire, brought to mind an incident after one of the birding trips that I led to The Gambia in the early 1990s.

On the night before we were due to fly home, I left my trainers outside on the veranda, in order for them to dry out before I packed them in my luggage the following morning. As is my usual habit when packing, the next day I stuffed them with dirty socks and other items needing to be washed and deposited them in my suitcase.

A couple of days after returning home, I decided to give them a clean and took them into the garden to shake out any sand and other debris, and to my surprise two West African Toads fell out!

Not being sure what the position was regarding their importation, I phoned Norwich airport and was told that quarantine was not necessary and that I had probably not broken any laws. The problem then was what to do with them! With his veterinary knowledge and contacts at London Zoo, Ian Keymer was the obvious person to contact and he duly rang up one of the curators at the zoo. Although they had no West African Toads, financial restraints prevented the addition of any more animals to their collection. Janet Keymer came to the rescue and the toads became part of the menagerie at Gresham's Prep School.

The moral of the story is always check your shoes in the morning before putting them. After all they could have been scorpions!

Moss Taylor

A frog or two for lunch

I had the dubious pleasure of watching a heron eating its lunch recently. The bird had flown into the open water in front of the fen hide at Strumpshaw, it landed in the middle after a long, shallow glide from the direction of the river. After a good look round to make sure the coast was clear it waded across to the shallows at the left of the hide. Peering intently into the water it moved slowly along the reed margin, then out shot its long sinuous neck and a frog was dangling from the tip of its bill.

Within minutes another frog had met the same fate, and yet another, in the half hour or so that the bird stayed in the pool it had eaten six. It now very slowly waded back to the centre of the water and just stood for several minutes on one leg resting from its labours before flying off, much heavier and less hungry,

Each frog was dunked in the water several times, and manoeuvred around in the bill before being swallowed, a distinct bulge in the herons neck could be seen as the poor old frog went down, still alive and kicking. My sandwiches didn't seem to have their normal appeal somehow.

Tony Howes

Not Even Moths Come To Light (3)

(when the ground is frozen and it is snowing)

Just as it seemed that winter was finally retreating and one or two of the early season moths were coming to the traps we were treated to the cold snap of weather at the end of February. I had seen two or three beetles in December and early January – the small plant-climbing ground beetle *Demetrias atricapillus* with a yellowish red body and black head on the 13th December, the flea beetle *Psylliodes chrysocephala* which can be a serious pest on oil-seed rape and turnip crops on the 23rd December, the little pill beetle *Simplocaria semistriata,* which is found everywhere and often in large numbers, on the 6th January – but with the appearance of *Ophion lutens*, one of the larger and more obvious ichneumon wasps, on the 1st February and the ground beetle *Trechus quadristriatus*, which is widespread and a regular visitor to the traps, on the 11th I thought the "season has started".

Then the weather changed, the snow fell and the traps were turned off as blowing snow and hot lamps do not mix very well. When the worst of the wintery weather was over, by the end of the first week in March, everywhere was thoroughly chilled and even though moths did start to appear again there was nothing like the number or variety expected during March. It would be very wrong to assume that this means a decline in either numbers or species as I am sure they were still about but not bothering to fly much let alone visit lamps. Pheromones would still attract male to female and when mating has taken place there is no need for any further activity other than egg laying which rarely necessitates flying – many spring species have wingless females anyway.

By the middle of March I had seen a few moths, a number of earwigs and on the 10th the ground beetle *Amara aenea* so I shall be very surprised if I do not see just as much variety in the traps as last year and the early season species in their usual numbers next year.

Mike Hall

The hoverfly *Criorhina ranunculi* in west Norwich

The most spectacular fly to be found in the early spring is the large, furry, mainly black-haired hoverfly *Criorhina ranunculi,* which has two forms, red-tailed and white-tailed, and thus resembles a queen bumble bee.

On the early afternoon of 5 April I was fortunate to find one, a red-tailed form, resting on foliage of cherry laurel in my rear garden in west Norwich. This was my first ever sighting of the species and a welcome addition to the garden list. It's presence was almost certainly due to the blossoming plum trees a few feet away. In addition I have a sallow in my front garden whose blossom would also be a lure.

C. ranunculi is mainly a southern species-it occurs in Norfolk but is almost certainly under-recorded owing to its early appearance (peaking in late April) and its habit of frequenting the tops of flowering shrubs when it is difficult to distinguish it from bumble bees.

