



The Norfolk Natterjack

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*... Researching
Norfolk's Wildlife*

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The quarterly bulletin
of the
Norfolk & Norwich
Naturalists' Society



Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Founded 1869

Reg. Charity No. 291604

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Retiring 2022: E Carr, J Higgins, T Williams, T Kemp (co-opted)

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

Hon. Independent Examiner: M. Benstead

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

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Cover image: *Chinese Water Deer* (Tony Howes) - See page 17

Toad-in-the-hole....

Not only do we start a New Year but also a new decade - the new 'Roaring Twenties'. Will it be the same - a period of rapid change and economic prosperity filled with 'Flappers'? Well maybe rapid change (climate?) and probably lots of 'flappers' in the form of new European insects and birds heading for the UK . As for the economic forecast I'll leave that to others more qualified! Another great 'Natterjack' filled with fungi, damselflies, flies, a wasp, a spider, toads, birds and mammals plus your very own AGM report and NNNS news. My thanks to all contributors and apologies if not all articles included - they will be in the May edition. Even with the temporary exclusion of recorders and groups the AGM report takes up space. You may have noticed that the front cover has undergone a slight change as we enter the Society's 151st year - this change allows for a larger picture area.

FF

STALWARTS

Kevin Radley

On a recent sojourn to Wheatfen I came across two young lads (see photo) "pond-dipping". It transpired that both Roy (Baker) and Derek (Howlett) had been captivated by Nature from a very early age. After receiving a "master-class" in the noble art of catching Whirligig beetles from the pair, I wished them many more happy hours of study and went on my way.



Roy and Derek 'at work' at Wheatfen

Image: *Kevin Radley*

Russula atrorubens – new to Norfolk

James Emerson

On 17th November 2019 I was at Whitlingham C.P. carrying out the monthly Wetland Bird Survey (WeBS) count. Half-way along the Great Broad I stopped to scan for ducks when I noticed a small group of Brittlegills (*Russula* sp) growing along the edge of the path. This genus is ectomycorrhizal, meaning they have a symbiotic relationship with the roots of a particular plant species, and these ones were growing near Alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) and willow (*Salix* sp.) There are not too many Brittlegills that are associated with either of these two tree species, so I decided to key out a specimen to ascertain the ID. Russulas are quite a tricky genus to identify, so I needed as much information as possible. The cap colour was reddish (a purpley-red in the fresher specimens, pinkish in the older one) and the stipe was white. There was no distinct smell, and the taste of a small piece of gill was hot. A spore print was taken and was white, and the stipe went pink when marked with a crystal of iron sulfate. Finally some spores were put on a slide, stained and observed at 1000x magnification. This allowed measurements to be taken and the pattern of spines and ridges to be observed. Finally I put details of my observations onto the British Mycological Society Facebook page where national expert Geoffrey Kibby was able to identify it as *Russula atrorubens*, a species associated with willows. I then spoke to the Norfolk county fungus recorder Tony Leech, who confirmed that there were no Norfolk records of this species, and the distribution on the National Biodiversity Network Atlas (NBN Atlas) suggested that it was also a rare species nationally.



Russula atrorubens

Image: James Emerson

Unseasonal Fungi

Alec Bull

Now that I am confined to barracks I take my daily exercise, when fine, by walking up my steep drive and thence up the not quite so steep lay by to the edge of the A47, as it passes East Tuddenham, and back (downhill all the way!)

On October 3rd 2019, near the top of the lay by, among nettles beside Blackthorn, I spotted several mixed Earthstars (*Geastrum* spp) including two or three Collared Earthstars (*G. triplex*) one *G. fimbriatum* and one *G. striatum*. These gradually decayed though at least one of the *G. triplex* is still visible though shriveled and miserable looking.



Collared Earthstar

Image: *Alec Bull*

I checked the patch out on Dec.31st 2019 and was amazed to find two or three very fresh specimens of *G. triplex*. On Jan.1st 2020 when my daughter brought me the paper, I persuaded her to take me up with my camera to record *G. triplex* and while I was busy with the camera, she searched among the now decayed nettles and found a total of 10 fresh specimens.

While many Fungi have their very set patterns of appearance it would appear that the Collared Earthstar may sometimes take advantage of ideal conditions to have an out of season fruiting.

An unexpected find

Francis Farrow

While searching the marsh on Beeston Common last June for insects I found a very small fungus. It was growing on an old wet leaf of Common Reed. I remembered Tony Leech telling me about something similar he had found at Cranwich so I collected a specimen and gave it to Tony, who confirmed that it was the same fungus - *Coprinopsis kubickae*. It has now been found in a number of sites.



Coprinopsis kubickae

Image: *Francis Farrow*

Willow Emerald Damselflies: more new species with egg-laying scars.

Chris Durdin

My article in Natterjack no 142 (August 2018) described three unusual trees used for egg-laying by Willow Emerald Damselflies *Chalcolestes viridis* in the Norfolk Broads, discovered in the winter of 2017/18, namely Domestic Apple (*Malus pumila*), Bog Myrtle (*Myrica gale*) and Holly (*Ilex aquifolium*).

All three of these were new records for the UK, and I suggested then that there were likely to be more trees and shrubs being used by Willow Emeralds, at least on occasions. It comes as a nice surprise to be able to report four more firsts for the UK, all from Norfolk, soon after the previous discoveries.

The background is now a familiar story. The Willow Emerald Damselfly was first recorded in the UK in Suffolk in 2007 and is now widespread in East Anglia and beyond. Adult female damselflies make a series of scratches on the bark of twigs that overhang water. This is then where they lay their eggs, in autumn, to overwinter relatively safe from predators or parasites before larvae emerge and drop into ditches in spring.

