



Great white Egrets. Rutland Water.
Photo Peter Scott.

CONTENTS

Diary Dates	2
Weather	3
Amphibians & Reptiles	3
Bats	4
Birds	5 - 6
Botany	7
Butterflies	8
Fungi	9
Insects & Invertebrates	10 - 11
Mammals	12
Orthoptera	13
Moths	13 - 14
Field Trips	15
RNHS contacts	16

Welcome

We British can't help talking about the weather, can we? It used to be part of polite conversation if you didn't know someone very well. But nowadays, discussing the weather is no longer a trivial British custom – It's headline news everywhere.

Our first autumn indoor talk, given by Sarah and Catherine from the Grantham Beekeepers Association, told us about the Beekeeping year. The increasingly warm wet winters we are now experiencing, have doubly impacted the lives of our domesticated honeybees, with not only the arrival of those foreign invaders from the south - Asian hornets, but with increasing fungal pathogens which thrive in damp and warm conditions. If you read carefully through these recorder reports, you will find more evidence of the creep towards a warmer climate, along with extreme weather patterns. The butterfly report for this year, mirrors Butterfly Conservation's lowest ever count for this summer's butterfly count. We don't have an Insect recorder at present, (see notices) but who remembers our holidays being strangely void of our favorite bad guys – wasps!? Climate change may even be responsible for the huge increase in populations of the magnificent Great white egret on the front cover.

Our recorders reports are important written evidence of a changing world. The more we record, the more evidence we have. Those first RNHS members hardly knew 60 years ago, that their year-on-year lists of birds, bees, butterflies, frogs and fungi, discovered in ditches, on verges, in muddy woods, in farmers fields, at twilight, at dawn, in summer and in winter would be an invaluable record of the wildlife of Rutland through time. With all this gathered evidence, it can be used, and in the right hands it will put right some of the things we have done wrong.

So please, keep sending in your sightings to our recorders. There is a form on the website, or you can send them to Naturespot using the RNHS dropdown menu. Your record really is important, however small and however common. It has been a good year so far, and there is more to come, so do keep looking on the RNHS website for updates. Don't forget to get in touch with John and join him for the BSBI 2025 New year plant hunt. Happy hunting. See you soon.

DIARY DATES



RNHS Outdoor meetings.

The following events are correct at time of publication but may be changed at short notice, so it is important to book your place with Jeff Wilcox-Smith for the rest of this year. Details. Mob: 07946733931 or wilcoxsmith@btinternet.com. Full details of all these events appear on our website at www.rnhs.org.uk. Please make sure you are wearing appropriate clothing for the outdoor meetings and if the weather is bad on the day, give Jeff a ring beforehand in case it needs to be cancelled. Jeff may also help with any queries if you are unsure about directions.

Sunday 24th November 10.30am. A trip to Welney wetlands Centre. Britain's largest area of seasonally flooded land with gatherings of thousands of wild ducks, geese and swans. A variety of hides to visit and cafe and toilets open. Stout walking boots are advised and there is an admission charge to pay.
Meet: In the centre cafe's car park. PE14 9TN.

January 2025. Birdwatching at Rutland Water Egleton. Join with our most hardy members for a New Year walk at Rutland Water. Date to be finalised. See website nearer the time.

A REMINDER!

For our outdoor walks, especially in the winter months and the weather is bad, remember to get in touch with Jeff, Carolyn or the leader responsible for the walk, who will be able to let you know if the walk is or has been cancelled.
The website is unlikely to show cancellations at short notice.

RNHS Indoor evening meetings.

7.30pm – 9.30pm on First Tuesday of every month from October through to March at Volunteer Training Centre (VTC). LE15 8AD. Ref: SK883 083. Please book your place as detailed above with Jeff Wilcox-smith as places may be limited. Visitors are asked for a donation of £2.00.

Tuesday 5th November. 7.30pm. A talk by our Vice-president Tim Mackrill. Tim needs no introduction to Rutlanders. He managed the Rutland Osprey Project some years ago and is now also leading a team to re-introduce White-tailed eagles back into England. Learn more about these fabulous birds of prey.

Tuesday 3rd December 7.30pm. Members and recorders evening.

Join Linda and members of RNHS at the year's end, to review the highlights of our 2024 programme of events. Food, festivities and maybe a quiz or two included.

Tuesday 7th January 2025. 7.30pm.

Not yet finalised. Please refer to website nearer the time.

NOTICES

Our **Annual Programme** of events for 2025 will accompany the next January Fieldfare, so keep looking on the website for updates as they become available.

Botany recording for 2025. Botany recorder, John Rodgers would like to make up a team of volunteers to go out next year to assess and monitor the state of the Local Wildlife Site (LWS) verges in Rutland which have been important in the past for it's flora and fauna. Monitoring in the last few years has been sporadic and we really need to find out which ones are still favourable and need continuing protection. Please get in touch with John so that he can build up a list of volunteers before the season begins. John's details can be found at the head of the Botany report on page 7.

Insect and other Invertebrates recording. An Insect recorder has become available. If you are interested in becoming a recorder for the society, please get in touch with Carolyn or Craig. (Contact details on outside back page),

2025 will be the 60th anniversary of the Rutland Natural History Society. Celebrations are afoot! More in next January's edition of Fieldfare.

WEATHER

RECORDER Roy Lemmon

87 Empingham Road, Stamford PE9 2SU.

Telephone 01780 762051 E-mail: roy.lemmon@yahoo.co.uk

August 2024.

