

LENS BULLETIN

No. 10.

Issued for Members of the

LONG FATON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

and Friends.

Autumn 1984

(with some late summer

reports).

CHAIRMAN :

George Smith

SECRETARY :

Val Nourish (Meetings Secr)

and Mrs. Marion Smith

TREASURER :

Mrs. Margaret Beresford.

GOING TO PRESS DATE for BULLETIN no. 11.

will be Monday, March 4th 1985.

BULLETIN No. 10.

CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

Sadly we have come to the end of an era. This is the last bulletin to be exclusively produced by Mrs. Judy Langford, and I am sure all L E N S members will share my appreciation of all the hard work Judy has put in. She has set a very high standard and it is a rather daunting task for her successor, but we are most fortunate in the fact that Mrs. Fay Blackburn has agreed to take over and we wish her every success. Judy will continue to act as recorder so all reports should be channelled through her and she will liaise with Fay in the production of the Bulletin.

At the time of writing this we are into the 1984/5 Winter sessions of meetings and it is encouraging that these have been well attended with most enjoyable evenings, and topics of interest.

Please tel your friends about L E N S and keep the reports coming in.

GEORGE SMITH.

"GOINGS ON AT SHIPLEY COUNTRY PARK"

or "There are two born every minute."

One extremely hot Saturday in early September I reported for work as a Part-time Ranger at Shipley and was instructed to proceed to Manchester Wood and seek evidence of any poachers and more particularly any evidence of badger digging.

Badger digging is a sensitive subject and let me say right away we have not experienced any evidence of badgers in Manchester Wood, but you never know. However, loaded with haversack, radio and binoculars, I set off in the 2 miles or so walk to the Wood and some 40 minutes later, having had a preliminary look round, I decided to have a breather on a convenient fallen tree. At once I heard a shot fired from some distance to the south of me. Having considered whether I should "forget" it I decided I had better radio a report to base, and was instructed to "investigate, but keep your head down". Well I was not anxious to be mistaken for something shootable in the uncertain cover of trees or hedges.

Shipley Country Park

So, I collected my belongings and proceeded through the southern part of the wood and across some open fields without seeing anyone, or hearing, anything. Soon, in a small hollow I came across another fallen tree and decided to break for lunch, which I had just started, when "bang" from the direction I had just traversed. I formed the opinion that the "baddies" had watched me pass into the hollow out of sight and then continued with their poaching, or whatever.

This time I radio-ed a report and one of my full-time colleagues (a member of L E N S no less) was despatched in a Land Rover to my assistance. On arrival at the nearest point a Land Rover could reasonably reach we established liaison and started to move towards each other. Between us was a barn and my colleague suggested this was doubtless where the miscreants were, and he would enter the barn and I should take up a strategic position in case they should rush out - an arrangement which I was very happy to accede.

Soon the radio crackled again, the barn was empty but there was something red in the hedge beyond. Again I waited expectantly and sure enough the word came over the mystery was solved. We had done a pincer movement on a clap-gun bird scarer, timed to go off at 30 minute intervals!!!

After a good laugh at ourselves I resumed my patrol and strange to say I subsequently saw, through my binoculars some quarter mile off two rather scruffy looking individuals crossing a field, but as I said at the beginning it was a very hot day and I decided to let well alone.

GEORGE SMITH.

SHIPLEY COUNTRY PARK - Sightings sent in By GEORGE SMITH.

2-9-84.	Pearl-bordered Fritillary)		
	Peacock butterfly	)		Fields between Manchester Wood
	Small Skipper	)		and Abbots Rough.
	Small White)		
	Meadow Brown butterfly)		
	Fringed Water Lily in flower	)		Adams Pond
22 - 9-84	Mute Swan	)	1	
	Coot	)	2	
	Gr.Crested Grebe	)	2	Mapperley Reservoir
	Mallard	)	6	
	Pochard	)	25	
	Teal	)	10	
	Kingfisher	)	1	D.N.T. Reserve
	Coot	)	4	
	Moorhen	)	3	Mapperley
	Snipe	)	2	
	Lapwing	)	250 +	
	Red-legged Partridge	)	7	Nutbrook
	Reed Bunting	)	1	
	Linnet	)	1	Bridleway

Shipley Park - Sightings

14 - 10 - 84. Pochard 65)
 Mallard 15) Mapperley
 Black h. gull 43)
 Gr. Crested Grebe 3) Reservoir.
 Coot 9)
 Honey Fungus (Armillaria melleor) South side of Mapperley Reservoir.