Willows (*Salix* spp) are often used for this, hence the name of the species, but the reality is that location is the key factor. 'Willow Emeralds scars' are fairly easy to spot at any time of the year, once you have a feel for the kind of twigs and places that are used. In all cases I reported the discoveries to Adrian Parr from The British Dragonfly Society (BDS), who has again commented on the new records noted below.

Ornamental (white) Dogwood and Common Lime,
AUGUST/SEPTEMBER 2018

I found scars on planted, non-native white dogwood on 25 August 2018 growing by - and leaning over - the pond at the Terrace Café on Broadland Business Park, Thorpe St Andrew, Norwich.



Willow Emerald scars on White Dogwood Image: Chris Durdin

Adrian Parr from BDS said: "Yes, as far as I'm aware, *Cornus alba* is indeed a new host species for the UK, though on the continent there are several reports from the related *Cornus sanguinea* (Wild Dogwood). It's quite an impressive list that people are now putting together! The suggestion that it's this year's growth is also interesting - I believe Willow Emeralds favour young growth, but wood that has passed its major growth spurt. Your pictures would indeed fit in with this." I found more scars on White Dogwood at Fairhaven Gardens, South Walsham on 30 September 2018.

While at Fairhaven Gardens (again, 30 September 2018) I also found scars on Common Lime (*Tilia x vulgaris*). This also appears to be a first record for the UK, according to Adrian Parr.



Willow Emerald scars on Common Lime (left) and on Sweet Chestnut (below)

Images:
Chris Durdin

Sweet Chestnut, AUGUST 2019

The third discovery was Willow Emerald scars on Sweet Chestnut (*Castanea sativa*) at Kelling Heath Holiday Park, Norfolk. The 'conservation pond' at Kelling Heath is a rich site for Odonata, including that other relatively recent colonist, Small Red-eyed Damselfly (*Erythromma viridulum*), and lends itself to some quiet study for any naturalist, like me, on holiday here with family. The single Sweet Chestnut here is the only woody tree or shrub overhanging the pond, so a Willow Emerald here has little choice.



Adrian Parr from BDS said: "As far as my records go, this is indeed the first time Sweet Chestnut has been recorded as an oviposition 'host' in the UK - in fact there don't seem to be (m)any literature reports from the Continent, either. So congratulations on your sharp-eyed find! The list of species used records continues to grow at a steady rate, and I've recently had some interesting relating to more herbaceous species (e.g. Prickly Lettuce). Clearly Willow Emeralds are pretty flexible in their choice of oviposition site if the preferred species aren't available, though the precise breeding success often remains unknown."

Hemp Agrimony, SEPTEMBER 2019

Adrian Parr's mention of herbaceous species proved spot on. When I suggested this article to *Natterjack* editor Francis Farrow, he described how on Beeston Common this autumn he found three pairs of Willow Emeralds on Hemp Agrimony (*Eupatorium cannabinum*), which he photographed on 26 September 2019. Francis found and photographed the unusual looking scars on Hemp Agrimony on 27 September 2019.



Three pairs of Emerald Damselflies ovipositing on Hemp Agrimony



Emerald Damselfly scars on Hemp Agrimony stem

Images: *Francis Farrow*

Adrian Parr from BDS said: "Hemp Agrimony is definitely a new host species for the UK, and I can't find any mention of it in the European literature either. So it's certainly a good find! The scars are intriguing in that they look very atypical; normally female Willow Emeralds produce entry holes rather than slits, and the areas where the eggs lie are usually more obvious. Perhaps the nature of the stems has affected the normal oviposition process? The photo of the egg-laying pairs seems to show that they're very happy, though!"

Useful websites

- 1) The British Dragonfly Society website <https://british-dragonflies.org.uk/recording/willow-emerald-watch/> has identification tips and distribution maps that chart the spread of this species.
- 2) Sightings above were first published on my website <http://www.honeyguide.co.uk/Chalcolestes.htm>

Reference

Willow Emerald Damselflies: new tree and shrub species with egg-laying scars by Chris Durdin. In *The Norfolk Natterjack* number 142, August 2018.

Predation of infant Swallowtails

Kevin Radley

Whilst inspecting Milk Parsley (*Peucedanum= Thyselium palustre*) plants at Wheatfen for signs of Swallowtail (*Papilio machaon*) breeding activity, I have encountered several signs of predation to their eggs and larvae that may not be specifically mentioned, or identified, in most literature on the subject. Egg mortality, for example, is frequently attributed to infertility and the attentions of marauding spiders: yet while my observations concur that a number of eggs laid do not hatch, presumably due to infertility, larger numbers are lost to herbivore grazing; in the form of Chinese Water-Deer (*Hydropotes inermis*). This is especially apparent early in the Swallowtail “season” (May and early June) when young, lush, Milk Parsley leaves, which overhang the pathways in the reed-beds created by the deer, are utilised for egg-laying. The phenomenon is replicated later in the year (August) when low growing re-growth Milk Parsley have eggs deposited on them by second brood Swallowtails (the flower heads and stems of Milk Parsley are often beginning to die back by this time). A distinctive, tell-tale, “chewed-off” stem being left as evidence of their meal. Young, early instar, larvae also “disappear” in this manner. Incidentally, the views expounded by some ecologists that cattle, including, Long-horn “Highland” cattle, will not eat *P. palustre* are erroneous ... but I digress.

Often considered too large beyond the third instar to be subdued by most arthropod predators; the caterpillars of *P. machaon* at this stage of their development are thought more at threat from avian predation - though I have never personally been witness to birds of any description taking the larger instar larvae. The “beak” of a final instar nymph of *Picromerus bidens* (Spiked Shieldbug) proves otherwise; leaving behind just the eviscerated husk of a fifth instar larva (see photo 1). The osmeterium, a fleshy; orange-coloured two-pronged horn which can be erected from behind the head of the caterpillar and which emits the aroma of rotten pineapple - at least to the human sense of smell - appears of no deterrent to most invertebrate predators; likewise the cryptic / aposematic (or both) colouration and patterning of the larvae through their progressive instars.



