

The Norfolk Natterjack



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The quarterly bulletin of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society



Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Founded 1869

Reg. Charity No. 291604

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Council:

Retiring 2019: J Hubbard, D Nobbs, Dr P Taylor

Retiring 2020: Teresa Frost, T Hodge

Retiring 2021: D Ashton, W Fitch, M Goddard, R. Hawke

Co-opted Members: To be invited following the first meeting of the new council.

Hon. Independent Examiner: M. Benstead

The Newsletter, *The Norfolk Natterjack*, is published quarterly.

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Cover image: Long-eared Owl (Andy Benson) - See page 4

Toad-in-the-hole....

Welcome to the first 150th Anniversary edition, which carries a banner on the front cover (drawn by Ellie Farrow) and also the official 150 coloured logo. My thanks to all contributors, both for articles and images and please note that the centre pages hold the 2018 AGM Report. As the '*Natterjack*' has lost some pages due to this report I have removed the Recorders and Special Groups listings, which if required can be found on the NNNS website and Programme Card respectively. This edition has a review of new Norfolk molluscs, a long distance Long-eared Owl, notes on an exciting recording opportunity around Norfolk's commons and details of the NNNS 150th Anniversary Day at How Hill in June.

SNAIL PARASITE

Kevin Radley

A long held wish of mine was fulfilled on the 21st September last, when, at Wheatfen Nature Reserve, I came across an Amber Snail parasitised by the fluke - or digenean - *Leucochloridium paradoxum*.

My photo shows the striped/banded brood sacs of the sporocyst stage of the fluke's life-cycle, visible in the snail's tentacles. These "pulsate" to attract birds' attention.

A full account of this parasite's fascinating life-cycle can be found in the NNNS Occasional Publication 15, entitled *Hidden Lives* by Graham Kearn.



Amber Snail showing the banded tentacles caused by fluke parasitation

Another photo of a similarly parasitised snail (also taken at Wheatfen) by David Nobbs - retired Warden - adorns the cover of this excellent publication.

Incidentally, a short video clip that I took which shows the pulsating eye tentacle can still be seen on Wheatfen's 'Facebook' site.

Image: Kevin Radlev

NEW TO NORFOLK UPDATE (Molluscs and Flatworm)

Jake Stone

My first two new to Norfolk mollusc records were discovered in lunch breaks, no more than 50 yards from my office at the John Innes Centre, Norwich. The first came in November 2017, when, poking around behind some glasshouses I noticed a slug with noticeably darker markings than those it was sharing a space under a brick with. The other slugs with lighter markings I knew as *Ambigolimax valentianus*, however I was fairly sure this darker slug, although very similar, was a different species, *Ambigolimax nyctelius*. The only way of reliably separating these species however, is through dissection of their genitalia; so, I sent the specimen (along with several others I had found in the following weeks) off to an expert (Dr John Hutchinson) to carry out this very task. He confirmed it as *Ambigolimax nyctelius*, a species that although seemingly well established, had not been recorded in Norfolk before. It is likely that this species has been greatly overlooked since it was first recorded in the UK back in the 1930's and is actually far more widespread than records suggest.



Ambigolimax nyctelius

Image: Jake Stone

The second of these finds came several months later in April. I had begun my lunch break by updating a list I had created of terrestrial mollusc species that were not yet recorded in Norfolk, but I felt had a

good chance of being present. You can imagine my surprise when no more than 15 minutes later, when checking an area of boards and bricks, attached on the very first brick I overturned was a tiny snail seemingly matching a species that I had just added to my list. I rushed back to my office to check it

under the microscope, and unbelievably it was indeed this species, *Paralaoma servilis* (later confirmed by Dr Ben Rowson). I had looked in this location hundreds of times previously and have looked there and elsewhere many times since; to my knowledge this remains the only record for this species in Norfolk. Nationally this species is considered scarce but spreading.



Paralaoma servilis

Image: Jake Stone

A further record new for Norfolk, this time non-mollusc, was recorded in July. I was sent some photographs by a friend (who was working at a Norfolk plant nursery) of a flatworm she had just come across and thought was unusual. She wondered if I knew what species it was and whether it was native or not. To be honest at the time I didn't know; but, with the help of an old key and the



Caenoplana bicolor

Image: Suzanne Antonelli

internet, I managed to tentatively identify it as *Caenoplana bicolor*, a non-native species from Australia. It had almost certainly arrived at the nursery with imported plant material. I contacted Dr Hugh Jones (the man who had written the key I was using), who, as well as confirming the identification, also informed me that although this species had been previously recorded in the UK a number of

times (particularly in the South), this was the first instance of it showing up in Norfolk.

Perhaps my most significant new to Norfolk record came from the 2018 Banham Zoo Bioblitz; as I found a slug that was not only new for the county but also new for the UK. Maybe surprisingly it was not discovered in the tropical hothouse or within an exotic animal enclosure; instead it was found when turning some logs over on the very fringes of the site. The slug was entirely dark charcoal in colour and keeled, a combination of features that I had never seen before. A look through the relevant keys and the internet did little to help me identify the specimen; and after several enquiries with fellow malacologists proved equally unfruitful. I decided to send the slug to Dr Ben Rowson. He was also rather stumped to begin with, and it was only after a detailed dissection, several complete read-throughs of Wiktor's 1987 Milacidae book and a great deal of detective work, that he was able to provisionally identify it as *Tandonia* cf. retowskii. Other than the morphological features and the fact that it is native to the Black Sea region, very little is published about this species. I can only presume the specimen found its way to Banham via plant material brought in for the zoo or attached nursery. I intend to revisit the site in the near future in an attempt to find out if there is an established population or if this was a lone specimen. Future DNA analysis is also planned, so hopefully there will be a further update to come.



Tandonia cf. retowskii

Image: Jake Stone

'LEO-Kilo' The remarkable recovery of the 1000th Long-eared Owl ringed by Finnish ringer.

Fddie Anderson*

At dawn on Sunday 28th October, 2018 after a night of strong northerly winds and heavy rain showers, my daughter Evie saw what appeared to be a soaked dead owl on the pavement outside her house by Cromer church. On picking it up she realised it was alive but comatose, most probably with exhaustion following a very long flight over the North Sea, in frightful weather.



