LENS Wildlife Watch

LENS Long Eaton Natural History Society

Spring 2012

Volume 2 Issue 9

Azolla invades Erewash Canal

Inside this issue:

In October dense mats of the Water fern (*Azolla filiculoides*) completely covered areas of the Erewash Canal, a much loved local wildlife site.

This non-native species

- Forms dense rafts and outcompetes native plant species and is also a danger to children who may attempt to walk on the apparently dry land.
- Reduces light levels below the rafts which can cause die off of waterweeds and algae and reduce water oxygenation levels killing fish and other fauna.
- Blocks water bodies and may lead to an increased risk of flooding.

Due to spore formation, Azolla is very difficult to eradicate, however, biological control can be effective using a 2mm yellow striped weevil (*Stenopelmus rufinasus*).

A significantly smaller raft of the fern was also noticed by the author Dave Gell on Clifton Pond, Attenborough in October 2010.

The Erewash Canal at Sandiacre with Azolla (magnified)

A Big Twitch

A very rare bird, a squacco heron arrived at Attenborough Junction on Friday October 28th! It remained for over a week – attracting hundreds of local birdwatchers and many from as far away as Liverpool, Manchester and Leeds.

This species usually breeds in the Mediterranean and Middle East then over-winters in Africa. It is only the fourth ever record for Nottinghamshire and the first record for Derbyshire (when it goes to the other side of the River Erewash).

Article from Attenborough Nature Centre, Photograph from Erewash Valley Wildlife.

Squacco heron (*Ardeola ralloides*)

Derbyshire Police

Derbyshire police are supporting a national campaign against cruelty to badgers. Officers in the county are taking part in Operation Meles, a country-wide initiative where police forces share intelligence to gather evidence against people who target badgers.

As part of the campaign, police are encouraging people to report any suspicious activity in the countryside, especially in areas where there are badger setts.

Sergeant Darren Belfield, the force's rural, environmental and wildlife crime officer, said: "We don't want people to approach suspects directly, we are appealing to anyone who has information about people involved in badger baiting, digging or lamping to get in touch with the police or Crimestoppers immediately. It is a cruel and abhorrent activity which some people wrongly see as a sport.

Anyone with information about badger cruelty should call police on 101 or Crimestoppers on 0800 555 111. For more information about Operation Meles and the Badger Trust, visit www.badger.org.uk

Badger *Meles meles*

Greensqueeze

Green Squeeze Stanton held a Waterside event on November with a presentation by Geraint Coles.

Part one covered the history and background of the Chesterfield Waterside Development along with general issues surrounding such projects.

Part two dealt more specifically with how such a concept could be applied to the Stanton site. But be warned – watch either of these and by the end you'll be fighting the urge to pick up a shovel and start work yourself.

Stanton Waterside presentation part 1:

http://vimeo.com/33115089 (45 minutes)

Stanton Waterside presentation part 2:

http://vimeo.com/33143297

The Stanton Ironworks site

The Woodland Trust

Fields at Normanton le Heath are to be transformed into public woodland.The 460-acre woodland in the National Forest in Leicestershire will form the centrepiece of the Woodland Trust's biggest tree-planting campaign to mark the Queen's diamond jubilee year.
An appeal to raise £3.3 million to purchase and plant the site, within the National Forest estate has been launched.
The Woodland Trust said the new forest would provide access to the natural environment for the 10 million people who live within 90 minutes' drive of the site and create habitat for wildlife ranging from otters to yellowhammers.
Birds such as marsh tits could be attracted in from nearby areas, while the site's open land could become home to skylarks and starlings.

Fields at Normanton le Heath

2011 Weather Alan Heath

WEATHER SUMMARY - 2011

JANUARY	Light snow on two days. Rather dry and with some cold days but some less cold days. Coldest day of the year on 21st (23F)
FEBRUARY	A mixed month with a fair amount of rain. Mild for time of year.
MARCH	A very dry month. Very windy on 10th
APRIL	A dry month with even less rain than in March. Very warm on 23rd (81F) which is the warmest April day since my records began in 1960. Driest month of the year
MAY	Another mainly dry month. Very windy on 22nd and 23rd
JUNE	A mixed month. Very warm last week, especially 26th and 27th Warmest day of year on 27th (83F)
JULY	A mixed month with some rain in the first and third week. Thunderstorm on 8th. Warm in last week
AUGUST	Some warm days in first week. Last week wet with only a little rain in the first three weeks
SEPTEMBER	A mixed month. Very windy on 6th, 12th and 13th. Final week very warm. The 30th was the warmest September day since my records began in 1960. The Steavenson Screen was re-painted and the Wet and Dry Thermometers replaced. Two circumzenithal arcs seen on the 15th.
OCTOBER	A mixed month but very mild. First frost on the 20th. Thunderstorm on the 6th. October 1st was the warmest October since my records began in 1960
NOVEMBER	Mild for time of year. Middle two weeks mainly dry. Windy in the last week
DECEMBER	Wettest month of the year. Generally mild though there were a few frosts.
NOTE :	Lowest rainfall since my records began in 1960 with only 16·11 inches of rain. Warmest April, September and October since my records began. The Rainfall was around 8-inches below average.