NORFOLK COAST - weekend 27th October 1984.

George and Joyce Smith spent a most enjoyable time birdwatching on the North Norfolk coast in the Cley and Blakeney area, with these results:-

Cley Common Scoter; Great Northern Diver; Slavonian Grebe;
 Icterine Warbler; many Redshanks; 5 Bar-tailed Godwits;
 many Dunlin; Little Ringed Plover; 4 Common Sandpipers;
 many Lapwings; 3 Grey Plover; many Canada Geese; 10 Snipe;
 5 Teal; and 4 Gadwall.
 Blakeyey Greylag geese many.
 Wells Barnacle Geese, many.
 Salthouse 30 Snow Buntings; 1 Avocet.
 Overstrand Swallow (1) and 20 House Martins.

BUTTERFLIES SEEN by ALAN W. HEATH

May 29th 1984 Common Blue Trowell Grove garden, Long Eaton
 July 1984 Comma Cavendish Bridge, Shardlow
 July 29th 1984 Common Blue)
 Gatekeeper) All in garden, Trowell Grove
 Small Heath)
 Peacock)
 August 1st Small Tortoiseshell)
 August 13th 1984 Common Blue - 12)
 Small Copper 6) Forbe's Hole, Long Eaton
 Gatekeeper 1)
 August 15th Common Blue 12 again)
 Small Copper 12) Forbe's Hole, Long Eaton
 Wall 2)
 Small Heath 1)
 (one common blue was a variety with orange marks on area of top wing)
 August 17th Brimstone - 1 On land near The Hollows, L.E.
 Common Blue - 4
 Small Heath - 4 grid. ref. 523/345.
 Gatekeeper - 1
 August 19th Small Copper Garden in Trowell Grove, Long Eaton

FLOWERS SEEN DURING BRIEF STOPS ON A COACH TOUR OF NORTH-EAST SCOTLAND

DORNOCH TO JOHN O' GROATS - 29 Sept. 1984 - 6 Oct. 1984.

Digitalis Purpurea	Foxglove
Achillea Millefolium	Yarrow (white and pink)
Juncus Effusus	Soft Rush
Potentilla Erecta	Tormentil
Eriophorum Angustifolium	Common Cottongrass
Senecio Jacobaea	Common Ragwort
Prunella Vulgaris	Self Heal (shell only)
Bellis Perennis	Daisy
Arum Maculatum	Cuckoo Pint Berries
Taraxacum Officinale	Dandelion
Euphrasia Officinalis	Eyebright
Cakile Maritima	Sea Rocket
Nentha Aquatica	Water Mint
Trifolium Pratense	Clover Red
Trifolium Repense	Clover White
Galium Verum	Bedstraw Lady's
Campanula Rotundifolia	Harebell
Oxalis Acetosella	Wood Sorrell - leaves
Epilobium Hirsutum	Willow Herb - great
Hippuris Vulgaris	Mare's Tail
Silene Vulgaris	Bladder Campion
Lotus Corniculatus	Bird's-foot Trefoil
Myosotis Scorpioides	Water Forget-me-not
Ulex Europaeus	Gorse
Urtica Dioica	Stinging Nettle
Senecio Vulgaris	Groundsel
Matricaria Matricarioides	Mayweed Pineapple
Papaver Rhoas	Poppy Common
Viola Tricolour	Pansy
Lamium Purpureum	Dead Nettle Red
Epilobium Angustifolium	Rosebay Willowherb
Silene Dioica	Red Campion
Capsella Bursa Pastoris	Shepherd's Purse
Trifolium Dubium	Lesser Trefoil
Mimulus Guttatus	Monkey Flower
Stellaria Media	Chickweed Common
Calluna Vulgaris	Heather
Erica Tetralix	Heather Cross-leaved
Cirsium Arvense	Creeping Thistle
Pentaglottis Sempervirens	Green Alkanet
Veronica Persica	Common Field Speedwell
Ranunculus Repense	Creeping Buttercup
Succisa Pratensis	Scabious Devilsbit
Symphoricarpos Rivularis	Snowberry (shrub)
<u>Fungi</u>	Fairy Ring Champignon
Marasmius Oreades	Shaggy Ink Cap
Coprinus Comatus	Fly Agaric
Amanita Muscaria	Sickener
Russala Emetica	