Atmospheric pressure and wind. Pressures were low during the first 11 days of the month and wind directions were very changeable, with strong gusts on the 8th, and 9th. For the rest of the month pressures were generally higher, and winds were S-SW, and this included the named storm Lilian on the 22nd and 23rd during which, 50% of the month's total rain fell. This storm is the 12th named storm in the current period, which ends in September, and is the highest annual storm total since the Met Office introduced the system in 2015.

Temperature. The overall mean for the month was 18.58 and this is the 3rd warmest August in the decade 2015-2024, just ahead of the same month in 2018 at 18.52°C. The lowest overnight minimum was 7.7°C on the 28th -29th and the highest daytime maximum was 33.0°C on the 12th.

Precipitation. This all fell as rain and amounted to a total of 17.7mm (0.7 inches) which represents 30% of my long term mean of 34 years. Precipitation occurred on 14 days and ranged from a trace (ie. not measurable) to 4.5 mm. on the 23rd Daily amounts were, obviously, low.

September 2024.

Atmospheric pressure and wind. There was a preponderance of days when the wind was NW-E and this is reflected in the temperatures. See below. There was a period of 3 days, the 10th-12th, when there were high winds. At 09.00 hours on the 11th, I measured gusts up to 20mph and it would have been windier later. The lowest pressure was 988mb on the 26th and the highest 1034mb on the 17th. There were thunderstorms on the 21st, 22nd and 26th.

Temperature. This was a cool September with a mean of 15.02°C and this places the month the 7th coolest in the decade 2015-2024. The lowest night-time minimum was 2.6°C on the 11th-12th and the highest daytime maximum was 18.6°C on the 6th.

The Met, office has calculated that this summer was the coolest in the decade, but this is for the UK as a whole and using my own figures, I find that summer 2024 is in fact the 4th warmest.

Precipitation. A total of 167.6mm (6.6 inches) which all fell as rain, was recorded here and this represents 319% of my long term mean. This included 3 high daily readings and that of the 26th, 51.4mm (2.02 inches) is the 3rd highest amount I have recorded in 34 years. It is also the highest September total, well above that of 1992 which was 104.5mm.

AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

RECORDER Dr C H Gallimore

Waterdown, Brooke Road, Braunston, Rutland LE15 8UJ.

E-mail: chasgall@hotmail.com

August/September 2024

Apart from 5 dead Common **Toads** on the road in Wing on August 2, I have had no other amphibian records for this period.

Reptile records were few too. There were records of **Viviparous Lizards** and **Adders** from Ketton Quarry on

August 31 and two records of **Grass Snakes** at Rutland Water Nature Reserve on September 20 and 21.

My thanks to T Caldicott, R Lemmon, M Markham, J Rodgers and T Sexton for their records



Grass snake.
Stock photo.

BATS

RECORDER Jenny Harris

41 Woodland View, Oakham LE15 6EJ.

Telephone: 01572 755274 E-mail: jennyharris221@gmail.com

August to October 2024

As usual, not many records of bat activity were sent in to the Recorder, but there were certainly bats about when the weather in the evenings was mild and dry enough for their insect food to be available. A single bat foraged regularly in front of my house in Oakham, in September, where lit windows attracted insects, particularly small moths.

During a **bat walk** at Lyndon Nature Reserve on 7 September, common and soprano pipistrelles were heard in the area between the Visitor Centre and Gibbet Gorse. At 8.10pm, I was in Teal Hide, on the water's edge close to the centre, and was entranced by the sound of several noctule bats feeding over the water in front of the hide, hearing the loud echolocation calls and feeding buzzes.

The bats were not foraging over trees and shrubs on the south side of the hide, only over the water itself; they were foraging for at least 20-30 minutes, then disappeared. They were not heard by the group that had walked to Gibbet Gorse. Perhaps because the water level was low, only a few Daubenton's bats were heard close to the hide and these went further out when the group entered, with some ensuing noise. With infra-red camera and thermal imaging equipment, Daubenton's bats could be seen far out over the reservoir, but too distant to be heard on detectors. However, this was made up for by the amazing aerobatics and sounds made by pipistrelles catching insects over the hide and shoreline in front of it.

Grounded bats

Date	Details
20 August	Soprano Pipistrelle, found Lonsdale Way, Oakham, grounded, not injured but probably dehydrated. Weight 4.6g, f/a 30mm. On 9 September flew for 15 minutes in my lounge. Released on 20.9 when the weather had improved. Weight 6.5g. Flew off well in sheltered area of Princess Way
23 August	Small bat flying in house on Vicarage Road, Oakham, and went into an upstairs room. Finder left the windows open overnight. When bat was not seen again it was assumed to have left.
06 September	Bat seen and photographed on a wall of the VTC at RW by Tim Sexton. Probable pipistrelle sp. It had gone later in the day. (See photo below).
03 October	Juvenile Common Pipistrelle at Colley Rise, Lyddington. Weight low, 3.2g, f/a 31mm. The bat was very thin, probably dehydrated. It died while I tried to feed it.
07 October	Common Pipistrelle found on the floor of the vestry at Lyddington Church. Weight 4.2g, looking thin. It began to feed itself almost immediately and will be released if it gets to 'hibernation' weight (preferably more than 5.0g) and the weather allows.

The bat boxes in Barnsdale Wood were checked for the National Nathusius' Pipistrelle Project on 31 August. I was only present for the morning session, up to about 12.30pm; checking the boxes continued into the afternoon but I do not have details. The number of bats seen was lower than during the April check (see June issue of Fieldfare), with 13 soprano pipistrelles found in two boxes in the morning.

