



The Norfolk Natterjack

The quarterly bulletin of the
Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society



... Researching
Norfolk's Wildlife

www.nnns.org.uk

May 2021
Number 153



Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Founded 1869

Reg. Charity No. 291604

Officers of the Society 2021/22

President: N Acheson

Vice Presidents: Dr R E Baker, A L Bull, R C Hancy, P W Lambley, D I Richmond, Dr A G Irwin

Chairman: A R Leech, 3 Eccles Road, Holt, NR25 6HJ.

Tel: 01263 712282 Email: tonyleech3@gmail.com

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

Tel: 01603 961939 Email: jamesemerson2007@gmail.com

Assistant Secretary: F J L Farrow (address below - Editor, The Norfolk Natterjack)

Treasurer: J Froud, Westward Ho, 4 Kingsley Road, Norwich, NR1 3RB.

Tel: 01603 440444 Email: membership@nnns.org.uk

Assistant Treasurer: T Evanns, 14 Travers Court, Runton House Close, West Runton, NR27 9RA.

Tel 07733 970219 Email: evanns@hotmail.com

Membership & Events Committee: (NB. Membership and Programme Committees now combined)

D Engelbrecht, 11 Aspen Drive, Wymondham NR18 9FT

Tel 07963 733601 Email danielle.engelbrecht93@gmail.com

Secretary: J Froud (address as above for Treasurer)

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@tlp.uk.com

Editor, Transactions: Dr N W Owens, 22 Springfield Close, Weybourne, Holt, NR25 7TB.

Tel: 01263 588410 Email: owensnw7@gmail.com

Editors, Bird & Mammal Report:

Birds: A M Stoddart, 7 Elsdon Close, Holt, NR25 6JW.

Email: andrew.stoddart@tiscali.co.uk

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

Email: norfolk-mammalrecorder@outlook.com

Research Committee: Dr N M Collins, Weavers Way Barn, The Hill, Acle, Norwich, NR13 3DW

Tel: 01493 750472 Email: collinsmark@gmail.com

Secretary: Dr J A Higgins, 9 Putingay Close, Norwich, NR4 6HU.

Tel: 01603 508284 Email: 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

Secretary: Dr J Parmenter (address above - Secretary, Publications Committee)

Finance Committee: J Froud (address above - Treasurer)

Secretary: T Evanns (address above - Assistant Treasurer)

Council:

Retiring 2022: J Higgins, T Kemp, T Williams

Retiring 2023: A Liddle

Retiring 2024: D Ashton, S Neal

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

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

Cover image: Marsh Frog (*Garth Coupland* - See page 11)

© Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society Recorders

<u>Mammals</u>	General and Bats	Richard Moores, Horseshoe Barn, Halvergate, Norfolk, NR13 3AJ. E-mail: norfolk-mammal-recorder@outlook.com
	Badgers	John Crouch, 2 Chestnut Cottages, Guton Hall Lane, Brandiston, NR10 4PH. E-mail: norfolk-badgers@yahoo.co.uk
	Cetaceans	Carl Chapman, Flat 5 Travers Court, Runtton House Close, West Runtton, Cromer, NR27 9RA. E-mail: Carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk
<u>Birds</u>		Neil Lawton, 27 Swann Grove, Holt, Norfolk, NR25 6DP. E-mail: norfolk-bird-recs@gmail.com
<u>Reptiles & Amphibians</u>		John Buckley, 77, Janson Rd, Shirlery, Southampton, SO15 5GL. E-mail: john.buckley@arc-trust.org
<u>Fish</u>	Freshwater	Charlie Halliday, 8 Swaffham Road, Narborough, King's Lynn, PE32 1TB E-mail: cjwhalliday@gmail.com
	Marine	Rob Spray & Dawn Watson, 1 Town Houses, Yoxford Rd, Sibton, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2LX. E-mail: hello@1townhouses.co.uk
<u>Molluscs (Land)</u>		Jake Stone, 2 School Cottages, Walnut Hill, Surlingham, NR14 7DQ. E-mail: norfolk-molluscs@outlook.com
<u>Insects</u>	Butterflies	Andy Brazil, 19 Beeching Road, Norwich, NR1 2LE E-mail: recorder@norfolk-butterflies.co.uk
	Moths	Jim Wheeler, Iveygreen, Town St., Upwell, Wisbech, PE14 9AD. E-mail: jim@norfolk-moths.co.uk
	Beetles	Martin Collier, Brambly House, Common Road, West Bilney, King's Lynn, PE32 1JX. E-mail: norfolk-beetles@gmail.com
	Bumblebees	Dr. Nick Owens, 22 Springfield Close, Weybourne, Holt, NR25 7TB. E-mail: owensnw7@gmail.com
	Grasshoppers & Crickets	David Richmond, 42, Richmond Rise, Reepham, Norwich, NR10 4LS E-mail: richmond.42r@btinternet.com.
	Lacewings, Sponge & Waxflies, Antlions, Alderflies, Snakeflies, Scorpionflies & Snow flea	Paul Cobb, 82 Mauchline Road, Catrine, Mauchline, Ayrshire, KA5 6QJ. E-mail: paulcobb@outlook.com
	Aphids	Dr J I T Thacker, 38, Gladstone Street, Norwich, NR2 3BH. E-mail: jit@calopteryx.com
	Dragonflies	Dr Pam Taylor, Decoy Farm, Decoy Rd, Potter Heigham, Gt. Yarmouth, NR29 5LX. E-mail: pam.taylor@british-dragonflies.org.uk
	Parasitic Hymenoptera	Graham Hopkins, 15, Matlock Road, Norwich, NR1 1TL E-mail: graham@hopkinsecology.co.uk
	Sawflies	Andy Musgrove, Tendaba, The Street, Shotesham, NR15 1YG. E-mail: andy@bubo.org
	Solitary Bees & Wasps	Tim Strudwick, 16, Beech Way, Brundall, Norwich, NR13 5ND. E-mail: timstrud@tiscali.co.uk
	Ants	Anna Jordan, Plough Cottage, Rode Lane, Carleton Rode, Norwich, NR16 1RQ. E-mail: norfolkants@yahoo.com
	Hoverflies	Tim Hodge, Belvedere Cottage, Horsey Corner, Horsey, Norfolk, NR29 4EH E-mail: tim.hodge@btinternet.com
	Terrestrial Heteroptera (Land bugs, excld. Aphids, leaf-hoppers etc.)	Rob Coleman, Springfields, North Walsham Road, Felmingham, North Walsham, NR28 0JU. E-mail: mail@rob-coleman.co.uk
	Froghoppers / Treehoppers and Leafhoppers	Colin Lucas, 49 Mill Road, Beccles, NR34 9UT E-mail: colinbh@hotmail.co.uk
	Other Insects	Dr Tony Irwin, 47 The Avenues, Norwich, Norfolk, NR2 3PH. E-mail: dr.tony.irwin@gmail.com
<u>Spiders</u>		Phillip Collyer, 9 Lowther Road, Norwich, NR4 6QN E-mail: pipcollyer@yahoo.co.uk
<u>Harvestmen</u>		Peter Nicholson, Greystone House, Castle Howard Rd, Malton, North Yorkshire YO17 7AT. E-mail: petejnich@outlook.com
<u>Woodlice & Pseudoscorpions</u> <u>Centipedes & Millipedes</u>		David Hunter The Saltings, Holt Road, Gresham, Norfolk NR11 8AD E-mail: david.hunter37@outlook.com