2011 Weather Alan Heath

WEATHER SUMMARY - 2011

		Jan	Feb	Mar	Apr	May	Jun	Jul	Aug	Sep	Oct	Nov	Dec
TEMPERATURE	Max.	55	59	65	81	75	88	81	85	87	84	61	58
	Min.	23	31	25	36	33	38	45	46	41	34	31	28
RAIN mm	Day	11·8	20·9	5·2	6·3	15·1	28·1	27·6	29·1	16·3	23·1	11·5	36·8
	Night	12·2	25·8	6·8	2·4	19·8	10·0	5·9	21·2	9·6	20·1	19·6	24·4
	Total	24·0	46·7	12·0	8·7	34·9	38·1	33·5	50·3	25·9	43·2	31·1	61·2
DAYS DRY		23	16	27	26	21	16	22	20	20	21	22	16
NIGHTS DRY		25	19	27	28	26	24	27	21	21	21	18	18
DRY DAYS + NIGHTS		48	35	54	54	47	40	49	41	41	42	40	34
DAYS WITH RAIN		8	12	4	4	10	14	9	11	10	10	8	15
NIGHTS RAIN		6	9	4	2	5	6	4	10	9	10	12	13
RAIN - inches		0·94	1·84	0·47	0·34	1·37	1·50	1·32	1·98	1·02	1·70	1·22	2·41
WETTEST DAY		12	26	31	23	8	12	8	26	17	6	4	11
THUNDERSTORMS		-	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	-	-
BAROMETER	Max.	30·8	30·65	30·85	30·40	30·35	30·60	30·30	30·10	30·35	30·45	30·45	30·55
	Min.	29·2	29·10	29·40	29·70	29·60	29·40	29·20	29·45	29·30	29·30	29·30	29·00
FOG		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
FOG ALL DAY		-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DAYS WITH NEW SNOW ON GROUND		2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
SNOW - inches		1/8	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
DAYS WITH TEMPERATURES OF 80F OR MORE			-	-	1	-	2	2	3	3	2	-	-
DAYS WITH TEMPS OF 32 F OR LESS		11	2	5	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	5

2011 Weather Alan Heath

WIND - 2011

	N	NE	E	SE	S	SW	W	NW	TOTAL
Jan	2	2	5	-	2	3	5	4	23
Feb	-	3	2	1	5	2	9	2	24
Mar	-	4	3	-	1	2	5	2	17
Apr	-	3	1	1	-	3	7	3	18
May	-	-	2	-	4	6	16	2	30
Jun	-	1	1	-	1	7	15	1	26
Jul	3	4	-	-	-	6	2	6	21
Aug	-	3	-	-	3	7	12	4	29
Sep	-	-	-	1	1	7	17	1	27
Oct	-	-	-	2	8	4	11	4	29
Nov	1	1	4	1	5	7	3	2	24
Dec	-	-	-	-	-	5	18	5	28
TOTAL	6	21	18	6	30	59	120	36	296

NOTE : Note that West Winds were 40% of the total recorded.

An obliging juvenile nightjar that turned up in a Codnor garden. JUVENILE NIGHTJAR, DERBYSHIRE, CODNOR SEPTEMBER 2011
© Glyn Sellors

Forbes Hole Alan Heath

POND LIFE ;

POPULATION INDEX and SAMPLING TECHNIQUE

Estimates of the population are made by regarding one specimen as VERY RARE, two or three as RARE, ten or so as OCASSIONAL , twenty or so as COMMON. Increasing numbers are FREQUENT, ABUNDANT, VERY ABUNDANT, and DOMINANT. The letter 'R' is added if in regions.