'LEO-Kilo' feather perfect

After an hour in her warm house, the owl revived enough to flap about, knocking pictures off the wall, until secured in a dark box to dry out. When I examined this migrant Long Eared Owl (Otus asio) it was clearly tired but in excellent health. Feather perfect, breast muscle strong and fat, and in

aggressive humour, accurately snatching unguarded fingers with needle-sharp talons. But most important, it carried a ring marked "Helsinki Museum, number H 184670".



'LEO-Kilo' rescued at Cromer and very angry

'LEO-Kilo' prior to release at Templewood



'LEO-Kilo' after release at Templewood

On the way home through Northrepps I picked up Andy Benson, a keen birder. After some fast detailed photography we liberated the owl in the 80 hectares of quiet woodland at Templewood. He flew strongly in a big circle around us gliding elegantly and with slow flaps disappeared into thick trees. We walked on to a lake to count ducks, and half an hour later, heard a crow rudely swearing at something in a tall tree. There sat our owl, glaring down at us defiantly.

Andy reported the ring number to Helsinki and almost by return discovered it was a male bird of the year, weighing 240 gms, captured in a net only three weeks earlier, near Pori on the Baltic coast of Finland. A direct flight would have been about one thousand miles (1560 km), though with deviations and if following the land as far as possible, undoubtedly he would have flown much further. This was a textbook perfect ringing recovery - but the story then took a turn

Images: Andy Benson



one thousandth Long Eared Owl he had captured and ringed. My first reaction was that this was a typing error, maybe ten or possible one hundred but no. One Thousand Long Eared Owls caught!

His method is to encircle his cabin with mist nets and play a CD recording of Long Eared Owls hooting continuously. They are easily attracted any time of the year, and unafraid to approach houses and lights. Erkki says his method is luxurious as he sits comfortably indoors in the warm, watching TV until one is caught, which he can see with a flashlight. Then he disentangles the owl (which cannot be an easy task as they are very bad tempered) and pops the bird into a plastic pipe, which secures its legs for ringing, measuring and weighing. He is not alone as there are half a dozen other owl ringers around that part of Finland. He told me.

"I have had relatively few recoveries, other Finnish ringers have so far caught 28 of my owls but your Norfolk owl is only the ninth recorded abroad. The others flew to Sweden, Denmark, Russia. Estonia. Latvia and three in Poland. In addition, I have also caught owls that had already been ringed in Latvia, Sweden and Denmark. On migration Long Eared Owls can move very rapidly. The record is one that my fellow ringer netted just two hours after it had been ringed 20 km away! My home is near Turku 150 km south from the island cabin in Pori, and in my home yard I have caught four owls which I had previously ringed at Pori!"

for the extraordinary.

When I contacted the ringer, Erkki Haukioja, he said he'd already written a report to the Finnish Bird Ringers Group about this particular individual. Having spent the last 10 years netting Long Eared Owls at his island cabin close to the sea at Pori, ours was already very special to him as it was the







Top: Vesakari Pori Cabin netting area and amplifier

Middle: Erkki takes a LEO from a net in Pori

Bottom: LEO ringing tube

Images: Ari Rivasto

Globally the Long Eared Owl is widespread throughout the northern forests with various almost identical subspecies elsewhere, proving it to be a highly successful bird. But always extremely secretive. When I told him how very special it is for us to see a single Long Eared Owl in Norfolk, Erkki remarked.

"It is a really evasive species. I have ringed more than 500 in my island cabin yard (Pori) yet never seen a single LEO except in the net or circling around a CD-player. And at my home yard (Turku) I have only twice seen LEO during more than 40 years - except when catching them. What I have learned is that we still know very little about their movements. You get them in southwest Finland up to the end of the year - but only when there are plenty of voles around. If no voles, then no owls, even in November. As regards their long-distance movements, some fly west over the sea until they find land. One Finnish owl, and two Swedish were recovered in Iceland! (Perhaps some day Greenland or Canada?) But many LEOs from Finland go directly south, and they seem to be true migrants".

Just a couple of weeks after our owl arrived in Cromer, Erkki told me another was recovered on Fair Isle in the Shetlands, which he had ringed in his home yard in the spring of 2012. Might this possibly be a regular annual migrant back and forth across the North Sea?

Erkki Haukioja is a Member of the Finnish Academy of Science and Letters and now retired Emeritus Professor of Zoology at Turku University. He has studied and researched in USA, Canada and Australia. His specialisation is the interaction between insects and trees.

There cannot be many bird ringers who can claim to have handled such a huge number of such an elusive species. As only 1% of Erkki's owls have ever been recovered, his One Thousandth Long Eared Owl must have some magical quality to have guided it into the arms of equally enthusiastic friends in north Norfolk!

When I suggested, fancifully, that to me his bird was like some mythical spirit creature bringing a message from the Boreal forests, Erkki commented reservedly, as only a good scientist would:



Erikki holding LEO-Kilo - just caught on 07/10/2018

Image: Ari Rivasto

"I well understand your feelings when seeing our owl. If I can contribute to your advertising of owls, it is my pleasure!"

^{*}In our 150th anniversary year it should not go un-recorded that one of the early founders of the NNNS was Eddie's great great grandfather J H Gurney senior (also founder of the Castle Museum - somewhere to put his huge collection of stuffed raptors.)...!



Pectoral Sandpipers

Hans Watson

Bird-watching members of the Society, will probably be aware of the two long staying Pectoral Sandpipers at Buckenham marsh last autumn. These birds were not always easy to watch, staying at fairly long range, and sometimes disappearing behind vegetation. The best views were when, panicked by a Marsh Harrier, they flew up with the Lapwings and Ruff that were feeding close-by. On a few occasions, even long periods of watching the shallow area of water and mud, failed to provide a view of the birds. This inevitably led some to think that the birds had moved on. However, when the birds were again seen a day or two later, some of the birders began to wonder if these were the same birds, or were different birds that were passing through, and just stopping off to feed.