Recorders and Special Interest Groups

- Freshwater Invertebrates Dr Dan Hoare, Wheatfen Broad, Covey Lane, Surlingham, Norwich, NR14 7AL.
E-mail: daniel.j.hoare@gmail.com
- Marine Invertebrates (incl. Molluscs) Rob Spray & Dawn Watson, 1 Town Houses, Yoxford
Marine Algae (Seaweeds) Road, Sibton, Saxmundham, Suffolk IP17 2LX.
E-mail: hello@1townhouses.co.uk
- Galls Anne Hickley, 23 Biggin Hill Way, Watton IP25 6NZ.
E-mail: anne@penguinofficeservices.co.uk
- Vascular Plants East Norfolk Bob Ellis, 11, Havelock Rd., Norwich, NR2 3HQ ,
E-mail: bob@elymus.net
West Norfolk Richard Carter, 67 Doddshill, Dersingham, King's Lynn, PE30 4DJ
E-mail: rcarter@rsk.co.uk
- Mosses & Liverworts East Norfolk - Mary Ghullam, 5, Beech Drive, Cromer Road, North Walsham, NR28 0BZ.
E-mail: mylia@btinternet.com
West Norfolk - Julia Masson, Kestrels, Docking Road, Great Bircham, King's Lynn, PE31 6QP
E-mail: jemnaturenet@gmail.com
- Lichens Peter Lambley, The Cottage, Elsing Rd., Lyng, Norwich, NR9 5RR.
E-mail: plambley@aol.com
- Fungi Dr Tony Leech, 3, Eccles Road, Holt, NR25 6HJ. E-mail: tonyleech3@gmail.com
- Other Taxa Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service, Community and Environmental Services,
6th Floor, County Hall, Martineau Lane, Norwich, NR1 2DH.
E-mail: nbis@norfolk.gov.uk
- Referee:
Charophytes Alex Prendergast, Bramble Cottage, Low Road, Tasburgh, NR15 1AR.
E-mail: mushroom_alex@hotmail.com

Special interest groups

NNNS Photographic Group:

C H Watson, 28 Spencer Close, Lingwood, Norwich, NR13 4BB.

Tel: 01603 714582 E-mail: charles.watson13@btopenworld.com

For Microscopy enquiries:

S M Livermore, 70 Naseby Way, Dussingdale, Norwich, NR7 0TP.

Tel: 01603 431849 E-mail: stephenlivermore@outlook.com

Other *Special Interest Groups*, although not part of the NNNS, have similar aims to that of the Society:

Norfolk Amphibian & Reptile Group: P Parker, White Row Cottages, Leziatle Drove,

Pott Row, King's Lynn, PE32 1DB. Tel: 01553 630842

E-mail: admin@philipparkerassociates.co.uk

Norfolk Barbastelles Study Group: Dr. C Packman

E-mail enquiries@norfolkbarbastellestudygroup.org / lotty@wildwingsecology.co.uk

Norwich Bat Group: L Bilstone E-mail: norwichbatgroup@gmail.com

Norfolk Flora Group: West Norfolk: S Harmer / R Carter, 67 Doddshill, Dersingham PE31 6LP.

Tel: 07711870553 / 07711870554 E-mail: sharmer@rsk.co.uk / rcarter@rsk.co.uk

East Norfolk: R W Ellis, 11 Havelock Road, Norwich, NR2 3HQ. Tel: 01603 662260

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 E-mail: daniel.j.hoare@gmail.com

Norfolk Fungus Study Group: Dr A R Leech, 3 Eccles Road, Holt, NR25 6HJ.

Tel: 01263 712282 E-mail: tonyleech3@gmail.com

Norfolk Lichen Group: P W Lambley, The Cottage, Elsing Road, Lyng, Norwich, NR9 5RR.

Tel: 01603 872574 E-mail: Plambley@aol.com

Norfolk Moth Survey: K G Saul, Albion, Main Road, Filby, Gt Yarmouth, NR29 3HS.

E-mail: kensaul@stone-angel.co.uk

Norfolk Spider Group: P Collyer, 9 Lowther Road, Norwich, NR4 6QN.

Tel: 01603 259703 E-mail: pipcollyer@yahoo.co.uk

Norfolk & Suffolk Bryological Group: East Norfolk: Mrs M P Ghullam, 5 Beech Drive, Cromer Road,

North Walsham, NR28 0BZ. Tel: 01692 402013 E-mail: mylia@btinternet.com

West Norfolk: J E Masson, Kestrels, Docking Road, Great Bircham, King's Lynn, PE31 6QP

E-mail: jemnaturenet@gmail.com

Toad-in-the-hole...

There is a bit of a water element to the articles in this edition with frogs, toads, fish, gulls and marshes all represented. Other topics include a shieldbug, a beetle and an aphid, also featured are wild daffodils, adders and an encounter with 'not quite shuck'.

My thanks to all contributors and as we ease out of lockdown maybe there will be the chance to visit favourite places around the county this summer and record some great wildlife encounters for the August edition. Also check out the forthcoming events on page 26. FF

Carl Chapman - retiring chairman

Tony Leech



Carl Chapman -
Chairman 2017 - 2021

Naturalists know that species come and go, but the arrival of a jovial Yorkshireman has been a cause for celebration. Carl Chapman became Chairman four years ago and made the job seem almost full-time. Actually, he had another full-time job running his Wildlife Tours and Education company. And he also got married during his tenure!

Carl is never short of ideas and quickly drew on his background in business to gently rationalise the Society's financial procedures and was always supportive of initiatives from other members of Council. He is a naturalist, too, and remains Norfolk's county recorder for cetaceans – look out for his forthcoming book on whales and whaling in Norfolk.

Circumstance did not allow us to thank Carl at the AGM so, on behalf of all members, I do so now. Although I don't think we have seen the last of him!

Subscription Renewals

The N&NNS membership started on 1st April 2021, and we thank those members who have already renewed their subscription. If you need to renew (or wish to join) please see the '**Membership subscriptions**' box on the inside back cover of this bulletin for details. There are a number of payment methods available. Current rates are £20 for an individual and their household, or £30 for members overseas.