Each level is given a number -

1.	Very Rare	- one only
2.	Rare	- two or three seen
3.	Occasional	- ten or so seen
4.	Common	- twenty or so seen
5.	Frequent	- more than twenty
6.	Abundant	
7.	Very Abundant	
8.	Dominant	

At the end of each year the estimated population is totalled and this is divided by the number of samples taken -

If Cyclops was found to be Rare [2] in March, Common in May [4] and Occasional [3] in August, then the total would be 2 + 4 + 3 = 9 If three samples were taken during the year then this number would be divided by 3 to produce an average of 3.0 This would be the Population Index used.

The scale is not linear but can produce a graph to give some idea of how populations fluctuate over several years. Ideally a minimum of 4 samples, one each season, would be necessary for this to be meaningful but more are desirable.

It is emphasised that this system is only an estimate and not actual counts and the interpretation of the scale is subjective, particularly in higher numbers. Nevertheless, it is felt that this does serve a useful purpose to give an indication of what is happening to the population. Where none are recorded, this does not necessarily imply they were absent, but actually not recorded. It would be easy to miss species whilst sampling especially if numbers were low.

A STANDARD SAMPLING TECHNIQUE used at Forbes Hole was to take 7 sweeps of the plankton net in 6 minutes. The net is 125 mesh per inch. Sample sweeps are 3 near the water surface, 2 midway and 2 in the bottom mud. All are obtained from the same region.

Water samples for determining pH, dissolved oxygen, etc., are obtained before the water is disturbed by the use of the plankton net.

Forbes Hole Alan Heath

FORBES HOLE NATURE RESERVE - 2011
POPULATION INDEX

	MAIN POND	SMALL POND
Acromatium oxaliferum		
Actinospherium		
Alderfly nymph		
Alona		0·12
Amoeba		
Anabaena	0·25	
Arcella		
Ascellus		
	0·75	1·25
Asterionella	0·25	
Bacillaria paradoxa		
Bezzia		
Bosmina	1·25	
Bursaria	0·12	
Caddis larva	0·25	
Ceratium		
Ceriodaphnia	0·25	0·12
Chaetonotus	0·12	
Chaoborus larva		1·12
Chironomus larva	0·50	0·12
Chydorus	0·12	0·37
Cladophora		0·75
Cloeon nymph	2·50	0·50
Closterium attenuatum	0·62	0·62
Closterium concavum	1·00	0·75
Coenagrion nymph	1·00	0·37
Coleps		
Corixa	0·12	0·50
Cyclops	2·25	3·12
Cymbella ehrenbergii	1·12	0·37
Cymbella gastroides	0·87	1·87
Cypris	1·62	3·25
Daphnia hyalina	0·25	1·62
Daphnia pulex		0·75
Diaptomus	4·50	1·25
Dinobryon		
Dendrocoelum lacteum		
Draparnaldia		
Elodea canadensis		
Euglena	0·50	
Eurycercus	0·37	0·37
Fragellaria	1·12	0·87
Gammarus	0·25	0·62
Gomphenema		
Gyrinus		
Hydra oligactis	1·0	0·12
Hydra viridisimma		
Hydroporus palustris		
Hyphydrus ovatus		
Keratella quadrata		
Leech (Helobdella stagnalis		
Lestes nymph		

Forbes Hole Alan Heath

	MAIN POND	SMALL POND
Limnaea pereger		
Limnaea stagnalis		0·12
Loxophyllum		
Macrobiotus		
Mougeotia		
Myriophyllum	0·62	
Nematode	0·25	
Nitzschia sigmoidea	1·25	
Notonecta	0·12	
Oedogonium		
Oscillatoria		
Paramecium		
Peashell		
Pediastrum		
Penium		
Peridinium	0·12	
Phacus		
Pelomyxa	0·12	1·00
Pinnularia	1·87	0·50
Planorbis		0·12
Pleurosigma	1·00	
Polycellis nigra		
Potamogeton natans		1·12
Rotifer sps.	0·25	0·37
Rotaria neptuna	0·37	
Scapheloberus	0·25	
Scenedesmus	0·12	
Sida crystalina		
Simocephalus	2·62	0·87
Spirogyra	2·12	3·50
Spirostomum	0·12	
Staurastrum		
Stentor	0·37	
Stylonichia	0·12	
Surirella constricta	0·12	
Sympetrum nymph	0·12	
Synedra	3·50	2·62
Synura		
Tubifex	0·12	
Vaucheria	0·37	
Vorticella	0·75	0·37
Water Mite	0·12	
Water Moss (Fontinalis antipyretica)		0·37
Yellow Alga (Tribonema)	0·25	0·12
Zygnema		

NOTE : Where no record is shown against a species, it means none seen this year but had been seen in earlier years.