Photo 1

Spiked Shieldbug attacking Swallowtail larva
Image: Kevin Radley

Until mid-July this year, numerous Harlequin Ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*) larvae were to be seen hunting on the umbelliferous plants; I managed to photograph one example, in *flagrante delicto*, devouring a third instar Swallowtail

caterpillar (see photo 2). Other similarly eviscerated caterpillar husks of varying instars were found elsewhere; the perpetrators nowhere in sight.



Photo 2



Photo 3

Harlequin Ladybird larva and Soldier Beetle larva attacking young Swallowtail caterpillars

On 5th June, on a low-growing Milk Parsley plant which was host to a couple of second instar Swallowtail caterpillars (the eggs of these larvae being some of the earliest found at Wheatfen in 2019), I came across a beetle larva consuming one of them (see photo 3). I continued to observe this spectacle until, once again leaving behind just an eviscerated husk, it left the plant - thankfully it did not discover the other caterpillar on the same leaf. Unable to identify this creature, it was captured and bred through to adult (beetle) at home - though not on a diet of Swallowtail caterpillars I hasten to add! Photos of the subsequent beetle were then sent to Martin Collier who identified the culprit as *Silis ruficollis* (one of the soldier beetles).

Though not claiming this to be a comprehensive list of Swallowtail larval predators it does, at least, put a few “names-to-faces” so to speak.

My thanks to Martin Collier for his identification of *Silis ruficollis* and to Rob Coleman for his identification of the Spiked Shieldbug.

Images: Kevin Radley

A Fly, A Gall and Its Lodger

Jeremy & Vanna Bartlett

It all started on 2nd June 2018 when we visited Redgrave and Lopham Fen, a Suffolk Wildlife Trust Reserve that happens to be mostly in Norfolk. It was a warm and muggy day with some heavy showers, but the sun stayed out during our visit. We didn't see any Fen Raft Spiders but we heard Cuckoos calling and found a good range of insects, including caterpillars of Garden Tiger, Emperor and Drinker moths. There were lots of Four-spot Chaser dragonflies on the wing.

The Fly

Vanna photographed a rather odd-looking insect on a leaf of Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*). It was short, dumpy and looked at first glance like a bug of some kind, almost like a large froghopper. However, a closer look at the photographs and a bit of research revealed it was actually a fly: *Lipara lucens*. “*Lucens*” means “shining” and refers to the slightly golden hairs that densely cover the fly’s body.



Lipara lucens at Redgrave and Lopham Fen.

Images: Vanna Bartlett

Lipara lucens is a type of Frit Fly (also known as Grass Flies, family Chloropidae) and is a reedbed specialist. The adult flies emerge in June and the females lay their eggs in the stems of Common Reed, causing a distinctive cigar-shaped gall to form. Each Cigar Gall contains just one larva, which overwinters, emerging the following June.

Once the fly has emerged from its gall, the old Cigar Gall is sometimes used as a nest site by the Reed Yellow-face Bee (*Hylaeus pectoralis*). This was an extra incentive to look for the galls and the bee.

Finding the Lodger

We visited Strumpshaw Fen RSPB Reserve on 24th June 2018 and looked for the galls and the bee, but with no success. But a month later (17th July) we visited Holkham National Nature Reserve and found several large *Hylaeus* bees on the flowers of Perennial Sow Thistle (*Sonchus arvensis*), growing next to some reeds. On closer examination these proved to be *Hylaeus pectoralis*, in a location where they hadn’t been recorded previously. On 12th July 2019 we returned to Strumpshaw Fen and found *Hylaeus pectoralis* there too.



Female *Hylaeus pectoralis* on Perennial Sow Thistle.

We have nine species of *Hylaeus* in Norfolk. They are rather small, mostly black, solitary bees that nest in hollow plant stems or holes in dead wood or in the ground. Some species will even nest in bee hotels if the holes are small enough. A female *Hylaeus* bee has no pollen collecting hairs, but ingests pollen and carries it back to her nest hole in her crop. Although the different species are superficially similar, they can be told apart on closer examination, usually by looking at the patterns of yellow on the face.

Hylaeus pectoralis is one of two species that lacks prominent white hair fringes on the sides of the hind margin of the first abdominal segment, the

other being *Hylaeus communis* (Common Yellow-face Bee). *Hylaeus communis* is common and widespread in Norfolk in a variety of habitats including gardens but *Hylaeus pectoralis* is restricted to wetlands with reed beds.



Male *Hylaeus pectoralis*, showing its bright yellow face.

Hylaeus pectoralis is larger than *H. communis*. Males of *H. pectoralis* are easily separated from *H. communis* by their bright yellow faces, which also lack the distinctive black pattern found on *H. communis*. Both sexes have dense white hair bands on the underside of its abdominal segments, which *H. communis* lacks.

According to Falk & Lewington (2015), a *Hylaeus pectoralis* nest inside a Cigar Gall can contain up to eight cells, arranged one on top of the other and sealed with leaf fragments.

However, the bees can also nest in hollow reed stems without galls, and in areas where *Lipara lucens* does not occur.

Finding the Gall

We had accidentally found the fly, then stumbled upon the bee, but still had yet to find the gall.

On 15th September 2018 we visited Sweetbriar Marshes in Norwich (almost on our doorstep) on a successful hunt for Alder Tongue fungi (*Taphrina alni*) on Common Alder cones. Here we finally found our first Cigar Gall and subsequently found several more along the edges of the riverside path.

By September the large, cigar-shaped gall is just starting to turn brown at the tip, as the reed begins to die back. Earlier in the summer, the galls and reed stems are both green, so the galls are less obvious.



