

LENS BULLETIN

No. 11

Issued for Members and Friends of the

LONG EATON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

SPRING 1985

CHAIRMAN : George Smith

SECRETARY : Val Nourish (Meetings Secrs.)

Marion Smith

TREASURER : Margaret Beresford

GOING TO PRESS DATE FOR BULLETIN No. 12

Monday, 10th June 1985

## CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

I have great pleasure in commending Bulletin No. 11 to you. As most will know this is the first Bulletin edited by Mrs. Fay Blackburn and we are all most grateful to her for undertaking this work despite her many commitments. I must also pay tribute to Mrs. Judy Langford for her past services. Happily Judy will continue as our Recorder and will liaise with Fay over items to be included in the Bulletin.

At the time of writing we are approaching the end of the winter meetings 1984/85 and I feel they have been the most successful yet, certainly the best attended, with many new members joining us. What a range they covered - from a whale factory in Iceland to the Taj Mahal!! Although the choice of speakers is arranged in committee, Val Nourish has done a splendid job in arranging the programme.

Val's Summer Programme looks very promising and it is hoped as many as possible will attend.

As I have written (and said) many times in the past, these Bulletins are only as good as the contributions coming in. So please let Judy have details of your sightings and Fay any articles or notes or indeed poems (I see we have a very welcome one in this Bulletin) you feel would be of interest.

Finally your committee will soon be thinking of speakers for next winter, so if you have any ideas please let any committee member know.

George Smith

P.S. A date for your diary. The first Indoor Meeting for 1985/86 will be Monday, 30th September 1985.

The regular sighting of a Redwing throughout January feeding on a cotoneaster bush and the visit by a mini-flock to the same bush on 10-12th February, prompted Norah Knight to write the following:-

The Advent of the Redwings

I have a cotoneaster bush in the garden. It usually berries well but this year it has been absolutely dripping with berries. The birds do not usually attack it seriously until after Christmas then it becomes a popular feeding place for blackbirds and thrushes.

On Boxing Day two winters ago a mini-flock of redwings descended upon it and in less than an hour they had stripped it of fruit. I kept a look-out for them in the winter of 1983-4 but either they did not come or I missed them. In January of this year one solitary redwing paid frequent visits to the bush. I looked out daily to see whether it would be joined by others and on February 10th I was rewarded. It was a white world, the time when this part of the country had its heaviest snowfall of the winter. Imagine my delight to see as many as ten redwings at a time either feeding or just sitting in the bush, their feathers all puffed up. They looked so pretty on the snow-covered branches.

They made quick work of the most easily accessible berries, then they balanced on the long, slender branches which bowed and swayed with their weight. This exercise caused a large number of the berries to fall to the ground. The birds persevered until not a single berry was left on the bush, then they descended to the snow-covered ground and completely cleared that of berries. It took ~~three~~ days to complete the exercise.

I am not quite sure whether I hope that this advent of the redwings will be an annual one. It is lovely to see them but I am rather sorry for the local blackbirds and thrushes who are suddenly deprived of food.

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BARKER'S POND (Off Wyvern Avenue)

Confirming Spring's arrival was the sight of mating pairs of coots and moorhens.

More noteworthy was a pair of mallards first heard early March. Normally these birds are bed and breakfast overnight visitors only since lack of extensive reed bed cover seems to discourage nesting, but, unusually this pair have taken up more permanent residence and still happily dabbling for food on 9th April.

Occasional visitors have been a pair of young mute swans resting up between forays along the nearby canal.

Along the bank of the pond adjacent to our garden the solitary bees have returned in considerable numbers and many were observed burrowing into the soil. Last year so many were nesting in the bank that there seemed some danger of erosion, so we are watching developments.

Our garden pool hosted its first frogs on 21st March and they were quickly mating. Frog spawn appeared within the week by which time over sixty frogs were resident in the pool. The majority have now left, presumably having

hopped their way back the few yards to Barker's Pond.

The first pond skaters were noticed on 5th April and a crested newt was observed in the pool on 9th April.

