

L E N S B U L L E T I N

No.26

Issued for Members and Friends of the

LONG EATON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

AUTUMN 1992

CHAIRMAN	:	ALAN HEATH
SECRETARY	:	MARION SMITH
MEETINGS SECRETARY	:	JUDY AND JOHN LANDFORD
TREASURER	:	NORAH KNIGHT



CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

As you may be aware there has been a problem with the availability of premises. Confirmation of a room would only be made if an evening class failed. In view of the uncertainty of this I discussed the problem with LENS committee, we felt it necessary to find an alternative venue. For the coming winter programme we shall use the Moorlands Club, we have also applied to the Community Education Council (CEC) for a room for next winter. There is no guarantee that one will be allocated to us, but we can hope!

We hope that the Moorlands Club venue will be acceptable. Other alternatives were considered but had to be rejected for various reasons.

Our summer programme proved a success again. The outing to Grindleford proved a double success when a Chequered Skipper was recorded (and photographed), this is quite a rarity.

On a recent visit to Forbes Hole, I was able to record and photograph a Ruddy Darter Dragonfly which, according to the booklet 'Derbyshire Dragonflies' by Roderick Dunn, is a rarity too.

Finally, I thank all who attended the Erewash Museum event which was a success despite the awful weather. We have had letters of thanks from Groundwork Trust for the support we have given to their events.

Alan Heath

Our first article is a write up by Alan Heath on the talk given by Norman Lewis on 'The Work of the Notts Wildlife Trust'.

Members were reminded that it was an evening class on birds by Norman that led to the formation of LENS and of the debt of gratitude to him for his continued support.

Norman is the Conservation Officer for Nottinghamshire and has held this post for some 20 years. He spoke of the many projects undertaken during this time with particular emphasis on the wetlands, heathland, water supplies and also the nature reserve set up for the Skylark Holidays for the Disabled, where activities can be undertaken by people with a variety of handicaps.

Only 7% of the county is now woodland but a big project is underway to develop Sherwood Forest.

Many nature reserves had been created and the strategies were described such as making steep banks for kingfishers and sand martins. Such factors as the high temperature of sand, which can reach 50°C on a summers day, have to be considered when planting and suitable protection provided.

We were surprised to learn that seals can be seen coming up the Trent as far as Gainsborough, but mention was made of the decline of the water vole at Attenborough and the Erewash Canal, this may be due to the increase in herons.

The importance of fungi in the decomposition of acid soils was stressed

The serious effects of lack of water on some of Nottinghamshire's rarer species was emphasised in this 'Water for Wildlife Year'.

On a visit to Risley Glebe on 31st March, Alan Heath photographed the CORYDALIS SOLIDA in flower but could not find any Corydalis cava. COLTSFOOT was found on Risley Lane just by the A52 bridge which passes over the road.

On 12th April, 16 LENS members visited ELVASTON CASTLE, leader was Ranger Andrew Laxton, who led a conducted tour of the English Garden and the Nature Reserve.

40 species of bird were seen the most notable being: Jay, Nuthatch(H) Tree Creeper, Goldcrest, Blackcap(H) Green Woodpecker, Bullfinch Longtailed Tit, Skylark, Reed Bunting, Swallow, Kestrel and Lapwing.

Butterflies: Holly Blue, Peacock, Comma, Brimstone, Small Tortoiseshell Small White.

Mammals: Grey Squirrel, Weasel

Samples taken from the two ponds in the nature reserve revealed:- Rectifer sp., Euglens, Elothrix, cyclops, chaetophera, diatoms were most dominant, most of which were Navilcula sp., Simocephalus, Cypris.

-----0000000000-----

On 6th April a talk was given by A. Astill on 'River Pollution'.

The very first Pollution Act was in 1876 but it was not until 1963 that prevention of discharge into underground strata came into force. The NATIONAL RIVER AUTHORITY has 10 regions one of which is Severn Trent. Pollution complaints run at around 4,000 a year and some 60,000 samples are taken each year. Physical factors are considered for instance, colour, smell, temperature, fungus growth as well as chemical tests such as pH (acidity and alkalinity) and dissolved oxygen.

Organisms are good indicators of pollution as some are more sensitive than others. The order of disappearance in polluted water is, first stoneflies, followed by mayflies, caddis larvae, Gammarus (freshwater shrimps), Ascellus, chironomids and worms. If mayfly larvae are present the water is quite good but if only chironomids and worms are present then it is bad.

There is natural pollution as well as man-made, i.e. leaves falling from trees into water which decompose. Iron oxides occur naturally and iron bacteria causes the water to have an oil like appearance.

Reference was made to the dangers of silage and sheep dips. Excess algae can occur due to the presence of nitrates from farm run-offs and more oxygen if used than is produced, hence the oxygen is seriously reduced. Algae also holds up the flow of water and aids silting up.

Alan Heath

-----0000000000-----

On the morning of 25th April, LENS members along with Erewash Gr. Work Trust visited the Fox Covert in Long Eaton. The event had been advertised as a bird watch but as John Langford was not available Gary Wain of E.G.T. substituted. Marion Smith came along to identify the spring flowers. It was a good meeting and the weather held. Birds seen: Great Tit, Wren, Wood Pigeon, Sparrowhawk. Sample from water: Daphnia (abundant), Cyclops (rare), Diaptomus (very rare), Arcellus (very rare).