Cigar Gall (September)

Images: *Vanna Bartlett*

Lots More Galls

Once you've seen a Cigar Gall, they become easy to spot, especially in winter and early spring. They are especially prolific along the edges of reedbeds, often beside paths, which is presumably the sort of edge habitat that the fly prefers. Look for them on shorter reeds that haven't produced flowers.

We found lots of Cigar Galls on return visits to Holkham NNR and Redgrave and Lopham Fen in October 2018 and have since noticed large numbers of them at Strumpshaw Fen, near Horsey Mill and by the Little Ouse path between Brandon and Santon Downham (on the Norfolk side of the river).

***Norfolk and Norwich
Naturalists' Society***



ANNUAL REPORT 2019

Presidents, Vice Presidents and Council members serving during 2019

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

Presidents:	Dr Carl Sayer <i>(to 12.3.19)</i>	Simon Barnes <i>(from 12.3.19)</i>
Vice Presidents:	Dr RE Baker, AL Bull, RC Hancy, PW Lambley, DI Richmond	
Chairman:	C Chapman	
Secretary:	J Emerson	
Assistant Secretary:	FJL Farrow	
Treasurer:	<i>Position vacant</i>	
Assistant Treasurer:	J Froud	
Membership committee:	G Carrick <i>(chair)</i> <i>(to 12.3.19)</i> J Hubbard <i>(chair)</i> <i>(from 12.3.19)</i>	J Froud <i>(secretary)</i>
Programme committee:	Ms DL Cheyne <i>(chair)</i>	Dr SR Martin <i>(secretary)</i>
Publications committee:	Dr AR Leech <i>(chair)</i>	Dr J Parmenter <i>(secretary)</i>
Research committee:	Dr AG Irwin <i>(chair)</i>	M Ghullam <i>(secretary)</i> <i>(to 12.3.19)</i> Dr NM Collins <i>(secretary)</i> <i>(co-opted from 12.3.19)</i>
Liaison Committee:	C Chapman <i>(chair)</i>	Dr J Parmenter <i>(secretary)</i>
Finance Committee:	J Froud <i>(chair)</i>	T Hodge <i>(secretary)</i>
Elected council members:		
Retiring 2019: <i>(All to 12.3.19)</i>	J Hubbard, D Nobbs, Dr. P Taylor	
Retiring 2020:	T Frost, T Hodge, R. Hawke	
Retiring 2021:	D Ashton, W Fitch, M Goddard, G Bond	
Retiring 2022: <i>(All from 12.3.19)</i>	E Carr, J Higgins, T Williams, T Kemp <i>(co-opted)</i>	

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

Hon. Independent Examiner: M. Benstead

Addresses:

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

NORFOLK & NORWICH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY . . .

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

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

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

The objectives of the Society are:

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

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

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

. . . ***Researching Norfolk's Wildlife***

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Council has pleasure in presenting this Annual Report and Accounts for the year ending December 31st 2019. This was a special year; our 150th anniversary.

Membership at the end of 2019 stood at 619 (610 in 2018). The number of new members totalled 45 during the course of the year. The membership records have continued to be tidied with all members not paying subscriptions being deleted from the membership immediately after the correct number of reminders as stated in the rules. The majority of our subscriptions are now received by Paypal making this easier to monitor and control.

The Society ended the year with general account reserves of £101, 862.52 (£89,114.17 at the end of 2018), another substantial increase on the previous year mainly due to legacies received. It appears our members are actively seeking to leave funds to the Society within their last will and testaments! Former members have left a total of £21,386.98 during 2019 for which the Society is very grateful. Details of these legacies are in the notes on variances within the accounts. Among other things previous legacies have been used to support the construction of a research library at Wheatfen. At the time of writing the first tranche of books as requested by the county recorders are being delivered.

Thanks to the membership the Society's finances can be said to be in a very healthy position. In fact, in the healthiest position in which they've even been, and the Finance committee did an excellent job in balancing the books. I am pleased to see the hard-working Jim Froud has consolidated his position within the committee in standing for the Treasurers position, aptly supported by Tim Hodge as Assistant Treasurer.

The Membership Committee suffered this year from lack of attendance, but Jim Froud stepped in to keep the committee afloat. Fairs and festivals the Society attended were well subscribed. Perhaps the best was at the Science Festival in October where we reached out to thousands of adults and children alike.

The Photographic Group met several times during the course of the year and continue to share ideas and techniques. As digital photography becomes ever more popular it is worth pointing out these meetings are open to all members and interested photographers. Photography has a major part to play in the future recording of the county's wildlife and the group is excellently led by Hans Watson.

Education is something to which the Society is committed. Talks are a substantial part of what the society does to promote the wildlife within the county and 2019 was no exception. The programme committee once again put together a fantastic and popular series of events. Carl Sayer, Bernard Webb, Stuart Newson, Hans Watson, Garth Coupland, Jeff Price, Greg Bond and Charlie Halliday all gave talks on subjects that once again were far ranging and interesting. The contribution by the speakers is very much appreciated. I would also once again like to thank the workers who laid out the hall, served refreshments and manned the projector; without them these events simply wouldn't take place.

The programme of workshops and field meetings continued throughout the summer months covering areas as diverse as Great Yarmouth Cemetery to Cley NWT and Weybourne to Ling. These included a wide variety of subjects; Birds to 'spots and dots', fungi and Lichens to Dragonflies. All this represented some outstanding organising by Stephen Martin of our Programme Committee. Thank you again to the leaders, organisers and participants alike in making them all entertaining and successful.

Our thanks also go to Simon Barnes who took us through our celebratory year as president.

Members got together in the summer and celebrated our anniversary at How Hill. The weather however was not as stunning as the location and the hoped-for Swallowtail Butterflies 'on the wing' did not happen. However, all those who attended had a good time.