Pectoral Sandpipers cannot be relied upon to visit every year, but in years when they do visit, the Yare valley between Breydon Water and Strumpshaw, seems to be a favoured area. Some birdwatchers, myself included, have noticed that in years that Curlew Sandpipers visit this area in larger numbers than usual, so several Pectoral Sandpipers also turn up. As both species breed in the same areas of Arctic Russia, it may be that they travel together. In 2011, better birdwatchers than myself, estimated that at least 11 Pectoral Sandpipers visited Cantley in the space of 4 weeks, including a small flock of 4 that were watched by many birders. Numbers of birds can easily be underestimated, as has been proven by ringing studies. Even in our gardens, we can greatly underestimate the number of Blue Tits, Blackbirds etc, visiting feeding stations. This can also apply to highly mobile birds like waders, so it is possible that those birdwatchers were right, and more than two 'Pecs' visited Buckenham marsh last autumn.

Eastern/Siberian Stonechat at Salthouse

John Furse

I'd been puzzled why the putative *Stejneger's Stonechat *Saxicola stejnegeri* along Meadow Lane at Salthouse hadn't appeared at Gramborough Hill. Apart from any selfish reasons (!), there had been up to six different Common Stonechats *S. torquatus* 'in residence' since 4 October. In addition, Meadow Lane doesn't see many of these, whereas Gramborough is a regular haunt, with breeding on and off. Anyway, 'our' stonechats went missing when this rare bird (and a potential new species for Norfolk) turned up.

Imagine my pleasure, therefore when, approaching the main brambles on the south side of the Hill, I saw several stonechats (including a male & female of the more usual race) flitting about. One perched facing me, displaying a characteristic whitish throat. It was the 'Sibe'. It was just as flighty here, as on Meadow Lane. Only one shot proved of any worth - the one shown - taken through a small gap in the brambles. It, together with the two other stonechats, then flew on to the fence and, with the approach of several people, went first a little further east, then flew back to the Meadow Lane side of the grazing meadow.



Hickling and its adjacent areas

Elizabeth Dack

It's always a joy to visit the NWT Hickling reserve as there is so much diversity of wildlife no matter what the weather. For the past few weeks whilst there, it has been windy and raining and still there has been lots to see and photograph. The Cranes have been out and trumpeting every time I have been there. I am trying not to take them for granted!





I was pleased to get a photo of what I thought to be a pair of Hobby's flying very fast a way off on a windy day. I was even more pleased when I downloaded the photos and realised I had caught two Peregrines in full flight. The following week, after watching two Red Deer hinds running around I moved along to the reed bed where I heard Beaded Tits calling. Scanning the scrape





through the mist, then back across the reeds I saw the large antlered head of a Red Deer stag looking back at me!! A magnificent beast. Although the mist didn't clear much, I saw and photographed a 'ringtail' Hen Harrier, a stoat watching something along the edge of the reedbed and a male Kingfisher.







Continuing from Hickling for a walk along the beach at Eccles, Sea Palling and Waxham revealed Shore Larks, Snow Buntings, Guillemots and of course lots of seals

A bit more inland around Cantley and the Buckenham Marshes held lots of our Winter visitors. Huge numbers of Pink-footed and White-fronted Geese as well as the usual high numbers of Widgeon, Teal and Lapwings. Whilst scanning the marsh a Juvenile Peregrine flew through sending everything up into the sky. The sound of the Wigeon whistling was amazing to hear. There

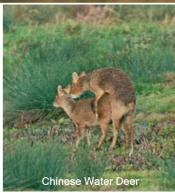




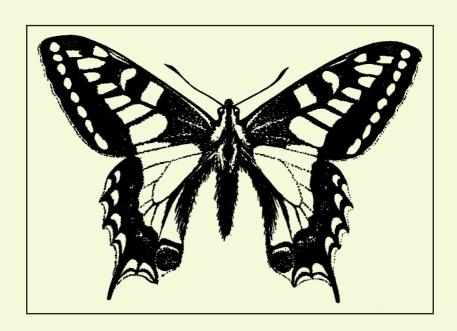
has been a Red Kite there on several occasion as well. As I spotted the canine tusks of a buck Chinese Water Deer he started running and as I followed him with my camera he caught up to a doe who ran a bit with him chasing, she then stopped and they mated. I felt this was a rarity to witness and capture on camera

We are blessed with so much wildlife in Norfolk. It's great to be able to get outside and see it all. Its a bonus to get the photos so I can revisit what I have seen and share them with others.

Images: Elizabeth Dack



Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society



ANNUAL REPORT 2018

Presidents, Vice Presidents and Council members serving during 2018

(members served throughout the year except where stated otherwise).

Presidents: Dr H Smith Dr Carl Sayer

(to 13.3.18) (from 13.3.18)

Vice Presidents: Dr RE Baker, Mrs MA Brewster, AL Bull,

RC Hancy, PW Lambley, DI Richmond

Chairman: C Chapman

Secretary: J Emerson

Assistant Secretary: FJL Farrow

Treasurer: Position vacant

Assistant Treasurer: J Froud

Membership committee: G Carrick (chair) J Froud (secretary)

Programme committee: Ms DL Cheyne (chair) Dr SR Martin (secretary)

Publications committee: Dr AR Leech (chair) Dr J Parmenter (secretary)

Research committee: Dr AG Irwin (chair) MP Ghullam (secretary)

Elected council members:

Retiring 2018 Dr A Edwards, J Emerson, S Neal, A Tegala

(All to 13.3.18)

Retiring 2019: J Hubbard, D Nobbs, Dr P Taylor

Retiring 2020: Teresa Frost, T Hodge

Retiring 2021: D Ashton, W Fitch, M Goddard, R. Hawke

(All from 13.3.18)

Addresses:

Honorary Secretary: J Emerson, 108 Sleaford Green, Norwich, NR3 3JT.

NORFOLK & NORWICH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY . . .

The Society was founded in 1869 and became a registered charity in 1985 with registration number 291604. Its governing instrument is the constitution adopted on 4 March, 1983 as amended on 22 March, 1985, 16 March, 1999 and 21 March, 2006.

The management of the affairs of the Society is in the hands of a Council consisting of Vice Presidents, officers and elected members as listed opposite.

The Society President is nominated by Council to serve for one year and is a person who has made a significant contribution to the understanding of natural history.

The objectives of the Society are:

• to promote, organise, carry on and encourage education of the public and study and research for the advancement of knowledge in natural sciences and to protect endangered species.

