



# The Norfolk Natterjack



... Researching  
Norfolk's Wildlife

The quarterly bulletin of the  
Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

*May 2025*  
*Number 169*  
[www.nnns.org.uk](http://www.nnns.org.uk)



# Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Founded 1869

Reg. Charity No. 291604

## Officers of the Society 2025/26

**President:** Prof. Ben Garrod

**Vice Presidents:** F J L Farrow, Dr A G Irwin, D I Richmond

**Chair:** Dr A R Leech, 3 Eccles Road, Holt, NR25 6HJ.

Tel: 01263 712282 Email: [tonyleech3@gmail.com](mailto:tonyleech3@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** R Sheikh

Email: [secretary@nnns.org.uk](mailto:secretary@nnns.org.uk)

**Assistant Secretary and membership:** H Strivens

Email: [membership@nnns.org.uk](mailto:membership@nnns.org.uk)

**Treasurer:** R Wheeler, The Dial, Reepham, NR10 4LX.

Tel: 01603 873377 Email: [ralph.wheeler@btinternet.com](mailto:ralph.wheeler@btinternet.com)

**Assistant Treasurer:** G Moates, 8 Whitehorse Street, Wymondham, NR18 0BJ.

Tel: 01953 606181 Email: [gmoates301@gmail.com](mailto:gmoates301@gmail.com)

**Events & Outreach Committee** (Events, Education, Website and Social Media):

S Butler, Chapel Cottage, Egypt, Rougham, King's Lynn, Norfolk, PE32 2SE.

Email: [sarahbutler4@gmail.com](mailto:sarahbutler4@gmail.com)

**Secretary:** Dr. A Edwards, 6 Queens Road, Hethersett, Norfolk, NR9 3DB

**Publications Committee:** Dr. A R Leech (address as above for Chairman)

**Secretary:** Dr. J Parmenter, Alpha House, 37 Station Road, Reedham, Norfolk, NR13 3TB.

Tel: 07710252468 Email: [jo.parmenter@tip.uk.com](mailto:jo.parmenter@tip.uk.com)

**Editor, Transactions:** J Emerson, 108 Sleaford Green, Norwich, NR3 3JT.

Email: [jamesemerson2007@gmail.com](mailto:jamesemerson2007@gmail.com)

**Editors, Bird & Mammal Report:**

Birds: B J Madden, 73 Blackwell Avenue, Norwich, NR7 8XW

Email: [barrymadden353@gmail.com](mailto:barrymadden353@gmail.com)

Mammals: R Moores, Horseshoe Barn, Halvergate, Norfolk, NR13 3AJ.

Email: [norfolkammalrecorder@outlook.com](mailto:norfolkammalrecorder@outlook.com)

**Research Committee:** Dr M Welch, 32 Tennyson Place, Ely, Cambridgeshire, CB6 3WE.

Email: [m.welch@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:m.welch@nhm.ac.uk)

**Secretary:** Dr J A Higgins, Laurel Cottage, Clipped Hedge Lane, Southrepps, NR11 8NS

Email: [jhiggins07@gmail.com](mailto:jhiggins07@gmail.com)

**Liaison Committee:** C Chapman, 14 Travers Court, Runton House Close, West Runton, NR27 9RA.

Tel: 01263 837038 Mobile: 07833463034 Email: [carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk](mailto:carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk)

**Secretary:** S Gale, 325 Earlham Road, Norwich, NR2 3RQ. Email: [suegale98@gmail.com](mailto:suegale98@gmail.com)

**Finance Committee:** R Wheeler (address above - Treasurer)

**Secretary:** G Moates (address above - Assistant Treasurer)

**Council:**

Retiring 2026: A Archer, R Yaxley

Retiring 2027: V Burley, N Elsey, S Neal

Retiring 2028: J Bartlett

UEA Representative: Prof. A. Davy

NBIS Representative: M Horlock

NE Representative: R Mundy

**Hon. Independent Examiner:** M Benstead

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

**Editor:** F J L Farrow, 'Heathlands', 6 Havelock Road, Sheringham, NR26 8QD

Email: [francis.farrow@btinternet.com](mailto:francis.farrow@btinternet.com)

# Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society Recorders

<u>Mammals</u>	Terrestrial (Including Bats) Marine	Richard Moores, Horseshoe Barn, Halvergate, Norfolk, NR13 3AJ. Email: norfolk-mammalrecorder@outlook.com Carl Chapman, Flat 5 Travers Court, Runtun House Close, West Runtun, Cromer, NR27 9RA. Email: Carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk
<u>Birds</u>		Neil Lawton, 27 Swann Grove, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 6DP. Email: norfolkbirdrecs@gmail.com
<u>Reptiles &amp; Amphibians</u>		John Buckley, 77 Jason Rd., Shirley, Southampton, SO15 5GL. Email: clairejohnb@btinternet.com
<u>Fish</u>	Freshwater	Liam Smith, 169 Waterloo Road, Norwich, NR3 3HW. Email: liamsmithwildlife@gmail.com
	Marine	Rob Spray & Dawn Watson, 1 Town Houses, Yoxford Rd., Sibton, Saxmundham, Suffolk, IP17 2LX. Email: hello@1townhouses.co.uk
<u>Molluscs (Land)</u>		Jake Stone, 2 School Cottages, Walnut Hill, Surlingham, NR14 7DQ. Email: norfolk-molluscs@outlook.com
<u>Insects</u>	Butterflies	David Prince, 23 Bramerton Lodge, Easthill Lane, Bramerton, NR14 7EQ. Email: recorder@norfolk-butterflies.co.uk
	Moths	Jim Wheeler, Iveygreen, Town St., Upwell, Wisbech, PE14 9AD. Email: jim@norfolk-moths.co.uk
	Beetles	Martin Collier, Woods End Cottage, The Green, Saxlingham Nethergate Norwich, NR15 1TH. Email: norfolk-beetles@gmail.com
	Grasshoppers & Crickets	David Richmond, 42 Richmond Rise, Reepham, Norwich, NR104LS. Email: richmond.42rr@btinternet.com
	Lacewings, Antlions, Alderflies, Snakeflies, Scorpionflies & Snow Flea	Dave Appleton, 44 Eastgate Street, North Elmham, NR20 5HD. Email: norfolk-lacewings@gmail.com
	Aphids	Dr J I T Thacker, 38 Gladstone Street, Norwich, NR2 3BH. Email: jit@calopteryx.com
	Dragonflies	Dr Pam Taylor. Email: pam.taylor@british-dragonflies.org.uk
	Parasitic Hymenoptera	Graham Hopkins, 15 Matlock Road, Norwich, NR1 1TL. Email: graham@hopkinsecology.co.uk
	Sawflies	Andy Musgrove, Tendaba, The Street, Shotesham, NR15 1YG. Email: andymusbubo@gmail.com
	Bumblebees, Solitary Bees & Wasps	Tim Strudwick, 16 Beech Way, Brundall, Norwich, NR13 5ND. Email: timstrud@tiscali.co.uk
	Ants	Anna Jordan, Plough Cottage, Rhode Lane, Carleton Road, Norwich, NR16 1RQ. Email: norfolkants@yahoo.com
	Hoverflies	Tim Hodge, Belvedere Cottage, Horsey Corner, Horsey, Norfolk, NR29 4EH. Email: tim.hodge@btinternet.com
	Terrestrial Heteroptera (Land Bugs, excld. Aphids, leaf-hoppers etc.)	Justin Walker, 92 Nunnery Drive, Thetford, IP24 3EP. Email: justinwalker@me.com
	Froghoppers / Treehoppers and Leafhoppers	Colin Lucas, 49 Mill Road, Beccles, NR34 9UT. Email: colinbh@hotmail.co.uk
	Psyllids	James Emerson, 108 Sleaford Green, Norwich, NR3 3JT Email: jamesemerson2007@gmail.com
	Other Insects	Dr Tony Irwin, 47 The Avenues, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 3PH. Email: dr.tony.irwin@gmail.com
<u>Spiders</u>		Eleanor Morrison Email: eleanorfmorrison@gmail.com
<u>Harvestmen &amp;</u>	Pseudoscorpions	Vanna Bartlett, 10 Stannard Road, Norwich, Norfolk, NR4 7JD. Email: vannabartlett@gmail.com
<u>Woodlice</u>		Jake Stone ( address above - Molluscs (Land) )