No sign yet of last year's silver rudd which in the Autumn totalled more than thirty. Perhaps our visiting kingfisher was luckier than we imagined and stocked his larder ready for the hard winter.

Fay & John Blackburn

MY FAMILY

My girls have grown and spread their wings  
All except for Catherine, who's fond of feathered things

There's a Mallard in the bedroom  
And a Seagull in the bath  
There's a Sparrow in the cupboard,  
It's enough to make you laugh

There's a Moorhen in the boxroom  
And an Aylesbury on the path  
There's a Blackbird in the chest of drawers,  
Doesn't it make you laugh!

There's a Cuckoo in the cloakroom  
And a Starling on the door,  
While a Greenfinch on the landing  
Plays with pigeons on the floor.

There's a Kestrel on the plate-rack,  
I hope he doesn't fall,  
Though the Tawny in the kitchen  
Is the biggest laugh of all!

But the Magpie on the staircase  
And the Jackdaw in the hall  
Are telling you quite plainly  
That I'm going up the wall!

Kitty Harrison  
Risley

Kitty has agreed we include a visit to her aviaries (sanctuaries for injured birds), which at present includes a Tufted Duck, Little Owl, Moorhens, Crows, Magpies etc. on the day we visit Dennis Carlisle's Alpine Garden, Monday, 10th June.

WEATHER SUMMARY 1984

Recorded by Alan Heath at 136 Trowell Grove, Long Eaton

PREVAILING WIND	- WEST
LEAST WIND	- EAST and SOUTH-EAST
WARMEST DAY	- 8th July 91° F
COLDEST DAY	- 21st and 25th Jan 25° F
WETTEST DAY	- 2nd August with over an inch of rain in an hour
WETTEST MONTH	- AUGUST
DRIEST MONTH	- APRIL
DAYS WITH OVER AN INCH OF RAIN	- 2 (24 March and 2 August)
TOTAL THUNDERSTORMS	- 5
TOTAL RAIN	- 27.23 inches
AVERAGE RAIN PER WEEK	- 0.52 inches
TOTAL DRY DAYS PLUS NIGHTS	- 488
TOTAL WET DAYS PLUS NIGHTS	- 244
TOTAL SNOW (level snow)	- 4 $\frac{3}{4}$ inches
DAYS WITH NEW SNOW ON GROUND	- 4
TOTAL FOG (as distinct from morning mist)	- 9
FOG ALL DAY	- 2 (15 Feb and 11 Dec)
BAROMETER MAXIMUM	- 31.00 8th March
BAROMETER MINIMUM	- 28.85 23rd January
GALES	- 2 (West gale 13th Jan and Northwest gale 8th Feb)
AVERAGE MAXIMUM TEMPERATURE	- 70.75
AVERAGE MINIMUM TEMPERATURE	- 34.25
NUMBER OF DAYS WITH TEMPERATURE OVER 80°	- 22 mainly in July and August
DAYS WITH TEMPERATURE OVER 90°	- 8th July only

NOTES - The heaviest individual rainfall since my records began in 1960 occurred on 2nd August with over an inch of rain in an hour causing flash floods.

The pattern of two dry days to every wet day has continued with 66.6% of the days being without rain.

JAN	A wet month. Very windy from 11 to 17 including a West Gale on 13th. Some snow with rain early in month but snow from 22 to 26. New snow on ground on four days. Coldest day of year on 21st. Lowest Barometer of year on 23rd.
FEB	Very wet first week. River Trent in flood, especially 7, 8 and 9th. Gale on 9th. Fog 13, 14 and 15th. Cloudy with some sleet in last week.
MAR	A mixed month. Very windy on 2nd. Notable absence of west and south-west winds. Inch of rain in 24 hours on 24th. Rather wet in second and last week. Highest barometer reading for the year on the 8th.
APR	Driest month of year. No rain after the 18th. Barometer was 30.0 or above on all but one day. Third week fine and warm.
MAY	First part of month mainly dry but more rain in second half. Month dominated by North or North-east winds. Notable absence of South-west winds.