It's certainly an insect to look out for in areas where there are early flowering trees and shrubs and the illustration in British Hoverflies by Stubbs and Falk will aid identification if one is seen close enough for scrutiny.

Stuart Paston

Invading aphids

Twice in 2004 we found aphids we didn't recognise on exotic trees in Norwich city centre, and with it the prospect of a 'new to Britain' tag. Twice we contacted Rothamsted Research Centre to find out if they'd been recorded by their monitoring network of aphid traps. After being assured on both occasions that our finds were old news we asked Rothamsted for the list of tree-feeding species that are currently invading the U.K.

So, of the recent colonists, in the city centre we've found:

- *Crypturaphis grassii* – a Mediterranean species widespread on Italian alder *Alnus cordata*
- *Appendiseta robinia* – an American species occasionally on false acacia *Robinia pseudacacia*
- *Tinocallis nevskyi* – an Oriental species that is widespread in Norfolk on various British elms *Ulmus* spp, first found in the UK in Great Yarmouth in 1996

We're also on the look-out for:

- *Tinocallis takachihoensis* – on elms, very similar to *T. nevskyi* but with a black head and thorax
- *Hoplocallis pictus* – another Mediterranean species on British and exotic oaks, similar to several native oak aphids but with banded antennae and black markings on dorsal surface

The good news is that these species seem to be at low densities on individual trees and they aren't known to carry plant viruses. We would be keen to know of any sightings and Graham is happy to confirm specimens sent in alcohol.

Jit Thacker (jit@astridhouse.fsnet.co.uk) and *Graham Hopkins* (15 Matlock Road, Norwich, NR1 1TL)

"Wood Ants" in East Anglia?

This note is a request for records of *Formica rufa* L. in East Anglia.

The "wood ants" of the *Formica rufa* group are the most spectacular British ants, well known for building large nest-mounds from vegetable debris, usually in open woodland. The workers range in size from 4-9mm and are bicoloured, the black abdomen contrasting with the head and thorax, which are reddish-brown with black patches. Foraging trails from a large nest may extend over 100m to aphid-bearing trees, but insect prey is also taken, both from trees and the forest floor. The workers are aggressively territorial, and readily bite and spray formic acid.

Of the four British species in the group, only *Formica rufa* is likely to occur naturally in East Anglia. Identification details can be obtained from a number of references [Collingwood and Barrett, 1964; Bolton and Collingwood, 1975; Collingwood, 1979]. Our region contains plenty of habitat that would appear suitable, as does the climate, yet there are few records of *F. rufa*, none of them recent. The reasons for this are unclear, and are presumably historic. East Anglia must have been largely covered in forest in prehistoric times, and partial clearance by man should have benefitted wood ants. The Breckland and Sandlings heaths may have become too barren for *F.rufa*, yet the general absence of the species is still a biogeographical puzzle. Small, local populations may have been introduced to estates as the pupae ("ants' eggs") have been used as food for pheasants. If these or isolated natural populations die out, for whatever reason, recolonisation from distant inhabited sites across large tracts of East Anglian arable land would be unlikely.

There are confirmed records from the extreme south of Suffolk, from "Bentley Wood", and Holbrook Park immediately to the south of Ipswich, and Assington Thicks about 12miles (20km) further west [Yarrow, 1955; Barrett, 1968]. In Bentley Wood, renowned Suffolk entomologist Claude Morley observed "a very strong colony" of *F.rufa* for at least five years at the end of the 19th century. Others were stated to be present in the same wood [Morley, 1899]. Nelmes [1938] noted that *F.rufa* had been "fairly numerous" at Bentley but listed the site amongst several extinguished by fire at the time of writing. The woodlands around Bentley were also once notable for their butterfly fauna, including the "UK endangered" heath fritillary (*Mellicta athalia* Rott.) and a number of other rare species, most now extinct in Suffolk. It is clear that much good habitat has been lost or degraded in that area. Few published details exist of the Holbrook Park site, other than that the first record of wood ants appears to date from May, 1894 [Morley, 1899]. At Assington Thicks, apparently first recorded by Harwood in 1920, [Morley, 1935], Nelmes [*op. cit.*] noted only two nests. More recently, gamekeepers knew nothing of the ant, which must have been long extinct (Barrett, 1975, personal communication). Nelmes [*op. cit.*] is contradictory about East Anglia - whilst listing the Suffolk records, she states in the text that there are no records from the region, except to record (p.83) that "Between Cambridge and Bury St. Edmunds there is a large patch of coarse sands on which wood ants are said to occur, but the record is unconfirmed". Barrett [1965] failed to find wood ants at any of the Suffolk sites, whilst doing field work for his national survey of *Formica rufa* [Barrett, 1968].