Jim Froud - Treasurer and Membership Secretary

A message from the Secretary

James Emerson

Firstly a big thank you to everyone who participated in our recent online AGM, either by sending in your votes or by watching on the night. Both the AGM itself and the talk that followed it ("Wild Ken Hill: A Norfolk ecological restoration project") were recorded and have been uploaded to YouTube where they can be watched back at your leisure. Please go to:

<http://norfolknaturalists.org.uk/wp/past-presentations/> for the links. You will also find links to our previous online talks on the same page.

Minutes of the AGM were taken and will be sent out with next year's AGM materials, but I thought it would be useful to highlight a few points before then. Enough members voted for the meeting to be quorate, and all eight motions were passed. Since the papers were sent out, Dr Tony Leech has come forward to take on the role of Chairman that would have otherwise been vacant. Most of you will know that Tony is a former Chairman of the Society and current Publications Committee Chairman, so we are in safe hands!

I would also just like to highlight the change to Law 3, part c, voted in at the AGM. This change to the law relating to family membership means that Society membership now covers all named members of a household, provided that they support the objects of the Society and responsibilities of membership. This change was simply so that we can tell who is a member of the Society, which wasn't always possible before. As most of our events are open to all, it is likely that this change will only affect a small number of people, specifically those who might wish to become more involved with the Society at some point (e.g. joining Council), but were not included on the original application form (for example couples where someone has moved in with an existing member).

If there are additional people in your household who wish to be considered Family Members but are not currently mentioned on your membership, then please ask the person paying the subscription to email membership@nnns.org.uk and have the extra names added to their details.



It is recognized that the wild daffodil has disappeared from large tracts of the English countryside. The reasons for this are not readily understood. The usual villain of the piece, habitat loss, is a candidate for this, especially the 'improvement' of damp meadows and the clearance of deciduous woodland. It may be that they have been crowded out, both actually and metaphorically, by more vigorous cultivars that have accompanied the modern planting frenzy.

Old textbooks refer to the wild daffodil as being rare as a 'true' native in Norfolk. My experience in north east Norfolk is that it is almost non-existent. I have fooled myself several times into thinking that I have discovered the plant only to decide that it does not measure up in one of the characteristics, be that colour, form, size or location. I discovered a likely clump for instance in the aptly named Cooke's Bottoms near Felmingham. This comprises two hazel copses with a bluebell and primrose carpeted floor and with an old bye way bisecting them. As much as I wanted to believe they were the real deal they were too tall.

A second candidate was the swathe of daffodils in the patch of ostensibly private oak woodland on the edge of Witton Heath near North Walsham. They have all the right characteristics. But then the doubts set in. It seemed to me that such a tightly packed colony in the one place, with no outliers in the adjacent meadows or in the adjoining Witton Heath and Bacton Wood, was unnatural. A public footpath ran alongside it. I suspected a human hand even though they might well be the native species. As the photograph shows, they look the part.



A drift of Daffodils at Witton Heath (inset) Witton Heath Daffodils / *Cornel Howells*

I then discovered a Common which appeared to me to have been lost in time. Growing in swampy Alder carr woodland were pockets of daffodils which ticked all the right boxes. They clung in clumps around the slightly drier ground at the base of the trees. [See photo] Most convincing was the site and location. The village had been deserted a century ago and the only remaining dwellings were the manor house over the other side of the lane, a farmhouse and a couple of adjacent cottages. I surveyed the Common throughout the year (pre covid) and never met a soul. Amongst my companions though were red deer who wallowed in the mud and a visitation of Silver-washed Fritillary butterflies.



My Common Daffodils on drier ground at the base of trees / *Cornel Howells*

I shall draw a veil over the exact location of my Common. Suffice to say it is on the edge of Broadland. I would like to think that my search ends there. But such is the allure of this contented little plant, nodding in the breeze, that I doubt that. It would be a pity for it, like so many other native plants, to be relegated to poetic fame and to reside only in "the meadows in the mind."



On 26th February Norfolk was treated to some winter sun, so I decided to have a look along the local country lanes for queen bees searching for nest sites. I was very pleased to find 7 species of bee, but the clear highlight was finding a colony of c10 Pied Shieldbug *Tritomegas bicolor* scattered along a 5m stretch on a South-facing verge in Horstead.

White Dead-nettle *Lamium album* is the usual host plant for Pied Shieldbug, so I was surprised to find them associated with Red Dead-nettle *Lamium purpureum* but Tristan Bantock, the organiser of the national recording scheme, said "It is possible that the species is widening the range of plants it usually feeds on. Although I can't ever remember seeing it on Red Dead-nettle, on the continent the bug is associated with plants in the Lamiaceae in general, so it is not entirely surprising".

Regarding the remarkably early appearance, Rob Coleman (the county terrestrial Heteroptera recorder) said "your February observations will be the earliest Norfolk appearance of Pied Shieldbug - but perhaps this is not altogether unexpected as we are frequently seeing this trend as the climate hots up! ...Most insect emergences are linked to temperature (especially higher temperatures over multiple consecutive days) - we did have an unseasonably warm spell in February'.

For anyone wanting to find their own Pied Shieldbug, a search of White Dead-nettle on a warm April day should provide a good chance. My thanks go to Rob Coleman and Tristan Bantock for the information about Pied Shieldbug host plants and phrenology.



A Pied Shieldbug on Red Dead-nettle, February 2021, although its usual habit is White Dead-nettle in April /

Louis Parkerson

Personal encounters with some of Norfolk's Wonderful 150...

Tiny Spiny Broom Aphid *Ctenocallis setosa* Robert Maidstone

After the announcement that *Ctenocallis setosa* had been found in Norfolk Tony Irwin put a note, I presume in the then *Natterjack* or possibly handed out at a meeting, requesting people check their broom bushes. On the back of that note I have written " Rex Hancy says broom bush by Tony's gate, soil rises behind - faces full south, Rex supposes a hot location"

In the August 1997 edition of *Natterjack* Graham Hopkins stated "In Norfolk, despite extensive searches in the Brecks, it appears to be restricted to the Earlham Road region of Norwich...."

On 21st August 1998 I visited the Wl County Office on All Saints Green with my wife. We parked in the private car park at the rear of the property and while she was talking in the office I looked round the garden. On the Broom bush by the back door were lots of black aphids and on some of the leaves tiny green aphids, these were easily identified as *Ctenocallis setosa*. The back wall of the office faces full south.

After this encounter I checked all the broom bushes in the gardens I worked, none had this aphid even the bushes standing in full sun.

In 2013 I again encountered this aphid, this time in a garden in Ashwellthorpe. Things were slightly different this time as bush was in a west facing bed up against the house wall and the broom was a cultivated Mount Etna Broom *Genista aetnensis*. The west side of the house faced a lawn and road, an open, breezy site, that would have received full sun from midday on-wards.

As Brooms are short lived plants both of these bushes have now gone. Although several of the gardens I work in have Broom bushes none are close to a wall or other heat retentive feature and no *Ctenocallis* have been found.