NB: Please check <https://norfolknaturalists.org.uk/wp/recording/county-recorders/> for updates

# Recorders and Special Interest Groups

- Freshwater Invertebrates** Dr Dan Hoare, Wheatfen Broad, Covey Lane, Surlingham, Norwich, NR14 7AL.  
Email: daniel.j.hoare@gmail.com
- Marine Invertebrates** (incl. Molluscs) Rob Spray & Dawn Watson, 1 Town Houses, Yoxford Road,  
**Marine Algae** (Seaweeds) Sibton, Suffolk, IP17 2LX. Email: hello@1townhouses.co.uk
- Galls** Anne Hickley, 23 Biggin Hill Way, Watton, IP25 6NZ.  
Email: anne@penguinofficeservices.co.uk
- Vascular Plants** East Norfolk Bob Ellis, Laurel Cottage, Clipped Hedge Lane, Southrepps, NR11 8NS.  
Email: bob@elymus.net  
West Norfolk Richard Carter, 67 Doddshill Rd., Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6LP.  
Email: rcarter@rsk.co.uk
- Mosses & Liverworts** East Norfolk Mary Ghullam, 5 Beech Drive, Cromer Road, North Walsham,  
NR28 0BZ. Email: mylia@btinternet.com  
West Norfolk Julia Masson, Kestrels, Docking Road, Great Bircham, King's Lynn,  
PE31 6QP. Email: jemnaturenet@gmail.com
- Lichens** Robert Yaxley, The Gables, Gateley Road, Brisley, Dereham NR20 5LP.  
Email: rob@wildfrontier-ecology.co.uk
- Fungi** Dr Tony Leech, 3 Eccles Road, Holt, NR25 6HJ  
Email: tonyleech3@gmail.com
- Other Taxa** Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service, Community and Environmental  
Services, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH.  
Email: nbis@norfolk.gov.uk
- Referee:**  
**Charophytes** Alex Prendergast, Bramble Cottage, Low Road, Tasburgh, NR15 1AR.  
Email: Alex.Prendergast@naturalengland.org.uk
- Special interest groups**
- NNNS Photographic Group:*** C H Watson, 28 Spencer Close, Lingwood, Norwich, NR13 4BB.  
Tel: 01603 714582 Email: charles.watson13@btopenworld.com
- Other *Special Interest Groups*, although not part of the NNNS, have similar aims to that of the Society:
- Norfolk Amphibian & Reptile Group:*** Steve Allain, 6 Mill Lane, Harbledown, Canterbury, Kent, CT2 8NU.  
Tel: 07472 235469 Email: steveallain@live.co.uk
- Norfolk & Norwich Bat Group:*** L Bilstone Email: norwichbatgroup@gmail.com
- Norfolk Flora Group:*** **West Norfolk:** S Harmer / R Carter, 67 Doddshill Rd., Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE31 6LP.  
Tel: 07711870553 / 07711870554 Email: sharmer@rsk.co.uk / rcarter@rsk.co.uk  
**East Norfolk:** R W Ellis, Laurel Cottage, Clipped Hedge Lane, Southrepps, NR11 8NS.  
Email: bob@elymus.net (www.norfolkflora.org.uk)
- Norfolk Freshwater Study Group:*** Dr D Hoare, Wheatfen Broad, Covey Lane, Surlingham, Norwich, NR14 7AL.  
Tel: 01508 538157 Email: daniel.j.hoare@gmail.com
- Norfolk Fungus Study Group:*** Dr A R Leech, 3 Eccles Road, Holt, NR25 6HJ.  
Tel: 01263 712282 Email: tonyleech3@gmail.com
- Norfolk Lichen Group:*** Robert Yaxley, The Gables, Gateley Road, Brisley, Dereham NR20 5LP.  
Email: rob@wildfrontier-ecology.co.uk
- Norfolk Moth Survey:*** K G Saul, 'Albion', Main Road, Filby, Great Yarmouth, NR29 3HS.  
Email: kensaul@stone-angel.co.uk
- Norfolk Spider & Harvestman Group:*** D Shackleton (secretary) Email: mail@shacks.me.uk
- Norfolk & Suffolk Bryological Group:*** **East Norfolk:** Mrs. M P Ghullam, 5 Beech Drive, Cromer Road,  
North Walsham, NR28 0BZ. Tel: 01692 402013  
Email: mylia@btinternet.com  
**West Norfolk:** J E Masson, Kestrels, Docking Road, Great Bircham, King's  
Lynn, PE31 6QP. Email: jemnaturenet@gmail.com

## Plus:

NNNS's Training garden for Biodiversity and good Environmental Practices. Rougham.  
Head Gardener: Sarah Butler. Email sarahbutler4@gmail.com

## Toad-in-the-hole...

Spring has been such a contrast to the one we experienced in 2024 and it has been encouraging to see a number of butterfly species flying around although in very small numbers (in north Norfolk). One omission is at the time of writing (10<sup>th</sup> Apr ) the Orange-tip, although there is still time for them. My thanks to all contributors and another wide range of subjects are presented. We are introduced to moss terms, bizarre slug life-styles, a majestic murmuration and some strange fish interaction - believe it or not! Please send in your notes and observations for the August edition.

FF

## Whats in a name?

Mary Ghullam

Naturalists, such as botanists, bryologists, pteridologists or lichenologists, often use terms to describe what substrates their specialisms grow on. 'Epiphytes' or 'epiphytic' are familiar terms to describe a plant growing on or possibly through another living plant - most commonly referring to those growing on tree species. Less common is 'epilith/ic' or even 'epipetreous'- one growing on stone or rock and often other synonyms, such as saxicolous, are used in preference. These are, however, fairly general terms, especially when applied to bryophytes – mosses and liverworts. Most recorders will specify what their particular species are growing on – types of stone or rock or species of trees etc. Less familiar in terms of epiphytes is what part of the plant the moss or liverwort is growing on. This came to the fore at a recent joint meeting of the Norfolk & Suffolk Bryology Group with that from Cambridgeshire, held at Ling Common near King's Lynn. Ling Common is situated on Leziate Sands, relatively unusual in Norfolk. It is a known site for Hoary Fringe-moss *Racomitrium canescens*, a nationally scarce moss and rare in the county.