Flowers and Insects seen at Fox Covert.

FLOWERS

INSECTS

- Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*)
- Cowslip (*Primula veris*)
- Wood avens
- Three-veined Sandwort (*Moehringia trinervia*)
- Honesty
- Ground Ivy (*Glechoma hederacea*)
- Broad-leaved Dock (*Rumex obtusifolius*)
- Common Sorrell (*Rumex acetosa*)
- Chickweed (*Stellaria media*)
- Narrow leaved Plantain
- Shepherd's Purse (*Capsella bursa-pastoris*)
- Garlic Mustard (*Alliaria petiolata*)
- Blackthorn (*Prunus spinosa*)
- Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*)
- Meadow Foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*)
- Goat Willow
- Lesser Cellandine (*Ranunculus ficaria*)
- Lady Smock (*Cardamine pratensis*)
- Cow Parsley (*Anthriscus sylvestris*)
- Catear (*Hypochaeris radicata*)
- Ox-eye (*Chrysanthemum leucanthemum*)
- Gerze (*Ulex europaeus*)
- Osier (*Salix viminalis*)
- Ransoms (*Allium ursinum*)
- White Deadnettle (*Lamium album*)
- Red Deadnettle (*Lamium purpureum*)
- Stinging Nettle (*Urtica dioica*)

Blushing Bracket

Salmon coloured Slime Mould (not identified)

Alan Heath

-----000000000000-----

A morning visit to Bunny Wood was made on Saturday 2nd May, leaders were Nellie and Russell Leaton. Seventeen species of bird were seen, including, chiffchaff, bullfinch, pheasant, skylark, woodpecker(H Yellowhammer. Male and female orange tip butterflies were seen. Fungus: Dryads Saddle, Horseshoe fungus, Russet Anvil?, Jew's Ear. Flowers etc: Field Maple, hawthorne, wild rhubarb, wild apple, giant hogweed, chickweed, black bryony, red deadnettle, bluebell, pink campion, stitchwort(greater & lesser), cellandine, herb robert, hevers, dandelion, white deadnettle, dogs mercury, cow parsley, lord and ladies, violet, wood anemone, primrose, knapweed, germander speedwell, self heal, buttercup, spear thistle, dock, hedge mustard, dog rose, white bell.

John Blackburn

-----000000000000-----

There was a joint visit to Risley Glebe on 6th June with LENS members and Erewash Groundwork Trust. Previous weather had been - fair amount of rain with thunderstorms, but the day was fine, sunny and warm. Butterflies: Orange Tip, Skipper, Red Admiral, Birds: Blackcap Moths: Silverground Carpet, Chimneysweep, Garden Tiger(caterpillar) Amphibians: Smooth Newts, Common Frog.

6 June 1992

Plants at Risley Glebe were:

- | | |
|---------------------------|-------------------------|
| Red Campion | Melandrium dioicum |
| Ragged Robin | Lychnis flos-cuculi |
| Brooklime | Veronica beccabunga |
| Salad Burnet | Poterium sanguisorba |
| Creeping Buttercup | Ranunculus repens |
| Water Crowfoot | Ranunculus aquatilis |
| Square Stem St. John Wort | Hypericum tetrapterum |
| Meadow Cranesbill | Geranium pratense |
| Cocksfoot Grass | Dactylis glomerata |
| Crested Dogtail Grass | Cynosurus cristatus |
| Lesser Stitchwort | Stellaria graminea |
| Germander Speedwell | Veronica chamaedrys |
| Yellow Rattle | Rhinanthus crista-galli |
| Earth-Nut | Bunium bulbocastanum |
| Pignut | Conopodium majus |
| Hogweed | Heracleum sphondylium |
| Cow Parsley | Anthriscus sylvestris |
| Creeping Thistle | Cirsium arvense |
| Common Vetch | Vicia sativa |
| Yellow Vetch | Vicia lutea |
| Water Forgetmenot | Myosotis scorpioides |
| Meadow Vetchling | Lathyrus pratensis |
| Great Burnet | Sanguisorba officinalis |
| Water Violet | Hottonia palustris |
| Fox Glove | Digitalis purpurea |
| Red Clover | Trifolium pratense |
| White Bryony | Bryonia dioica |
| Black Bryony | Tamus communis |
| Hardhead | Centaurea nigra |
| Herb Bennet | Geum urbanum |
| Cleavers | Galium aparine |
| Sorrel | Rumex acetosa |
| Japanese Knotweed | Polygonum cuspidatum |
| Stinging Nettle | Urtica dioica |
| Birdsfoot Trefoil | Lotus corniculatus |

BUTTERFLIES :

- Orange Tip
- Skipper
- Red Admiral

MOTHS :

- Silverground Carpet Moth
- Chimneysweep Moth
- Garden Tiger (caterpillar)

BIRDS :

- Blackcap

AMPHIBIANS :

- Smooth Newts
- Common Frog

On 11th June, Alan Heath had a walk along the Erewash Canal between Dockholme and Sandiacre. It was a fine sunny afternoon and the following plants were noted: White Bryony, Silverweed, Yellow Iris, Bittersweet, tufted vetch, Yellow water-lily, smooth hawksbear, hedge woundwort, white campion, ox-eye daisy, honeysuckle and red clover. A Pinkfoot Goose was seen on the canal. Also seen, skipper butterfly, dragonfly - banded demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*)

A moth watch was held at Forbes Hole Nature Reserve on 27th June 1992. It was a warm and humid night which proved very good for moth watching. The following data was supplied by Ian Viles of Derbyshire Entomological Society.