JUN Wet first week. Rest of month mainly dry except for a thunderstorm on the 20th. Very warm third week.  
 JUL Dry month with a little rain mid-month and at the end. Seven days with temperature over 80 and one day over 90. Highest temperature of the year on the 8th.  
 AUG A mainly dry and warm month. There was rain in first week which was very heavy on the 2nd. There was 1.93 in of rain in 24 hours and over an inch of that fell in just one hour. Flash floods. Despite the large number of dry days, August has been the wettest month of the year in rain total.  
 SEP A wet month but a fair amount of sunshine on some days.  
 OCT A mixed month which was rather wetter in second half. Quite windy at times.  
 NOV A wet month and windy in last week.  
 DEC Quite a number of wet days but rain quantity not high. Fog all day on the 11th. Not a cold month.

Alan has also furnished us with a 25 year summary - 1960 to 1984 some of the points of which I have listed below, (it may help us to choose when to go on holiday!) if you are interested in a full report, details are available at Long Eaton Library.

MONTH IN WHICH HIGHEST TEMPERATURE OCCURED MOST FREQUENTLY	- July
" " " LOWEST	- January
AVERAGE RAINFALL PER YEAR	- 24.546 ins
AVERAGE RAINFALL PER WEEK	- 0.472 ins
WETTEST YEAR	- 1982 with almost 33 ins
DRIEST YEAR	- 1976 with 17.25 ins
WETTEST MONTH OF THE PERIOD	- 22 June 1982 with over 2ins, this closely followed by 16.6.78 and 2.8.84 both just under 2 ins.
DRIEST MONTH OF THE PERIOD	- June 1975 (0.21 inches) closely followed by July 1982 (0.30)
MONTH IN WHICH THUNDERSTORMS OCCURED MOST FREQUENTLY	- May - 35, August - 34
MONTH SHOWING THE GREATEST NUMER OF DRY DAYS AND NIGHTS	- MAY
MONTH SHOWING LEAST NUMBER OF DRY DAYS AND NIGHTS	- NOVEMBER
GREATEST SNOWFALL	- 1979 with 20.75 ins
LEAST SNOWFALL	- None recorded in 1962 and 1974
MONTH SHOWING GREATEST SNOWFALL FOR THE PERIOD	- January
MONTH IN WHICH GALES OCCURED MOST FREQUENTLY	- January

The only 'White Christmas' was in 1970. There was snow on Boxing Day in 1962 and after dark on Boxing Day 1964. Snow fell on Christmas Eve in 1966 and 1968.

A small earth tremor affected the area at 7.57 a.m. on 19th July 1984.

For reports or late inclusions in the Bulletins I can be contacted at  
 30 Quarndon Crescent, Long Eaton. Tel: 732710. Fay Blackburn

AND NOW TO MEMBERS' RECORDS - BIRDS, ANIMAL, FLOWERS & BUTTERFLIES

1984 - 85.

Thanks go to contributors this time : BIRDS - Margaret Beresford;  
 Fay Blackburn; Mr & Mrs R.A. Carter;  
 Alan Heath; Ray Lee; Mr R. Seamark;  
ANIMALS : Ray Lee Joy & George Smith; John & Judy Langford.  
FLOWERS : Fay Draper BUTTERFLIES : Margaret Beresford & Fay Draper.

Note - M Field, Sawley is land exactly opposite Marshall's Cement, Sawley and bounded by the M.L. road banking.