This, as the picture (left) shows, could be described as 'sabulicolous' -growing in (Leziate) sand or gravel here. Epigeous bryophytes there were aplenty at Ling, growing on the soil of the woodland floor, including *Leucobryum glaucum* sl, Large White Moss, colloquially known as 'Bun-moss'.





While at Ling, we came across examples of epixylic mosses and liverworts. These grow on decorticated wood (hence the term). In this case both the tiny liverwort *Nowellia* (now *Cephalozia*) *curvifolia*, known aptly as Woodrust or Rustwort, was found on a large rotting pine log with another nationally scarce bryophyte *Herzogiella seligeri* Silesian Feather-moss with emergent immature capsules.



Woodrust or Rustwort found on an old pine log along with Silesian Feather-moss  
Images/ Mike Ball

Nearby, on a slender oak, a minuscule strand of a leafy liverwort was threaded over and between the thalli of another liverwort, *Metzgeria furcata* Forked Veilwort. The latter was displaying both fruiting and male parts. Round the other side of the oak trunk the same tiny liverwort was growing over the leafy stems of *Frullania dilatata* Dilated Scalewort. So what term describes liverworts growing on other liverworts? The cited glossary uses the word 'epiphylllic' to describe mosses or liverworts growing on the living leaves of other plants, but uses the word 'hepaticolous' for a plant growing on a liverwort. So how should we term this tiny liverwort *Cololejeunea* (now *Myriocoleopsis*) *minutissima* Minute Pouncewort? 'Epihepatic' was suggested, although not in the glossary. But might we not distinguish between those liverworts growing on thallose liverworts and those growing on leafy liverworts, as we had one liverwort doing both at Ling? Epithallic/epithalliicolous or epifoliicolous?

Additional terms are used for a range of plants growing as parasites or growing on dead leaves etc, so there's a whole world of etymology out there, never mind ecology to consider!!

1. For most of the terms here, I have consulted Malcolm, B & N, 2006, Mosses and Other Bryophytes, – an illustrated Glossary 2nd ed. Micro-Optics Press, Nelson, New Zealand.
2. This has now been split up and here has been determined as *Leucobryum albidum*.
3. The late Robin Stevenson, former VC28 bryophyte recorder for West Norfolk, found *M. furcata* growing on Box leaves, *Buxus sempervivens* and used this term.

During the particularly obsessive phase that I had with my interest in Gastropods I was quite desperate to find Testacellid Slugs. Difficult to find and rarely seen there are two of the three British members of the Genus *Testacella* occurring in Norfolk.

Testacellids are large Slugs, growing to 12 cm and have a shield-shaped shell at their rear-end that covers a small mantle; whereas other Slug Families have a large Mantle at the front. They live mainly underground where they prey upon earthworms using sharp, backward-directed radula teeth and are very slow-moving and highly extensible.



The illustration accompanying Rex Hancy's  
*Eastern Daily Press* article

In order to get to see a *Testacella* Slug I drew a picture from book reference and asked our local press writer, the late Rex Hancy, to do an article asking folk to give me a ring if they found a specimen. Within two days I had my first Testacellid, *Testacella scutulum*, provided by the owner of a big house in Flordon with a well-manured vegetable garden; a known and favoured habitat for these Slugs due to the high worm population.



*Testacella scutulum* (left) and *Testacella haliotideia* (above)  
Images / Garth Coupland

When on night-shift, as a Police Officer, back in the 90s I had reason to search around another big house in Ormesby St Margaret due to the activation of the burglar alarm. Whilst conducting my search I happened to find a very small

*Testacella haliotidea*, on the surface, in the vegetable garden! The Lady of The Manor gave me a despairing look when this uniformed Police Officer showed her a Slug, perched on the end of his finger and then asked her if he might keep it!



*Testacella haliotidea* shield and eggs / *Garth Coupland*

I kept this specimen in a tank of damp soil and compost and fed it on worms. It grew very large and eventually died. After collecting its shell I was cleaning out the tank when I found a clutch of eggs. I was astounded. The slug could not have been mature when I found it and it had no other Slugs to mate with, and so I was not surprised when the eggs were empty and crumbled in my fingers...well....all except two, which were hard to the touch. I peeled off the shells and placed the contents on a wet tissue. Slowly the contents started to crawl away. Again I was astounded. Under a magnifying glass I saw minute but exact replicas of their parent. I was witnessing cloning by an asexual reproduction strategy known as Parthenogenesis. The fact that Testacellids can do this was later confirmed in correspondence I had with a lady who is Britain's top Slug expert. I never cease to be astounded by the lives of the other species that share our planet.



This spectacle had been occurring on the edge of Thornage from early February 2025. My first viewing was around 4<sup>th</sup> Feb, when the starlings were estimated by one viewer to be some 400,000 strong. My second was on 17th Feb, and moved me to write this description for Natterjack. Previously, I'd seen a murmuration over Sheringham that happened about ten years ago: though smaller than the Thornage one, it was much more spectacular in terms of the extraordinary 'contemporary art' shapes created by the birds each dusk. But the Thornage gathering was moving and memorable in other ways:



Thornage murmuration  
/ *Trevor Williams*

I'm not a fan of subjective nature writing, but it's hard not to write like that when describing such a remarkable sight as those Thornage murmurations. Unlike the Sheringham birds, the Thornage starlings mainly created quite simple shapes – but all always absolutely clear-edged. Initially, the flock expanded and contracted like a great net being cast across the sky, then gathered in. Sometimes the birds flew low above where we stood on Stody Road; and looking up into the closely spaced mass of twinkling wings was like being inside the Big Bang, or in one of those massive fireworks that explode outwards into thousands of bright stars. Impressive too was the quietness of the birds, with no vocalising at all and only the susurrations of their wing beats to be heard when the flock was close overhead.

As we watched, the murmuration moved further north, forming great amoeboid, blimp-like shapes - sometimes turning inside out, sometimes flattening into discs. Only near the end of the display was there one short period

of breathtaking 'dancing', with the formation of mid-century-modern-style shapes. Then the birds moved west of us, flirted with various fields, formed into a water-spout, and were finally 'sucked down' into the elephant grass they'd chosen for that night's rest.

Searching the internet, and asking other people about murmurations, I've found almost no discussion – let alone explanations – as to why, and more importantly, *how*, starlings do these extraordinary things. If one isn't too hidebound by scientific thought, it's impossible not to think that one is in the presence of a group-mind phenomenon. Like shoals of fish, the birds all move differently, yet as one, to form the murmuration's unique patterns. Each bird clearly 'knows' what to do when - 'turning on a dime' in the sky to form new shapes, and knowing exactly the boundaries of the forms it's making. However they do it, murmuration are extraordinary sights to behold, and one of the world's great natural displays. We in Norfolk were honoured to have such a spectacle to see, for free; and I hope that plenty of '*Natterjack*' readers witnessed it.