Forbes Hole Alan Heath

During the year, a total of 8 samples were taken from each pond between 2011 January 28 and November 15

A total of 51 species were found in the Main Pond and a total of 35 in the Small Pond

SPECIES FOUND IN MAIN POND ONLY

Asterionella
Bosmina
Caddis Larva
Euglena
Myriophyllum
Nitzschia sigmoidea
Peridinium
Planorbis
Pleurosigma
Rotaria neptuna
Scapheloberus
Spirostomum
Stentor
Stylonichia
Surirella constricta
Tubifex
Yellow Alga (Tribonema)

TOTAL 17

SMALL POND ONLY

Alderfly larva
Chaoborus larva
Chydorus
Cladophora
Daphnia pulex
Gerris
Limnaea stagnalis
Potamogeton natans
Sympetrum nymph
Water Moss (Fontinalis antipyretica)

TOTAL 10

MAIN POND - pH varied between 7·6 and 7·9 using Phenol Red indicator and Lovibond Comparitor

Dissolved Oxygen varied between 3·1 and 9·9 ppm using the Winkler Method

SMALL POND - pH varied between 7·6 and 8·0

Dissolved Oxygen varied between 1·6 and 6·0 ppm

NOTE : The Dissolved Oxygen in the Main Pond was much higher than the Small Pond both in September and November with no obvious explanation.

However, in July the Dissolved Oxygen was higher in the Small Pond than the Main Pond.

Prior to this time, the results were similar

TOTAL SPECIES FOUND BOTH PONDS COMBINED - 61

This year completes 50 years of regular sampling at the site, having started in 1961

Total samples from 1958 = 368

Garden Birds Joan Breakwell

Garden Birds 2011

	J	F	M	A	My	Jn	Jy	A	S	O	N	D
tit	5	4	4	2	1	4	4	8	6	4	4	4
ı	2	2	2	2	1	1	2	2	1	1	1	2
bird	4	4	4	3	4	4	4	4	5	7	8	2
e sparrow	7	4	6	4	3	4	7	12	1	1	1	2
ng	10	5	9	4	11	25	8	15	4	11	3	15
ock	2	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	2	2
finch	14	14	17	2	2	2	2	1	4	4	5	6
tit	3	4	2	2	1	3	3	3	3	3	3	2
nfinch	6	4	4	4	3	3	3	3	3	3	4	4
red dove	3	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	3	4	2
cap	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
-headed gull	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0	0
inch	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1
ard	-	-	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
da goose	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	0	-	-	-
tit	1	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	1	1	1	1
	2	1	1	0	1	2	1	2	2	2	1	2
en warbler	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	-
finch	16	11	10	8	4	6	7	32	19	24	19	20
t woodpkr	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
n woodpecker	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
heron	-	-	0	1	0	0	0	-	1	-	0	-
wagtail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-
ng gull	-	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
emartin	-	-	-	-	1	0	0	0	0	-	-	-
aw	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
el	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	-	-
tailed tit	12	8	2	2	1	5	10	14	9	7	4	2
ie	2	2	1	0	-	1	6	0	2	3	1	1
rd	-	1	3	2	0	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
e thrush	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
wagtail	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	-	-
ing	4	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
n	2	2	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
thrush	-	-	-	-	1	1	-	-	-	1	-	-
owhawk	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1
dove	3	2	2	3	3	4	2	2	-	-	2	3
	-	-	-	-	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	
l pigeon	8	5	6	4	3	4	2	3	5	6	8	6
	-	1	1	-	-	1	1	1	1	1	1	1

These birds were seen at 60 Wensleydale Road, Long Eaton by Joan & Keith Breakwell. The figures are the highest number of each species seen in the garden at any one time during the month. 0 denotes a bird that was seen, but didn't land in the garden.