Two **Nathusius' Pipistrelles** were found in the morning: a juvenile male, new to the Project, with a forearm length of 33mm, weight 7.2g, larger than our other two pipistrelles. It was ringed: number J22609. A second Nathusius' was a recapture, ring number J4900, weight 7.6g. This male, which was first ringed in spring 2017, was also found during the April 2024 box check in Barnsdale; it was found in Box 17 on 31 August, having been recorded in Box 16 in April. Nathusius' Pipistrelles rarely move far from favoured groups of boxes.



Bat found on wall at VTC.
Photo T. Sexton

August 2024

Highlights. Rutland Water had a Bittern (2nd), three Caspian Gulls (20th) and seven Black Terns (1st). A Redstart was at Fort Henry (11th).

Rutland Water. (See also monthly wildfowl count). Other wildfowl were a Ruddy Shelduck (17th- 20th), four Garganey (10th) and a Goosander (12th) with a Ruddy Duck (24th). Wader counts (20th) included five Oystercatchers, 404 Lapwings, three Ringed Plovers, a Whimbrel, three Curlew, two Black-tailed Godwits, five Turnstones (19th), four Common Sandpipers and 17 Green Sandpipers. A Little Stint was present (31st) and a Spotted Redshank (24th). On (20th) there were 11 Yellow-legged Gulls and 60 Common Terns with Black Terns between (1st-8th). Marsh Harriers were regular all month and there were four Hobbies (10th).

Eyebrook Reservoir. See also monthly wildfowl count. Wildfowl included a Garganey (31st). There was a Cattle Egret (1st). Osprey was regular with a Marsh Harrier (11th-14th) and a Hobby (3rd). An excellent wader passage produced an Avocet (14th-18th), 372 Lapwings (18th), 42 Ringed Plovers (26th), four Little Ringed Plovers (24th), nine Black-tailed Godwits (18th, 24th), a Knot (31st) three Ruff (15th-24th) and Little Stints (14th-16th, 31st). There were four Common Sandpipers (2nd, 14th and three Green Sandpipers (24th). A Yellow-legged Gull was regular with six Black Terns (12th). There were two Whinchats (17th) and still a pair of Stonechats (3rd).

Other Sites. Fort Henry Ponds had 43 Gadwall (15th), 32 Shoveler, 40 Teal and three Green Sandpipers (31st). An osprey and a Peregrine were over Exton Park (11th) with a Marsh Harrier (3rd). Hobbies bred at one site, fledging three young and Little Owls were at Belmesthorpe. At Luffenham Airfield a Nightingale was ringed (1st) and a Wheatear (21st).

September 2024.

Highlights. Rutland Water had a Leach's Petrel (28th), a Red-breasted Merganser (from 18th) and 14 Common Scoter (23rd). There was a record count of 100 Great White Egrets (22nd). A Hawfinch was at Tunneley Wood (24th).

Rutland Water. (See also wildfowl counts). Other wildfowl were a Ruddy Shelduck (7th – 18th) and a Scaup (28th) with three Goosander (24th). Two Water Rails were at Egleton (15th). Wader counts included an Oystercatcher (24th), an Avocet (14th), 13 Ringed Plovers (7th), two Curlew (20th), two Black-tailed Godwits (22nd), a Wood Sandpiper (12th, 15th), three Common Sandpipers (24th) and seven Green Sandpipers (22nd). There were two Greenshanks (22nd). A Caspian Gull was noted (5th, 9th) and six Yellow-legged Gulls (22nd). Two Common Terns (14th) and two Black Terns were also recorded. There were still two Ospreys (14th) and Marsh Harriers were regular. There were Peregrines (14th, 20th) and two Hobbies (14th). There were three Whinchats (17th) and two Stonechats (from 19th).

Eyebrook Reservoir. (See also wildfowl counts). There were two Garganey and a Cattle Egret (both 15th). An Osprey was seen (1st) and a Marsh Harrier (3rd) with a Peregrine (1st). An excellent wader passage produced up to 34 Ringed Plovers (3rd), Little Ringed Plover (5th, 21st), five Black-tailed Godwits (1st), six Turnstones (2nd – 3rd), three Ruff (15th) and a Curlew Sandpiper (2nd – 3rd). There were 19 Dunlin (3rd), a Little Stint (1st – 4th) and two Wood Sandpipers (3rd – 6th) with five Common Sandpipers (3rd) and four Green Sandpiper (1st – 2nd). There were four Greenshanks (5th). An Arctic Tern passed through (5th) and Black Terns were noted (3rd – 28th) with two (7th, 26th). There were three Whinchats (15th) and one (21st) with a Rock Pipit on the latter date. 11 Yellow Wagtails were seen (1st).

Other Sites. Peak wildfowl counts at Fort Henry Ponds were 94 Shoveler (21st), 91 Gadwall (26th), 152 Mallard (9th), 91 Teal (21st) and two Pintail (14th). There were three Green Sandpipers (14th -26th). A Peregrine roosted on Oakham church (13th).

Wildfowl counts - August and September 2024

	Fort Henry Ponds and Rygate Lake 15.08.	Fort Henry Ponds and Rygate Lake 21.09.	Banthorpe GP 15.08.	Banthorpe GP 21.09.
Greylag Goose				3
Mute Swan	5	5	4	4
Shoveler	24	94		
Gadwall	43	44		
Wigeon		9		1
Mallard	105	113		78
Pintail		1		
Teal	13	101		8
Tufted Duck	5	17		
Little Grebe	1	6		1
Grey Heron		1	1	
Little Egret		1		
Cormorant	1	1		
Moorhen	42	80	2	1
Coot	86	89	5	2
TOTAL	325	562	12	98

Wildfowl Counts – August and September 2024.