A spectacular Starling murmuration at Thornage with an estimated 400,000 birds / *Trevor Williams*

Way back in 1980, I remember a work colleague telling me that he was walking in Horsey, when a gentleman stopped him and persuaded him to proceed on a different path in order to avoid 'disturbing some wildlife'. No mention was made of what wildlife was involved. During the coming days, this must have happened to other walkers and birdwatchers, and very soon the birdwatcher's grapevine had solved the puzzle of what all the careful redirection of walkers was for. It was, of course to protect those first pioneer Common Cranes from disturbance, in the hope that they would successfully breed at Horsey. This happened when a chick was reared, two years after the first birds had arrived in 1979. This was the first Common Crane to be reared in the UK in over 400 years.



Common Crane in flight

Since those far-off days, the population of breeding Cranes in Britain has gradually increased, partly as a result of birds naturally spreading from overseas, and partly from re-introduction schemes, and a survey in 2023 found that there were 80 pairs spread over the UK. In Norfolk, Cranes have successfully bred at a

number of sites away from the original Horsey site, and in the coming years, as the population continues to grow, it is well worth keeping an eye on any large area of reed-bed.

I have heard bird-watchers say that locating Cranes is easy, as their calls can be heard about 3 miles away.

Pair of Common Cranes with juvenile





Common Crane (Pair)

Images / *Hans Watson*

Although Cranes have one of the loudest calls, and they stand about 4 feet tall, they can be very unobtrusive birds in breeding areas. Most of the Cranes that I find in the Yare valley, I find by scanning around

with binoculars, and they often do not call even when disturbed. However, their call does have a wonderful ring to it, and it is magical to witness a large number come into roost at Stubb's Mill, Hickling on a winters evening. On occasions they arrive when it is too dark to see them, and their calls seem even louder.

## Perambulations with my camera

*Tony Howes*

My weekly visit to Strumpshaw fen is always looked forward to, a good friend drops me off and collects me, five or six hours there is the norm, there is always something of interest going on.

I always hope a Bittern will turn up, but I haven't seen one there for several months now, I have heard 'Booming', so I know at least one is in residence, they are a magical bird, and the fact they are so difficult to see makes makes them even more desirable, one in flight is the usual sighting, and if you are really lucky, one walking along the edge of a reed-bed hunting for fish might turn up.

Marsh Harriers are now showing their flying skills with their 'Sky dancing', always fascinating to watch, it's not that long ago when marsh harriers were down to just a few pairs in the UK, they have made a remarkable comeback, a bird of the reed-beds and marsh land, they are doing well in Norfolk, we are very fortunate to have them.

After an hour or two at Strumpshaw, I usually walk down the lane to Buckenham, Red Kites, Buzzards, and Mistle Thrushes are often seen from this stretch of road, then the rough track



Marsh Harrier (male)



that leads down to the river (Yare) from the railway crossing starts, this is a good place to see water deer, egrets, various geese, ducks, Coots and waders. On my last outing there were only a few Wigeon left, most had already left for their breeding grounds.



Wigeon (pair) and Coot at Buckenham

An unusual sighting recently was an Adder sun bathing on top of a gorse bush, that's a first for me.



An Adder sun-bathing on top of Gorse.

Images / *Tony Howes*

I have also rigged up a log in a part of the garden that allows photography from inside our dining room, shooting through double glazing, it works surprisingly well. It's amazing to watch a Blue Tit take a sunflower seed from the feeder, move to a nearby branch, transfer it from beak to foot then hammer it apart without dropping it.

I feel so proud to be born and live in Norfolk. We have so many wonderful places to visit. Lovely landscapes with big skies, beautiful beaches with lots of various sea birds and Nature Reservers where you can walk around from early morning and sit in a hide in all weathers and maybe enjoy seeing many different species.

I went to Whitlingham Broad in the hope of seeing the Red necked Grebe. I did see it through a scoop but it was a very long way off across the other side of the Broad. It was lovely however to see a Golden Eye there which surprised me, I had already seen a male and a female together at Filby Broad.



Goldeneye (male) and juvenile Caspian Gull

On another occasion at Whitlingham, I had some brilliant views of a Caspian Gull. It came just in front of me, I had to step back to take a photo as it was too close. The feather detail was so pretty when you could look at it closely, so many different shades of creamy browns.



Marsh Tit - a declining species in N. Norfolk

Sculthorpe Moor is one of my favourite reserves, there is always lots to see there and with so many lovely Hides to sit in, if the weather isn't good, it's still a good day out with a camera. It is lovely to see the Water Rails there often, Marsh Tits, Little Grebes and sometimes Water Voles. Recently I saw a Redwing there.

Whilst I was at St Benet's Abbey there was eleven Cattle Egrets in a field with the cattle. As I was taking photos of a Fieldfare I heard the 'bugling' of Cranes and looking across the meadow I saw



*Clockwise: Sculthorpe Moor - Water Rail, Little Grebe, Water Vole. St. Benet's - Common Cranes*

them coming towards me. I turned and waited until they got closer, I then managed to snap some pictures. There was seven of them altogether.

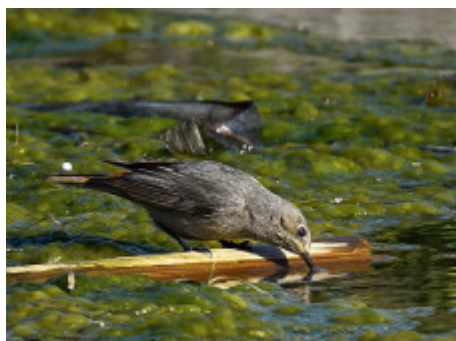
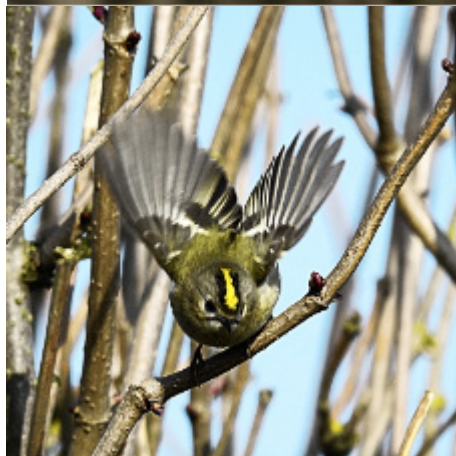
On a trip to Holme Dunes recently I had two Cranes fly over, which was a surprise as not a bird often seen there. I also saw a Weasel in the undergrowth from one of the NOA Hides, the first I have seen for a few years. I heard my first Chiffchaff of the year calling, although it was so difficult to find and see it as it was flitting in and out of the reeds. It was also hard walking - trying not to stand on the Toads as they were everywhere looking and finding a mate to breed with.