Garden Birds Gwen Bates

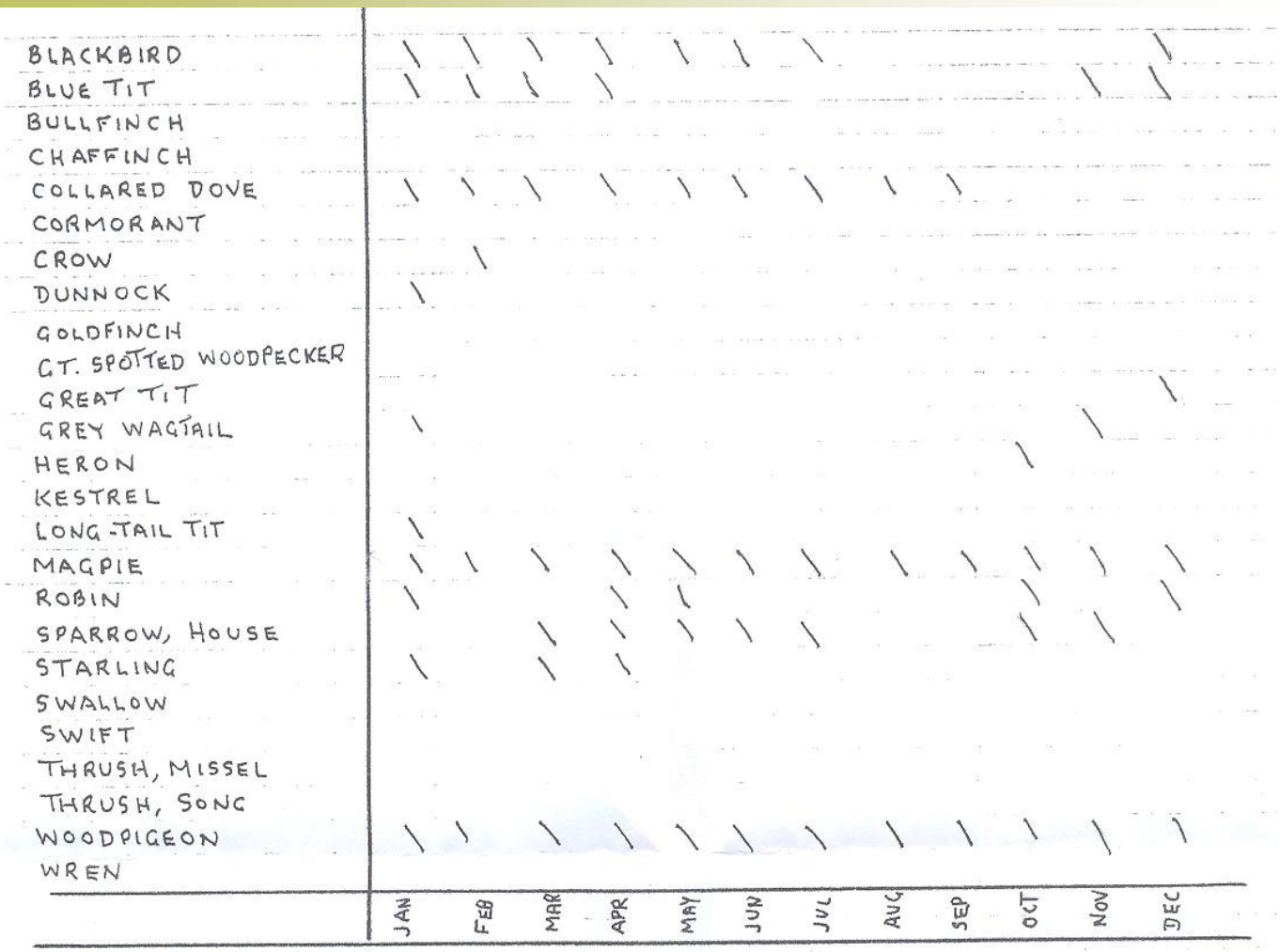
	J	F	M	A	My	J	Jy	A	S	O	N	D	
blue tit	3	3	2	2	4	6	9	2	2	3	3	2	
robin	2	1	2	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	1	
blackbird	5	4	3	3	4	4	4	2	3	4	4	3	
house sparrow	2	1	2	2	2	4	6	3	1	3	4	3	
starling	12	20+	5	1	12	20+	20+	3	6	6	12	12	
dunnock	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	
chaffinch	6	4	3	3	2	4	2	3	2	3	3	4	
great tit	1	2	1	1	1	3	1	1	2	1	2	1	
greenfinch	8	6	5	6	4	6	5	4	4	6	5	4	
collared dove	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	4	
coal tit	1	2			1	1					2	1	
longtailed tit	1	1	3							3	3	1	
goldfinch	8	3	2	2	2	3	2		8	4	6	9	
crow			2	2	2	1	1	2		1			
magpie	1	1	2		2	2	2						
mistle thrush													
song thrush													
sparrow hawk													
wood pigeon	3	2	5	3	3	3	2	2	2	2	6	6	
wren	1	1	1							1			
bullfinch	4	2	1	2	2	2							
greater sp. woodpecker											1		