	Rutland Water 20.08.	Rutland Water 22.09.	Eyebrook Reservoir 18.08.	Eyebrook Reservoir 22.09.
Canada Goose	1216	175	90	467
Barnacle Goose	2			
Greylag Goose	1096	644	72	196
Mute Swan	442	461	105	75
Egyptian Goose	65	28	1	
Shelduck			2	2
Ruddy Shelduck	1			
Mandarin Duck	6	3		
Garganey		1		
Shoveler	128	406	13	
Gadwall	1941	1251	13	17
Wigeon	32	2154		3
Mallard	1146	1198	324	124
Pintail		139		7
Teal	641	817	95	16
Red-crested Pochard	1	1		
Pochard	55	7		8
Tufted Duck	2303	1352	15	115
Goosander		1		
Red-breasted Merganser		1		
Little Grebe	80	91	1	10
Great Crested Grebe	725	316	56	28
Grey Heron	20	33	4	
Great White Egret	32	100	1	5
Little Egret	94	48	10	
Cormorant	898	1006	33	
Moorhen	78	90		3
Coot	1050	1381	51	111
Kingfisher	1		2	1
TOTAL	12053	11704	888	1188





Late summer hedgerow. Gypsy lane.

August/September 2024

There haven't been many records since the last Fieldfare. Perhaps that was due to the very changeable weather? Most were of common species but there were one or two less common flowers. **Nettle-leaved Bellflower** was found in Langham by Marion Markham. This is a relative of the more common Clustered Bellflower, the emblematic flower of the county, and was last found in Tunneley Wood in 2019 and Great Casterton in 2017. As well as the nettle like leaves it has flowers either single or in loose groups of two to four. Roy Lemmon found both **Field and Small Scabious** in the roadside verge at Horn Mill. These look much the same at first glance, but the Small Scabious is more slender with the lower leaves lobed, the terminal lobe bigger and rounded, whilst the leaves on the stem are smaller with much finer linear lobes. Field Scabious is sturdier and hairier with lower leaves unlobed and with

toothed edges, whilst the stem leaves have linear lobes. The third Scabious, Devil's-bit Scabious is less common, though can be found at Bloody Oaks Quarry. It has unlobed lanceolate basal leaves. The stem leaves are similar but narrower.

The star find this time, was again made by Steve Woodward. He found **Blue Pimpernel** at the edge of an arable field at Clipsham. This is a separate species to Scarlet Pimpernel, which can occur in a blue form. The true Blue is distinguished by having fine hairs on the edges of the petals, but you need a microscope to see these. This plant has not been seen in Rutland since 1994, but back then was found at Pickworth Great Wood. Alongside the Pimpernels were **Round-leaved Fluellen, Spear-leaved Fluellen, Common Gromwell, Stinking Chamomile and Blue Fleabane**. An interesting location for the future, perhaps.



Above. Nettle-leaved bellflower. Photo C Baxter

As winter approaches, there isn't much botany to find, though don't forget the New Year Plant hunt. Those interested in the subject might like to join the Botanical Society of Britain and Ireland, THE scientific society for plants which does much to find and protect plant life whilst providing a very readable journal and extremely good web sites. At the moment, throughout October you can join for 15 months for the price of 12. See bsbi.org.uk for full details of the society and the offer.

Thank you to Marian Markham, Roy Lemmon, Martin Grimes, Steve Woodward and Carolyn Baxter for the records that they submitted.

BUTTERFLIES

RECORDER Martin Quinlan

4 Bayley Close, Uppingham, Rutland LE15 9TG

Telephone: 01572 820337

August and September 2024.

The UK had its coolest summer since 2015 according to the Met Office. August was a little drier and had more sunshine than June/July. September is the first month of the meteorological autumn and was cool and wet apart from a dry warm week in the middle.

The only and final record of **LARGE SKIPPER** came from Ketton Quarry (KQ) with 3 on 1st August.

KQ also had the last records of **SMALL SKIPPER** on 1st and 14th August.

BRIMSTONE records came from KQ with 5 on 1st and 1 on 20th August. One also at Wing (W) on 12th August.

LARGE WHITE was again under-recorded as the only records were 2 in Uppingham (UPP) on 1st August and singles at KQ on 14th and 20th August. The only September records were singles at Essendine (ESS) on 9th and UPP on 10th. The maximum was 4 at Manton (M) on the 16th.

SMALL WHITE was seen at KQ on 1st August, Bloody Oaks Quarry (BOQ) on 23rd, and UPP on 26th and 29th. September saw higher numbers with 4 at UPP on 6th, 6 at W on 6th, 4 at KQ on 17th, 2 at Lyndon (LYN) on 18th and the last at M on 20th.

GREEN-VEINED WHITE sightings came from KQ on 1st and 14th August, and from M on 6th and 14th September.



Green-veined white butterfly. Photo C. Baxter

There were just 2 records of **BROWN ARGUS** both at KQ on 14th and 20th August.

There were also just 2 records of **COMMON BLUE** also from KQ on 7th and 31st August.

SMALL COPPER was seen at KQ on 31st August and in September at M on 16th and 18th.

The season for Fritillaries was ending and the last **DARK GREEN FRITILLARY** was at KQ on 1st August as was the last **SILVER-WASHED FRITILLARY**.