On a couple of trips to Cley with friends, it was really lovely to see Bewick's Swans. There don't seem to be as many around these days, or maybe I am not in the right place. It was good to see Pintails from Bishops Hide nice and close to photograph, especially when a Curlew decided to fly in and join all the other birds. As usual Norfolk is a great place to see an assortment of amazing wildlife in various places.

Weasel (Holme) & Curlew (Cley)  
Images / *Elizabeth Dack*







*Clockwise: Barn Owl, Short-eared Owl, Oak Eggar moth larva and Goldcrest at Gramborough Hill, Salthouse Feb/Mar 2025*

*Bottom left: Black Redstart (f) at Sheringham - 07/03/2025*

*Images / John Furse*



I fear that now you will really think that I am mad!

Last year my wife Jenny and I conducted an experiment in the Pets at Home store in Norwich that proved to me, beyond doubt, what I already knew to be true, as crazy as it sounds, that Humans can communicate telepathically with fish.

Along the back wall of the store are many fish tanks filled with hundreds of fish. Our experiment was simple. We would choose a tank with a minimum of around ten fish in it. We would then, together, at the same time, point to the fish that was communicating with us 'telepathically'. We repeated the experiment at least four times and each time identified the same fish. This was not guesswork and nor was it coincidence. I cannot speak for what Jenny was experiencing but I sensed the connection in a very real way.

This experiment was prompted by the fact that we both have experienced fish communication via what we understand as 'telepathy'. In other words, a specific message has been passed or there occurs a sudden knowledge that one has been contacted in this way by a fish.



Dace - River Bure, Coltishall / Garth Coupland

The fish in the photograph (above) are Dace - *Leuciscus leuciscus*, a very common fish of European rivers where the water is flowing and clean. My first experience of fish communication was with Dace in a fish tank during a time when I kept a shoal of various, wild, river species in a large tank in order to study them. In short, without warning I was suddenly told that one of the shoal was missing and asked to find it. As a direct result of this communication I looked for it and found the fish, dead, down the side of the cabinet. Somehow it had managed to jump

out through a cap in the lid. I held the fish up for the shoal to see and the feeling of communication instantly ceased. The fish had made me do a very specific thing! I was completely amazed and somewhat shocked by that experience. On two other occasions this has happened without warning; the strangest being was when I 'heard' a 'greeting' in an empty office that I had never been in before. On turning to see who had 'spoken' I saw that it was a single, and I have to presume, rather lonely, Goldfish, in a miserable little bowl that I had not seen until turning around as a result of the 'message'. I can't communicate with them, other than acknowledging their message or doing what they ask. I did say "hello" back though.

Well, there you go! I don't angle or eat fish anymore; I just can't. I would be most interested in the experiences and thoughts of others on this matter.

## **An extended water body**

*Francis Farrow*

As many members will know Beeston Common has a main pond (Newt Pond) which has attracted Marsh Warblers, a Bittern and more frequently a Kingfisher. This winter (December 2024) the pond underwent a clear-out of excess vegetation and quantities of silt, which tend to overwhelm the pond every three years. As the pond is connected to the Beeston Beck silt is regularly brought into the pond where it tends to settle out. This last clear-out was carried out in conjunction with the formation of a scrape on the eastern edge of the central marsh where a small pond was present. The extension was welcomed by Natural England and Sheringham Town Council who granted consent and paid for the works respectively. It is hoped that with the additional surface area and its shallow saucer-shape construction it will prove an ideal site for Snipe and perhaps the odd – passage migrant such as Green Sandpiper. The pond was already a favourite for amphibians and dragonflies so hopefully the extension will attract greater numbers in the spring and summer. Once the vegetation has regrown and covered the surrounding mud it will make a very attractive habitat, which has the potential to increase the biodiversity of the Common. Frogs spawned in the extended pond on 11<sup>th</sup> March.



New scrape (December 2024) / *Francis Farrow*

## NNNS President 2025 - 2026

### Professor Ben Garrod

Ben Garrod will be known to many from his television appearances and frequent broadcasts (e.g. Secrets of Bones and Secrets of Skin). He began his research career with a doctoral thesis titled Primates of the Caribbean and is currently a Professor of Evolutionary Biology and Science Engagement at the University of East Anglia. He is involved with many organisations and is passionate about connecting them and engaging the public with science.



Ben Garrod / CC BY-SA 4.0

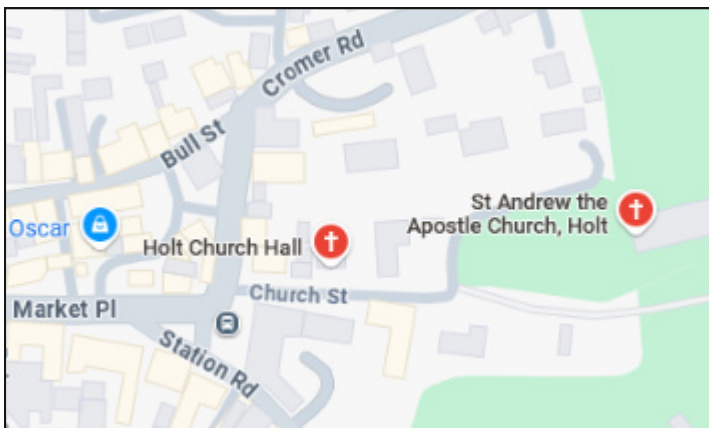
After being welcomed at the NNNS AGM in March he stepped into the breach with an impromptu talk when the invited speaker failed to show. This served as a prelude to his much-anticipated Presidential Address.

### Sale of wildlife and other books

*Tony Leech*

**Saturday August 9<sup>th</sup> 10.00am-4.00pm St Andrew's Church Hall, Holt.**

From time to time, the families of members who have died have asked me to dispose of books. I now need to empty my garage and have planned a book sale. Also on sale will be cookery, needlework and religious books from my late wife. Nothing will be expensive. Proceeds will be split between NNNS, NWT and St Andrew's Church.



Map data ©2025 Google

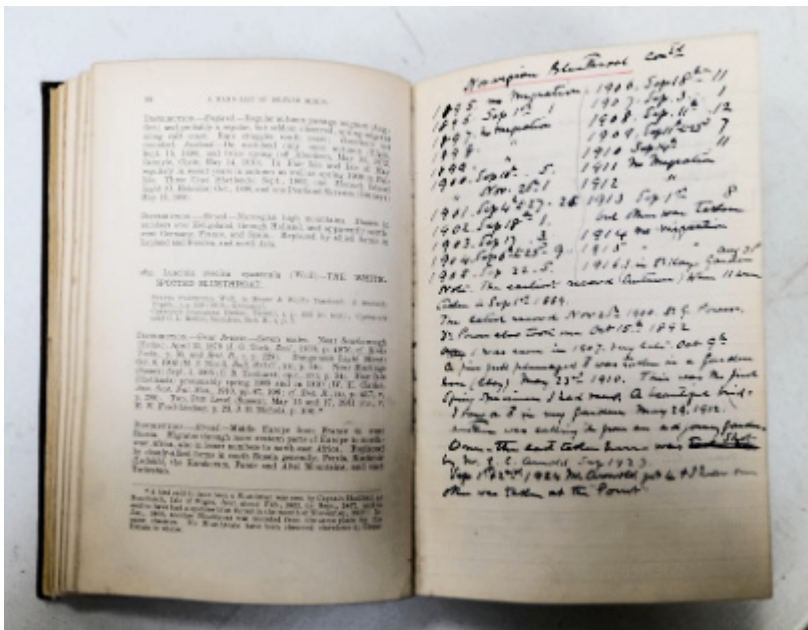
## History and Mystery

Some of us can remember what the world was like fifty years ago; none of us can remember it one hundred years ago. One way of glimpsing that world is through the writings of naturalists. Harry Pashley (1878-1924) was a renowned taxidermist and birdwatcher in Cley. His observations were recorded as notes in a copy of 'Witherby', the standard guide of the era, into which he had bound additional pages. Serendipitous events brought this annotated copy into the hands of Carl Chapman (past Chair of NNS) who recognised its significance and proceeded to publish an edited version of the notes.