- LITTLE GREBE - 6 on R. Trent / Trent Floods on 19th Febr. 85.  
 GREAT CRESTED GREBE - 14 on Trent Floods / R. Trent on 19th Febr.  
 GREY HERON - 1 flying to SSW over Erewash Canal north of Derby Road 3rd Febr.;  
 2 on 30 Jan & 8 on 9th Febr. at Derwent Mouth; 1 between Trent Lk  
 & Sawley Bridge 19th Febr.; visited reg. the M. Field, Sawley  
 Nov - March 85; 1 over Sawley Bridge flying upstream 19th March.  
 MUTE SWAN - 7 swans visited twice between Nov-March to M. Field, Sawley.  
 MALLARD - reg. winter visitor on M. Field, Sawley; 2 on R. Trent/Trent  
 Floods on 19th Febr.; and 1 pair reg. at Barkers' Pond March.  
 TEAL - 15 on 30 Nov at Elvaston Quarry / Wilne Lane; 7 on 30th Jan at  
 Derwent Mouth.  
 WIGEON - 40 at Derwent Mouth on 30th Jan & 150 on 9th Febr. c.200 on  
 Trent Floods 19th February.  
 PINTAIL - 7 Pintail at Derwent Mouth on 9th Febr.  
 POCHARD - winter visitors in M. Field, Sawley Nov - March.  
 TUFTED DUCK - seen reg. on M. Field, Sawley Nov - March; 1 M on Erewash Canal  
 behind Grammar Sch, L.E. on 22nd Jan; 8 at Derwent Mouth,  
 R. Trent on 30th Jan; 9 on R. Trent from Trent Lock to Sawley  
 Bridge 19th Febr. 85.  
 GOLDENEYE - Trent Floods 2 on 19th Febr.  
 SPARROWHAWK - 1 over land down Netherfield Lane, Sawley on 27th Dec. 84;  
 1 Lock Lane Ash Tip, Sawley on 19th Febr; seen reg. at  
 Field M., Sawley Nov - March 85.  
 KESTREL - 2 at Elvaston Quarry / Wilne Lane 30th Nov. 84; seen reg. over  
 M. Field, Sawley winter months.  
 RED-LEGGED PARTRIDGE - 9 in garden at Stanton-by-Dale 15th Jan 85; reg. seen  
 Nov - March at M. Field, Sawley; 11 at Wilne Lane / Elvaston  
 Quarry on 30th Nov. 84.  
 PHEASANT - 3 at Elvaston Quarry on 30th Nov.; seen reg. at M. Field Sawley  
 from Nov. to March 85.  
 MOORHEN - resident at M. Field, Sawley over winter.  
 COOT - seen reg. at M. Field, Sawley Nov - March 85; 30 & then approx 80 seen  
 at Derwent Mouth on 30th Jan & 9th Febr. 85.  
 GOLDEN PLOVER - 1 on 30th Nov; & 30 on 12th Dec at Elvaston Quarry;  
 c.100 off Netherfield Lane, Sawley on 27th Dec. 84.  
 LAPWING - approx 100 on 30th Nov; 300 on 12th Dec. 84; & 70 on 24th Febr.  
 at Elvaston Quarry / Wilne Lane. Seen with golden plovers on  
 27th Dec. on land down Netherfield Lane, Sawley.  
 REDSHANK - 2 on 24th February at Elvaston Quarry / Wilne Lane.  
 CURLEW - 1 in fields Trent Floods, north of Warren Lane - later heard calling  
 as it flew off up R. Trent passing on Westwards 19th March 1985.  
 WOODCOCK - winter visitor to Field M. Sawley.  
 SNIPE - also reg. seen Nov - March at Field M, Sawley; 3 on 12th Dec &  
 15 on 24th Febr. at Elvaston Quarry / Wilne Lane; & 1 on Trent  
 Floods on 19th February.