Silver-Ground Carpet, Common Carpet, Bloodvein, Riband Wave, Common White Wave, Common Footman, Yellow Shell, Small fan-footed Wave, Single Dotted Wave, Small Fan Foot, July Highflyer, Shaded Broad Bar, Brimstone Moth, Clouded Border, Swallow Tailed Moth, Latticed Heath, Barred Yellow, Willow Beauty, The Snout, Ligh Emerald, Common Emerald, Spinach, Figure of Eight, Buff Ermine, Tawny Barred Angle, The Lackey, Leopard Moth, Elephant Hawk, Oak Eggar, Lime Hawk, Marbled Beauty, Poplar Hawk, Lime Speck Pug, Foxglove Pug, Small Magpie, Mother of Pearl, Yellow Tail, Smokey Wainscot, Silky Wainscot, The Clay, Clouded Bordered Brindle, Double Square Spot, Light Arches, Dark Arches, The Spectacle, Bright Line Brown Eye, Mottled Beauty, The Miller, Flame Shoulder, Buff Arches, Heart and Dart, Common Rustic, Poplar Grey, Grey Dagger, Peppered Moth, The Flame, Dot Moth, Dingy Shears, Scarce Silver Lines, Beautiful Golden Y, Bordered White, Tawny Marbled Minor, Middle Barred Minor, Pale Prominent, Ruby Tiger, Green Pug, Bordered Pug, Golden Y, Setaceous Hebrew Character, Lesser Stag Beetle.

-----00000000000000-----

Monday Evening 29th June 1992 - LENS Walk - 7pm - 10pm

The walk started at Meadow Lane Car Park along to the Gravel Pits and Thrumpton Ferry, along the River Trent and back to Meadow Lane Car Park. The walk was led by John Langford who writes, "It was good to see so many young herons around, our local heronry is doing well. It was unusual to see Ringed Plover and Little Ringed Plover together. Hope everyone saw the Little Owl adequately, this species was introduced successfully into Britain from 1874, but is not too common in our area. Athene Noctua - the night bird of wisdom, or wise bird of the night. It was a pity we missed seeing the Dunlin and Redshank seen by me a couple of days before. I hope at least some members heard the Corn Bunting whose call is said to be like the shaking of a bunch of keys.

The following birds were seen:

Shelduck, Mallard, Tufted Duck, Pochard, Teal, Mute Swan, Canada Goose, Moorhen, Coot, Great Crested Grebe, Lapwing, Common Sandpiper, Ringed Plover, Little Ringed Plover, Green Sandpiper, Grey Heron, Swift, Sand Martin, Swallow, Kestrel, Cuckoo(H), Blackbird, Song Thrush, Starling, Meadow Pipit, Yellow Wagtail, Pied Wagtail, Willow Warbler, Blackcap, Whitethroat, Corn Bunting, Yellowhammer, Skylark, Little Owl, Common Tern, Blackheaded Gull, Blue Tit, Carrion Crow, Magpie, Wren, Woodpigeon, Feral pigeon, Greenfinch.

Butterflies: Large Skipper, Small Copper, Meadow Brown

-----00000000000000-----

Don't forget to keep a record of your sightings during your autumn and winter walks. Also information regarding interesting visits made would be welcomed, may be of value to other LENS members.

6 June 1992

Plants at Risley Glebe were:

Red Campion	Melandrium dioicum
Ragged Robin	Lychnis flos-cuculi
Brooklime	Veronica beccabunga
Salad Burnet	Poterium sanguisorba
Creeping Buttercup	Ranunculus repens
Water Crowfoot	Ranunculus aquatilis
Square Stem St. John Wort	Hypericum tetrapterum
Meadow Cranesbill	Geranium pratense
Cocksfoot Grass	Dactylis glomerata
Crested Dogtail Grass	Cynosurus cristatus
Lesser Stitchwort	Stellaria graminea
Germander Speedwell	Veronica chamaedrys
Yellow Rattle	Rhinanthus crista-galli
Earth-Nut	Bunium bulbocastanum
Pignut	Conopodium majus
Hogweed	Heracleum sphondylium
Cow Parsley	Anthriscus sylvestris
Creeping Thistle	Cirsium arvense
Common Vetch	Vicia sativa
Yellow Vetch	Vicia lutea
Water Forgetmenot	Myosotis scorpioides
Meadow Vetchling	Lathyrus pratensis
Great Burnet	Sanguisorba officinalis
Water Violet	Hottonia palustris
Fox Glove	Digitalis purpurea
Red Clover	Trifolium pratense
White Bryony	Bryonia dioica
Black Bryony	Tamus communis
Hardhead	Centaurea nigra
Herb Bennet	Geum urbanum
Cleavers	Galium aparine
Sorrel	Rumex acetosa
Japanese Knotweed	Polygonum cuspidatum
Stinging Nettle	Urtica dioica
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Lotus corniculatus