To furtherance of the above objects but not further or otherwise the Society may:

- publish papers on the natural sciences, especially those relating to Norfolk.
- encourage the exchange of information between naturalists by means of meetings and excursions.
- protect endangered species by the collection of information, cooperative surveys, investigations and the dissemination of the useful results of such investigations.
- do all such other lawful things as shall further the attainment of the above objects.

. . . Researching Norfolk's Wildlife

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The council has pleasure in presenting this Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending December 31st 2018.

Membership at the end of 2018 stood at 610 (607 in 2017). This small increase belies the fact that the turnover of members during the year has been substantial. The membership is now 'tidier' than it has been for some time with all members not paying subscriptions being deleted from the membership after the correct number of reminders as stated in the rules. The new data protection legislation that came in during April and the ability to now make payment for membership via the website should ensure that the membership database remains tidy. I would again take this opportunity to remind members that membership can be offered as a gift!

The Society ended the year with general account reserves of £90,316.18 (reported previously in the 2017 chairman's report as £19 780), a substantial increase on the previous year due to the legacies outlined below. Although the treasurers post remains vacant our assistant treasurer Jim Froud, along with the newly formed finance group, did an excellent job in balancing the books. I hope to formalise this group with members permission in 2019.

As mentioned above the Society has been lucky enough to receive substantial legacies during the course of the year. Former members have left a total of £62,757.98 within their last will and testaments for which the Society is very grateful. Some of that money has been earmarked to help fund a research library at Wheatfen. More details on this when the project is completed.

Evening talks have once again been a substantial part of what we are about and 2018 was no exception. The programme committee once again put together a fantastic and popular series of events worth attending. Tony Irwin, Brian Tubby, Mike Toms, Andrew Bloomfield, Peter Mallett, Dr Helen Smith, Hans Watson, Dr David Waterhouse, and myself all gave talks on subjects that once again were far ranging and interesting. The enthusiastic contribution by all the speakers is very much appreciated. I would also like to thank the workers who laid out the hall, served refreshments and manned the projector; without them these events simply wouldn't take place.

The Photographic Group once again met several times during the course of the year and continue to share ideas and techniques. As digital photography becomes ever more popular it is worth pointing out these meetings are open to all members.

The programme of workshops and field meetings continued throughout the summer months Ashwellthorpe, Foulden Common, Carlton Marshes in Suffolk, East Wretham Heath, Felbrigg, Cley, Rougham, Earsham Wetland Centre, Wareham Camp, Buckenham Carrs and Hassingham, Holkham Pines, Houghton Hall, Holt Lowes and Beeston Common all coming under scrutiny. Thank you to the organisers and participants alike in making them all entertaining and successful.

The Research Committee led by Tony Irwin has pulled together some excellent articles on Winterton published within Transactions. I'm looking forward to what

research the committee will be taking on board during 2019.

Tony Leech headed up the Publications Committee and saw the publication of the 2017 Bird and Mammal Report which was very well received. Once more the great articles and photographs included are a tribute to Andy Stoddart (Bird Report and photographic editor), Francis Farrow (Mammal Report editor) and Peter Lindsley (layout) and once again I am indebted to Andy for choosing one of my own photos for the front cover. Although, I have to say this must now stop to save my embarrassment.

The Norfolk Natterjack, our quarterly newsletter, allows members to contribute a wide variety of articles. The publication is excellently edited by Francis Farrow. The Society's Facebook page continues to be heavily used. Thanks are due again to Andy Musgrove for acting as our administrator. An additional page has been set up by Teresa Frost of the membership committee to host up to date news and events. I urge you to take a look. Events also continue to be broadcast upon the Society's website.

Comments continue to be made about the Society's website and this remains a centre for information on the Society.

It is pleasing that during the course of the year the UEA, NWT, NE and Norwich Castle Museum all have had representations at council meetings. I hope to invoke changes in 2019 that will forge a way to make liaison with many other wildlife organisations in the county. The Society's relationship with the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS) is a strong one and working arrangements continue to be developed with county recorders. George Carrick of the Membership Committee continues discussion and development with NBIS to produce the 'Wildlife Identification Application', now nicknamed 'Natterapp' for children and adults. This has the potential to become the largest project in which the Society has been involved for many years.

The role of our county recorders is a difficult one. Assimilation and judgement of records is never an easy job. It is often a thankless task, frequently time consuming but always appreciated by those in NBIS and those within the Society that compile reports based on those records.

In 2018 Nick Owens, Anne Edwards, Sam Neal & Ajay Tegala came to the end of term of office as members of council and I thank them wholeheartedly for their service. The day to day organisation of the Society is completed by the four committees. I extend my gratitude to all who have contributed. I would like to extend my personal thanks to James Emerson, our secretary, who has tirelessly produced accurate and very timely minutes to meetings. Producing minutes quickly after meetings ensures action is completed promptly.

2019 is our 150th anniversary of inauguration. Many things are planned which will come to fruition this year. The 019 Group set up to organise these events has been very busy. Please take the time to read about what is proposed to celebrate this occasion. It's a great itinerary and I would love to see you participating at some of the events.

NORFOLK & NORWICH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Registered Charity 291604 RECEIPTS 2018

	RECEIPTS			2017
A1.1 A1.2 A1.3	Voluntary sources	Subscriptions Grants/legacies Sundry donations/gift aid	12372.05 62757.98 669.75	12170.00 0.00 716.75
A2.1 A2.2 A2.3 A2.4 A2.5	Trading activities	Bird report sales (prev yr ed) Bird report sales (current yr ed) Sales of other publications Delivery / postage Workshop attendance fees	133.20 293.25 151.39 0.00	895.16 1083.30 52.00 64.00 525.00
A3.1	Income from assets	Interest	747.05	17.25
	To	otal receipts	77124.67	15523.46
		PAYMENTS 2018		
	PAYMENTS		2018 Total	2017 Total
B1.1 B1.2 B1.3 B1.4	Lectures & meetings	Room hire / speakers' expenses Workshops Programme card printing Exhibitions and publicity	642.25 0.00 286.20 302.40	658.00 651.00 240.80 258.60
B2.1 B2.2 B2.3 B2.4	Publications	Transactions (incl postage) B&M - (incl postage) Sales expenses, fees, postage Occn Publications (incl postage)	1961.00 6779.75 1431.82 2000.00	4005.85 5001.62 49.42 441.22
B3.1 B3.2 B3.3 B3.4	Membership services	Printing & stationary (incl Njack) Postage to members Paypal fees, reminders, new members Website	3357.34 980.41 159.72 59.88	2367.67 0.00 187.99 94.33
B4.1 B4.2	Research & education	Research Education	0.00 0.00	0.00 0.00
C1.1 C1.2 C1.3 C1.4 C1.5 C1.6 C1.7	Governance	AGM expenses: print post Public liability insurance Consumables, envelopes,labels 2019 committee Publication sales postage Committee printing, stationary & postage Ind exam / miscellaneous	0.00 654.56 25.26 0.00 0.00 0.00 187.36	653.52 763.73 46.98 200.00 0.00 0.00
		18827.95	15620.73	

Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society Registered Charity 291604 STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES

Movement in funds / end-	2018 Total	2017 Total	
Movement in funds	Start of year balance Receipts	29043.08 79020.87	29140.35 15523.46
	Payments	17625.94	15620.73
	90438.01	29043.08	
Assets at period end	Represented by:		
	Cash at Barclays	16811.15	18921.25
	Paypal account	0.00	121.83
	Teachers Saving A/c	73505.03	10000.00
	Petty Cash	0.00	0.00
	Unbanked cheques	0.00	0.00
	Less uncleared cheques	113.69	0.00
1	90429.87	29043.08	

Liabilities at period end:

Workshop expenses for 22018 to be carried forward

Cheques not yet cleared

Notes on variances:

- A1.1: Legacy from Basil Walston Ribbons
- A2: Publications were later in the year for sales and invoicing
- A2.4: "Revenue" from PayPal postage was notional and is included in prices
- A2.5 and B1.2: Fewer workshops held, receipts not timely
- B3: Postage costs of mailings by printers is lower

Minor errors

C1: Three errors by bank - all corrected, but reflected in payments and receipts

Note that in 2018 we have discontinued to refer to "the Peet Fund" in accounts, but continue to acknowledge its donor, the Sarnia Trust, in our printed publications

J Froud - Assistant Treasurer

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 12th March 2019 - 7:30 pm

followed by

'An adventure in the Queensland Outback'
Illustrated talk by Garth Coupland.

St. Andrew's Hall, Eaton, NR4 6NW



GARDENING WITH WILDLIFE.

Alec Bull

Actually due to advancing years and bouts of indifferent health, my gardening days are over. However, last April I managed to plant 70 onion sets already bought. Rachel, my daughter, planted some seed potatoes which I also had ready to put in and earthed them up when they were well grown. The seed potatoes were 'Lady Balfour' an excellent variety in our dry, sandy soil which has never failed. In fact in 2017 30 roots produced about 30 kg of good sized spuds. 'Lady Balfour I' is also very resistant to blight'

By mid-July my row of onions were doing well in spite of the drought and my thought was that they would perhaps be smaller than usual, but would be sufficient for my needs. The potato tops were dark green and rampant with several strong stalks to every one of the 29 roots.

Sometime during August I asked one of my other daughters, Sally, if she would go up and see if the onion tops had died down and how the potatoes were looking. I ought to add that due to past rabbit predation the whole vegetable plot is fenced with 3 feet 6 inches 'rabbit netting, and within that fence there are three separate sections each with more netting.

Sally came back and said that the potato tops were nearly all gone and she could not see the row of onions When she arrived at the garden an animal with an erect white tail had jumped over the top fence. As a rabbit would not be able to jump over two rabbit fences at least a foot apart it must have been a Muntjac as they run away holding their tails erect when startled.

When I went to look all I could find of the potatoes were two stumps about 10 inches high. All the remainder were grazed down to ground level. Of the onions, there was no trace whatsoever.

I surmise that it must have paid several visits to produce such a clean sweep, unless there was more than one animal present. I am aware that Muntjac eat such things as Bluebells which are also poisonous but 29 large potato tops seems a bit greedy to say the least and no antidote if it has a digestive upset as a result!



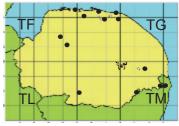
Female Muntjac in full flight

Francis Farrow

Excursion

Reports





Fungus Foray to Beeston Common, Sheringham 20th October 2018

A select band of members met at the layby and followed Tony Leach through the entrance to Beeston Common on a bright, sunny October morning. We had not gone many yards when the first fungus was noted - Willow Tar Spot *Rhytisma salicinum*. This is similar to the black spot fungus of Sycamore *R. acerinum*, known as Tar Spot, which we also saw later in the day. A rust fungus *Melampsora caprearum* was also present on the willow. Yellow Fieldcap *Bolbitius titubans* was the first



'mushroom' type fungus spotted followed by Dewdrop Mottlegill *Panaeolius acuminatus* and Mottled Bolete *Leccinum variicolor*. On bits of dead wood on the edge of the mire the Blushing Bracket *Daedaleopsis confragosa*, Jelly Ear Fungus *Auricularia auricula-judae* and Hairy Curtain Crust *Stereum hirsutum* were found and on a pile of wood chips the Hare's-foot Inkcap *Coprinopsis lagopus* was

present. A more specialist dead wood fungus is one that only occurs on old burnt gorse stems. A small section of gorse had been burnt the previous year and it was

on this that the fruiting bodies of the Gorse Cramp Ball *Daldinia fissa* were now showing. Gorse was also an uncommon host for some small black spheres, *Rosellinia aquila*.

Gorse Cramp Balls

On leaving the mire, the party went through some birch woodland, noting Fly Agaric *Amanita muscaria*, Green Brittlegill *Russula*

aeruginea and the Birch Knight *Tricholoma fulvum* before coming out onto heathland. Alongside a grassy path the Birch Milkcap *Lactarius tabidus*, Bearded Milkcap *Lactarius pubescens*, two species of Waxcap, Vermillion and Slimy (*Hygrocybe miniata / H. irrigata*) and Yellow Spindles *Clavulinopsis helvola* were found.

In all some 30 species of fungus were noted and some were taken away for further study and identification. Also seen during the morning ramble were a Kestrel, two Sparrowhawks, Common Buzzard and a juvenile Marsh Harrier. On the edge of the mire, an Adder and a Grass Snake were noted along with Small Copper, Red Admiral, Hairy Shieldbug and Ivy Bees on the heath.