- BLACK-HEADED GULL - 1 has lately taken up habit of sitting on north chimney pot of 114 Breedon Str - warming its toes? 4 & 27 Febr. & 8th March.
- COLLARED DOVE - reg. visiting gardens at Risley and Stanton-by-Dale, Febr.
- SHORT-EARED OWL - 1 flew across Derby Rd, L.E. 6 pm on 17th Jan from Trent College grounds at end of Curzon Str, then watched in a tree for 20 mins.
- KINGFISHER - 1 on 30th Nov. & 12th December Elvaston Quarry; 2 R. Erewash downstream of metal bridge & path to Toton Sidings last week of Jan; 2 on Trent Floods / R. Trent on 19th Febr.
- WRYNECK - 1 visiting garden pond on passage May 19th 1984, Stanton-by-Dale. Lucky sighting of a rare bird.
- GREAT SPOTTED WOODPECKER - 1 at Toton Sidings 10 Jan; 1 M on 21 Jan and 1 F on 24th Jan in garden at Stanton-by-Dale.
- LESSER SPOTTED WOODPECKER - 1 on large pear tree Breedon Str garden in snow on 8th Febr. 85.
- MEADOW PIPIT - reg. at Field M., Sawley Nov - Mar 85.
- GREY WAGTAIL - winter visitor at Field M., Sawley.
- WREN - 1 in Library gardens 25th Jan; 1 in Breedon Str garden 27 Jan & March 14th & 15th. 1 in garden at Willow Bridge, Risley all Febr. Wren on nest building forays at garden by Barkers' Pond, Quorndon Crescent on 24th March.
- DUNNOCK - regularly seen in gardens at Risley and Breedon Str, L.E.
- BLACKCAP - 1 M with 1 F hawking for early mosquitoes from top of old Bramley tree in garden, Breedon Str on 3rd March 85.
- GOLDCREST - 2 nested in a blue spruce in garden, Stanton-by-Dale May/June 84.
- ROBIN - reg. garden visitor at Risley; but not seen since 3rd Febr at garden in Breedon Street, breeding elsewhere.
- FIELDFARE - many off Netherfield Lane, Swley on 27th Dec 84; on M. Field at Sawley on 9th Febr.; 2 on 4th March, 4 or 5 on 19th March in field near gate to Derby M. Boat Club, Sawley Marina, off Warren Lane.
- REDWING - 5 or 6 in garden Upper Wellington Street in cold spell mid-Jan to mid-Febr.; visiting food in garden Stanton-by-Dale Jan 85; 1 Redwing in snow in garden of 39 Breedon Str in Jan & 3 there on Febr. 8th; 1 on 22nd, 23rd, 25th & 28th Jan in another Breedon Str garden; and 1 in West Park on 4th March.
- MISTLE THRUSH - February visitor to garden of Willow Bridge, Risley; 1 pair Dovedale Avenue, L.E. on 19th March 85.
- MARSH / WILLOW TIT ) and also at  
COAL TIT ) present at food ) garden of Willow Bridge,  
BLUE TIT ) given in garden at ) Risley in bad weather  
GREAT TIT ) Stanton-by-Dale Jan/Febr 85. ) Febr. 85.
- NUTHATCH - 1 in garden at Willow Bridge, Risley in hard weather Feb. 85
- YELLOWHAMMER - in hedges of Long Lane, near Kegworth on 19th March flocking with chaffinches.
- CHAFFINCH - coming to food in Jan & Feb in gardens in Risley, Stanton-by-Dale, & Breedon Str, L.E. Flocking with yellowhammers in hedgerows of Long Lane near Kegworth on 19th March.
- GREENFINCH - some people have noticed fewer greenfinches; but present in gardens in Risley, Stanton-by-Dale & Breedon Str in Jan/Febr.
- GOLDFINCH - May 84 a pair nested in garden apple tree Stanton-by-Dale; 3 or 4 in West Park on 19th March 85.
- REDPOLL - 1 M feeding on birch tree seeds on 11 March was quite tame as only 4 ft from observer - Breedon Street garden. 1 in Fox Covert, West Park 25th March.
- BULLFINCH - 1 F in hawthorns Toton Sidings 10th Jan; 4 Erewash Canal near footbridge to West Park 22nd Jan; in garden Willow Bridge Risley Febr. 85.



TREE SPARROW - in snowy weather in garden at Stanton-by-Dale Jan. 85.  
 MAGPIE - in hard weather Jan-Febr. visiting gardens at Risley and Stanton-by-Dale; also early morning visit to Breedon Str garden on 20th March - was that a nest-seeking foray?