The first **RED ADMIRAL** was seen at KQ on 1st August with the maximum of 10 on buddleia at Wing (W). In September singles were at LYN on 18th and at Langham

(L) on 20th with a maximum of 8 on buddleia in M on 13th.

PAINTED LADY records all came from Manton with the first on 7th August followed by 6 records in September which may almost certainly refer to the same individual on one of butterflies favourite plants - buddleia. The dates were 6th, 7th, 12th, 13th, 14th and 17th.



Painted lady. C Baxter

SMALL TORTOISESHELL was very scarce at a National level this year and was only seen in September at UPP on 7th and at M - on those buddleia again - on 8th, 13th, 16th, 17th and 20th.

PEACOCK was also scarce with records in August only from UPP on 9th and W on 11th (three). In September it was only seen at M on 4th, 6th, 8th, 14th, 16th and 17th.

There were just 2 records of **COMMA** both in September at LYN on 18th (two) and at M on 21st.

SPECKLED WOOD was first reported from KQ on 7th August and then in September at M on 13th, KQ on 17th, LYN on 18th and L on 20th.

GATEKEEPER had been surprisingly plentiful in summer this year but declined in August with no records in September. In August there were 6 at KQ on 1st, 4 at KQ on 7th, 3 at KQ on 14th, 2 at KQ on 20th and finally 3 at BOQ on 23rd.

MEADOW BROWN had also been seen in good numbers in summer but also declined in August with no records in September.

In August there were 8 at KQ on 1st, 16 at KQ on 7th, 9 at KQ on 14th, 2 at KQ on 20th and 2 at BOQ on 23rd.

The last **RINGLET** of the year was seen at KQ on 1st August.

A total of 20 species were seen in the period.

Finally a correction - In the previous issue (No. 347) the credit for the photograph of Black Hairstreak should have been Tim Caldicott.

I would like to thank the following for their records: Tim Caldicott, David Needham, Roy Lemmon, Marian Markham and John Rodgers.

FUNGI

RECORDER: K FORTUNE JONES

56 Queens walk, Stamford. PE9 2QE

Mob: 07929 895021

Email: katefortunejones@gmail.com

August and September 2024.

August and September were quiet months for fungi in Rutland, with what seems a general trend of later fruiting year on year. (Climate change no doubt influencing a shift) Whilst late summer, starting in July, can traditionally launch a mycological bloom, particularly for the Bolete and Amanita genera, numbers seem to drop off again by September. However, the smaller groups, the Mycena and Inkcaps, and the larger, the Polypores and Brackets, were showing in good number. The Rusts, Smuts and Mildews were well recorded on close inspection of leaves and twigs of their host plants. Maple, Oak, Ash and Sycamore all exhibiting their particular fungal pathogens.

Of a more spectacular nature, the brackets such as the **Chicken of the Woods** *Laetiporus sulphureus*, **Hens of the Woods** *Grifola frondosa*, and the gory **Beefsteak fungus** *Fistulina hepatica*, appear to have had a bumper year. I have encountered all three in great number and size around the county and beyond. Barnsdale Wood being particularly good for Beefsteak, where I noted a considerate forager had sliced a neat portion of fresh 'steak' from a bracket measuring a good 30cm. And yes, it is edible, a tasty vegan option looking very like rare meat.



Above: Beefsteak fungus.
Photo K Fortune Jones



Above: Chicken of the woods.
Photo K Fortune Jones



Giant Polypore *Meripilus giganteus* has also been profuse producing great clustered waves at the roots of mature deciduous trees, especially Sweet Chestnut. I can't help wondering whether there is any connection with the rainfall levels this year being high, and whether this

correlates to greater bracket growth?

The Mycena, the Bonnets showed in the two months including **Common Mycena galericulata**, **Grooved Mycena polygramma**, **Snapping Mycena vitilis** and **Milking Mycena galopus**. **Sulphur Tuft** *Hypholoma fasciculare* and various **Inkcaps** including **Common Coprinopsis atramentaria**, **Hare's Foot Coprinopsis lagopus** and **Glistening Coprinellus micaceus** and **Pleated Parasola plicatilis** were recorded. Also, **Deer Shields** *Pluteus cervinus* showed at Ketton and Barnsdale always growing out of rotting timber



Left: Glistening inkcap.
Photo C Baxter



Right: Sulphur tuft.
Photo C. Baxter

Below: Deer shield. Photo K Fortune Jones



and **Common Stump Brittlestem** *Psathyrella piluliformis* was also recorded.

As I conclude this piece, it is now October and Fungi season 'proper' has begun, with forays on UKfungusDay already revealing some exciting finds! Brace yourselves- I think this could be a good year!

August and September 2024.

We do not have an Insect recorder at this time but records for Rutland have been sent to us via the RNHS dropdown menu on the Naturespot website, so thank you to those who are using this method of recording. The variety of species sent in seems to have been dependent on the specific interest of the recorder, so many species we would probably have encountered throughout this period are not recorded. Please keep your insect records coming in.

August.

Bees, Wasps and Ants.

We have two reports coming from Ketton Quarry at the end of August, firstly the **Sputnik gall wasp** and also the **Robin's pin-cushion Gall** (caused by a Bedeguar wasp). Both these tiny wasps cause galls or growths to form on common Dog Rose - the leaf blades with the Sputnik gall and inside a bud with the Bedeguar gall. Galls on Oak trees have also been found in this month, a **Smooth spangle gall** found on the underside of Oak leaves and the strangely named **Knopper Gall**, causing sticky red galls on the acorns. Both were found at Yew tree Avenue.