The situation in Norfolk is mysterious. Barrett [1979] shows an old record north-west of Norwich in grid square TG11, which is presumably the same as one noted by Yarrow [1955], "Edwards' MS., 1911, locality unknown". Elsewhere in Norfolk, Breckland can claim one or two anecdotal records. Perhaps the most reliable is the report by the late, renowned, travel writer (and Fellow of the Royal Entomological Society) John Hillaby, who, during wartime army service stationed near Mundford, described pulling a wood ant nest apart with bare arms, in search of myrmecophilous beetles. As anyone who has done likewise could testify, this is not an action easily forgotten. The site was on the edge of a pine wood in the grounds of the now-demolished Didlington Hall (ca. TL7797). Mr Hillaby had no doubts of the ants' identity, recalling how the event had much amused his fellow soldiers [Hillaby, 1982, New Scientist column and personal communication]! An unconventional, but more recent "record" featured in an episode of the TV comedy series "Dad's Army", screened around 1970. The location shots for the series were filmed near Thetford (so could also have been in Suffolk) and in the episode concerned, "Corporal Jones" accidentally put his foot in what was clearly a wood ant nest, or part of one, with predictably comic results. A surviving cast member, when asked later about this scene, could not recall whether the ants were found locally and used opportunistically, or intentionally brought in as a "prop" from elsewhere. As the nearest known inhabited sites are in Essex and near Peterborough, a local origin is perhaps the more likely, unless there was an alternative "theatrical" source of supply.

Just beyond the borders of East Anglia proper, to the south is a small cluster of records in Essex, most still with thriving populations [Harvey, 1998]. To the west and north is only a thin scatter of sites in Bedfordshire, Northamptonshire and Lincolnshire. There is one long-extinct site on the Greensand at Gamlingay, south-west of Cambridge [Barrett, 1968] (but no records at all from this geological formation in West Norfolk). In the 1930's, Wragge Morley introduced several colonies to land adjoining the orchards of Messrs. Chivers and Co., the jam manufacturers, at Histon, just north of Cambridge. These survived for at least a few years [Wragge Morley, 1953].

Therefore, the authors would be grateful for records of wood ants from anywhere in the East Anglian region - although sightings from Norfolk and Suffolk would be of particular interest, reports from adjacent counties will also be welcome, as *F. rufa* is of conservation significance and is generally declining. Information on historic records, even where the species is no longer present, would also be useful.

N.C.Blacker (c/o 1, Lowry Way, Lowestoft, Suffolk, NR32 4LW. Email: ncb12_12@yahoo.com) and *P.J.Attewell* (69, Thornbury Gardens, Boreham Wood, Herts., WD6 1RD. Email: philattewell@aol.com)

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Woodpeckers

While working in the garden this afternoon my attention was drawn to the sound of greater spotted woodpeckers calling from the woods nearby. I went indoors for the binoculars and was then able to see two of these charismatic birds chasing one another through the trees, all the time calling. I could see them flaring their tails and spreading their wings in a courtship display.

Most years I find a nest, usually by listening for the continuous clamour of the young as I walk through the woods during early summer, silver birch seems the most favoured tree for the nest hole, live or dead, preferably the latter. It's at this time of the year that they often visit the bird table in the garden, and take beakfulls of suet back to the youngsters. The adults tend to get quite scruffy at this stage, with feathers worn and a 'well used ' look about them.

Its very unusual to see lesser spotted woodpeckers now in these woods, they have always been the rarer of the two species, but in past years I saw them more frequently than I do now. They are mainly birds of the woodland canopy, this alone makes them less likely to be seen. It was therefore a pleasure to see two of these robin sized wood- peckers at Strumpshaw during a walk through the woods there earlier this week.

Tony Howes

Mystery Tree

If you go onto Holkham Bay via the board-walk at the north end of Lady Anne's Road, take a look at the Pine plantation on the right. The trees are in straight lines, having been planted in (I think) 1956, with a few in-filling replacements subsequently. Every now and then you will come across one with a trunk at least twice as thick as its neighbours. However, this is not the mystery. Look up the tree, and you will see that the cones are much bigger than those on the Corsican Pines alongside, and appear at regular intervals along the branches. They are Monterey Pines, which grow much faster than Corsicans, and were not among the few species chosen for planting in the 19th century.