Our thanks to Tony for leading an interesting foray and for sharing his knowledge, some of which, hopefully we have managed to retain!

Images: Francis Farrow Francis Farrow

Beginners' Moss Meeting: Holt Lowes SSSI 28th October 2018

A good turnout of regular members of the Norfolk & Suffolk Bryology Group met at the small car park off the Hempstead Road, to be joined for the day by two beginners. After the obligatory health and safety briefing and a handout explaining some of the differences between mosses and liverworts, the group headed off to the SSSI to explore. The Lowes has a diversity of habitats, such as acid heathland, valley mire and wet woodland, which allowed for the possibility of finding a wide range of bryophytes, including some Norfolk rarities.

Emerging first onto the edge of the heath, where Ling, Calluna vulgaris, and both European and Western Gorse, Ulex europaea & U. gallii, were abundant, a few typical heathland mosses were spotted. These included the alien acrocarp Heath Star-moss, Campylopus introflexus. It was, however, the mosses covering the sloping trunk of an oak that were first examined. The pleurocarpous Cypress Plait-moss, Hypnum cupressiforme, left little room for the smaller cushion-growing epiphytes. Surprisingly these types of mosses were in short supply even when part of the group with beginners plunged into the wet carr woodland alongside the eastern boundary fence. Typical acrocarps, such as Common Smoothcap, Atrichum undulatum with their capsules emerging from the top of the plant, grew on the woodland floor along with atypical Pocket-moss, Fissidens. Depending on the individual species, these can have their capsules coming from the base or side of the plant as well as the top. Here it was Maidenhair Pocket-moss, F. adianthoides. with its toothed tips to the ranked leaves. Treading carefully round the wet patches. with their small patches of bog-moss, Sphagna, as well as the thalloid liverwort, Endive Pellia, Pellia endiviifolia, there was plenty of Dotted Thyme-moss, Rhizomnium punctatum, fruiting freely. The highlight, spotted by Peter Cawley, was the re-finding of around twenty small patches of Shining Hookeria, Hookeria lucens, in a poached area by the boundary bank. This species, with its large leaf cells visible to the naked eye, at first glance, looks a bit like a leafy liverwort. It is only known from a few sites in Norfolk and it was good to know it was still doing well at Holt Lowes.

Meanwhile the rest of the group continued along the path, recording as they went. Records included the aptly named Big Shaggy-moss, Rhytidiadelphus triquetrus. In Norfolk there are three members of this genus - the ubiquitous Springy Turf-moss, *R. squarrosus*, found in many a lawn, and Little Shaggy-moss, R. loreus, the rarest of the three. On a subsequent visit to the Lowes a week later, Julia Masson found the latter - a new species for the site.

The two groups joined up just before lunchtime, in an area of mire, where Julia pointed out the structure and how to distinguish the various bog- Shining Hookeria Image: Julia Masson





Checking out the epiphytes Image: Julia Masson

mosses found there. These mosses are treated as a separate group, given their unique structure and included Blunt-leaved, Sphagnum palustre, Lustrous, S. subnitens, Flat-topped S. fallax and Fringed Bog-moss, S. fimbriatum. Growing among the bog-moss humps was Bog Groove-moss, Aulacomnium palustre, another acrocarp, which is often a distinctive golden-green colour.

A sunny, heathy bank provided a perfect place for lunch and gave the opportunity for those

who ate quickly to look at some typical heathland mosses in more detail, such as the aforementioned Heath Star-moss, living up to its name, with the star-like arrangement of hairs at the apex of the plant. Bob Ellis then led us on a route march across the heath, passing a volunteer group, busy scrub clearing, to Soldier's Pond, where it was hoped to find Rigid Bog-moss, *Sphagnum teres*. This species, mysteriously, was not on the current species list, although both Bob and I remembered finding it on two previous visits.

On the way, a small patch of Large White-moss, *Leucobryum glaucum*, was spotted among a group of trees. This moss also grows among *Sphagna* hummocks. Bob's memory, as usual, was accurate! Rigid Bog-moss was immediately visible with its ginger colouring and green terminal bud on the capitulum at Soldier's Pond among the shiny leaves of Bog Pondweed, *Potamogeton polygonifolius*. Growing with it were more acrocarps - Marsh Bryum, *Bryum pseudotriquetrum*, with its red stems, often covered with brown rhizoids and fruiting Common Haircap, *Polytrichum commune*, with its thick spiky leaves and large capsules.

It was interesting to see the variation of species in the different parts of the valley mire, depending, at least in part, on its pH levels. *Sphagna* can influence their immediate surroundings by producing a more acid patch within a calcareous mire. Just further on, in a slightly raised area, Magellanic Bog-moss, *Sphagnum magellanicum sl,* was distinguishable from Red Bog-moss, *S. capillifolium,* by its larger size, although the former was not displaying its usual amazing deep magenta colouration. Strictly speaking we could no longer call this Magellanic Bog-moss, as very recent research has shown this only grows near the Magellan Straits, rather a long way from Holt Lowes! The species here is probably *Sphagnum medium,* but that needs to be confirmed.

In the final area of mire/fen, Black Bog-rush, *Schoenus nigricans*, and Bog Pimpernel, *Anagallis tenella*, characterised the habitat. Here the thalloid liverwort Greasewort, *Aneura pinguis*, was visible in dark green patches among the fine-leaved, almost nerveless, Yellow Starry Feather-moss, *Campylium stellatum*, and the falcate Intermediate Hook-moss, *Scorpidium cossonii*, one of the so-called 'brown' mosses. Both of these pleurocarps favour basic conditions.

A swift glance at the weather suggested an immediate return to the car park, before the rain set in. In all we had seen liverworts and bog-mosses, nine species

of each, thirty other mosses and refound Rigid Bog-moss and Shining Hookeria.

Our thanks go to the Trustees of the Lowes for allowing us to use the site for our meeting and my thanks to all those who helped on the day, both with recording and teaching.

Mary Ghullam

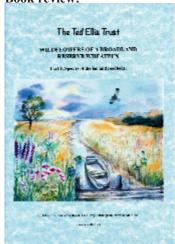
Arachnophobes Nightmare!