The Research Committee led by Tony Irwin has pulled together results of research within excellent articles on Winterton that were published within Transactions. During much of 2019 Tony led research in the Buckenham area and it is hoped this will culminate in publication within a year or so. I'm looking forward to hearing more about the research the committee will be taking on board during 2020. The recorders evening is scheduled for March and is also eagerly awaited.

Tony Leech led the Publications Committee and pulled together the 2018 Bird and Mammal Report. The articles and photographs included are a tribute to Andy Stoddart who once again acted as the report and photographic editor. Richard Moores ended his first year as mammal recorder with a marvellous mammal report. Tony also oversaw the publication of Roy Baker & Derek Howlett's 'Haddiscoe Island' and in early January the publication of Transactions had some wonderful reviews. At the time of writing we are eagerly awaiting the imminent publication of the 'Transactions for 2018', a volume on 'Emma Turner' and of course 'Norfolk's 150' which documents 150 species within the county in celebration of our 150th year.

The Norfolk Natterjack, our quarterly newsletter, allows members to contribute a wide variety of articles. The publication is excellently edited and compiled by Francis Farrow.

The Society's Facebook page continues to be heavily used with over 1700 members. Thanks are due again to Andy Musgrove for acting as our administrator. This is the Societies window on the wildlife of the county and thanks are due to contributors who help to make this a resource that can be used by all.

Comments continue to be made about the Society's website and this remains a centre for information on the Society. It is a tribute to Jim Froud's hard work

It is pleasing that during the course of the year some good links with other organisations within the county have been forged by the new Liaison Committee. The Society's relationship with the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service (NBIS) and Norfolk Wildlife Trust (NWT) are strong ones and working arrangements continue to be developed with our team of county recorders.

The role of our county recorders is a difficult one. Often a thankless task. My thanks are given to every single one of them. Tim Hodge has taken over as County Hoverfly Recorder, and following the deaths of John Goldsmith and Robin Stevenson, the roles of Bat Recorder and West Norfolk Bryophyte Recorder have passed to Richard Moores and Julia Masson, respectively.

In 2019 several trustees came to the end of their term in office as members of council at the AGM and I thank them wholeheartedly for their service: Mary Ghullam (Research secretary), George Carrick (Membership Chairman), Pam Taylor (council), David Nobbs (council). I extend my gratitude to these and all who have contributed.

I would like to extend my personal thanks once again to James Emerson, our secretary, who has tirelessly produced accurate and very timely minutes to meetings and stepped into my shoes whenever necessary. It has been said more than once that the answer to the question is 'James Emerson' ... now what's the question? I rely on him heavily.

As we move into a new decade the world is faced with many issues not least by those posed by climate change. It is without doubt that the records and publications of the society accumulated over the past 150 years will prove very useful in opposing some of these issues.

There are many ideas I still have to take our great society forward and I look forward to being a part of the Society during 2020, and subsequent years.

Carl Chapman
Chairman

NORFOLK & NORWICH NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Registered Charity 291604

RECEIPTS			2019	2018
A1.1	Voluntary sources	Subscriptions	12657.25	12234.69
A1.2		Grants / legacies	21386.98	62757.98
A1.3		Sundry donations	1591.82	669.75
A2.1	Trading activities	Bird report sales (prev yr edn)	132.51	552.58
A2.2		Bird report sales (current yr edn)	1446.02	1743.84
A2.3		Sales of other publications	701.3	95.79
A2.4		Delivery / postage	0	0
A2.5		Workshop attendance fees	0	0
A3.1	Income from assets	Interest on Savings	872.38	747.05
Total receipts			38788.26	78801.68
			2019	2018
PAYMENTS			Total	Total
B1.1	Lectures & meetings	Room hire / speakers' expenses	535	642.25
B1.2		Workshops	345.92	0
B1.3		Programme card printing	322.8	286.2
B1.4		Exhibitions and publicity	2898.14	302.4
B2.1	Publications	Transactions (incl postage)	2959.94	1961
B2.2		B&M - (incl postage)	5923.16	6779.75
B2.3		Sales expenses, fees, postage	65.51	1431.82
B2.4		Occn Publications (incl postage)	2511.69	2000
B3.1	Membership services	Printing & stationery (incl N'jack)	3016.79	3357.34
B3.2		Postage to members	243.17	980.41
B3.3		Paypal fees, reminders, new members	92.22	159.72
B3.4		Website	98.24	59.88
B4.1	Research & education	Research	1023.01	0
B4.2		Education	0	0
C1.1	Governance	AGM expenses: print+post	106.46	0
C1.2		Public liability insurance	654.56	654.56
C1.3		Consumables, envelopes, labels	12.08	25.26
C1.4		2019 expenses/events	4668.65	0
C1.5		Publication sales postage (carried forward)	7.05	0
C1.6		Committee printing, stationery & postage	136.09	0
C1.7		Ind exam / miscellaneous	419.43	90
C1.8	Total payments		26039.91	18730.59

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

		2019	2018
Movement in funds / end-of-year assets		Total	Total
Movement in funds	Start of year balance	89114.17	29043.08
	Receipts	38788.26	78923.51
	Payments	26039.91	18852.42
End of year balance		101862.52	89114.17
Assets at period end	Represented by:		
	Cash at Barclays	7098.13	16811.15
	Paypal account	0	0
	Teachers Saving A/c	94764.39	73505.03
	Petty Cash	0	0
	Unbanked cheques	0	0
	Less uncleared cheques	0	-1202.01
End of year balance		101862.52	89114.17

Notes on variances:

A1.2: Largest legacy in 2019 was from Eunice Phipps, others were from Ada Hankinson and final payments from Basil Ribbons.

C1.8 shows over £7,300 "extra" spending, mainly from B1.4 and C1.4 - B1.4 includes net spending on the How Hill visit, commemorative badges, car stickers, the Science Fair and the purchase of a projector and screen.