In Pashley's day, optics were not well-developed and ornithological knowledge was only securely advanced through the gun, leading to the aphorism, 'What's hit is history and what's missed is mystery.' Harry Pashley would have been a busy man. In this 68 page book, Carl has transcribed Pashley's notes and added a few of his own, as well as over 65 bird photographs taken by the author, mostly in north Norfolk. It has been brought together to make a fascinating read.

Copies are available from the author [carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk](mailto:carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk) for £18 including postage.

Tony Leech



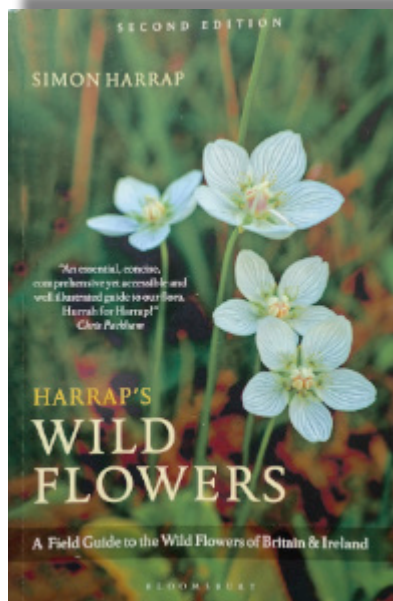
An example of Pashley's annotations in his copy of *A Hand List of British Birds* / Carl Chapman



## HARRAP'S WILD FLOWERS

Field Guide to the Wild Flowers of Britain & Ireland (Second Edition, 2025)

Bloomsbury Wildlife / £20



Simon Harrap's wild flower field guide first appeared in 2013 and has been much appreciated by botanists - both beginners and experts - since that time. This new edition increases the number of plant species covered from 934 to 1,225 and the number of photographs from 2000 to 2,600. The book is correspondingly thicker and heavier and continues the same format of photographs, descriptions, identification details and distribution maps. It also has the advantage of following the considerable changes to plant taxonomy since the first edition that have arisen from DNA studies. The original book has the great benefit of the illustrations and descriptions being produced by the same person, and the new edition continues to

inspire confidence that the author has seen and photographed the plants himself and really knows what he is talking about. Simon is to be congratulated on this great achievement.

*Nick Owens*

### NNNS Publications - free!

Arthur John Beckingham has kindly offered to donate the following publications as he needs the space:

- Bird and Mammal Reports: 1986 to 2023
- NNNs Occasional Publications: Nos. 1, 5-11, 13-20
- The Norfolk Natterjack: Nos. 80 Feb 2003 - No. 167 Nov 2024
- 48 Transactions.

Delivery can be arranged in north Norfolk. Anyone interested should contact him at [ajb.kilwhang248@gmail.com](mailto:ajb.kilwhang248@gmail.com).

**Also:** Brian McIlwaine (07858 376348) wishes to donate Norfolk Bird & Mammal Reports - 2005-2023 to anyone contacting him.

Rex Hancy passed away on 1st March 2025. In 1986, Rex was selected as President before eventually becoming a life Vice-president. His long teaching career, first in London and then Norwich, ran harmoniously with his interest in natural history. As a consummate storyteller Rex was always eager to share his wildlife observations, whether in his 32-year spell of compiling an EDP *'In the Countryside'* column or on his long-standing 'Nature Trail' programmes with Radio Norfolk. He was a founding member and eventual Vice-chairman of the British Plant Gall Society, a county recorder for spiders and Chairman of the Wildlife 2000



Image / Janet Negal

campaign. He was also the author of two popular booklets, *'The Study of Plant Galls in Norfolk'* and *'The Notable Trees of Norwich'*. In 2007, Rex and his beloved wife, Barbara, were made joint recipients of the Sydney Long Memorial Medal for their service to natural history in Norfolk and beyond.

Tribute page: <https://rexhancy.muchloved.com/>

A full obituary will be published in the 2026 *'Transactions'*.

---

**Blickling Memorial Bench:** Rex spent many happy hours at Blickling and met many young people to whom he became like family. As a long-lasting memory a bench to both Rex and Barbara to be placed in their favourite spot in the gardens was thought to be a fitting tribute. A GoFund Me page has been set up to raise the money to purchase the memorial bench and the link is as follows: <https://gofund.me/c1812d39>

Clara Chamberlain

# Excursion & Event reports:

**A winter walk: Buxton Heath - 22<sup>nd</sup> February, 2025**

Leader: *Phil Davidson*

We gathered on this common, nine of us, on a day where there was actual sunshine after all the days of grey and it was not cold - really the foretaste of spring.

Phil (Davison) still continues managing his volunteer groups here even though he now lives further away towards Yarmouth which shows his real attachment to this common.

Buxton Heath



As we started our walk by the carpark Phil mentioned that there were still some wild Lily-of-the-valley *Convallaria majalis* in this part of the common and an old lady who lives nearby told him that she remembers as a child these being picked and being sent to Covent Garden.

Also nearer the carpark there can be seen in July Purple Hairstreak *Favonius quercus*, which as its scientific name suggests requires the stand of oaks that are there where it feeds on aphid honeydew while the larva feeds on the oak leaves.

Managing a common is quite a task with the determined Bracken and Birches striving to take over. In reality there is not enough people hours available,

paid or otherwise, to cut them down, so usually there is a need to use machinery and thereby some fossil fuels and even sometimes chemicals.

Further along Paul Wells noticed the Minotaur Beetle *Typhaeus typhoeus* holes on the sides of the path, which was rather sandy. We then all noticed that there



Minotaur Beetle burrow  
and adult

were lots of holes along these edges and it was interesting to be able to study a specimen of the beetle even though it was a sad example having been flattened by a boot.

Eleanor noticed a Yellow Hammer in a small tree a little distance away and then in this spot of bright spring sunshine five Yellow Hammers gathered there - a lovely sight. Some

Yellow Brain Fungus/ Witches butter *Tremella mesenterica* on a branch always catches the eye. The scarce hoverfly, *Xylota abiens* was identified by Paul at this spot in 2019. A Wood Lark was seen and its beautiful song heard. A young Roe Deer buck was nearby in some bracken and scrub, which lolloped away showing its white rump.