FOX seen regularly near earth on M.1. embankment near Marshall's Cement, Sawley.  
 Winter 1984/5.

FLOWERS	7 Febr. 85	Coltsfoot	On waste ground Stanhope Str, L.E.
	7 Febr.	Primrose	Garden, Granville Ave, L.E.
	20 Febr.	Snowdrops	Library Grounds, L.E.
	20 Febr.	Winter Aconite	Library Grounds
	5 March	Chickweed	Garden, Curzon Str, L.E.
	5 March	Common Speedwell	Garden, Curzon Str, L.E.

#### BUTTERFLIES

1 Oct. 84	2 Red Admiral	)	
	1 Comma	)	garden of 39 Breedon Street
	several Tortoiseshell	)	
10 Oct. 84	1 Brimstone B'fly	)	ditto, sunny day, hovering over hydrangea
6 March 85	1 Tortoiseshell	)	Garden, Bennett Street, L.E.

#### TOTON WATERMEADOWS AND TOTON SIDINGS

TONY MAGGS.

You may be unaware of this interesting area of land. It is only one mile long and about 250 yards wide, yet it has a river, a canal, gravel pit, ponds, brooks and marshland. It has a variety of trees and shrubs which attract many different species of birds and wildlife.

Hawthorn is the most common of trees lining the River Erewash most of the way down; this forms a natural 'river' avenue, there are also many dense areas of Hawthorn growing around the Brooks and Marsh.

So how do you get to it you may be asking? Well there are just three places where you can enter and if you look at the map at the end you will see access points A, B and C. Point A is probably the best because it is the most central for any direction and car parking is available at the side streets nearby. Point B is the most northern point, car parking is limited and you will have to walk down the canal towards point A, unless you are prepared to clamber up the A.52 embankment and over the river and back down again. Point C is the most southern point and access is by foot only via Midland Street in Long Eaton.

If you look at the map, the dotted lines are recommended routes for you to follow, but the only official footpath is the canal tow path; the remainder are on British Waterways property and British Rail property. They do not object to anyone walking along these routes.

A list of some of the birds that have been seen around this area of land may here prove of use.

continued.....

Crow...  
 Common Sandpiper  
 Collared Dove  
 Cuckoo  
 Dunnock  
 Fieldfare  
 Bullfinch  
 Chaffinch  
 Goldfinch  
 Greenfinch  
 Goldcrest  
 Black-headed Gull  
 Lesser Black-backed Gull  
 Herring Gull  
 Heron  
 Jackdaw  
 Kestrel  
 Kingfisher  
 Linnet  
 Lapwing  
 Little Grebe

Mute Swan  
 Magpie  
 House Martin  
 Sand Martin  
 Meadow Pipit  
 Moorhen  
 Mistle Thrush  
 Mallard  
 Osprey  
 Tawny Owl  
 Partridge  
 Pheasant  
 Feral Pigeon  
 Reed Bunting  
 Redpoll  
 Robin  
 Rook  
 Redwing  
 Redshank  
 House Sparrow  
 Hedge Sparrow

Sparrow Hawk  
 Song Thrush  
 Starling  
 Skylark  
 Swift  
 Swallow  
 Spotted Flycatcher  
 Snipe  
 Jack Snipe  
 Blue Tit  
 Great Tit  
 Long Tailed Tit  
 Willow Tit  
 Wren  
 Wheatear  
 Willow Warbler  
 Grey Wagtail  
 Pied Wagtail  
 Yellow Wagtail  
 Woodpigeon  
 Green Woodpecker  
 Greater Spotted Woodpecker  
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker  
 Yellowhammer

This list has been compiled with the help of  
 John and Judy Langford. I hope you can find time to wander round and  
 see for yourself what is right on our doorstep.

TONY MAGGS.

GOING TO PRESS DATE FOR BULLETIN no. 12.

will be Monday, 10th June 1985

All articles and topics of interest to be handed to

Mrs. Fay Blackburn. Records of sightings to be handed to

Mrs. Judy Langford, Recorder, by June 10th. Many Thanks.