C1.4 is expenditure due to celebrating our 150th year and, as some commemorative publications have been delayed, there will be more in the 2020 accounts

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

J Froud - Assistant Treasurer

23/01/2020

Annual General Meeting

Tuesday 10th March 2020 - 7:30 pm

followed by

'What's happened to our Rabbits and Hares?'

An Illustrated talk by Dr. Diana Bell (UEA)

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





Cigar Gall (April)

And Then... Another Fly

In February 2019 Jeremy brought home a Cigar Gall and we put it in a rearing cage in a cool place. On 7th June 2019 a *Lipara lucens* fly emerged, which we released on Common Reed at Sweetbriar Marshes.

Newly emerged *Lipara lucens* from gall, June 2019.



Lipara lucens, June 2019, released onto a Common Reed stem.



While watching the *Lipara lucens* we had just released, we found a smaller, darker fly on a nearby reed stem, which we photographed. It was clearly another species of *Lipara*.



The other *Lipara*: likely to be *L. rufitarsis*

Images: Vanna Bartlett

Five species of *Lipara* occur in Europe but the scarcest, *Lipara baltica*, is restricted to a couple of the Baltic states. Our photographs look like *Lipara rufitarsis* or *Lipara pullitarsis* but it is more likely to be the former, as *Lipara pullitarsis* has not yet been found in Britain.

Lipara lucens and *L. rufitarsis*. are widespread throughout southern Britain, though there are fewer records of *Lipara rufitarsis*, probably because the galls are less obvious than the Cigar Galls formed by *Lipara lucens*. *Lipara similis* is a smaller and less robust fly covered in long silvery hairs which appears to be restricted to the Cambridgeshire fens.

The excellent Plant Parasites of Europe website, created by Dutch entomologist Willem N. Ellis, has photographs and descriptions of the galls of the four more widespread *Lipara* species.

More Lodgers

To make matters even more interesting, *Lipara lucens* galls can be used as a home by a number of other lodgers, known as inquilines (from the Latin *inquilinus*, "lodger" or "tenant"). They are listed on the Plant Parasites of Europe website.

This coming year we will keep a look out for the other *Lipara* flies, their galls and their inquilines. However, as we are inordinately fond of bees, the biggest prize of all for us would be to find nesting *Hylaeus pectoralis*. We live in hope.

Thanks to Tony Irwin for information on European Lipara species and their distribution.

References

BWARS. 2019. Species account for *Hylaeus pectoralis*.
<https://www.bwars.com/bee/colletidae/hylaeus-pectoralis> (Accessed 4th December 2019).

Falk, S. & Lewington, R. 2015. *Field Guide to the Bees of Great Britain and Ireland*. Bloomsbury, London.

PLANT PARASITES OF EUROPE. 2019. *Lipara*.
<https://bladmineerders.nl/parasites/animalia/arthropoda/insecta/diptera/brachycera/chloropidae/lipara/> (Accessed 4th December 2019).

PLANT PARASITES OF EUROPE. 2019. *Lipara lucens*.
<https://bladmineerders.nl/parasites/animalia/arthropoda/insecta/diptera/brachycera/chloropidae/lipara/lipara-lucens/> (Accessed 4th December 2019).

Note regarding the secretary's email address

Please note that the email address for James Emerson, NNNS Secretary, printed in previous editions of Natterjack contains an error, and should read jamesemerson2007@gmail.com

This has now been corrected and the secretary offers his apologies to anyone who tried to get in contact via the incorrect email, and also to the 'other' James Emerson who might have received any unsolicited emails about the wildlife of Norfolk!

A new Ichneumon Wasp for Norfolk

Tim Hodge

The Bure Valley Conservation Group carry out weekly conservation tasks and walks in and around the River Bure catchment area in east Norfolk. The walk on 6th November was to Burlingham Woods near Acle, primarily to look at the fungi in the area. However, being an entomologist I always take the chance to see if I can find any interesting insects. During the walk we came across a pile of old logs with some peeling bark, always worth checking for things lurking under the bark. On doing so I immediately found an interesting looking ichneumon wasp. However there are over 7,700 species of parasitic wasp in the country, including over 2,000 species of ichneumon wasp, most of which can only be identified under a microscope. I therefore took the wasp and later identified it as *Lymantrichneumon disparis*, a very rare species, and, as far as I'm aware, new to Norfolk and only about the fourth British record. The first British record was found in Kent in 2013, and identified by Dr Gavin Broad of the Natural History Museum; he has also confirmed the identity of this specimen. The wasp parasitizes moth caterpillars of the Gypsy Moth family. Gypsy Moths have begun to recolonize the country in recent years and there have now been a small number of Norfolk records. Given the likely continuing increase in Gypsy Moths it seems probable that the wasp will also be recorded more often. However, the small number of people studying the large (and difficult to identify) families of parasitic hymenoptera will always limit the numbers seen.



Lymantrichneumon disparis

Image: *Tim Hodge*

Zebra spider and Riband Wave

Stuart Paston

On the early afternoon of 23 June 2019 I paid one of my regular visits to St Stephens churchyard in central Norwich to study the insects on the flower rich meadow and had my attention drawn to the face of a headstone where a moth's wing was being ruffled in a stiff breeze.

On closer inspection it proved to be a specimen of the Geometrid Riband Wave that had fallen victim to a zebra spider, *Salticus scenicus*, one of the members of a family popularly known as jumping spiders because of their method of securing their prey.

Both predator and prey are very common species, the spider being frequently observed here hunting around the south facing rear of the church and also along the perimeter wall. The moth, previously unrecorded by the author at this site, is likely to breed on a number of plants such as docks and Lady's Bedstraw in the meadow.



Zebra Spider with Riband Wave prey
Image: *Stuart Paston*



A Toad Encounter

Jeremy and Vanna Bartlett

While visiting Holkham NNR in early October 2019 we were lucky enough to find a Natterjack toad (*Epidalea calamita*) in the dunes. Our only previous sighting had been in Winterton Dunes over twenty years ago.