Buxton Heath is where the Silver-studded Blue *Plebejus argus* butterflies came from to repopulate Broadland Country Park at Horsford. The heathland larvae feed on heathers at night and spend the day in an ants nest. Here at Buxton they are supported by scrapes which have been made to enable the butterflies to have access to the ants.

Thank you Phil, you were an interesting guide and good company throughout our visit.

*Sarah Butler*



Members exploring Buxton Heath

Images / *Jim Froud*



## A Spring Walk: Lower Wood, Ashwellthorpe - 22<sup>nd</sup> March, 2025

Leader: *Anne Edwards*

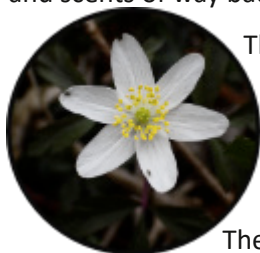
'Oh to be at Ashwellthorpe now that spring is here' and we were - on this sunny, slightly warm day it was certainly early spring. There was a surprising lot of us including a clutch (spore?) of fungi folk and even some recorders having emerged from their hibernation.

We were very lucky to be shown around this wood by Anne Edwards for all sorts of reasons - one being this was her home patch. Her merry band of volunteers come here in the coppicing season, October to the end of March, every Sunday and what with Jim Froud's equally merry band who come every Friday this amounts to approx 30 people every week to achieve that years coppicing. Such an achievement year in year out.



A recently coppiced section of Lower Wood, Ashwellthorpe / *Jim Froud*

Ashwellthorpe has been a coppicing woodland of mixed species - Elm, Ash, Oak, Hazel and Hornbeam since before being recorded in the Domesday book which is extraordinary to have a 'business' still in the same place doing the same thing for so long. True there were gaps at times. To be at 'this years' patch with the piles of coppicing products around one and the cut down 'stools' is to be in the sights and scents of way back in time.



Wood Anemone /  
*Jeremy Bartlett*

The woodland floor here is carpeted with Wild Garlic *Allium ursinum*, Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*, Wood or Sweet Violet *Viola odorata*, Bluebells *Hyacinthoides non-scripta* which survive and thrive because the coppicing enables light access.

There is some solar electric fencing around the young 'coupes' (woodland section to be harvested) to stop deer eating the shoots. The wood is in 15 hectare sections forming 12 blocks

that are cut on a 12 year rotation. There are also some old pollard Oak trees in evidence, hundred of years old that missed being harvested - I wonder what occurred – the civil war? They would have been used for house building locally or even ship building.

A discussion ensued about a stand of tall mature Elm's that have survived (fingers crossed this will continue) Dutch Elm disease even though elsewhere in the wood there are quite a few Elms that have succumbed and it was considered whether the healthy Elms could be DNA profiled.



Scarlet Elf Cap (above) and Spring Hazelcup (opposite) were eagerly sought for /  
*Jeremy Bartlett*

We came across a patch of *Rubus* thought to be Wineberry *Rubus phoenicolasius* where the whole patch had around 30 white fluff lengths, approximately 150mm long attach to it in places. It was thought the 'fluff' was produced either by a fungus or an insect.

This is a place to see, if you're lucky, in July the Purple Emperor *Apatura iris*, these butterflies feed on aphid honeydew in the leaf canopy overhead or when in the larval stage on various willows although mainly Sallow *Salix caprea*. The White Admiral *Limenitis camilla* caterpillar's can be found on Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum* and the butterflies on Bramble and the White-letter Hairstreak *Satyrrium w-album* caterpillars will be found on the Elms with the butterfly visiting nearby privet or bramble.

Scarlet Elf Caps *Sarcoscypha coccinea* where hunted for and found, always a happy moment, also Spring Hazelcup *Encoelia furfuracea* was found to much enthusiasm. Jeremy being able to give some enlightening tips on how to find it. Jim strangely had chalk in his pocket which he marked the branches pointing out where the cups were.



Ashwellthorpe Wood is also where the Hawfinch can be seen in the autumn feeding on the Hornbeam seeds.

Our thanks to Anne for a very enjoyable day.

*Sarah Butler*



Members heading through Lower Wood and getting down with the invertebrates / *Jeremy Bartlett*



## NNNS Events Programme - May to September 2025

Please check the events listing online at [www.nnns.org.uk](http://www.nnns.org.uk) for up to date information and any other events/excursions. Wear suitable clothing/footwear for the conditions and bring your own refreshments for excursions. **Please try to car share or arrive by public transport.** **Winter Talks** - second Tuesday of the month at St. Andrew's Church Hall, 31 Church Lane, Eaton, Norwich, NR4 6NW (7pm for 7.30pm).

*Saturday 10th May 10.30am – lunch (optional pm)*

**Sennowe Park: A Botany day** NNNS with Norfolk Flora Group one of our separate special interest groups. NR20 5PB/TF981256/w3w: curry.airbag.practical. The Norfolk Flora Group will be recording while they are there but there is kind support from them for interested beginners or improvers. Go through the main gates to the house off the A1067 from Fakenham to Norwich and you will see a gathering of cars further down the drive.

*Saturday 24th May 10.30am – lunch (optional pm)*

**Buxton Heath and Cawston Heath** with Tim Hodge and Martin Greenland lead a general bug's day. The day has an emphasis on Diptera (true flies), Hemiptera (true bugs) and Coleoptera (beetles) with also an awareness of other species. Meet at the parking space in the southwest corner, 100m east of the Holt – Norwich road along Heath Road. Hevingham NR10 5QL/ TG172213 w3w: spider.centuries.proudest.

*Sunday 15th June 10.30am - lunch (afterwards on public footpaths at your leisure)*

**Wild Ken Hill ( Heacham Bottom Farm)** leader Carl Chapman. Wildlife to be seen in a rewilded regenerative landscape. Meet and park in the farmyard. PE31 7PQ /TF682357/ w3w:otters.blaze.homecare .

*Saturday 28th June 10.30am – lunch (optional pm)*

A second visit to **Crows Farm, Burgh Castle**. This time when the insects, butterflies and other species are around on the wildflower meadows and the marshland farm fields. Please park considerably in the farmyard NR31 9QN/TG492053/w3w: advising.masks. fastening.

*Saturday 12th July 10.30am - lunch (optional pm)*

**NWT Roydon Common and Grimston Warren** with Tim Hodge and Nick Owens (both particularly knowledgeable about insects) observing and recording the fauna and flora we find. Meet at carpark off Lynn Rd. PE31 6DB/TF680229/w3w: rooting.slave.though.