YEAR 2011

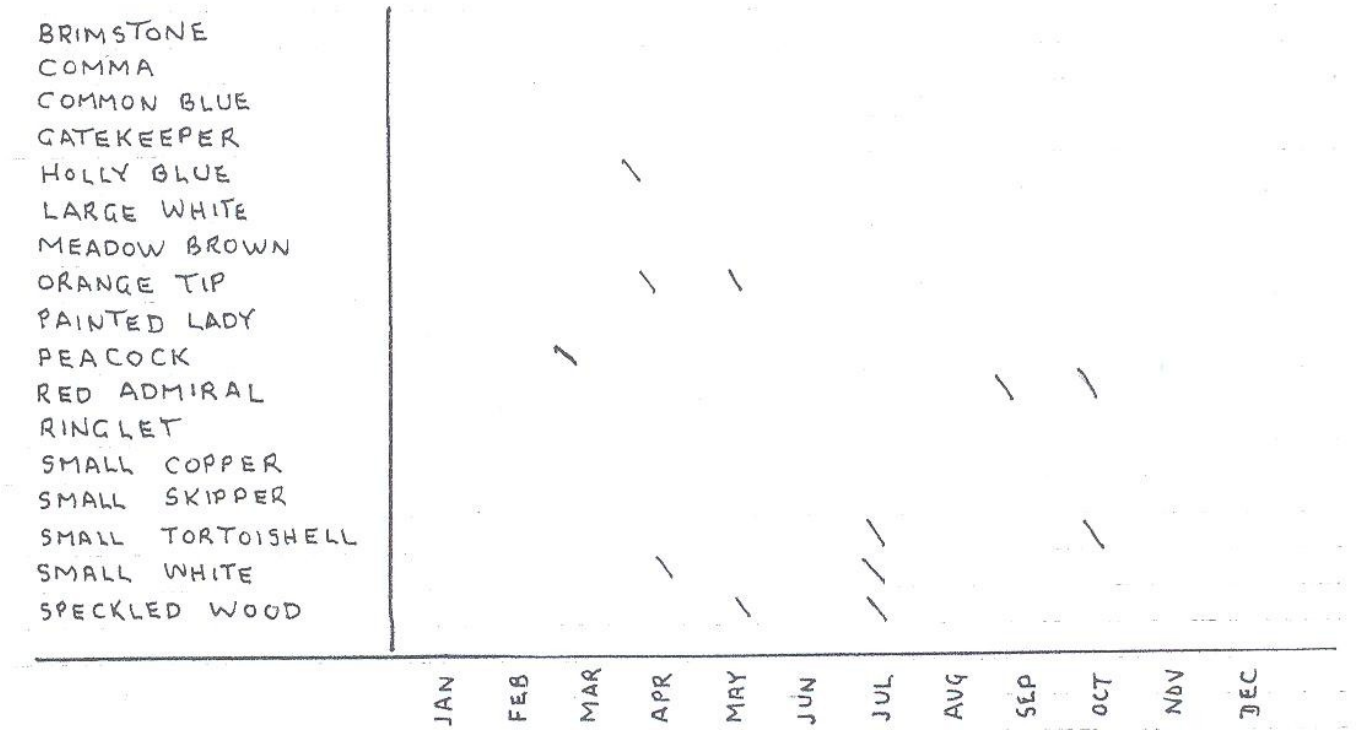
NAME GWEN BATES

ADDRESS 4 HARDY CLOSE
LONG EATON

Garden Birds and Butterflies Alan Heath



GARDEN BUTTERFLIES - 6 Harlaxton Drive, Long Eaton - 2011



Butterflies Joan Breakwell

Butterfly	J	F	M	A	M	Jn	Jl	A	S	O	N	D
Small white			2	3	4	3	4	5	4			
Large white							2	4	1			
Comma			1			1			2			
Holly blue				2	2	1	1	1				
Small tortoiseshell			1	1			1					
Gate-keeper							4	4				
Speckled wood				2	2	2	2	4	2	1		
Peacock			1	2			1	1				
Red admiral					1		1	1	1	2	1	
Brimstone			1	2								
Orange tip				1								

Butterfly records from 60 Wensleydale Road, Long Eaton.

Forbes Hole Butterflies Ken Orpe

On checking all records for Forbes Hole, the recent recording of dark green fritillary and brown argus makes a total of 24 species for the Local Nature Reserve.

These are ; Small, Essex and Large Skippers, Brimstone, Large, small and green veined white, Orange Tip, Small Copper, Brown Argus, Common Blue, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma, Dark Green Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Wall Brown, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Small Heath, although no doubt the Wall Brown has now disappeared from there.

I think there is oak on the site so it is possible to add Purple Hairstreak which usually flies in July. I'm not sure whether there is any elm on site, but if there is you could get White Letter Hairstreak in June/July.