Bugs

Keeping with Galls, but this time caused by a bug, or more accurately, a jumping louse **Psyllopsis fraxini**. were also found at Yew Tree Avenue, causing leaves to roll on Ash trees.

Craneflies, Gnats.

Taxomyia taxi is a little midge that causes an artichoke-like gall on yew tree leaves. It was found at Yew tree avenue as was **Macrodiplosis pustularis**, found in the same place but on Oak leaves. Not surprisingly, both are under recorded in Rutland.

Flies.

Urophora stylata is a little gall causing fly that can be recognized by the distinctive black markings on its wings, but it can be confused with **Urophora cardui** – the **Thistle gall fly** which has similar markings on the wings. Both are common, but U. stylata is usually found on Spear thistles and U. cardui on Creeping thistles. These were noted at Yew tree avenue.

September.

Bees, Wasps, Ants.

Most of the records from 13 -22nd September were of gall wasps. Rutland water on the 13th had Knopper, Smooth spangle, **Silk button**, Sputnik, and the Robin's pin **cushion** galls and again on 18th there was also the **Marble gall**.

Robin's pin cushion seems to have had a good season, appearing in Langham, at the Eyebrook reservoir and at Ketton Quarry. The **Red pea sputnik gall** was also found at Ketton Quarry.

The only record for a bee was the **Ivy bee**, a fairly new arrival to this country found by Marian Markham at Langham. As the name suggests, they feed with other insects, hoverflies and wasps in autumn on the nectar of ivy flowers. I first saw them along the ivy clad hedges on the Barleythorpe road before lockdown.

Interesting sawfly caterpillars, unfortunately without a common name – **Nematus septentrionalis**, were spotted in Cherry wood towards the end of the month. A little party of them chewing round the edges of a leaf with their tails in the air.



16-spot ladybird. Eyebrook. C. Baxter



22-spot ladybird. Pilton C Baxter



Nematus septentrionalis. Cherry wood. L. Biddle

Beetles.

Ladybirds of varying colours and spots were seen throughout the county apart from our usual 7-spot and harlequins. The **Orange ladybird** and **4-spot ladybird** were seen at Langham and some **22-spots** found at Pilton. Some **16-spot ladybirds** were also seen at the edge of a field overlooking the Eyebrook reservoir.

Bugs.

The **box bug**, once quite rare but now found frequently, was seen in an Uppingham garden and in Langham. Many nymphs of the **Juniper shieldbug** were found feeding on possibly Lawson's Cypress trees rather than Juniper, beside the main track at Wardley woods.

Craneflies, Gnats etc.

Dasineura urticae is a little midge that causes galls on stinging nettles. It was found on two occasions at Rutland water. The wonderfully named **Lighthouse gall**, also found at Rutland water, looks like little hairy green fingers found on Ground Ivy.

Dragonflies.

Several reports of dragonflies this month were of the **Migrant Hawker**, (see photo opposite) seen at Langham, in a hedge outside Stoke woods and at Rutland Water. Also seen on the same day on the hedges outside Stoke woods were both a male and female **common darter**. Lastly a **Southern hawker** landed in a members garden lawn.

Juniper shieldbug nymph.
Wardley woods.



Below Southern hawker.
Uppingham garden.



Below Male common darter.
Hedge beside Stoke woods.



Below. Female Common darter.
Hedge beside Stoke woods



Flies and Hoverflies.

The **Footballer** hoverfly was out on Monday's close in the middle of the month, but since it is one of the most common hoverflies, it was probably going about it's business all over Rutland at this time.

Mites and Ticks.

Eriophyes similis is a tiny mite which feeds on plant cells, causing galls to form, in this case on the leaves of Prunus species and *E. pyri* on members of the Rose family. Both were found at Rutland Water in the middle of the month.

MAMMALS

RECORDER Linda Biddle

21 Waverley Gardens, Stamford PE9 1BH.
Tel: 01780 762108 Email: ajbiddle21@talktalk.net

August/Sept 2024

BREAKING NEWS!! For the first time in 19 months of camera trapping mammals at RWNr we have managed to capture images of a WATER VOLE!! One of our primary aims in carrying out this project was to see if we could easily record their presence on camera. Obviously, that is not the case. Using our normal method, we failed to see any water voles in known strongholds, so our intrepid Tim Sexton designed a floating camera trap, and together with Beth Fox we installed it during a deluge a couple of weeks ago. The first image on the SD card removed this week showed a **water vole!** We shall be reporting on the whole project on 16th December at the LRWT local group meeting at VTC, so do come and join us if you wish to find out more about it.

(RNHS members are also invited to the next local LRWT group meeting on 18th November at VTC when Henry Stanier will be giving us the Highlights of the Great fen Project)

Ian Day sent in a photograph of an **otter** swimming close to the western shore of EBR at the end of September. There seem to be lots about, particularly at RWNr where recent otter watches have seen up to 6, including young ones. Hardly surprising as they have a perfect protected environment with good habitat and a plentiful food supply. A **stoat** was recorded at RWNr, and **weasels** keep popping into the camera traps to see what's going on, the latest in the bird ringing rides behind Lax Hill. During August a **badger** put in regular appearances on the trail-camera at Langham. Sadly, several members noted two dead badgers road casualties on the A606 near Shacklewell hollow.