*Sunday 20th July 10.30 – lunch (optional pm)*

**A summer walk around Beeston Common** for butterflies, plants and other interests. Leader Francis Farrow. Meet at the layby off A149 east of Sheringham NR26 8RX/ TG166425/w3w: writing.sand.grasp

*Saturday 2nd August 11am – lunch (optional pm)*

**NWT Sweet Briar Marshes** NNNS Nick Owens supported by Jeremy and Vanna Bartlett with NWT Mark Hoar. An informal look around, working together to record and list as much as we can for the NNNS survey of the NWT Sweet Briar Marsh site. Meet at East Gate: TG210099/w3w: bands.wisely.shave. Parking is usually possible at NR3 2ES/



TG21105/w3w: swift.sands.dragon then walking to the East Gate from there though sometimes Sports fixtures can make parking difficult.

*Saturday 23rd August 10.30am – lunch (optional pm)*

**Wildflowers Revealed: NWT Upton Fen** - a joint meeting with the Norfolk Flora Group. NFG will be recording all day but they are kind and supportive of beginners or improvers. Parking at the reserve carpark which is located between the villages of Upton and South Walsham off Low Rd. Parking free for NWT members / donation for non-members. NR13 6EQ/TG379136/ w3w: estuaries.connector.contact

*Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> September 11am – lunch (optional pm)*

NNNS Social and recording for the gardens records, at our **Biodiversity Teaching Garden at Rougham**. Bring something to share for lunch, refreshments provided. PE32 2SE/TF830201/w3w: chemistry.diamond.printout. Chapel Cottage Rougham next to the old Chapel in the village. Parking thoughtfully where you can.



## Recorders' meeting

David Harper

**NWT Sweet Briar Marshes - Saturday May 17th**

The Society's Recorders meeting will take place on Saturday, 17th May, to the same format as last year. NWT will provide a gazebo/shelter, chairs, tea and coffee for the meeting to start at 10am. After a catch-up, talks, etc., we would then move onto the Marsh to record and return to the Gazebo for 2:30pm for tea and coffee with the aim of finishing at 3pm (or later you wish). NWT suggest we park at Sloughbottom Park carpark as it is large and easy to find (NR3 2ES), and we will gather at the BMX track, walking onto the marsh together at 10am.

**NB:** *Saturday August 2nd, 11am*

Nick Owens plus Jeremy & Vanna Bartlett will lead a members walk, as an informal look around, recording and listing as much as we can for the NNNS survey of Sweet Briar Marshes - see main events (page 24).

## Workshops 2025

**Introductory** – for those with interest but little or no experience

June 19 - **Wildflowers through their families**. with Simon Harrap at Gressenhall

August 3 - **Wildflowers through their families** (repeat). with Simon Harrap at Gressenhall

Sept 28 - **Fungus identification** with Tony Leech at Wheatfen

To book a place on these introductory workshops, please email Tony Leech at [tonyleech3@gmail.com](mailto:tonyleech3@gmail.com). Cost £15 per person. 10.30am - 4.00pm. Further details will be sent on booking.

**Skill-developing** – for those with some experience

May 17 - **Introduction to the Diptera (true flies)** with Tim Hodge & Mark Welch at Sheringham Park.

June 7 - **An introduction to British mosquitoes** with Mark Welch at Wheatfen.

July 19 - **Wasp Identification** with Tim Strudwick. Venue to be announced.

To book a place on these skill-developing workshops, please email Mark Welch at [m.welch@nhm.ac.uk](mailto:m.welch@nhm.ac.uk). Cost £15 per person. Further details will be sent on booking.

Workshops for **‘early-career professionals’** are being organised in conjunction with the National Trust. These will be held at Sheringham Park. If places are still available two weeks before the workshop, bookings will become open to any member of NNNS. If you are interested in going on a waiting list, please email Tony Leech ([tonyleech3@gmail.com](mailto:tonyleech3@gmail.com)) who will contact you if places are available.

May 24                      **Wildflowers through their families**  
                                    with Simon Harrap

June 14                    **Bumblebees** with Nick Owens

Sept 27                   **Fungi** with Tony Leech

Nov 29                   **Winter trees** with Rob Coleman





The next issue of 'The Norfolk Natterjack' will be  
**August 2025**

Please send all  
**articles / notes and photographic material**  
to the editor as soon as possible by  
**July 1<sup>st</sup> 2025** to the following address:

Francis Farrow, 'Heathlands', 6 Havelock Road,  
Sheringham, Norfolk, NR26 8QD or  
Email: [francis.farrow@btinternet.com](mailto: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 1<sup>st</sup> April to 31<sup>st</sup> March.  
During this time members will receive four copies of the quarterly newsletter, 'The Norfolk Natterjack', 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](http://www.nnns.org.uk)

Alternatively a cheque payable to  
**'Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society'** can be sent to:

NNNS Treasurer, The Dial, Reepham, Norwich, NR10 4LX

New rates are £25 for individual, family and group memberships  
(£37 for individuals living overseas).

Please address any membership enquiries to [membership@nnns.org.uk](mailto:membership@nnns.org.uk)

The FSC® - Forest Stewardship Council® - label indicates that materials used in the production of this bulletin are recyclable and sustainably sourced.



# Contents

Toad-in-the-hole...	Page 1
Whats in a name! <i>Mary Ghullam</i> ( <i>Bryophyte terms</i> )	
A fascinating story ... I think! <i>Garth Coupland</i> ( <i>Testacellid slugs</i> )	Page 3
Starling murmuration at Thornage <i>Suki Price</i>	Page 5
Broadland Cranes <i>Hans Watson</i>	Page 7
Perambulations with my camera <i>Tony Howes</i> ( <i>Strumpshaw and Buckenham wildlife</i> )	Page 8
Natural Norfolk <i>Elizabeth Dack</i> ( <i>Norfolk wildlife</i> )	Page 10
Salthouse plus <i>John Furse</i> ( <i>Wildlife</i> )	Page 12
Communicating with fish <i>Garth Coupland</i>	Page 13
An extended water body <i>Francis Farrow</i>	Page 14
NNNS President 2025-2026 ( <i>Prof. Ben Garrod</i> )	Page 15
Sale of wildlife and other books <i>Tony Leech</i>	
Book Reviews:	Page 16
History and mystery by Carl Chapman <i>Tony Leech</i>	
Harrap's Wildflowers by Simon Harrap <i>Nick Owens</i>	Page 17
NNNS Publications - free!	
Rex Hancy 1929-2025 <i>Nick Elsey</i>	Page 18
Blickling memorial bench <i>Clara Chamberlain</i>	
Excursion & Event reports:	Page 19
A winter walk: Buxton Heath - 22 <sup>nd</sup> Feb. Leader: Phil Davidson ( <i>Sarah Butler</i> )	
A spring walk: Lower Wood, Ashwellthorpe - 22 <sup>nd</sup> Mar. Leader: Anne Edwards ( <i>Sarah Butler</i> )	Page 21
NNNS Events Programme – May to September 2025	Page 24
Recorders' meeting <i>David Harper</i> ( <i>Sweetbriar marshes</i> )	Page 25
Workshops 2025	Page 26

**NB** NNNS can also be found on Social Media platforms: Bluesky: [@norfolkknats.bsky.social](https://www.bsky.social/norfolkknats)  
Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/NorfolkNats> and the associated 'Norfolk Wildlife' Facebook Group as well as the website: [www.nnns.org.uk](http://www.nnns.org.uk)