Tim Doncaster

A female Long-legged Cellar or Daddy Long-legs Spider *Pholcus phalangioides* with its many young was on our (windowless) bathroom ceiling 21/11/2018. These are now common indoor spiders preferring the warmth of our houses.



Book review:



The book costs £3.00 or £4.00 p&p from the Ted Ellis Trust, Wheatfen Broad, the Covey, Surlingham, Norfolk, NR14 7AL

The Ted Ellis Trust WILDFLOWERS OF A BROADLAND RESERVE WHEATFEN

Part 1: Species of the fen and reedbeds

This is the third 'Guide' produced by the Ted Ellis Trust and this time the subject is wildflowers - the first of a series. Will Fitch, the Wheatfen warden, has written the text and looks at what wildflowers can be seen on the fen and in the reedbeds. The book looks not only at the variety of native plants (some very rare) but also mentions introductions made by Ted Ellis and others and gives an overview into the management problems and solutions to maintain the variety of species. Many plants are featured with splendid photographs, which makes this another very informative and specific guide to a wonderful reserve.

Francis Farrow

Wildlife in Common

Norfolk Wildlife Trust working in partnership with Norfolk County Council and University of East Anglia has launched Wildlife in Common, a two-year project funded by the Heritage Lottery Fund, with additional support from Essex & Suffolk Water.

During the two-year project, Norfolk Wildlife Trust is asking for help with collecting wildlife records on commons, allowing them to truly evaluate the importance of these places for wildlife.

There are over 300 commons in Norfolk, ranging from tiny fragments to several hectares, such as NWT's nature reserve at New Buckenham Common, where the wealth of wild life includes meadow saxifrage, green

winged orchids and great crested newts. Common land is found throughout the County, but especially in the ancient landscapes of South Norfolk, parts of North Norfolk and on the Fen edge. Commons are also found close to towns, such as Neatherd Moor in East Dereham, where cattle were once grazed before market. Old maps and records reveal that at one time around twenty-five percent of Norfolk was probably common land. This shrunk dramatically as piecemeal enclosure gathered pace in the



1700s, when advances in farming methods allowed the profitable cultivation of more marginal land. As the large commons were enclosed, fragments of some were retained as "poors land" or "fuel allotments", where rights to cut firewood were granted, or leased to raise money for the parish poor. Although not strictly common land, these are often the last relics of much larger commons, so some will be included in the Wildlife in Common project.

Over the spring and summer of 2019 Norfolk Wildlife Trust is asking people to help record species on 40 commons in particular - see the list below. Species recorded can be submitted using an online recording form - nwtru.st/20species - or emailed to wild@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

If you would like further information on a site or the project please do not hesitate to contact Gemma Walker, Wildlife and Community Officer (wild@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)

Wildlife in Common Site Information

CWS - County Wildlife Site / SSSI - Special Site of Scientific Interest

Name of Site	Grid Ref.	Comments
Abb's Common, East Runton		CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 5
Abel Heath, Blickling	TG17472722	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 103
Beetley Common	TF98718	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 369
Boon Heath,	TM470925	CWS/Open Access
Aldeby/Burgh St Peter		•
Boyland Common, Shelfanger	TM088848	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 289
Brewer's Green, Roydon	TM102806	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 190
Brisley Green	TF 956 217	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 68
Brockdish Common	TM213794	Open Access/Registered Common – CL 125
Broome Heath, Ditchingham	TM343912	CWS/Open Access/Part Registered Common – CL 336
Bryant's Heath, Felmingham	TG25952937	SSSI/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 95
Chedgrave Common	TM371992	CWS/Historic Common/Public footpath through site –
•		would need to get permission for a group to access site
Coltishall Common – Upper	TG268195	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 156
Coltishall Common – Lower	TG27781976	Open Access/Registered Common – CL 155
Coltishall Common – Ling	TG26922084	Open Access/Registered Common – CL 94
Crostwick Common – North	TG25721640	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 80
Crostwick Common - South	TG25711603	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL80
Crostwight Heath	TG345299	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL4
Drayton Drewary	TG175163	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 328
Dunston Common	TG 227026	Historic Common/Series of footpath across the site
Mill Green, Gissing	TM1414866	Open Access/Registered Common – CL 201
Goose Common,	TL998983	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 327
Great Ellingham		
Hales Green, Loddon	TM 373 963	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 39
Harper's Common, Brisley	TF 953 227	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 66
Hockwold Common,	TL734874	Open Access/Registered Common – CL 52
Hockwold cum Wilton		
Incleborough Hill	TG189422	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 5
Ingoldisthorpe Common	TF681318	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 361
North Runcton Common	TF641151	Open Access/Registered Common – CL 112
Old Buckenham Common	TM064913	Open Access Registered Common – CL 63
Sluice Common, Denver	TF60320104	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 243
Smockmill Common	TM218981	CWS/Historic Common/Footpath network through site
Southrepps, Drove Hill	TG26253540	Open Access/Registered Common – CL 390
(Pit Common)		
School Common, Southrepps		CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 391
Southrepps Common	TG260350	SSSI/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 391
St. Clements, Rushall	TM193820	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 443
Shotesham Common	TM24539927	SSSI/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 20
Sustead Common	TG18603727	Part registered Common (CL 117)/Part Historic Common/Open access of the registered common
Wacton Common	TM183903	Open Access/Registered Common – CL 17
Runton Common,	TG18144229	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 5
West Runton		
Whin Common, Denver	TF 617 012	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 243
Wighton Common	TM 381 991	CWS/Open Access/Registered Common – CL 256
		-











Did you know Harold Jenner?

I'm searching for information about my grandad, the late naturalist Harold E. Jenner. He was active across Norfolk and Suffolk until his death in 1990, and I am sure that notes and records survive to this day. He kept studious records of specimens he saw. I would love to hear from you if you have anything of interest, or personal stories and anecdotes. I barely had time to get to know him, and would so love to hear from friends and colleagues.

Please contact me: Louise Baker on Email: littleloup@hotmail.com or by post: 74 Gresley Wood Road, Church Gresley, Derbyshire, DE11 9QN.

150 years ago - from the 'Transactions'

CRUS CINEREA. *Crane.* - The spring of 1869 has been remarkable from the fact of several of these fine birds - usually considered very rare vagrants to our coast - having appeared in Norfolk, and other parts of Great Britain.