BUTTERFLIES :

Orange Tip
Skipper
Red Admiral

BIRDS :

Blackcap

MOTHS :

Silverground Carpet Moth
Chimneysweep Moth
Garden Tiger (caterpillar)

AMPHIBIANS :

Smooth Newts
Common Frog

On 11th June, Alan Heath had a walk along the Erewash Canal between Dockholme and Sandiacre. It was a fine sunny afternoon and the following plants were noted: White Bryony, Silverweed, Yellow Iris, Bittersweet, tufted vetch, Yellow water-lily, smooth hawksbear, hedge woundwort, white campion, ox-eye daisy, honeysuckle and red clover. A Pinkfoot Goose was seen on the canal. Also seen, skipper butterfly, dragonfly - banded demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*)

EREWASH CANAL SURVEY - In conjunction with Erewash Groundwork Trust.

Survey took place on 8th July 1992 between Dockholm Lock, Long Eaton and Long Eaton Fire Station. NGR 488/352 to 488/330 approximately.

BOTANICAL: Stinging Nettle, White Dead Nettle, Red Dean Nettle, Bittersweet, White Bryony, White Clover, Silverweed, Great Bindweed, Tufted Vetch, Rosebay Willowherb, Great Hairy Willowherb, Lesser Bindweed, Red Clover, Skullcap, Hedge Woundwort, Poppy, Honeysuckle, Ragwort, Yellow Water Lilies, Buddleia.

WILDLIFE: Mallard, Comma butterfly, Green-veined butterfly, Gatekeeper butterfly, Blu-tailed Damselfly, Rhagonycha fulva.

WATER SAMPLE (near Fire Station) - Minnows, Leech, Snails (various including Limnaea sp.), Gammarus, Caddis larvae, Water Boatman (Corixa)

CANAL: Water generally good with visibility about a foot or so. Frequent reeds and water lilies at edges but middle line clear with no restriction to boats.

WEST SIDE: Mainly houses with gardens which come down to the canal edge but also factories. The region towards the Fire Station has Long Eaton Park to the West.

EAST SIDE: Toton Water Meadows at beginning, with mixed hedges including Hawthorn alongside. Numerous wild flowers but also some apparent garden escapes. Over hanging trees between West Park Bridge and Fox Covert Bridge, the leaves of which would fall onto the towpath and also into the water.

PATH: The towpath is generally good and some 3 feet or so wide. There is a bad portion which narrows and there are holes with puddles opposite Elson and Robbins.

RUBBISH: Minimal. Some plastic bags and metal cans. Some graffiti between Derby Road Canal Bridge and Long Eaton Lock.

-----000000000000000-----

18th July 1992 - LENS VISIT TO GRINDLEFORD, PADLEY GORGE AND LONGSHAW ESTATE

PADLEY GORGE: Himalayan Balsam, Herb Robert, White Clover, Red Clover, Cleavers, Hairy Willowherb, Meadow Cranesbill, Hedge Woundwort, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Rosebay Willowherb, Sorrell, Chamomile, Red Campion, Prickly Sowthistle, Foxglove, Tormetil, Pineapple Weed, White Climbing Fumitory, Common Ragwort, Blueberry, Sheep Sorrell, Cow-wheat, Wood Sorrell.

LONGSHAW ESTATE: Ling, Spearthistle (a few were white), Harebell, Rough Hawkbit, Forget me not, Selfheel, Wild Strawberry, Daisy, Burdock, Eye-bright, Tufted Vetch, yarrow, Lesser Stitchwort, Germander Speedwell, Meadow buttercup, Yellow corydalis, heath speedwell, Common Spotted Orchid, Ragged Robin, Lesser Spearwort, Lady Smock, Woodsage, Meadow Vetchling, Cotton Grass, Monkey flower.

BIRDS: Wren, Dunnock, Great Tit, blue Tit, Chaffinch, Bullfinch, Robin Goldcrest(H), Blackbird, Mallard, Green Woodpecker, Reed Bunting, Crow, Kestrel, Swallow, Pied Wagtail, Grey Wagtail, Meadow Pipit, Wheatear, Whinchat, Swift, Wood Pigeon, Feral Pigeon.

OTHERS: *Chequered skipper, Cinnabar moth, Meadow Brown, Lacewing, White Moth under Larch, 5 Spot Burnett, Tortoiseshell. *Rare in Britain according to the book and Derbyshire Entomological Society.

MOTH WATCH - FORBES HOLE, Long Eaton, 14th August 1992

This second Moth Watch at Forbes Hole was not as successful as the first one. There had been rain on the previous day but weather during the day of the watch was, variable cloud and sunny periods, during the evening however it became cool as the sky cleared, this seemed to affect the number of species on the wing.