Reported by FAY DRAPER.

DONINGTON HALL DEER PARK - 23rd September 1984

Our Leader to visit this interesting area of old parkland and relict oak woodlands was Alan Heath. It is a closed site, being a National Nature Reserve (particularly for the oak woods and a small, rare type of money spider), and so we had to have a permit to visit, which Alan kindly arranged.

Both the fallow and the red deer were seen and admired from a distance as we had no wish to disturb them. Once up at the monument called the Ladies' Hand, we all enjoyed the far distant views right across the Trent Valley and up to the higher hills of Derbyshire in the north west. The river winding below us through the valley provided quite a rural aspect and one could see why this had been a favourite beauty spot with the land-owning family of Donington Hall in the past.

The rocks that made up the monument of the Ladies' Hand had been brought there from Gloucestershire, but that day harboured many Ladybirds and of quite a colour range. There were the 2-spot and 4-spot, in both large and small, but also some black ones with crimson spots (a reverse pattering as it were). The lighter marked Ladybirds seemed to favour the lighter parts of the rock slabs, while the darker ones were on the blacker parts of the stones. Quite a variety in all.

Unfortunately the spiders of the rare type were not seen. But a fungus on an old cast down and burnt oak tree trunk was admired. The oak trees were all reaching quite an age and provided many holes and crannies for insects and birds. So Jackdaws, Robins and Starlings were plentiful and many Mistle Thrushes were moving through. No Jays were heard or seen, which one would have expected from the rich woodland cover nearby.

An altogether very interesting afternoon's walk - thank you Alan, JML.

RIVER TRENT TOWPATH WALK - Sawley Bridge to Derwent Mouth Lock Sunday 18th Nov. 1984.

This walk up the river bank in the Shardlow direction and over the long horse bridge to the lock was led by John and Judy Langford. LENS members looked mostly for birds and noted the differences in season to the walk of late spring along the same route.

- | | | |
|--------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Mute Swan | Grey Heron | Mallard |
| Wigeon and Teal (63) | Moorhen | Coot |
| Goldfinch | Greenfinch | Reed Bunting |
| House Sparrow | Duncock | Wren |
| Robin | Pied Wagtail | Blue Tit |
| Willow Tit | Herring Gull | Black-headed Gull |
| Lesser Black-backed Gull | Greater Black-backed Gull | Little Grebe |
| Carrion Crow | Magpie | Lapwing (13) |
| Redshank | Snipe (4) | Fieldfare (36) |
| Blackbird | Collared Dove | Starling |
| Kingfisher | Tufted Duck | |

Kingfisher also seen on 19th Nov. downstream of Cranfleet Lock, R. Trent.

WHILE ON THE SUBJECT OF KINGFISHERS.....

Fay and John Blackburn.

A recent visitor, presumably lured by the sight of our well-stocked garden pool, has been a kingfisher.

At first I thought he preferred early morning visits since this coincided with our first sightings; a flash of brilliant blue flying up from the shallow end of our pool.

During a weekend gardening session I mentioned his visits to our neighbours. No. They hadn't seen him. Then, by amazing coincidence, he flew past as I spoke, heading out across and circling Barker's Pond, which borders our garden.

Excitedly we crept to a spot at the far end where he had appeared to land and there he was, perched on the branch of an overhanging willow, proudly displaying his exquisite plumage.