About the 7th of May, a young male, which was seen in company with another, was shot in a barley layer on Mr. B. Hume's estate, near the boarders of the two

Common Crane

Drawing: Julie Curl

parishes of West Somerton and Winterton. On the 25th of May a second was shot at and winged in a Salt Marsh at Thornham near Lynn, and

was kept in confinement till the 5th of June, when it died. Again on the 4th June, another young male was shot at South Pickenham, near Swaffham, which, with four, stated by a correspondent in the "Field" to have been seen at Burnham, of which two

were said to have been killed, were probably members of one flock dispersed over that part of the county. The occurrence of so many examples of this bird in one season is the more remarkable, inasmuch as not more than four are known to have been obtained in Norfolk during the last half century. In Sir Thomas Browne's time the Crane is said to have appeared often in hard winters.

Thomas Southwell

The NNNS Photographic Group

The Society has supported a photographic group for some years. The chairman of the group for the best part of the last decade has been Brian Macfarlane. Brian has done an excellent job in making sure the monthly meetings through the winter months take place and are entertaining. However, he now feels his priorities lie in different areas and from the end of March 2019 he has decided to move on. I'd like to offer my personal thanks to Brian.

I am pleased to say Hans Watson will be taking over the reins in the spring. Photography has an important part to play in recording wildlife and in identification. As a photographer myself I am keen to see the photographic group prosper and grow.

Carl Chapman - Chairman NNNS



HOW HILL - MEMBERS' CELEBRATION DAY SATURDAY 8 JUNE 2019





Members are warmly invited to a Lunch Party at How Hill House to celebrate our 150th Anniversary Saturday 8th June 2019, 10am to 4pm

Morning coffee will be available at 10.00h with a buffet lunch at 13.00h: cost £15 per head

All the superb groundfloor rooms will be available to us, as well as the gardens, with splendid views over the Broads

This is a wonderful opportunity to celebrate our Society at a beautiful site in the heart of the Broads

Booking essential for meal only - see below

The date is aimed to coincide with the peak of the Swallowtail season. We will be running a competition for the best Swallowtail photograph. There will also be display boards for members' photographs. You are invited to bring a print of one or two of your best images for showing (see page 20)

There is free access to the adjacent lawns and river bank. The Wherry *Hathor* will be moored on the Ant and available all day for viewing, through the kindness of Wherry Yacht Charter

The How Hill National Nature Reserve, managed by the Broads Authority, is adjacent, with access to the Nature Trail from Toad Hole Cottage.

[There may be a small charge for this].

There will be a free guided walk of the water gardens by a member of the How Hill Trust

Guided walks are planned throughout the day, led by members of the Society

There is ample parking space close-by

Booking There are 60 places available on a first come first served basis. To book, please pay £15 to the Society's bank account: NORFOLK & NORWICH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY (60662860): Barclays Bank plc, St Stephens Branch, 5/7 Red Lion Street, Norwich (20-62-53). Please give your name as the payee reference. Please also send an email to Nick Owens to inform of your payment so that we can keep a check of numbers: owensnw7@gmail.com

How Hill celebration day wildlife photo display



On Saturday 8th June, we will be celebrating the 150th anniversary of the NNNS with a lunch and open usy at How Hill (see flyer - page 17 for full details). As part of this event there will be boards available to display photos of the best of Norfolk wildlife. We suggest four themes: 1) Swallowtail butterfly, 2) A wildlife portrait, 3) Wildlife in a Norfolk habitat and 4) Pictures showing a key ID feature of a species.

If you would like to display a photo, please send an A4 print (maximum of one per category) to Carl Chapman, 5 Travers Court, Runton House Close, West Runton, Cromer, NR27 9RA before 5th May.

Please write your name, the subject pictured, which category your photo relates to and a contact email (or phone number) on the back of the photo. With the permission of the photographer we would look to include our favourite from each category in the special 150th anniversary edition of Transactions. Minor editing is permissible, but no large-scale photoshopping please!

Many thanks. James Emerson (Secretary & member of the 019 committee)

Enamel Badges to Celebrate the Society's 150th Anniversary



Beautifully engineered enamel stick-pin badges are available to celebrate the Society's landmark anniversary. The badges depict the Society's emblem of a Swallowtail Butterfly. Ideal for ties or lapels. Priced at just £2.50 each available at indoor meetings. Also available by post for £3.30 including postage. Send a payment via BACS (Sort Code 20-62-53 Account number 60662860) with a reference of your name and initial. Or send a cheque (Payable to Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society) to NNNS Enamel Badge, 5 Travers Court, Runton House Close, West Runton, CROMER NR27 9RA - Limited supply. Hurry while stocks last. When they're gone they're gone.

TRANSACTIONS

If you have a paper/wildlife report/note suitable for 'Transactions' please be aware that the deadline for submission is the end of June 2019. Please send all contributions to the editor - Nick Owens (owensnw7@gmail.com)

Topics will include: Population Changes, History of the Society's Naturalists & Reminiscences, but articles on other topics are also very welcome. Wildlife Reports will be the usual format but with additional comments on historical changes, if possible.



The next issue of *The Norfolk Natterjack* will be May 2019.

Please send
all articles / notes and photographic material
to the editor as soon as possible by
April 1st 2019 to the following address:

Francis Farrow, 'Heathlands', 6 Havelock Road, Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8QD. Email: francis.farrow@btinternet.com

All photographs / images are very welcome, especially to accompany an article or document a record, occasionally however, because of space limitations, preference may have to be given to Norfolk-based images, or to those subjects depicting interesting or unusual behaviour, or are less commonly (or rarely) seen in print.

Membership subscriptions

The N&NNS membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March. During this time members will receive four copies of the quarterly *Natterjack* newsletter, and annual copies of the Transactions of the Society, and the Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report. A full summer programme of excursions and a winter programme of talks are also organised annually.

New memberships and renewals can be made by credit card or 'PayPal' by visiting the Society's website at www.nnns.org.uk

Alternatively a cheque payable to 'Norfolk & Norwich Naturalist's Society' can be sent to:

Jim Froud, The Membership Secretary, Westward Ho, 4 Kingsley Road, Norwich NR1 3RB

Current rates are £20 for individual, family and group memberships (£30 for individuals living overseas).

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