Ken is the butterfly recorder for the county of Derbyshire and has been selected as Butterfly Conservation's Outstanding Volunteer for 2011 and will pick up his award in November at Butterfly conservation's AGM.

Brimstone butterfly at Forbes Hole

The Flora of Derbyshire Project

The **Derbyshire Flora Project** began life in 1994 when botanists across Britain responded to a proposal from the **Botanical Society of the British Isles (BSBI)** to produce a new national atlas of vascular plants covering the whole of Britain and Ireland. Derbyshire's botanists joined forces to help, and began recording the distribution of this county's wild plants in a scheme they called **Derbyshire Flora 2000**. Their work ended in December 2000 and the UK Atlas itself appeared two years later (Preston et al, 2002).

The second aim of the Derbyshire Flora Project was to collect enough data to publish a completely new book on our own wild plants, offering coloured distribution maps and accounts of each species. It would take the name of the previous work - **The Flora of Derbyshire** - which last appeared thirty years before (Clapham, 1969).

Since 1997 the project has been led by two people. Dr Alan Willmot is Derbyshire's County Plant Recorder for the BSBI, and a recently retired lecturer in biology at The University of Derby. Computerisation and preparation of data has been overseen since the project's inception by Nick Moyes, former Keeper of Natural Sciences at Derby Museum & Art Gallery. Both have undertaken much of this work in their own time, working closely over the years with around 100 volunteer recorders and data inputters.[source]

Derbyshire Flora Group

There has been speculation over the future of the Derbyshire Flora project since Nick Moyes' departure from the Derby Museum, and the recent 'resource cannot be found' message when attempting to access the Flora of Derbyshire online database prompted LENS to contact Nick to discover the current position. Fortunately our fears for the worst turned out to be unfounded, as we now understand that the Flora of Derbyshire webpages will not be lost and will reappear in due course. In fact the original pages can

Mistletoe -Marion Bryce

For hundreds of years mistletoe has been planted on local trees. There is a thriving mistletoe colony in Chilwell on apple and lime trees, apple trees on Cleveland Avenue and Grange Road Long Eaton. Recently mistletoe has been seen to spread to wilder habitats. It is now found on hawthorn by the Erewash Canal in Long Eaton, on lime trees by the railway line in Sandiacre and there is a massive spreading population on hawthorn by the River Derwent at Borrowash.

Apple trees were and are the mistletoes commonest host in Britain. New information has weakened the popular belief that mistletoe distribution coincides with apple orchards. The mistletoe needs space around its host, so its normal habitat is probably riversides, open scrub on steep slopes or woodland clearings. Nowadays it is found on well spaced trees in gardens, orchards and parks.

The commoner hosts are man-made, domesticated apples, poplars and limes although hawthorn is also a common host. Maple, willow, crab apple and false acacia are occasional hosts but mistletoe can grow on 450 host species.

In orchards mistletoe needs to be kept in check. UK mistletoe is not usually a killer but large amounts will eventually overwhelm the host and create water and wind stress. The reasons that mistletoe is spreading and becoming more plentiful in some areas seems to be due to several factors;changes in climate; bird vectors spreading the berries and direct planting by man.

Mistletoe *Viscum alba* at Borrowash

Few bird species take mistletoe berries, the usual species are thrushes mostly the mistle thrush *Turdus viscivorus*. The blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* also regularly consumes mistletoe berries. Since the 1980s our overwintering blackcap population has increased to many thousands of birds and observational data suggests they may have become significant bird vectors. Ring necked parakeets *Psitticula kameri* also take mistletoe berries and their potential role is intriguing. There are six mistletoe associated insects, four bugs, a weevil and a moth.

Man made planting could be a possible factor in distributional change. There has been significant interest in 'grow your own' mistletoe kits in recent years – you heard it first on *The Archers.* There is a long tradition of mistletoe planting in gardens, even in areas way beyond the mistletoe's natural range.

New Record for Leisler's bat 08.09.11 Nick Sanderson

The survey was completed during ideal conditions with mild and calm weather following a wet humid day ensuring high insect prey diversity. During the survey we suspected 6 species but following detailed analysis of the sonograms I have recorded on my detector I believe we actually managed to get 7.

Common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) Soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) including an audible social call.

Nathusius pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus nathusii*) Whiskered / Brandt's Bat *(Myotis mystacinus / brandtii*) These species have very similar call characteristics and without DNA analysis they are very difficult to tell apart, even in the hand. On a sonogram the octave per second rate of the bat call. This can be quite a useful tool in distinguishing Myotis bat
species in particular.