Although there are no details of the other sighting at Thorpe Hamlet, the three locations mentioned above have one thing in common the presence of a heat retentive/reflective feature close to the broom bush and suggest that random searching of free standing brooms would be, as I found, fruitless. Society members with broom bushes close, say with two to three feet, to a sunny wall or bank might find they have better luck with finding this aphid.



Tiny Spiny Broom Aphids /
influentialpoints.com

An inconspicuous ladybird that wasn't

Janet Negal

Having temporarily 'lost' *Natterjack* 150 I finally got around to reading Vanna Bartlett's article on Inconspicuous Ladybirds and I thought I must look out for the tiny ones. When I saw a dark spot on a curtain (14th March) I became very interested and on looking closely I could see it was ladybird shape, but it was so small (2.5mm, I estimated) that it wasn't until I looked at it through a hand lens that I could be sure and make out its pattern. Then, thanks to the close-up lens, I could take some photos of it. I was SO excited - just as Vanna had said in her article, the ladybird had come to me! I wasn't able to ID it and sent the pictures to Francis Farrow. He immediately emailed back saying that my 'ladybird' was indeed a Varied Carpet Beetle *Anthrenus verbasci*. I was both disappointed and dismayed and can see now that in my excitement I had missed that the pronotum of the carpet beetle was an entirely different shape to that of a ladybird. It didn't help of course when it raised its elytra in a typical ladybird pose. The carpet beetle is a notorious pest in the home so thankfully it appears to have been a singleton as no others have been found.



The Varied Carpet Beetle found on a curtain at home in Flordon / Janet Negal

The Late H. N. Pashley

At one of our meetings in Eaton last year I was given a book by a lady that had belonged to her Grandfather, the late Mr H. N. Pashley, for donation to the Society's library at Wheatfen. Mr. Pashley was the taxidermist who lived in Cley over the turn of the 19th/20th century. If that lady could contact me I'd be very much obliged.

Many thanks indeed,

Carl Chapman

carl@wildlifetoursandeducation.co.uk

Phone 01263 837 038

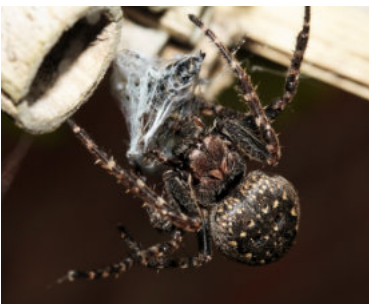




Four-spot Orb-weaver spider
Araneus quadratus with Common
Carder Bumblebee *Bombus*
pascuorum worker, Beeston
Common / *Francis Farrow*



Four-spot Orb-weaver spider
Araneus quadratus with Red-tailed
Bumblebee *Bombus lapidarius*
worker prey, Holkham /
Andy Bloomfield



Bees are frequently the victims of spiders but there is relatively little information about which spiders predate particular bees. This is probably because there are relatively few people who can identify both the spider and the bee. Also the prey can be covered in silk by the spider and be difficult to see. I am attempting to gather information about this and would be very grateful for any records of spider + bee pairs or photos showing both spider and bee clearly, for potential identification. Bee hotels are often inhabited by spiders which hide between the nesting tubes and, as many readers will know, crab spiders (*Misumena vatia*) wait on flowers for prey and are able to change colour between yellow and white. However, the identity of their victims is not often recorded. The wasp spider *Argiope bruennichi* is becoming fairly common in Norfolk. It seems mostly to catch grasshoppers but it has been recorded predated Sea Aster Bees *Colletes halophilus* males in Essex. The images show some Norfolk examples of spiders with bees.

On another bee quest, I would be interested to hear about any bees caught in moth traps (dusk or dark) - by the trap, not by a spider. Some bees may be partially nocturnal.

With thanks to Andy Bloomfield & Pip Collyer for identifying spiders.

Walnut Orbweb Spider *Nucena*
umbricata with Sharp-tailed Bee
female *Coelioxys* sp. prey,
Weybourne / *Nick Owens*

After the frog breeding season had finished, a pond near Norwich had to be drained. Spawn was taken to a suitable pond nearby and some 80 Common Frogs *Rana temporaria* removed. I was fortunate enough to be offered specimens for a day's photoshoot whilst a release site was researched.

I quickly constructed a 'habitat tank' in which to photograph the frogs underwater. I had never observed frogs below the surface before and had always desired to gain some insight into, and images of, this generally unseen part of their lives.

I saw their wonderful webbed feet being used. I watched as they swam, posed and positioned and afforded me unusual views never before enjoyed. I gained some photographs, split by the meniscus, of them above and below the surface and I saw the croaking mechanism of their throats in close-up.



Male showing the employment of the nictitating membrane



Unusual view of floating female showing intricate bone structures of the digits



Throat while male croaking



Throat while male not croaking

I observed the employment of the 'third eyelid'; the nictitating membrane. This transparent structure lies under the lower lid and rises up to cover the eye when the frog swims through weeds. It is usually removed when the animal ceases swimming; as the photographs show.

With water pressure upon them I could now see the loose, baggy skin of post-breeding frogs. The dark, rough nuptial pads of the male were still clearly visible as were the extraordinarily beautiful bone structures of the fingers and toes.

I hope you enjoy a few of the results of that day.



Unusual view of a half grown female

Images / *Garth Coupland*



Male showing dark nuptial on inner digit of front legs



Unusual frontal view of swimming female showing the loose skin of post-breeding



Above and below the surface view of a male



Showing robust build and muscular arms of male compared to female

It was a hot, sultry summer's day when I first heard them from the road as I passed along the Tas valley in South Norfolk. I was immediately transported to Central Europe by that marvellous, quacking, laughing sound that I had heard in so many exciting places. It came from a private garden behind a cottage. A wonderful, lilled pond beckoned to me through the hedge. I had to knock on the owner's door.

For the past four years the kind owner has allowed me to observe and photograph the denizens of this pond. They are Marsh Frogs *Pelophylax ridibundus*, Europe's largest frog, and they are gorgeous; as I hope my photos will show.



Marsh Frog - Forncett St. Peter / Garth Coupland

The history of this long-established, wild-living colony does not concern me as much as simply enjoying them being in the County. They are not native, although since the 1930s released animals have completely colonised Romney Marsh on the Sussex / Kent border. Yes, they do threaten native Amphibians and so it is now a serious wildlife



Marsh Frog

Forncett Steam Museum / Garth Coupland

offence to release them into the wild. However, all is not entirely negative, for these frogs have been observed to provide a valuable food source for Herons and Grass Snakes.

There are three species belonging to the Genus *Pelophylax* ('Water Frogs'), in scattered colonies in Norfolk. Non-native Edible Frogs – *Pelophylax kl. esculentus* can be seen and heard in the Sorrow Beck area of North Norfolk and the Pool Frog – *Pelophylax lessonae*, an extinct native with a reintroduction programme, can be found in the Brecks of West Norfolk.