Ian Viles of the Derbyshire Entomological Society provided the equipment and the identification knowledge, along with two other members of the Society. John Holmes of Erewash Groundwork Trust also attended. Six LENS memers were present.

PERIOD OF RECORDING - 9pm to 11.45pm

Brimstone, Lesser Broadbordered Yellow Underwing, Common White Wave, Large Yellow Underwing, Hebrew Character, Riband Wave, Dark Arches, Latticed Heath, Pebble Hooktip, Garden Carpet, Clouded Border.

Tawny Owl (Heard several times)

Temperature on arrival back home immediately after the event was 11C.

-----000000000000-----
28th August 1992 - ASH TIP, LOCK LANE, Vipers Bugloss in Flower

1st September - Elephant hawk Moth caterpillar, crossing the road on Lane to Saddlery at Risley, picked up and placed on Rosebay Willowherb.

2nd September 1992 - Cornfield by Breaston to Risley footpath covered with BISTORT. Regions of field completely pink now corn has been cut.

CORNFLOWERS in flower in Risley Glebe near the pond, patch of 2 dozen or so where betony was.

-----000000000000-----

Our next article was contributed by John Langford, alongside his title of 'THE NIGHTINGALE' he had put - a few notes (was this meant as a pun!)

Most LENS members will be aware that Derbyshire is just outside the regular British range of the nightingale, and despite being at the southern tip of our county, we are unlikely to experience its magnificent song without seeking the bird specially in Leicestershire or the southern counties.

Suffolk remains quite a good county for nightingales, and Judy and I were lucky enough to see one bird well, in broad daylight, in June this year: this was in some bushes alongside the sandy track that runs from Walberswick to Dunwich, some half-mile from the coast, about 3 miles south of Southwold.

The nightingale is a bird of thick undergrowth, of thicket rather than woodland and normally sings from dense cover. The song is quite unforgettable - a rapid succession of liquid notes of great variety, often building up to a crescendo - and has inspired the poets from the very earliest times of Anglo-Saxon Britain. The name is derived from two Anglo-Saxon words meaning: 'night singer'. In fact the bird can well be heard in the daytime, especially early in the season when males, which arrive in April/May some ten days before the females, are attracting their mates, or warning other males away from their territory.

References to nightingales in English literature are legion; in about 1890, someone indentified 178 epithets applied to the bird in established English poetry. Wordsworth called it 'sweet and of a fiery heart'; while Tennyson said, "...the music of the moon sleeps in the plain eggs of the nightingale." (The eggs are plain olive brown)

John Clare, the poet of Helpston, Northamptonshire, was an acute observer of the wildlife around him (long before the days of binoculars and field guides), and his poem 'The Nightingales Nest' is a classic of what today we would call 'original research'. It is rather long to quote in full, but this brief extract shows my point; (he did not worry about punctuation):

"How curious is the nest no other bird
Uses such loose material or weaves
Their dwellings in such spots - dead oaken leaves
Are placed without and welvet moss within
And little scraps of grass - and scant and spare
Of what seems scarce materials down and hair
For from mans taunts she seemeth nought to win"

But if Clare was the paragon of bird-recorders amongst our poets, perhaps Keat's 'Ode' is the finest bird poetry in our language. Those who have experienced the song can 'hear' the rhythm and cadence in Keats' final stanza:

"Adieu! Adieu! thy plaintive anthem fades
Past the near meadows, over the still stream,
Up the hillside; and now 'tis buried deep
In the next valley-glades:
Was it a vision, or a waking dream?
Fled it that music - Do I wake or sleep?"

Let us leave the nightingale there.

John Langford

-----000000000000-----

NOTTINGHAM AND EREWASH CANALS - COSSAL 15th JUNE 1992

Carole Willan led a party of LENS members on an evening visit along 'The Green Walk'. The outing was well attended although the weather was quite cool and for a time looked as if it might rain. The reason for the visit was to see the flowers along the walk, well we certainly did, 100 species in all!!!