Daubenton's Bat (*Myotis Daubentonii*) were first recorded these on the sluice bridge near the River Trent at the top of the bund pathway at the same time as common pipistrelle and noctule which explains why there was some ambiguity on the night as to the 'dryness' of the call.

Noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*) Leisler's Bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*) The distinguishing feature of the Leisler call is the call duration, and the frequency of max energy. Some noctule calls can look a little similar to this but from the sonogram analysis it is quite clear that it is a Leisler's largely because of its frequency start point and call length. The comparison with the noctule call before is very obvious here and I have been able to compare this with a species library I have of known bat calls. This may be a new record for the Attenborough I believe.

Hedgehog Street

From the **1st February** up until the **31st August 2012** we are asking you to submit records **each time you see a hedgehog**. We need you to tell us how many you saw, where they were and whether they were dead or alive. The results will inform future conservation plans for this much-loved animal. Last year an independent study confirmed evidence that hedgehog populations have plummeted by at least a quarter over the last decade.

Hedgehog Street is a joint project between People's Trust for Endangered Species and British Hedgehog Preservation Society

http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/

Hedgehog

Alien invader at Highfields

It was a surprise to find a native of Australia, a Red Claw Crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*) in Highfields Lake at Nottingham University.
Our native crayfish (*Austropotamobius pallipes)* prefers calcium -rich rivers and streams with a good water quality and not too much sediment .
Competition from non-native crayfish is a major threat, especially the North American Signal Crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusulus),*an aggressive and dominant species which carries Crayfish Plague a fungal disease.
The Environment Agency have published a leaflet describing the identification of several different crayfish species which may be found.
It is an offence to release or allow non native crayfish to escape into the wild.

Red Claw Crayfish (*Cherax quadricarinatus*)

Ockbrook invaded by mysterious yellow blobs!

From the Long Eaton Extra

An intrigued environmental protection officer at Erewash Borough Council sprang into action when he received a strange call for help . . Ockbrook had been 'invaded' by some mysterious yellow blobs!
On arriving in the village, two baffled residents told him their front lawns and nearby fields were covered in what looked like scrambled eggs.
The officer suspected man-made material like polyurethane insulation foam had been dumped in the area – but on arrival discovered the 'scrambled egg' was definitely something natural. Detective work quickly identified it as Fuligo Septica, which has the unpleasant common name of 'dog's vomit slime mould' . Slime moulds are not fungi, plants, animals or bacteria, but are a completely different kind of organism.
The same slime mould was also reported from Dockholm Lock fields by Katherine Harrison.

Slime mould

LENS Long Eaton Natural History Society

CONTACTS

Future Meetings

12th March Wild Flowers of Derbyshire Kieran Houston

Indoor meetings start at 7.15pm in the Social Activities Annex, Long Eaton Public Library, Broad Street , Long Eaton. Cost £1 for members, £2 for visitors. All welcome.

CONTACT:Alan Heath 0115 9733766

Apr 28 (Sat) Cromford Canal & Lea Wood – Bluebell Walk
Meet 2pm for a 2 mile spring walk. Some uneven ground and some uphill, may be slippery if wet. Park at High Peak Junction car park off Mill Road/Lea Road from Cromford.
Grid ref SK 314 560
Leader Marion Bryce

May 14 Breedon Hill (SSSI) & Historic Breedon Church
Meet 7pm. Roadside parking at the green in Breedon (Melbourne Lane), next to the Priory garden centre. (Or, if you don't fancy uneven ground and the climb, meet us in the church car park at top of hill at 7:30 approx.)
Grid ref SK 403 229
Leaders Christine Carrier (walk), Ida Wright (church)

See website www.lensweb.wordpress.com for further details of activities.

Please send pictures and wildlife news to the Editor,Marion Bryce
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Thanks to all contributors and M Bryce, D Gell, D Pinney and Olivia's dad for photographs used in this bulletin.

Parasol mushroom at Trent College

DANES INSECT SHOW

Amelia and Olivia learn about life cycles on the LENS stall at the insect show.

Membership Renewal Form

I would like to be a member of Long Eaton Natural History Society

Name _____

Address _____

_____

Postcode_____

Tel no_____

Email_____

I enclose a cheque/postal order for £8.00

The annual subscription entitles members to attend meetings at £1.00 per session.

I agree/do not agree that LENS can keep my name on a database.

Please return completed form to the Hon Treasurer, Helen Knewstubb,

9 Kingsley Crescent, Sawley Long Eaton NG10 3DA