'Water Frogs' are active, highly aquatic sun-lovers. They breed throughout early Summer and are best seen in the months of May to July. The Marsh Frog appears to be the most variable in colour and pattern and very occasionally you may be lucky enough to see a blue one!

Nature Gallery

2021

Chinese Water Deer on the offensive, Buckenham Fen, 22 Jan / *Tony Howes*



A warm spell towards the end of February brought the Adders out, particularly in north Norfolk, 28 Feb / *Karin & Steve Hale*



A Dartford Warbler in typical pose on a north Norfolk heath where in 2007 breeding was first confirmed, 07 Mar / *Karin & Steve Hale*

'Casper' the leucistic male Barn Owl has been dubbed "one of the best birds in Britain" by Springwatch host Chris Packham. Here pictured with a normal plumage mate at Cley, 24 Mar /

Pauline Walton





A male Black Redstart, one of a few that turned up in north Norfolk this spring, Northrepps, 29 Mar / *John Furse*



An elusive and 'new to site' hoverfly, *Cheilosia grossa*, was found typically on Sallow blossom on Beeston Common, 30 Mar /

Francis Farrow



The Orange Underwing is normally seen weakly fluttering around the tops of Birch trees, however, they do rest sometimes as here on Kelling Heath, 30 Mar / *John Furse*

The exotic-looking Mandarin nests in holes in trees and this individual seen at Felbrigg shows that it is perfectly adapted to an arboreal life, 31 Mar /

Mark Clements



(Re-) Discovering the Winterton Natterjacks *John Sandford*

Growing up in Norwich in the late forties and early fifties, I spent a lot of my weekends and school holidays at Hemsby, where my parents had a bungalow. It was a strange location, garish and vulgar in many respects, with its amusement arcades, juke boxes, and endless stands of saucy postcards. But there was – especially ‘out of season’ – a very different side to it, with the grassy ‘Valley’, the dunes, and the ever-changing beach, all haunted by silent reminders of the recent War in the shape of crumbling pillboxes, rusting coastal fortifications, and the huge radar towers on the top road to Winterton.

Along with Rockland Broad, which I also regularly cycled out to, the Hemsby-Winterton area was where I first became seriously interested in natural history, and it was at Winterton one early September day in 1958 that I found myself peering into a slack just outside the village that was teeming with little toads. I’d never seen anything like them before, but recognised them immediately as Natterjacks by the distinctive yellow line down their backs, and that was something I had *often* seen – in the picture in my much-thumbed *Observer’s Book of Pond Life*. That handy little book was not so helpful, though, about whether or not these creatures were something special, describing them as ‘widely distributed . . . but local’. So should I report them, and if so, who to?

Today, of course, I would have discovered the answer to those questions on my phone, and probably straight away sent a WhatsApp message and a picture to the relevant ‘authority’. In those days of paper communication, things were not so simple. But I had the good fortune to be a pupil at the City of Norwich School and a member there of the ‘Field Club’, which was run by our Biology teacher, F.J. Taylor-Page (who was President of the N&NNS in 1958-59), and it was at his suggestion that I wrote about my find to that doyen of Norfolk natural history, E.A. ‘Ted’ Ellis. Quite what I wrote and how I introduced myself I don’t know: with emails you’ve only got to look in your ‘sent’ box, but that didn’t work with letters, and once I had put my envelope in the postbox that was it.

The response was almost immediate: the great man not only sent me a letter congratulating me on my ‘discovery’ – as it turned out to be – but also wrote about it in his next column in the *Eastern Daily Press*, both of which are reproduced here. As the ‘young Norwich naturalist’ in question, I was hugely encouraged by Ted Ellis’s kindness, and looking back at these documents after all these years I never cease to be impressed and touched by the trouble he took to give me such attention, and to respond in such a courteous and friendly manner.

THEATRE ROAD
SURLINGHAM
NORFOLK

9/9/1958

Dear Mr. Stanford,

Thank you for your interesting record of the young natterjacks at Winterton.

I am delighted to hear that they survive in that area. Dr. Malcolm Smith, author of the new Naturalist book on British Reptiles and amphibians, looked for them there without success about ten years ago, as they had been known to live in the 'Winterton-Morley' dunes in the 1920s. I have visited the locality several times without seeing any, so this is a very pleasant surprise.

The natterjack has been recorded in the past from the following places in E. Norfolk :-

- * Fordingham
- * East Newton
- * Winterton-Morley
- * Oby
- * Hickling Broad
- * Caister
- * St. James's
- * Reedham
- * Langley-Healdby
- * Fording.

THEATRE ROAD
SURLINGHAM
NORFOLK

W. Norfolk :-

- North Wootton
- Winterton
- * Holtbam
- Thorncliffe
- Upper Little Ouse valley.

E. Suffolk :-

- * Latchingford (Litcham, Badwell, Baken, Ough castle, Fildon, Herringford, Lound)
- Southold & east southward to New Baken.

It is still present in localities marked with an asterisk.

Yours sincerely,
E. A. Ellis

E.A.E. Letter and EDP column 08.09.1958

EDP 8.9.58

In the Countryside

TADPOLES, FROGS AND TOADS

Surlingham, September 8.

THE WEATHER this year seems to have had a favourable effect on the development of tadpoles and the dispersal of baby frogs and toads. We have had sunshine and shower alternating in a close pattern month after month, so that both land and water have received regular refreshment from the rain, while the days in between have been warm and bright enough to keep things growing.

I have seen more young frogs and toadlets about the countryside of Norfolk and Suffolk recently than for many years past at this season and friends in several places have confirmed this impression. The little amphibians may be expected to travel farther afield on forsaking tadpole-hood when there is plenty of moisture everywhere; even toads, when very young, prefer showers to drought when they are making a move and they are then very lively little creatures.

I was delighted to hear from a young Norwich naturalist today that he had come upon a colony of natterjack tadpoles and toadlets during the past week in some peaty rain-pools behind dunes in East Norfolk. These were recognisable by the single yellow line running down the middle of the back. We had feared that natterjacks were extinct in that area, as they are in many of their old East Anglian haunts.

E. A. E.

It's more than half a century since I left Norfolk, and now, of course, Winterton Dunes is a National Nature Reserve. On all-too-infrequent subsequent visits there I can never resist checking out those information boards where the Natterjack Toad is displayed as one of the main attractions – and with illustrations that are, let's face it, even more helpful than the one in my little old *Observer's Book*. And, of course, I was

very pleased that the rather clever title '*The Norfolk Natterjack*' was chosen for this little journal when it was founded in 1983!

I think I have a slight fear of snakes as I usually start at the unexpected sight of one, however, this year I have had the good fortune to watch Adders on Beeston Common in a regular basking spot and knowing that they are there I have not reacted as usual.