Caryophyllaceae (Pink Family) Common Chickweed, Greater Stitchwort, Red Campion, White Campion, Bladder Campion.
Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family) Yellow Water-Lily, Meadow Buttercup, Creeping Buttercup, Greater Spearwort, Celery-leaved Buttercup, Common Water Crowfoot, Common Meadow Rue.
Papaveraceae (Poppy Family) Common Poppy.
Cruciferae (Cabbage Family) Hedge Mustard, Great Yellowcress, Marsh Yellowcress, Charlock, Garlic Mustard, Horse Radish, Shepherds Purse.
Resedaceae (mignonette Family) Weld.
Rosaceae (Rose Family) Meadow Sweet, Dog rose, Field Rose, Bramble, Tormentil, Spring Cinquefoil, Silverweed.
Leguminosae (Pea Family) Tufted Vetch, Common Vetch, Bush Vetch, Meadow Vetchling, Ribbed Melilot, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil, Black Medick, Red Clover, White Clover.
Geraniaceae (Geranium Family) Meadow Cranesbill, Hedgerow Cranesbill, Cut-leaved Cranesbill.
Onagraceae (Willowherb Family) Rosebay Willowherb, Great Willowherb.
Umbelliferae (Carrot Family) Rough Chervil, Hogweed, Angelica.
Primulaceae (Primrose Family) Yellow Loosestrife.
Convolvulaceae (Bindweed Family) Hedge Bindweed, Field Bindweed.
Rubiaceae (Bedstraw Family) Hedge Bedstraw, Ladies Bedstraw, Common Cleavers, Marsh Bedstraw.
Boraginaceae (Borage Family) Common Comfrey, Water Forget me not.
Labiatae Skullcap, Self Heal, White Dead Nettle, Hedge Woundwort.
Solanaceae (Nightshade Family) Bittersweet
Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family) Common Figwort, Common Toadflax, Fox Glove.
Plantaginaceae (Plantain Family) Ribbed Plantain
Valerianaceae (Valerian Family) Common Valerian
Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle Family) Honeysuckle, Elder Flower.
Compositae (Daisy Family) Hemp Agrimony, Daisy, Scentless Mayweed, Yarrow White and Pink, Mugwort, Ox-eye Daisy, Feverfew, Tansy, Oxford Ragwort, Groundsel, Lesser Burdock, Creeping Thistle, Spear Thistle, Greater Knapweed, Goatsbeard, Smooth Sow Thistle, Common Catsear, Marsh Hawksbeard, Dandelion.
Polygonaceae (Dock Family) Great Water Dock, Knotgrass, Japanese Knotweed, Common Sorrel.
Misc. Common Water Plantain, Flowering Rush, Yellow Iris, Branched Burweed
Common Club Rush, Bulrush(Reed Mace) Horsetail, Stinging Nettle.

Caryophyllaceae (Pink Family) Common Chickweed, Greater Stitchwort, Red Campion, White Campion, Bladder Campion.
Ranunculaceae (Buttercup Family) Yellow Water-Lily, Meadow Buttercup, Creeping Buttercup, Greater Spearwort, Celery-leaved Buttercup, Common Water Crowfoot, Common Meadow Rue.
Papaveraceae (Poppy Family) Common Poppy.
Cruciferae (Cabbage Family) Hedge Mustard, Great Yellowcress, Marsh Yellowcress, Charlock, Garlic Mustard, Horse Radish, Shepherds Purse.
Resedaceae (mignonette Family) Weld.
Rosaceae (Rose Family) Meadow Sweet, Dog rose, Field Rose, Bramble, Tormentil, Spring Cinquefoil, Silverweed.
Leguminosae (Pea Family) Tufted Vetch, Common Vetch, Bush Vetch, Meadow Vetchling, Ribbed Melilot, Birdsfoot Trefoil, Greater Birdsfoot Trefoil, Black Medick, Red Clover, White Clover.
Geraniaceae (Geranium Family) Meadow Cranesbill, Hedgerow Cranesbill, Cut-leaved Cranesbill.
Onagraceae (Willowherb Family) Rosebay Willowherb, Great Willowherb.
Umbelliferae (Carrot Family) Rough Chervil, Hogweed, Angelica.
Primulaceae (Primrose Family) Yellow Loosestrife.
Convolvulaceae (Bindweed Family) Hedge Bindweed, Field Bindweed.
Rubiaceae (Bedstraw Family) Hedge Bedstraw, Ladies Bedstraw, Common Cleavers, Marsh Bedstraw.
Boraginaceae (Borage Family) Common Comfrey, Water Forget me not.
Labiatae Skullcap, Self Heal, White Dead Nettle, Hedge Woundwort.
Solanaceae (Nightshade Family) Bittersweet
Scrophulariaceae (Figwort Family) Common Figwort, Common Toadflax, Fox Glove.
Plantaginaceae (Plantain Family) Ribbed Plantain
Valerianaceae (Valerian Family) Common Valerian
Caprifoliaceae (Honeysuckle Family) Honeysuckle, Elder Flower.
Compositae (Daisy Family) Hemp Agrimony, Daisy, Scentless Mayweed, Yarrow White and Pink, Mugwort, Ox-eye Daisy, Feverfew, Tansy, Oxford Ragwort, Groundsel, Lesser Burdock, Creeping Thistle, Spear Thistle, Greater Knapweed, Goatsbeard, Smooth Sow Thistle, Common Catsear, Marsh Hawksbeard, Dandelion.
Polygonaceae (Dock Family) Great Water Dock, Knotgrass, Japanese Knotweed, Common Sorrel.
Misc. Common Water Plantain, Flowering Rush, Yellow Iris, Branched Burweed
Common Club Rush, Bulrush(Reed Mace) Horsetail, Stinging Nettle.