I have seen him on a number of occasions since, much to the worry of my son and daughter, who had felt concerned for the safety of the goldfish. But an even greater threat could be lurking to pounce. A heron has been a frequent visitor to Barker's Pond this week.

We spent our summer holidays this year touring Wales in an area from the Ruabon Mountains to the Brecon Beacons. Skirting Lake Vyrnwy one evening a tawny owl flew straight across our path. I saw him land in a nearby tree just off the road as we stopped the car, but as I opened the door I almost stepped out on to a red grouse muddled in some long grass on the verge. It took off in fright but the owl obligingly stayed on his perch for several minutes no more than 15 feet away so that we were able to observe him in detail before he finally stole away into the dusk.

On another occasion, following a remote minor road high in the Berwyn Mountains we spotted a partridge with six young right at the side of the track, evidence that only few cars used the route.

Many of the birds we saw were "firsts" for us, including the redstart, wheatear, rock pipit, goldcrest and firecrest, but we failed to see the famous red kite that George Smith had told us could be found in the Brecon Beacons. We climbed some of the highest hills in the Beacons, but, in spite of John thinking that every soaring bird would be "it", we were not to be fortunate on this occasion. Hopefully, next time we shall have more luck.

Finally, I should like to thank L.E.N.S. members for the knowledge they have imparted which has enabled us to more readily identify species we would not previously have recognised, enabling us to gain so much additional enjoyment from our outings.

Nov. 1984.

BREASTON GOLDEN BROOK STORAGE LAGOON RESERVE

FRED ELLIS.

Fred Ellis in 2 visits to the reserve saw on June 17th 1984 27 specimens of the Southern Marsh Orchid; 1 Shoveller Duck. On the later visit on the 8th July there were 12 Southern Marsh Orchids out, with Yellow Flag, flowering Reed Mace, 1 White Foxglove, and possibly Marsh Bedstraw. Birds were Lapwing and a Kingfisher.

LOCK LANE ASH TIP - SAWLEY

Visit by Marion Smith on 19th August 1984

<u>Butterflies</u>	Common Blue Veined White Tortoiseshell	Gatekeeper Small White	Wall Brown Large White
<u>Dragonflies</u> at pool.	Common blue Damselfly, Red Ishnura M and F. Brown Aeshna (Common Sympetrum) Smaller size orange brown dragonfly.		
<u>Plants</u>	Vipers Bugloss Mignonette Nodding Thistle Scentless Mayweed Teasel	Evening Primrose Large mullard Weld Short-headed field poppy Hemp Agrimony	Soapwort Ragwort Cinquefoil Pineapple Weed

RIVER TRENT - TRENT LOCK AREA

Black agrion	Purple Loosestrife	Great Reed Mace
Water Plantain		

EREWASH CANAL

2 mute swans with 4 cignets (large) and 4 mallards and 1 Aylesbury Duck
Moorhen and chicks.

Believed to be Emperor Dragonflies - numerous large darter, blue with
black stripes.

Black caddis flies - numerous.

BUTTERFLIES - Jean Jones

August 5, 6th 7th & 8th. Abundance of Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell
butterflies on buddleia in Myrtle Avenue garden, Long Eaton.

Sept. 14th One Peacock and many small tortoiseshell butterflies in
same garden.

Sept. 29th Just 2 Small Tortoiseshell butterflies there.

BUTTERFLIES - Michael D. Morris of Breaston

Sept. 26th 84. Three Comma Butterflies in a garden at Draycott.
A very rich chestnut colour with a jagged edge to wings.

xx omission

August 8th 84. One Small Copper butterfly on grass strip of old Derby
Canal to north of Breaston village.

John & Judy Langford

August 1st 84 Red Admirals and Small Tortoiseshell butterflies on buddleia
bushes in Breedon Street garden, Long Eaton.

Cabbage whites frequent through July and August, too.

BIRD SIGHTINGS for the period summer 84 to December 84.