The three males that I have seen most regularly emerged during the short warm spell at the end of February (20th). This is slightly later than the last two years, due most likely to the snow that occurred in mid-February. The following table lists the first sightings over the last seven years. The exceptional late date of March 5th in 2018 was due to the cold period known as the 'Beast from the East', which began on February 22nd.

Year	Date of first sighting
2015	25 th February
2016	17 th February
2017	19 th February
2018	5 th March
2019	14 th February
2020	17 th February
2021	20 th February

Table: Adder emergence dates 2015-21



A male Adder showing the typical brown body with darker markings on emergence

The male Adders emerge some two to four weeks before the females and are usually brown with a dark zig-zag stripe along their backs. At this time they bask in the weak sunshine and are not feeding. They will bask in quite cold temperatures (they are the only snake to be found within the Arctic Circle) and at times will 'snuggle-up' together. Mating takes place during April/May but prior to that the males shed their skin, a process known as 'sloughing'. Just before the process starts the bright red coppery coloured eyes take on a milky appearance. Once the skin is shed the male is transformed into a gleaming silver and black snake.

Three male Adders 'snuggled' together after sloughing off old skin about six weeks after emergence



Images / Francis Farrow

The male Adder during the spring basking phase is building up its sperm ready for mating with the larger, later-emerging red-brown coloured females. The males will track the females by scent and it is at this time the 'Dance of the Adders' may be witnessed if you are lucky. I have not seen a 'dance', which is where two snakes rise up and 'wrestle' each other. It is a territorial dispute between males. Male Adders will not start feeding until they are fully active ie when the temperature has warmed up sufficiently to raise their body temperature to around 25-30°C, which is usually in May. This means they have probably not eaten since the previous September/October.

The larger females can reach 60cms and are generally various shades of brown, even verging on black. True black Adders are a melanistic morph and occur in about one fifth of Adder populations. On Beeston Common I have encountered very dark females but not yet a true melanistic form. There is also a ginger morph, which is usually seen in juvenile or sub-adult females.



Above: Dark coloured female Adder



Left: Normal female and ginger morph juvenile

Mating usually takes place at the end of April or the beginning of May. Juvenile Adders are born live after the eggs have hatched within the female's body. Between 5 and 20 fully independent young are produced in August or early September. Interestingly Adder females only give birth in alternate years.

Adders often move into wetter areas in the summer to feed although in the last two years I have seen Adders in the marshes in the spring, which indicates that there may be a hibernacula present in the immediate area. Adders eat a great variety of animals including small mammals, nestlings and lizards. They are very good swimmers and have been seen in the main pond at Beeston.

There are many threats to Adders but give them distance and respect and they will not be a threat to you.



A female Adder swimming across the main pond on Beeston Common

In November 2020 I was informed that an Ocean Sunfish (*Mola mola*) had stranded on Snettisham beach. They are truly extraordinary and I have seen them in the wild in Cape Cod and Baja California but this was the first I had seen in West Norfolk. I collected the deceased fish to obtain data. This individual was small, only 4.31kg and 67 cms fin to fin, 46 cms long. Then in December 2020 I was told of another. This larger fish live stranded on Heacham Beach but died very quickly. Again the fish was collected for data. It was 18kg, 95cms fin to fin and 70cms long. Sadly these were probably cold stunned, a hypothermic response to prolonged cold water temperature. Lengthy periods in water of 12 degrees C (54 degrees F) or lower combined with lack of food present in cooler waters may lead to death. *Molas* have a thick layer beneath the skin which provides buoyancy and serves as insulation. Smaller fish like these are less able to retain heat.



Ocean Sunfish stranded at Snettisham - November 2020 / *Diane Westwood*

Ocean Sunfish are pelagic ocean wanderers often seen floating on the surface warming up in the sun's rays hence the name sunfish. They will drift on the surface waiting for sea birds like gulls to remove external parasites. They have been documented having more than 50 species of parasite both internal and external.

Their family name is derived from the word Molidae meaning 'millstone' due to their flattened appearance. They feed on jellyfish, ctenophores and other gelatinous species while zooplankton, squid, sponges, eel grass and crustaceans are also on the menu. The upper and lower teeth are fused into a parrot type beak. They have a short spine with fewer vertebrae than other fish, and small pectoral fins on either side of the body plus a pseudo tail called a clavus which acts as a rudder. They are powerful swimmers and can breach out of the water and dive to a depth of over 1,000ft.

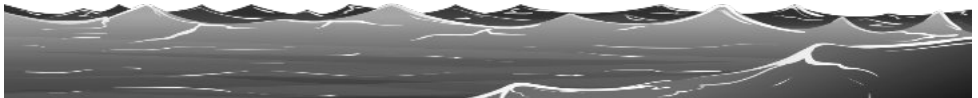
Sadly Ocean Sunfish are ranked as vulnerable by the IUCN. Bycatch is a serious issue and there are population declines of 80% in some areas. They are also targeted by commercial fisheries in Japan and Taiwan where they are a culinary delicacy.



Ocean Sunfish stranded at Heacham - December 2020 / *Cissy B. Lightfoot*

The Ocean Sunfish Research Trust informed me that sunfish can survive if refloated, but it is dependent on how long they have been out of the water and if they have injuries. They get confused in shallow water so survival would rely on getting them back in the water as quickly as possible. *Mola mola* were thought to migrate south in winter but they have been seen all year round in UK waters, including off Scotland and even Iceland. OSRT says whether they can survive in our winter sea temperatures is anyone's guess and that it is not 100% understood which ones stay behind and which migrate south so their opinion is try to refloat stranded sunfish and give them a second chance. This belief is shared by other Ocean Sunfish biologists I have consulted.

The two I collected went off to university for further study. I would be interested to know if there are any more *Mola* sightings around Norfolk. Please email dianewestwood@hotmail.com





Common Crane - a wanderer from Finland /

Elizabeth George

Finland but was not part of the project so no further history was available. The sighting, however, would be passed to the appropriate bird ringing centre so further details may be forthcoming.

For about a week I had heard a Common Crane but not seen it, then on 26th March at 8am I spotted a crane land in the sheep meadow that adjoins our garden at Ludham. I noticed that it had a number of coloured tags on its legs. I sent a picture to Francis Farrow to see if he could shed any light on the markings. Francis managed to identify the leg tags as black-red-yellow (right leg) and yellow-yellow-brown (left leg). He then contacted iCORA - the International Crane Project and was told that the crane originated from

Seals and Gulls

Hans Watson

The Grey Seal breeding colonies around the Norfolk coastline, are growing bigger each year, and one wonders how much bigger they can get. The winter of 2020/2021 looks like being another bumper year for the number of pups born. As these colonies grow bigger, so they become more and more attractive to the larger wintering gulls, and birdwatchers regard the colonies as good places to look for the scarcer wintering large gulls, such as Glaucous and Iceland Gulls. In large colonies such as the Horsey/Winterton colony, there are always going to be still-born pups, and pups that get lost, or are abandoned by the parent. There are also casualties caused by squabbling mothers or boisterous bull seals, trampling or otherwise squashing pups. These, together with all the after-births, are what the gulls come to scavenge.