A **fox** crossed the meadows close to Egleton bird watching centre, and another record from Marian Markham's Garden

Photo below taken by Marian Markham

camera showed the fox appeared on four nights in August. A **hedgehog** was a road casualty in Edith Weston, but happily at Langham one visited on 18 occasions during August. The damp weather has helped hedgehogs, since slugs and snails have been doing well. **Moles** have also thrived since the dry spell broke, hills appearing in many areas, particularly in Ridlington on village green and playing fields, as well as member Jackie Morrell's garden for the first time in 9 years. A **bank vole** was also spotted in Jacky's garden, and bank voles continue to be the most frequent visitors to our camera traps at RWNr. There are still plenty of **field mice** recorded in the traps too, and just one called in at the Langham camera during August. In a field to the north of East wood, between Great Casterton and Pickworth, a single **roe deer** was feeding peacefully. Roe have been a problem this year between Preston and Manton, causing damage to newly planted trees, unfortunately including those the RNHS planted a couple of winters ago. There were no records of fallow deer during August and September, but **muntjac** are commonly seen, in many parts of the county. Similarly **grey squirrels** are very numerous, and there are many **rabbits** – large and small often seen on the approach to VTC, diving for cover in the hedgerow as you drive up the track.

Thank you to those of you who have as usual sent in reports of your observations. For a few days I thought that there was not enough information to make a report worth writing!! We have been away for much of the last two months, so our observations were very few. The small mammal trapping was having a short break as well, so I was very relieved to receive reports from the faithful few.

Recorders this time were:-A Biddle, Ian Day, Roy Lemmon, Marian Markham, Jacky Morell, J Nourish, PJ Rudkin, Steve Smalley.



ORTHOPTERA

RECORDER Phil Rudkin

10 Brooke Avenue, Stamford, PE9 2RU. Telephone: 01780 762998

E-mail: phil.rudkin@talktalk.net

August/September 2024.

We all know how the weather kept changing in the Spring and Summer, causing our species many problems. Regarding the Orthoptera in early Autumn: Unfortunately, once again, I have received very few sightings for the months Aug/September. Two casual reports, and the ever-present news from Tim Caldicott, in his allotments in Wing village. Therefore, it is very difficult to gauge the success of our crickets and grasshoppers.

Bush Crickets.

Oak Bush Cricket, *Meconema thalassinum*

One, at members garden, Langham. 31 August 2024. new site: SK978052.

Roesel's Bush Cricket, *Roeseliana roeselii*

One adult, Gorsefield SK898056 26 September 2024. Regular site.

Long-winged Conehead, *Conocephalus fuscus*

Two adults, in Wing Village allotment. Regular site. 10 September 2024

Speckled Bush Cricket, *Leptophyes punctatissima*

One adult, in Wing Village Allotment. 5th September 2024. Regular site.

Grasshoppers.

Meadow Grasshopper. *Chorthippus parallelus*. two adults, in Wing Village Allotment

6 September 2024. Regular site.

One adult, in Ketton Quarries. 31 August 2024. Regular site. SK978052

Thank you to: Marian Markham, Tim Caldicott.

Below. Male Roesel's bush cricket. Photo P Rudkin



Below. Male Speckled bush cricket. Photo P Rudkin



MOTHS

RECORDER Paul Bennett

90 Kesteven Rd, Stamford PE9 1SR. Telephone: 01780 754569

E-mail: p.bennett569@btinternet.com

August/September 2024

The late summer has been a relatively quiet period with only a few nights offering really good opportunities for trapping. On those occasions moth numbers have held up without being exceptional, but what has been more noticeable is the very low number of reports of regular day-flying moths, not just in this period but throughout the year. Also the familiar sights of Cinnabar Moth caterpillars feeding on Ragwort seem to have been far fewer than normal.

On 4th August, and for the first time in 2 years, a battery trap was left out overnight at Shacklewell Spinney near Stamford. 43 species were identified there on the following morning, including 5 **Black Arches**, an **August Thorn** and a **Dark Sword-grass**, the latter being a regular immigrant

moth, although some are thought to be mobile residents in the UK going as far north as Scotland but mainly concentrated in the southern half of England. A second attempt at the same site on the night of 18th September was much less successful, producing just 6 moths although an overnight hornet invasion couldn't be ruled out as 2 were left around the trap along with discarded moth wings on the following morning!

Lyndon was trapped on 4 occasions. On 10th August the total of 292 moths of 65 species including 5 species of **Prominent moths**, 5 **Square-spotted Clay** and 2 **Yellow-barred Brindle** that had a strong green colouration which indicated in this species, a freshly emerged specimen before the yellow starts to come through. The 28th August

trap was successful in terms of numbers, 334 moths, but the overwhelming majority of these, as is common in late August were the moth equivalent of little brown jobs, being various **Rustic and Yellow Underwing** species, **Setaceous Hebrew Character** and **Common Wainscot**, although it is good to see them in large numbers which has not been the case very often in recent years. The trap in August set out the week before, was part of the Rutland Water moth bio-blitz event held for the second time this year after the first attempt was hampered to some extent by poor weather and Global Birdfair logistics. On this occasion the weather again presented a problem with the squally showers and near gale-force winds forecast to arrive around dawn the following day, making it potentially very difficult to empty traps successfully in those conditions. Most volunteers therefore, determinedly stayed out during the night until the first signs of the changing weather before closing the traps down. Overall, 16 traps were set out over 10 sites on the reserve and the final total of 1691 moths of 125 species was impressive in the circumstances. Highlight moths were **Scarce Bordered Straw**, **Dark Spectacle**, **Webb's Wainscot** and **September Thorn** with **6 species of Wainscot** recorded in the reed bed area around Cherry Wood.

The final trap of the period on 14th September, trapped both the meadow and the area around Waderscrape hide and produced a range of common early autumn species although **Pinion-streaked Snout** and **Pink-barred Sallow** are more occasional while the **micro Scalloped Tortrix** was a first record for the reserve.