As some of you may know, my other interest is tennis, I am a member of Long Eaton Tennis Club, so is another LENS member, Rosemary Wilson. Whilst we were having 'five minutes' during sets one day, Rose mentioned that she had two birds in her garden (she lives in Shaftsbury Avenue, Sandiacre) that she did not recognise. She said that they were about the size of a sparrow but with some white on their front. I couldn't tell from Rose's description what they were, so I said that I would call round some time. Well, we all know how time flies (is that another pun?) and before I had found a day when both Rose and I were available, the birds had nested and had four young!!! Her appetite now whetted for bird watching, Rose had found out a bird book and decided that the birds were spotted flycatchers, and sure enough when John and myself finally went round there they were on their hunting perches, looping back and forth, keeping down the insect population at 16 Shaftsbury Avenue. I must add that Rose has a garden full of plants, shrubs and trees so consequently lots of insects and also a creeping vine type plant (the name escapes me at the moment) which grows up the back of the house, ideal place for the birds to nest. The birds didn't seem to mind us walking around the garden, they just went along with their fly catching!!!! Let's hope they return again next year.

Fay Blackburn

-----000000000000-----

The Scientific Names of British Birds by John Langford

People have written about birds since the earliest times and Anglo-Saxon literature, such as Beowulf, has many references. We read that the great Celtic saint, Columba, nursed an exhausted crane on the island of Iona in about the year 570 A.D., until "it returned across the sea to Ireland, in a straight line of flight, on a calm day."

Through the Dark Ages, scholars continued to identify and name different birds, and just prior to the year 1000, AElfric the Grammarian was able to record 75 species as 'British'. By 1460, the list had risen to 114 species, another 100 had been added by 1758.

Gilbert White (1720-1793) the unassuming curate of Selborne, Hampshire, has been called the Father of British field natural history, and his 'The Natural History of Selbourne' is a well known classic. While he was pacing his native beech-hangers of north Hampshire separating for us the Lesser Whitethroat, the Chiffchaff, the Willow Warbler and the wood warbler and 'giving' us the noctule bat and the harvest mouse, great events were taking place in the wider world of scientific ornithology. The year 1758 is, by international agreement, the starting point of the scientific naming of birds and other families of natural history, in this year the great Swedish naturalist Carl von Linne (or to use his Latinised name, Carolus Linnaeus) published the tenth edition of his 'System of Nature'. It is obvious that such a system of naming of animals and plants had become necessary and greatly facilitated international recognition and separation of species.

The system introduced by Linnaeus is not complicated and has remained to this day with few refinements. The scientific name basically consists of two Latin or Greek words, the first (capital letter) representing the genus (a noun), the second (small initial letter) describing the species (an adjective, which should 'agree' with the noun). Occasionally the two words can be the same, indicating that the species was, when named, a 'typical' example of the genus.

Since Linnaeus's time ornithologists have added a third word, describing the geographical race of a particular 'species', giving a trinomial system, but today most bird watchers only employ the third word where two distinct races of a certain species can be separated in the field. eg. Dark-bellied and Light-bellied Brent Goose.

Finally, a formal listing of birds will include the name of the scientist or ornithologist who first recognised the species, and sometimes the date. (If later systematists have ascribed the species to a different genus, the original surname and date will go in brackets)

Here are a few examples:

1. *Fringilla coelebs gengleri*. Kleinshmidt. The (British) chaffinch. Latin *frigus*, 'cold' - because the bird flourishes in the cold; *coelebs* - 'unmarried' males and females tend to keep apart in winter. (Linnaeus mistakenly thought the females migrate). Here the racial name is after a German ornithologist, J. Gengler.
2. *Delichon urbica urbica* (Linnaeus). The house martin. *Delichon* is an anagram of *chelidon*, the greek for swallow, and *urbica* a Latinised adjective meaning 'city-dwelling'. Note that the race of our house-martin is regarded as 'typical' of the species, so the second and third words are the same.
3. *Sylvia atricapilla atricapilla* (Linnaeus). The blackcap. From Latin *sylva* - 'wood', *ater* - black, and *capilla* - 'hair of the head'. Again, our British blackcaps are 'typical' of the species and are thus regarded as the 'nominate' race, other races occurring further east in Europe.
4. *Numenius arquata arquata* (Linnaeus). The (common) curlew. From greek *neos* - 'new', and *mene* - 'moon' - from the shape of the bird's bill; and latin *arcus*, a 'bow', again from the bird's bow-shaped bill. This is an unusual case of both generic and specific words describing the same feature of the bird's anatomy.
5. *Phylloscopus collybita collybita* (Vieillot). The chiffchaff. Greek *phullon* - 'leaf' and *skopes* - 'to look at'; *collybita* derives from Greek *kollu-bistes* - 'money changer' - the bird's monotonous call resembling the man counting out his money. (In Normandy, the vernacular name for the chiffchaff is: 'compteur d'argent.)

For anyone who loves words and birds, this is a facinating study; the above may have whetted the appetite.

I will feel better if I ascribe many of the facts above to my delvings into two books:

1. The Shell Bird Book. James Fisher. Ebury Press and Michael Joseph 1966.
2. Key to the Names of British Birds. R.D. Macleod. Sir Isaac Pitman and Sons 1954.

-----00000000000000-----

BARKERS POND - UPDATE

Fay Blackburn

For the first time in at least thirty years, a pair of mute swans nested on Barkers Pond. Nine eggs were laid of which eight were hatched, unfortunately one signet went missing, taken by a fox we think, as entrails were found in our garden, but I am pleased to

report that the remaining seven are now fully grown, with some of their feathers turning white. There have been quite a few practice flights across the pond but as yet, no take offs, we just hope they make it on their own.