Last Christmas morning, Sue and I went to Winterton for our customary walk to see the seals, walking north from the car-park. We only walked for about a mile and a half along the marked path at the top of the dunes, but the weather was pleasant, and there were not too many other people about. We were able to see many gulls of several species, including a first winter Iceland Gull that had

obviously enjoyed a big meal from a nearby dead seal, and was laying down and having a doze. Many visitors that come to see the seals, think that the actions of these gulls are unpleasant, some even using words such as “disgusting”. They fail to consider what the beaches and dunes would be like if these birds, and the night visiting foxes, did not provide their efficient clean-up and recycling service. In fact, they are providing the same service that vultures, hyenas and jackals are providing on the plains of Africa.



First winter Iceland Gull dozing on the sand at Winterton after a large meal, probably from a nearby dead seal / *Hans Watson*



Juvenile Great Black-backed Gull feasting on a dead seal pup at Winterton / *Hans Watson*

The marshes at Buckingham in the Yare valley are probably at their best, wildlife wise, during the winter months. It's then that vast numbers of Wigeon, Pink-footed Geese, Lapwing, and Golden Plover make it their home for a few months, there is always the chance too of three more species of geese turning up, White-fronted, Bean, and Barnacle.

The Wigeon, in particular can, be very confiding, feeding in close proximity to the track leading down to the river, taking very little notice of people walking there. The males are very beautiful birds, as the days lengthen towards the end of winter their plumage takes on an extra sheen, and they positively glow with colour.



Wigeon - an attractive duck / *Tony Howes*



Lapwing - tumbling flight, evocative call / *Tony Howes*

twist and tumble with throbbing wings, hurtling towards earth, then up again, and all the while calling their loud 'Willuck-o-weep' song, a wonderful event to witness.

Little Egrets are a fairly common sight at Buckingham, but their larger cousin the Great White Egret is also being

Great White Egret - awe inspiring / *Tony Howes*



seen more frequently nowadays, these are a very spectacular heron, and have a presence about them that is rather awe inspiring. Trying to catch this wonderful array of bird life with the camera is a challenge, but one I enjoy every winter when time and conditions permit.

Personal encounters with some of Norfolk's Wonderful 150... Not quite Black Shuck

Robert Maidstone

When I was a teenager I used to go on long walks at weekends from my home at Little Plumstead across the local farm lands, along farm tracks, beside or through the local woods and along miles of busy roads towards Salhouse and Panxworth.

One of my routes took me along a trackway with a hedge on side that lead to the hedge of a thirty acre field ahead. The track passed through the hedge in the middle of one side of the field then turned left along the edge of the field and beside a wood to another field. Tall hedges obscured my view of the trackway to the left as I approached the turn and walked into the thirty acre field, then I stopped and so did my heart – down to my left some fifty yards away was a large black animal walking towards me.

My childhood interest in wildlife and animals was working overtime, the black animal was about the size of a black Labrador dog but the proportions and movements were wrong. It appeared to take no notice of me but looked up into the hedge presumably at some twittering birds, its profile was short and cat like. I made a snap decision to head out into the middle of the open field rather than return back down the track where the hedge could hide the approaching animal.

I walked briskly, trying not to obviously flee but to put as much space as possible between me and the animal while keeping it in view. From my new position I could see a side view of it, yes, the shoulder height was similar to a Labrador dog but the body was longer, the shoulders rolled with a cat like gait and the long tail hung low, almost to the ground. Had I have been at the zoo the animal would have been easily identified as a black panther.

I picked up a couple of biggish stones and continued into the middle of the field, the animal had now reached the turn in the trackway and it turned down the trackway I had just came up. With a racing heart I made my way home keeping to the middle of fields instead of around the edges beside the hedge.

A week or so later and much calmer I took a friend with me to 'explore' the woods. Together we walked along the grassy rides where we saw tucked into

the trees a pig farrowing crate, a tubular steel structure about ten feet long and three foot wide, wrapped in stock netting with the rear gate open and inside tied to a string a dead rabbit, the other end of the string held the gate open against its strong spring. Obviously the gamekeeper had seen some odd animal about to construct a trap of this nature.

It was a few weeks later I bumped into the gamekeeper and asked him about the trap and a big black animal, after giving me a good dressing down about trespassing in his private domain, he said that it had been discovered the local farmer's Labrador dog had been on his amorous wanderings. I was a bit surprised as the old dog seldom passed without a fuss even if it meant he was dragged back home on the end of a bit of string.

Like all good ghost stories a few weeks later the rumour went round that somebody's cousin, twice removed, had heard that a gamekeeper, another cousin twice removed, had shot and buried a big black cat in the woods on an unidentified estate somewhere.

Book Review: *The Bumblebee Book* - Nick Owens

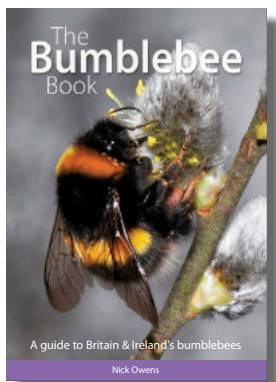
Francis Farrow

Following the success of *'The Bees of Norfolk'* (2017) Nick went on to research and produce *'The Bumblebee Book'* (2020). This book, not only is an ID guide to the 27 species of bumblebee in Britain and Ireland, but also documents variations and island races. All are excellently illustrated with numerous images showing workers, males and queens on a variety of flowers. There is also an interesting section which compares each cuckoo bee with its host. Norfolk has recorded 22 species of bumblebee so the group is well represented within the county. This book, however, delves into more than ID and distribution, it brings together Nick's extensive field experience and current scientific knowledge to look at life-cycles, habitats and flowers visited. A number of chapters are devoted to specific bumblebee behaviour such as pollination and nectar robbing, pollen collection, mimicry and defence. Other sections look at parasites, populations, range and dispersal, and conservation. There are handy hints on photography and a comprehensive

list of flowers for bumblebees in your garden, which is conveniently divided into seasons, spring, summer, late summer and winter. This book is ideal if you are a beginner and need to identify your bumblebees, equally if you are already a bee enthusiast this will give you a better understanding of their lives. Above all it will inspire you to search out these fascinating insects. Who knows you may discover the 23rd species for Norfolk.

The Bumblebee Book - A guide to Britain & Ireland's bumblebees

by Nick Owens. Pisces Publications (2020). 186 pp. ISBN 978-1-874357-98-8. £24.95
(NB: Signed copies are available from Wildsounds for £20.95).