For the mystery you will have to turn left when you get to the end, and follow the edge of the bay north- westward. What was a sandy beach only a few decades ago is now incipient saltmarsh, mainly Samphire and Annual Seablite, with a scattering of Shrubby Seablite at the very edge, where the dunes begin, which here are planted with Pines and Holm Oaks. A quarter mile or so from the boardwalk is a rather stunted deciduous tree, which for years we saw only in winter, when parking in L. A. R. was free (mean? what do you mean, mean?).

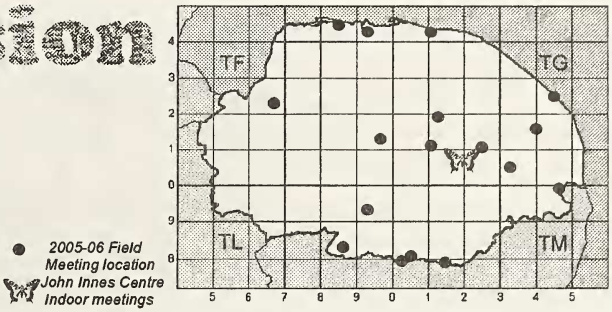
Its buds were rather lumpish, brown and alternate, and didn't seem right for any sort of Willow, which, along with Birches, grow amongst the Pines at the Wells end a mile or so away. Furthermore, it is within a couple of yards of the highest tide-mark, and must surely be at least splashed with salt water during northerly storms. When at last I finally saw it in early summer two years ago it was covered in blossom: white, and pretty obviously a pear! What an unlikely place to find a fruit-tree. I went back later in the year hoping to pick-my-own pears, but there were only leaves. Perhaps the salt-laden air inhibits development. How did it get there? I suppose it must have been from a core thrown away at a picnic. There are good-quality apples to be found on the landward side of the dunes near Wells beach car-park which I assume got there that way, but they are not so close to the sea.

Paul Banham

Excursion Reports

Featuring:

East Winch Common



EAST WINCH COMMON

Sunday 13TH March, 2005

A small but select group of experienced bryologists met in the reserve Car Park, and – in the absence of any beginners to be induced into the delights of moss hunting – decided to concentrate on recording the site as thoroughly as possible. The site is spread over four 10km grid squares, however, the northern two only include small areas on the fringe of the reserve, so they were ignored, and recording effort concentrated on the two larger portions of the site, which is divided into eastern and western 'halves' by grid Easting 70.

The site has had a lot of management work done on it recently, which had cleared away a lot of acidic scrubby woodland, though it will be some time before this recovers into heathland. However, the ponds and damp areas, which were cleared several years ago, were in good condition and quickly yielded six species of Bog-moss or *Sphagnum*. However, several other species proved elusive, though there is no real reason to fear that they have been lost. The only exception to this may be *Sphagnum molle*, which has not been seen for many years.

After a pleasant lunch, taken in the sun, the party looked at the woodlands remaining on the eastern fringe, before crossing back into the western part of the reserve. Species which seemed to be confined to the eastern part of the reserve included the liverworts *Cephalozia connivens, Gynocolea inflata*, and two species of *Pellia* – *Pellia endiviifolia* and *Pellia epiphylla*. A disturbing discovery (by Mary Ghullam), was a small colony of the alien liverwort *Lophocolea semiteres*, found on a path. This seems to be spreading and, because it is such an efficient competitor, may be having an adverse effect on smaller liverwort species. However, in this instance the colony was not in a position to affect anything more interesting.

A few mosses, such as *Fissidens incurvus* and *Didymodon insulanus* were added to the eastern site list, whilst the most notable absentee seeming to be *Leucobryum glaucum* which had been found on the last visit by the NNNS.

The western part of the reserve contained many of the same species encountered in the morning, though with notably fewer species of *Sphagnum*. However, a group of sallows growing near some shallow pools, produced a nice crop of epiphytic species, including *Cryphaea heteromalla* and *Orthotrichum pulchellum* – a species which seems to be becoming much commoner. The two thallose epiphytic liverworts, *Metzgeria furcata* and *Metzgeria fruticulosa*, were also found.

Tired, mossed-out, but happy, the group left the site in the late afternoon, after recording some 60 species, and headed towards the flesh pots of King's Lynn where tea and cake were waiting.

