

NATS' GALLERY: Summer 2012



The **mayfly *Ephemera vulgata*** spotted on the banks of the Nar in King's Lynn in June – the first Norfolk record for many years (and the first record of *any* species submitted to Francis Farrow, the mayfly recorder, for 2-3 years!!!). *Photo: Robin Stevenson.*

Lesser Stag Beetle *Dorcus parallelipipedus*, Unthank Road, Norwich, 14 July. This species is widespread in Norfolk, if sometimes elusive. Its big brother, Stag Beetle *Lucanus cervus*, is very rare in Norfolk, although there have been a few recent reports (see www.ptes.org/index.php?page=380). The Norfolk beetle recorder (Martin Collier) would no doubt be delighted to receive a record supported by photographs or a specimen! *Photo: Dougal McNeill.*



Glow-worm near Holt, 29 June. This charismatic and mysterious creature is found at scattered sites through the county, with a short 'window' in mid-summer when they can be most easily found. Dark, moonless nights are usually the best times to look. *Photo: Simon Harrap.*



Left: **Grasshopper-hunting Wasps!**
Tachysphex pompiliformis with Field Grasshopper nymph prey. Below (anti-clockwise): 1. ***Tachysphex nitidus*** retrieves one of two paralysed Mottled Grasshopper nymphs. 2 *T. nitidus* drags prey towards bare ground. 3 *T. nitidus* adjusts prey position before taking flight. See article. Photos: Nick Owens.





Brown Hares A challenge to photograph, but with patience and perseverance....
See article. *Photos: Alan Dixon.*





Left and below: **longhorn moth** (*Adela reaumurella?*), one of several milling round a Rowan tree. Centre: **alder gall** (variety of alder not determined). Bottom **Privet Hawkmoths** mating on a gate. All photos taken in Merton, Norfolk.

Photos: Vince Matthews.



Norfolk & Norwich
Naturalists' Society
www.nnns.org.uk





Glassworts *Salicornia* spp. Better known as ‘samphire’, this intriguing group poses some identification challenges for the botanist. *Above:* There is no mistaking Purple Glasswort *S. ramosissima* in full autumn colour. *Below:* A colony of Common Glasswort *S. europaea* in mid saltmarsh in late September. Note the long terminal branches and the green colouration with very little sign yet of a change of colour. See article. *Photos:* Colin Dunster.





Glassworts *Salicornia*

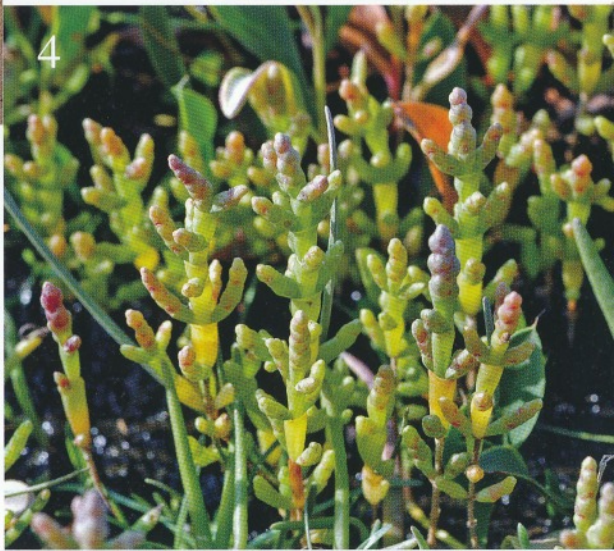
spp. Above left: A single plant of Perennial Glasswort *Sarcocornia perennis* in the upper saltmarsh. The base has wiry stems and many thin sterile shoots can be seen.

Above right: Perennial Glasswort in mid saltmarsh scrambling among Cord Grass. The stout fertile stems with flowers in a line and the thinner sterile shoots are typical.



Opposite (clockwise from top left): 1. Purple Glasswort *S. ramosissima* before becoming purple! Note the yellow colouration of the lower segments and the short terminal branch giving a stubby look. 2. The shrubby Yellow Glasswort *S. fragilis* on the mud below the saltmarsh in October with its typical greenish-yellow mature colouration and short cylindrical branches. 3. Long-spiked Glasswort *S. dolichostachya* in early September. The branches are long and tapering. A Yellow Glasswort can be seen in the centre foreground for comparison, with another yellow intermediate plant on the right – the sort that is best eaten and ignored! 4. One-flowered Glasswort *S. pusilla* in the turf of the higher saltmarsh in early September. The red colouration is confined to the single flower discs and branch tips and the lower segments are yellow. 5. The hard inner stem of Purple Glasswort in late November (x10) after the soft parts have decayed. The structure of the discs can be seen at this stage and one seed remains in a flower socket. 6. This Long-spiked Glasswort in October is on the point of final decay but it is still rooted and retains its seeds which thus have a chance of not being washed away before they can germinate.

See article. Photos: Colin Dunster.





A **Spotted Flycatcher** and its nest. A very welcome homecoming gift! See article. Photos: Carol Carpenter.



The very rare cream-flowered subspecies *ochroleuca* of **Early Marsh Orchid** was a highlight of the Society's June visit to Market Weston Fen. See article. Photo: Stephen Martin



A plucky **Avocet** seeing off a **Little Egret** at Cley. See article. Photo: Brian Macfarlane.



Slavonian Grebe was one of the highlights of a trip to Scotland. See article. Photo: Tony Howes.