**The yearly summary from Meteorological Notes, 1921
by Mr. Arthur W. Preston F.R.Met Soc. (pages: 316-325)**

From a meteorological point of view the year may be called an "*annus mirabilis*." The mean temperature of the year was 51.5 deg., or 2.6 deg. above the average, higher than that of any year since 1868, and even 1 deg. higher than that of the hot year 1911. Nearly every month gave a mean temperature above the normal, that of January, March, July, and October most extraordinarily so. The only month that could be called cold was November, where the falling off of about 4 deg. was compensated for by a similar excess in December. Although the highest summer temperature of 90.2 deg. on July 10th failed to reach the level attained in August, 1911, there were as many as 19 days on which 80 deg. was reached or exceeded, and 75 days on which 70 deg. was reached or exceeded. With the exception of 1911, when these results were 25 and 77 days respectively, we have to go back to 1884 for so large a number. But even more remarkable than the heat was the persistent dryness, which prevailed from January onwards throughout the year. Although April gave an average rainfall, each month from February to December inclusive, with that exception, were deficient in moisture, February, June, and July being greatly so, the total rainfall for these three months being respectively .33 in., .50 in., and .55 in. The total at Norwich was only 15.71 ins., or nearly 4 ins. less than in 1893, the previous driest year since these observations were commenced in 1883, and as much as 10.77 ins. below the average. In some places it is stated to have been the driest year on record, but "Symons's British Rainfall" discloses that in 1864 the small amount of 14.02 ins. was gauged in Norwich by Mr. W. Brooke. (A Norwich directory for that year mentions a Mr. W. Brooke at 2, Upper Surrey Street.) This was, however, measured at the height of 31 feet above the ground, and by his ground-gauge he recorded 17.79 ins. At Costessey the same authority reports a total of 14.48 ins., at Honingham 14.62 ins., at Fakenham (Egmere) 14.16 ins., at Holkham 14.50 ins., and at Hunstanton 12.08 ins. These were all in 1864, and compare with some of the smallest falls in the County for 1921, viz.:— 14.77 ins. at Downham, 14.91 ins. at Thetford, 14.67 ins. at Hingham, 14.77 ins. at Thuxton, 14.81 ins. at Sprowston, 13.70 ins. at Hunstanton, 12.40 ins. at Denton, and 12.01 ins. at Geldeston. As can be imagined, after such a shortage of rain the dearth of water in all directions was most serious. Numbers of wells were dry, and in many places drinking water was at a premium. Sunshine was more than 200 hours in excess of the average amount, and it was the sunniest year since 1911, which still holds the record with nearly 100 hours over 1921. Best thanks are due to Mr. J. H. Willis for continuing to supply so regularly, month by month, the results of the readings from his excellent Campbell-Stokes recorder.

Forthcoming Events

We are delighted to announce our events programme for March to December 2021 below. Please note that talks will be held via Zoom unless government guidance changes; keep an eye on norfolknaturalists.org.uk for any changes and additions.

Where possible, we will record events for members that are unable to join us via Zoom, please see the website under 'Past Presentations' for recordings to date.

<i>Date and Time</i>	<i>Event Title</i>
<i>Tuesday 18th May 1915 hrs</i>	"Nine Chalk Rivers" <i>Illustrated talk by Jonah Tosney, Operations Director Norfolk Rivers Trust</i>
<i>Tuesday 22nd June 1915 hrs</i>	"Wild Ken Hill: rewilding, regenerative farming, and traditional conservation" <i>Illustrated talk by Dominic Buscall</i>
<i>Sunday 11th July 10:00 hrs</i>	Morning wildlife walk mainly for insects at Earlham Cemetery, Norwich. <i>With Jeremy and Vanna Bartlett & the Friends of Earlham Cemetery (tel 01603 662225, no booking necessary).</i> <i>Meet by the Cemetery Office & Gates at TG212086 (postcode NR2 3RG) up the drive from the B1108 Earlham Road at TG 212085. Park on the entrance drive. Please note that dogs are not allowed in the Cemetery</i>
<i>Tuesday 13th July 1915 hrs</i>	"Wildlife information - where it comes from, where it goes, and why it is so important" <i>Illustrated talk by Sam Neal and Liam Smith, NBIS [Norfolk's Local Environmental Records Centre (LERC)]</i>
<i>Tuesday 14th December 1915 hrs</i>	Wildlife Education: Bridging the gap between people and Nature in a digital world <i>Illustrated talk by Liam Smith, A Shot of Wildlife</i>

Workshops

Provisional arrangements are being made to hold the following as circumstances permit. Each will be full-day (10.00am - 4.00pm) and cost £15. Further details and booking arrangements will be on the NNS website but expressions of interest are invited - contact Tony Leech (tonyleech3@gmail.com) who will send further details when available.

Sedge Identification (Bob Ellis). Wheatfen. June or July (date to be arranged)

Moth Identification for Beginners (Greg Bond), Cley. July 3

Fungus Identification for Beginners (Tony Leech) Wheatfen October 3



The next issue of 'The Norfolk Natterjack' will be **August 2021**

Please send
all articles / notes and photographic material
to the editor as soon as possible by
July 1st 2021 to the following address:

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

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

Membership subscriptions

The N&NNS membership year runs from 1st April to 31st March. During this time members will receive four copies of the quarterly 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

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

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

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

Contents



Toad-in-the-hole... Carl Chapman - retiring Chairman <i>Tony Leech</i>	Page 1
A message from the Secretary <i>James Emerson</i>	Page 2
Wild about Daffodils <i>Cornel Howells</i>	Page 3
Pied Shieldbug <i>Louis Parkerson</i>	Page 5
Personal encounters with some of Norfolk's Wonderful 150... Tiny Spiny Broom Aphid <i>Robert Maidstone</i>	Page 6
An inconspicuous ladybird that wasn't <i>Janet Negal</i> <i>(Varied Carpet Beetle)</i>	Page 7
The Late H.N. Pashley <i>(Donated book)</i>	
Spiders and Bees <i>Nick Owens</i>	Page 8
Common Frogs Underwater <i>Garth Coupland</i>	Page 9
Marsh Frogs in Norfolk <i>Garth Coupland</i>	Page 11
Nature Gallery 2021	Page 12
(Re-) Discovering the Winterton Natterjacks <i>John Sandford</i>	Page 14
Beeston Adders <i>Francis Farrow</i>	Page 16
Ocean Sunfish in Norfolk <i>Diane Westwood</i>	Page 18
An Unexpected Visitor <i>Elizabeth George</i> <i>(Common Crane)</i>	Page 20
Seals and Gulls <i>Hans Watson</i>	
Buckenham Fen <i>Tony Howes</i>	Page 22
Personal encounters with some of Norfolk's Wonderful 150... Not quite Black Shuck <i>Robert Maidstone</i>	Page 23
Book Review: 'The Bumblebee Book' - Nick Owens <i>Francis Farrow</i>	Page 24
Transactions - 100 years ago <i>(The yearly summary from Meteorological Notes, 1921 by Mr. Arthur W. Preston F. R. Met Soc)</i>	Page 25
Forthcoming Events	Page 26