Robin Stevenson

RESEARCH COMMITTEE

After a certain amount of turmoil, I have taken on the chairmanship of this committee for an initial period of a year to see if it can be made something of rather than allowing it to fall by the wayside. I have been in touch with John Sizer who is Overall Warden for the National Trust in North Norfolk and he tells me that they would like to update their records for several properties in the Blakeney Point complex such as Blakeney Freshes as well as the Point itself. With regards the latter, not bird records from the Point itself as someone has recently been writing these up. Any other records, especially for invertebrates etc., please send either to me, or to Janet (Research Committee Secretary) whose addresses will be found in the new programme. If you work by Email, it will have to be Janet! Other projects are being investigated, but nothing has been confirmed at the time of writing.

Alec Bull

COLNEY WOOD

Colney Wood is a burial park set in twelve acres of mature woodland located on the edge of Norwich overlooking the Yare Valley. After extensive research and consultation with landscape and wildlife experts, funeral directors and bereaved families, Colney Woodland Burial Park opened its doors in 1999.

The Park enjoys a distinctive landscape of low-lying valleys alongside an unusual escarpment. Gentle paths lead through areas naturally enhanced by the beauty of silver birch, oak, beech, sweet chestnut, pine and ash trees. According to season, there is a profusion of bluebells, foxgloves and many other varieties of wildflower.

Colney Wood has been established with the prime aim of offering an appealing and meaningful alternative to conventional burial and cremation choices. It seeks to provide a natural choice both for the bereaved and those who wish to plan for the future during their own lifetime. The Park offers a perfect environment for quiet contemplation and remembrance.

Colney Wood is a haven for wildlife and natural plant growth, reinforcing the concept of the Renewal of Life. This can be especially meaningful for those having to face either their own mortality or the permanent nature of the loss that they have experienced.

Education is important to us at Colney Wood and we have a policy of education to all age groups in order to further the understanding of good woodland and wildlife management. We have carried out much research into the bird life at Colney Wood and have developed our own "bird book." We are keen to extend this book to include information about the host of other wildlife that the woodland supports - wild animals, butterflies, insects, wild flowers, fungi and bats. Increasingly we realise how much this matters. Mankind has relied upon woodland to provide for all his needs. What more suitable place then for us to be buried here - at one with our ancestors and nature and yet providing hope and beauty for future generations to enjoy.

Any help that the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists can provide to help us with this task would be gratefully appreciated. The woodland is open 7 days a week and all are welcome to visit and walk through the woods. On the last Sunday in the month there is a tea shop open serving hot drinks and refreshments and we are currently hosting a photographic exhibition in the woodland shelter by two members of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists Photographic group, Brian Macfarlane and Tony Howes.

Colney Wood Burial Park, Watton Road, Colney, Norwich, Norfolk

Answers to local bird name quiz

1.	Cadder	Jackdaw
2.	Capering Longtail	Yellow Wagtail
3.	Hayjack	Common Whitethroat
4.	Puddingpoke	Long-tailed Tit
5.	Smee Duck	Wigeon

BSBI Bramble Meeting
(North Norfolk)
Friday evening July 15th to Sunday July 17th, 2005

We shall be meeting first at Greshams School, Holt on the Friday evening followed by a visit to Salthouse Heath as a 'taster'.

On Saturday we start at Fulmodeston Severalls and go on from there to Sheringham Park and Pretty Corner and end the day at Felbrigg.

On Sunday we meet in the car park at Bacton Woods where there is a wide range of species. We shall probably note be able to go into the woods themselves due to tree felling operations, but will go on, first to Crostwight Common in a reduced number of cars, then back to Bacton for remaining cars and on to Bryant's Heath, Felmingham and with a final stop at Westwick. The exact location for the last call has yet to be made as it has been arranged recently to compensate for a shorter visit than hoped for at Bacton.

If any Society members would like to learn more about this intriguing group of plants they will be most welcome, and don't forget, I shall not always be around either to do the brambles for you or to give you instruction on some occasion in the distant future so, send me an s.a.e. for a full itinerary which will enable me to book your names in either for the weekend, or for either of the days. Before the end of May please.

Alec Bul

Would all contributors please send your notes etc. to the editor as soon as possible by July 1st, 2005 to the following address: Francis Farrow, 'Heathlands', 6 Havelock Road, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8QD or by email to: francis.f@virgin.net