Earlier in the day we had also seen a Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*) on the track behind the pines.

The Natterjack is smaller than the Common Toad and has much shorter legs, which uses to run rather than walk or hop. (It is some- times known as "the running toad"). It is more olive-green than the Common Toad and also has a distinctive yellow stripe down the middle of its back.

Images: *Jeremy Bartlett*

Well over pensionable age - for Gulls

John Furse

In Parainen, on the west coast of Finland, where the Gulf of Bothnia meets the Baltic Sea, a Black-headed Gull was ringed (as “young, out of the nest”) on 12 June 1992. Nothing special about that, one would imagine. Not so: this bird is still alive*. It is, thus, more than 27½ years of age.



A challenge to read the ring!

It took me combined attempts over three days to record its complete number. Its almost incessant *pitter-pattering*, with the ring frequently obscured by the grass, was a severe handicap to photography. This did, nonetheless, have the happy result of many meals of juicy worms ... For the bird !

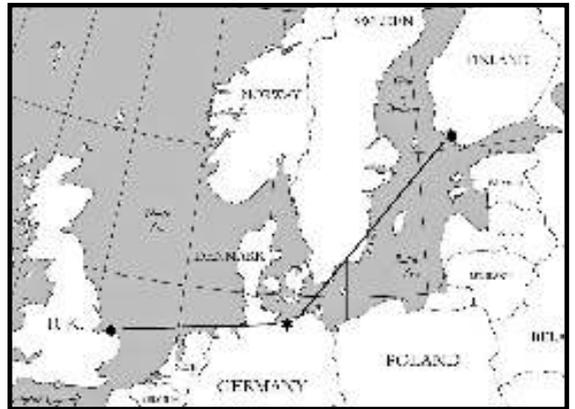
I have observed it since early November frequenting the small patches of grass to the north and south of The Esplanade, Sheringham. It was seen in the same place

in December 2016. This is almost exactly 1500km WSW of its ringing location.

In April 1993, its ring was read near Schwerin, some 100km to the east of Hamburg, Germany. This was presumably on its way back home, after its winter hols in balmy Norfolk.

Correspondence from the Ringing Centre of the Finnish Museum of Natural History, at the University of Helsinki, revealed that their oldest recorded Black-headed Gull was approaching 31. Two others were 29.

I find this remarkable on two counts: the age of the bird and that it has returned to the *exact same spot* as a winter haunt, after a gap (?) of several years. However, it's a 'spring chicken' compared with the oldest recorded in the wild: this reached, apparently, 32.9 years.



Map showing BH Gull's recorded locations

Images: John Furse

* or was, in late December 2019

A Red-throated Diver Experience

Elizabeth Dack

Walking along the beach at Sea Palling as the tide was out on a sunny afternoon I spotted a Red-throated Diver. Although a way off it was much closer than others I had seen. I took a few photos and checking them noticed how beautiful it was in its winter plumage.

Continuing my walk towards Eccles I noticed the diver was coming closer! I started to walk faster trying to get in front of the bird to get a head on photo. I reached the little rocky cove and was pleased the diver was still getting closer and coming straight in front of me! Excitedly I started snapping with my camera taking photos continuously. It was so close I watched its little feet paddling around and the shine in its eye. It dived a few times, I stood in awe watching it, admiring the feather detail covered with little water droplets glinting in the sunshine. Suddenly it came up from a dive with a fair sized fish in its bill. I watched as it dipped the fish in the water several times to clean it. (I assume.) The sea was so shallow there it took a while. Eventually it turned the fish head first and ate it. According to some fisherman they think the fish was a Whiting. Slowly it turned and went back the same route it had come from heading further out to sea. As you can see from my photos I could have stroked this diver it really was that close. A photo moment I shall always cherish.



Red-throated Diver

Images:
Elizabeth Dack



CHINESE WATER DEER

Tony Howes

In recent weeks while walking round various Norfolk marshlands it has become obvious that Chinese Water Deer are very numerous now, they can be found feeding on fen plants in the wet-lands right through the day, and are certainly not limited to nocturnal hours, I have often come across them 'laying up', some times right out in the open with maybe just a clump of rush for cover, on these occasions its possible to get quite close before they take off, like hares I suppose they rely on keeping still as the best way of remaining undetected, but its usually the big, pale coloured ears that give them away.

These small deer are not native to the UK, but are thought to have spread from escapees that had been kept at Whipsnade Zoo. They will wander up onto agricultural land, and eat farm crops, but the damage is minimal, most of their food is fen vegetation. The rut for water deer is November/December, it's then that the bucks use their formidable canines for fighting, it's fairly common to see damage in the way of torn ear's caused by these vicious weapons.

These deer make 'pathways' through the reed beds, and it is known that foxes will use these tracks to give them better access to birds that nest in the fen, including bitterns, and various ducks, but generally water deer are tolerated and are seen to do little harm.



Chinese Water Deer

Images: *Tony Howes*



Unwanted Rodents

Alec Bull

During the autumn I suffered a rat invasion in my garden at East Tuddenham from a game strip just through the hedge from my drive and retaliated with two or three bait stations containing rodenticide. By Christmas all had become quiet and as a dead rat had been disposed of it was assumed that all was well. On January 1st 2020 I was, however, dismayed to discover among the tubs of bird food in my feed store a recently dead Yellow-necked Mouse, a species I had not seen since we moved to Norfolk in 1960.