Above; Pinion-streaked snout. Photo J Morrell.



Above: Scalloped tortrix. Photo J. Morrell

Three day records were received of moths seen in or around Langham; a locally rare record of a **Toadflax Brocade** on 5th September, **Box-tree Moths** on 8th and 10th September and a **Knot Grass** on 14th September.



Above: Box tree moth. Photo A Dejardin

Hummingbird Hawk-moths were regular in a Manton garden throughout early September and **Elephant Hawk-moth**, **Privet Hawk-moth** and **Vapourer caterpillars** were all seen at the allotment area in Wing during the same month.



Above: Privet hawk moth caterpillar. Photo T. Caldicott



Above: Elephant hawk moth caterpillar Photo T. Caldicott

With many thanks to the following for sending their records:- P Bennett, T Caldicott, , M Markham, J Morrell, T Sexton.

FIELD TRIPS

A visit to Wardley wood walk. Saturday 19th October 2024

After heavy overnight rains, the walk was cancelled. However, by 9.30am the rain had stopped so 6 of us ventured out anyway, with three walking from Sweethedges car park and, with a chance meeting of two car loads from the southern end of the wood, joining the other three.

The Boulder Clay and Jurassic Lias Clay underlying Wardley Wood meant the only direction for the rainwater to go was downhill, creating a mini brook down the central ride of the wood where the Public Right of Way is routed. Note this is a welly boot walk!

Wardley Wood is a large patch of Ancient Woodland. Much is currently as “planted ancient Woodland” (PAW) owing to the government Forestry England planting it with conifers in the 1960s. There is now a management plan for harvesting timber for the best financial return whilst restoring the natural ancient woodland habitat. More information is available on Naturespot Wild Places list **Wardley Wood | NatureSpot**.

The group was greeted by a **Great Spotted Woodpecker** which landed in a nearby tree. We also noted the ash dieback disease is present here. Our eyes turned to the ground and on entering the woodland edge at the southern end of Wardley Wood we encountered **Fairy Inkcaps** covering an entire stump, A lovely row of **Funeral Bells** on a mossy log. Another fallen log was decorated with **Hairy Curtain Crust**. With time ticking by, we walked up to the central part of the wood which is planted with Beech. Here in a very small area, we found a fallen birch which seemed to be the only birch in the area. It was overcrowded with a plethora of fungi [names to be worked out....]. The ground had **Ochre Brittlegill, Rosy Bonnets, and Milk Caps**. A lunch break was calling so after two hours of good company and lots of finds in the woodland we departed. If you are interested in visiting this woodland note that nearby parking is limited. The Sweethedges Café may allow parking, or there are lay-bys along the A47.

Marian Markham.



Left: Funeral bell. Photo M Markham

Right: Probably Sulphur tuft just emerging from Beech area. Photo M Markham



Bird list

Blue tit
Long tail tit
Red Kite
Great spotted woodpecker
Goldcrest
Marsh tit
Robin
Wren

Flowers

Bittersweet
Selfheal
Mint
Teasel

Ferns

Broad buckler fern
Male fern
Bracken

Fungi.

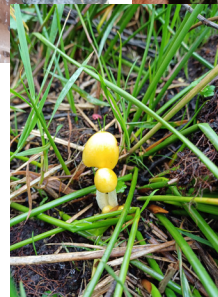
Purple jelly disc.
Yellow brain
Beech jelly disc
Hazel woodwart
Turkeytail
Field mushrooms (outside Sweethedges cafe).
Fairy inkcaps On stump outside cafe)
Glistening inkcaps
Funeral bell
Hairy curtain crust
Honey fungus
Sulphur tuft
Crepidotus sp. (probably mollis)
Ochre brittlegill, Rosy bonnets and Milkcaps (under beech trees)
Parasol mushroom (found in cleared and replanted area)
Yellow fieldcap



Above: Beech jellydisc.



Above: Crepidotus mollis.



Below: Parasol mushroom

Below: Ochre brittlegill



Above: Yellow fieldcap





Lurid bolete.



Scarletina bolete

The fungi sketches above are just a small part of the artwork produced by our Fungi recorder Kate Fortune Jones. As artist, printmaker and lithographer, her artwork can be viewed on her website.

Website: www.katefortunejones.co.uk.

RNHS CONTACTS

Chairman/Fieldfare Editor Carolyn Baxter
37 Stockerston Crescent, Uppingham. LE15 9UA.
Mob: 07729298125 rnhsfieldfare2@gmail.com

Secretary Craig Howat
9 Wensum Close, Oakham. LE15 6FU
Tel: 01572 869084 craighowat@talktalk.net

Acting treasurer. Peter Scott
12 Tees Close, Oakham. LE15 6SP.
Mob: 07535508932 peter.scott27@btopenworld.com

Membership secretary Tricia Marston
42 Church Street, Braunston, Oakham. LE15 8QT
Tel: 01572 756870 rnhsmembers@gmail.com

Programme secretary. Jeffrey Wilcox-Smith
The Jetty, Wing, Rutland. LE15 8RX
Mob: 07946 733931 wilcoxsmith@btinternet.com

Website Editor. Nick Gibson
Mob: mr.nickgibson@gmail.com

Wildlife recorders.
Contact details can be found at the head of reports and on the RNHS website.

Fieldfare: is published five times a year. It is free to members and available online or printed.

Printed at Lonsdale Direct: Telephone 01933 228855

RNHS is a Registered Charity: Number 514693