Terry the tufted duck my daughter put on the pond last Christmas Eve is still with us, although he has had to go 'undercover' from time to time to escape the parent coots so protective of their young. We wondered at times if he had an identity crisis as he was only coming out when a few mallards came on to the pond. At the moment he is competing for food along with all the swans and a fluctuating number of mallards from 10 to 25. He has become very adept at 'ducking and diving'

A kingfisher has been spotted on a number of occasions. A couple of times we were watching it fish for about half an hour each time.

The common terns from Attenborough paid several visits, obviously hunting for food, their distinctive call alerting me to their arrival.

It was a good year for butterflies, with sightings of: common blue, holly blue, brimstone, comma, peacock, red admiral, small tortoiseshell, painted lady, wall brown, meadow brown, orange tip, large and small white.

-----000000000000-----

Some of the birds recorded in Long Eaton and the surrounding area.

Forbes Hole 9.4.92

Chiffchaff
Willow Warbler
Greenfinch
Yellowhammer
Gr. Spotted W. Pecker

Fox Covert 23.4.92

Long-tailed tit
Bullfinch
Goldfinch
Reed Bunting
Willow Warbler
Black cap

**** A rare visitor to Long Eaton, down Pasture Lane Near Meadow Lane Tip
28.4/2.5.92 1 Red Spotted Blue Throat

Pasture Lane 3.5.92

Little Ringed Plover 2
Yellow Wagtail
Kingfisher
Shelduck 2 prs
Red Shank
Corn Bunting

Trent Lock Area 14.5.92

Yellow Wagtail
Linnets
Skylark
Willow Warbler
Common Tern
Goldfinches

Thrumpton Old Ferry 14,5,92

Sandmartins 6
Meadow Pipit
Yellow Wagtail
Linnets
Shelduck 2
Little Ringed Plover 2
Red-legged partridge
Corn Bunting

Risley 20.5.92 4 Goldfinch

Hazelford Ferry & Fiskerton Wharf 25.5.92

Lesser Whitethroat	Swifts
Linnets	Swallow
Blackcap	Sand Martins
Willow Warbler	Cuckoo
Kingfisher	Reed Bunting
Sedge Warbler	C. Partridge
Yellow Wagtail	Gr Cr Grebe
Little Ringed Plover	

Lock Lane Area 18.5.92

Less White Throat
Common Whitethroat
Ruddy Duck 6

Gravel Pits of Meadow Lane 27.7.92

2 Common Sandpiper 2 Green Sandpiper

Barkers Pond 26.7.92

Sparrow Hawk

Barkers Pond 19.7.92 1 Kestrel

29th June 1992

TRENT MEADOWS - Long Eaton

Joint visit with Erewash Groundwork Trust and LENS

PLANTS :

Fennel
Flax (planted)
Common Ragwort
Mugwort
Marsh Thistle
Lady Bedstraw
Field Forgetmenot
Meadowsweet
Birdsfoot Trefoil
Herb Bennet
Greater Burnett
Lesser Spearwort
Woody Nightshade
Elder
Yarrow
Knotgrass
Rayless Mayweed
Scentless Mayweed
Tufted Vetch
Nipplewort
Hedge Woundwort
Hops
Salad Burnett
Knapweed
Slender Thistle
Bistort
Poppy
White Deadnettle
White Clever
Dog Rose
Field Bindweed
Great Bindweed
Hedge Mustard
Charlock
Pineapple Weed
Red Clever
Musk
Himalayan Balsam
Rest Harrow
Rough Chervil
Cinquefoil
Silverweed
Tansy
Selfheal
Wormweed

Field Rose
White Champion
Shepherds Purse
Cleavers
Teasle
Reedmace
Mallow
Common Sorrell
Weld

Foeniculum vulgare
Linum usitatissimum
Senecio jacobaea
Artemisia vulgaris
Cirsium palustre
Galium verum

Fillipendula ulmaria
Lotus corniculatus
Geum urbanum
Sanguisera officinalis
Ranunculus flammula
Solanum dulcamara
Sambucus nigra
Achillea millefolium
Polygonum aviculare

Tripleurospermum maritimum
Vicia cracca
Lapsana communis
Stachys sylvatica
Humulus lupulus
Peterium sanguisera
Centaurea scabiosa

Polygonum bistorta

Lamium album
Trifolium repens
Rosa canina
Convolvulus arvensis
Calystegia sepium
Sisymbrium officinale
Sinapis arvensis
Matricaria matricariodes
Trifolium pratense
Mimulus moschatus
Impatiens glandulifera
Ononis repens
Chaerophyllum temulentum

Potentilla anserina
Chrysanthemum vulgare
Prunella vulgaris
Artemisia absinthium

Roda arvensis
Melandrium album
Capsella bursa-pastoris

Dipsacus fullonum
Typha angustifolia
Malva sylvestris
Rumex acetosa
Reseda luteola

OTHERS :

Cinnabar Moth
Small Copper
Meadow Brown