- Fred Ellis -

Contributed by: June Crosby - Hilary Barber - Jean Jones - Michael Morris -
Marion Smith - and John and Judy Langford.

- MUTE SWAN - 1 pair with 4 cygnets from 8th August on Erewash Canal/Tamworth Road bridge section, seen regularly until 24th October only 3 cygnets noted.
- GREY HERON - 19 Sept. 1 following course of stream to north of Breaston; 1 over Mount Street, Breaston heading for Golden Brook Lagoon on 21st October; 1 early morning on 1st December flying over William Str/Breedon Str areas of Long Eaton and almost daily for 3 weeks - investigating garden ponds?
- LITTLE GREBE - 1 on R. Erewash by metal bridge over to Toton Yard on Nov. 12th and a pair on 31st December.
- KINGFISHER - 1 Erewash Canal/Tamworth Rd area on 28th Sept.; 1 Golden Brook Lagoon, Breaston 25th October; 1 Cranfleet Lock area on 19th Nov. and 8th Dec.; 1 on R. Erewash by metal bridge over to Toton Yard on 7th Dec. (per Paul Weater); 1 at Breaston Lagoon on 5th Dec 1984.
- TAWNY OWL - 1 heard at Long Eaton Green on evening of 17th October and also Marlborough Road area same evening, pres. same bird.
- BARN OWL - 1 hunting ozier beds Toton Barn Hump before dawn 7th December (0600 hrs). Observed by John Woolley who told JRL bird passed 2 yds. from him, very large lightest grey owl. Had often heard a "screech owl" from home in Newbark Avenue.
- KESTREL - 1 Trent Floods on 25th Sept.
- SPARROWHAWK - Twice in month (22nd Oct was 2nd date) a sparrowhawk seen over Breedon Street, 8.30 am and being mobbed by a mob of 80 / 100 starlings. They grouped and swirled above it so it could not escape upwards and drove it away.
- COMMON TERN - 1 patrolling R. Trent at Sawley Bridge on 22nd July; 8 over Blue Circle Pits, Sawley on 25th August.
- SPOTTED FLYCATCHER - 1 seen in Hilary's garden, Aston-upon-Trent on 10th June and 17th August.
- GOLDCREST - 2 (1 very vocal) in pines of garden on Parkside, L.E., called The Croft on 21st October and 8th November.
- WREN - 1 seen singing on wall by way into Parklands, Stanhope Street, on 13th November.
- Corn BUNTING - Singing through the summer area of old Derby Canal north of Breaston, seen 9th July.
- GOLDFINCH - 6 on 12th Sept. and 2 on 2nd October on thistles by bridge Tamworth Road/Erewash Canal. 2 at Chetwynd Road Chilwell on 28th Sept.
- LINNET - 1 in garden Myrtle Avenue on 20th & 21st July.
- CHAFFINCH - 1 in garden Breedon Street Oct 30th & 31st; 2M and 1F feeding on beechmast at The Hall, Long Eaton on 20th November.
- GREAT TIT - 1 on 31st December, garden Breedon Street,
- LESSER REDPOLLS - 3 on 21st August in gardens Poplar Road, Breaston (1 looked a young one); and 12 on 14th October as a small flock in fields north of Draycott.

continued.....

- MARSH TIT - on 2nd September 1984 tripping from hedge to hedgerow off Hopwell Lane, north of Draycott. Harsh nasal call.
- WHINCHATS - 4 perched on tall grasses and weeds on edge of a potato field alongside Old Lorty Canal, north of Breaston on 2nd September.
- SWIFTS - 4 north of Breaston in Wisley Lane area and 1 Hopwell Lane north of Draycott on 2nd Sept. later; late departing migrants.
- GREY WAGTAIL - 1 on 23rd September by side of Cranfleet Canal.
- GOLDEN PLOVERS - 19 on 7th October in fields north of Breaston and Draycott.
- MISTLE THRUSH - 1 on 18th November edge of West Park / Parkside.

December 1984. Mrs. Judy Langford, Recorder for L E N S.

Entries for next issue required to be in by Monday, 4th March 1985.