100 Years Ago - From the 'Transactions'

(From MISCELLANEOUS NOTES AND OBSERVATIONS
page 219 Vol. XI 1919-1924)

A NEW NORFOLK MAMMAL - We are indebted to Mr. John Auden, of Burton on Trent, for the following record of a Bottle-nosed Dolphin (*Tursiops tursio* Fab.), A species not hitherto recorded for the county. In January, 1920, Mr. Auden found a young male cast up on the east shore of Blakeney Point. It was nine feet in length, and he estimated its weight at about forty stone. Mr. Auden has compared the skull with specimens in the S. Kensington museum, and has verified its identity. The teeth were not worn, as is so commonly found to be the case with this species. - EDITOR

LEGACIES

Eunice Phipps who died in March 2018 (obituary - *Natterjack* No. 141 (May 2018) leaves the Society £18,400.00. Eunice was a member of the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society from 1992 to 2016, and served on our Council from 1997 to 2000.

Veronica Larter lived in Norwich and was a member of the Society since before 1966. She died in November 2018, leaving the Society £500.

Ada Sophia Hankinson, née Mottram, died in June 2019 aged 89, leaving the Society £1,000. Mrs Hankinson was a direct descendant of the founder of the Octagon Unitarian Chapel on Colegate, Norwich, which was completed in 1756, and was where her public memorial service took place on September 7th 2019. Mrs Hankinson worked at Norwich Castle Museum, the Norfolk County Library and directed archaeological excavations in Norfolk and elsewhere, was curator of Lynn Museum in King's Lynn from April 1957 until 1974, and founded the Norfolk and Norwich Archaeological Society and the Martineau Society.



Firecrest - in a flock of tits, mainly Long-tailed at Muckleborough Hill, 06/11/2019
Image: *John Furse*



Woodcock - seen through the window sitting in the garden at Sheringham 20/11/2019
Image: *Francis Farrow*



Part leucistic Coal Tit seen on feeders at Fairhaven Water Gardens, 18/12/2019
Image: *Trevor Taberham*



Firecrest - one of two seen at Pretty Corner Woods, Sheringham, 10/01/2020
Image: *Mark Clements*

Red-crested Pochard - a pair turned up at Felbrigg Lake 05/01/2020 but the drake was harried by a Mute Swan and left. The female stayed until 09/01/2020.
Image: *Mark Clements*



Nature Gallery

Note from the Chairman - Norwich Science Festival Oct. 18-26 2019

The Society wouldn't work without its volunteers. People who 'put-back' into something they love. We are just a group of people that get a kick out of wildlife and nature; because of that we feel the richness of the natural world must be protected. It doesn't matter how we do that, be it by our subscriptions alone or some other little things we do to protect a tree or a piece of land or recording what we see. It all contributes to helping our wildlife. However, one of the major parts we all have to play is passing on the appreciation of Norfolk's Wildlife to the next generation.

When we were offered a free place by the Forum at mid October's Science Festival to celebrate our 150th Anniversary we jumped at the chance; and so did the volunteers. Thank you to Nick Owens, Tony Leech, Francis Farrow, Jim Froud and Tony Irwin for manning the stall over the two days. They did a sterling job. Thanks are also due to David Waterhouse of Norwich Museum Services for not only allowing us to use his wildlife 'props' but for also manning the stall. This continues the close relationship between Norwich museum and NNNS.

The stall was busy; and when I say busy ... I mean busy; both David and Tony Irwin lost their voices they talked so much! We never had a relenting moment. Was it worth it? Absolutely. There will be children, as well as adults, that paid us a visit and will not forget the experience for the rest of their lives. David's rendition with his Steppe Mammoth Tibia had to be seen to be believed and Tony Irwin's explanation of how a Grey Squirrel was stuffed had jaws dropping. Just how Tony Leech managed to procure five or six species of fungi in Norwich Town Centre is still a complete mystery to me.

Hopefully some seeds were planted in young minds; and maybe one of them ... just one, will turn out to be the new Attenborough.

Images: *Janet Negal*

Carl Chapman



Science Festival Exhibition at the Forum and a youngster captivated by Tony Irwin



The next issue of ***The Norfolk Natterjack*** will be May 2020

Please send

all articles / notes and photographic material

to the editor as soon as possible by

April 1st 2020 to the following address:

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

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

Membership subscriptions

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

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

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

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

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

Contents

Toad-in-the-hole.....	Page 1
Stalwarts <i>Kevin Radley</i> (<i>Roy Baker and Derek Howlett</i>)	
<i>Russula atrorubens</i> - New to Norfolk <i>James Emerson</i>	Page 2
Unseasonal Fungi <i>Alec Bull</i> (<i>Earthstars</i>)	Page 3
An unexpected find <i>Francis Farrow</i> (<i>Coprinopsis kubickae</i>)	
Willow Emerald Damselflies: More new species with egg-laying scars <i>Chris Durdin</i>	Page 4
Predation of Infant Swallowtails <i>Kevin Radley</i>	Page 7
A Fly, A Gall and its Lodger <i>Jeremy and Vanna Bartlett</i> (<i>Lipara spp and Hylaeus</i>)	Page 8
Annual Report 2019	Centre
A New Ichneumon Wasp for Norfolk <i>Tim Hodge</i> (<i>Lymantrichneumon disparis</i>)	Page 13
Zebra Spider and Riband Wave <i>Stuart Paston</i>	Page 14
A Toad Encounter <i>Jeremy and Vanna Bartlett</i> (<i>Common and Natterjack Toads</i>)	
Well Over Pensionable Age - for Gulls <i>John Furse</i> (<i>Black-headed Gull</i>)	Page 15
A Red-throated Diver Experience <i>Elizabeth Dack</i>	Page 16
Chinese Water Deer <i>Tony Howes</i>	Page 17
Unwanted Rodents <i>Alec Bull</i> (<i>Yellow-necked Mouse</i>)	Page 18
100 Years Ago - from the 'Transactions' (<i>Bottle-nosed Dolphin</i>)	
Legacies	
Nature Gallery	Page 19
Note from Chairman - Norwich Science Festival Oct. 18-26 2019 <i>Carl Chapman</i>	Page 20