

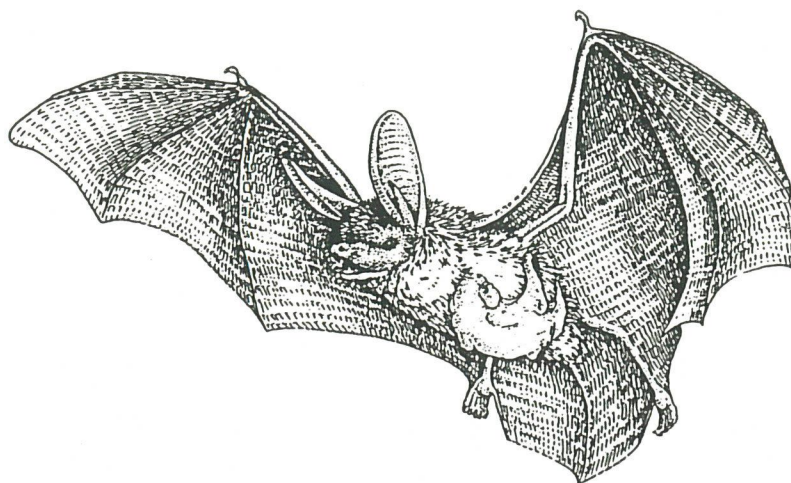
# LONG EATON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY BULLETIN

No. 38

AUTUMN 1998



CHAIRMAN	ALAN HEATH
VICE-CHAIRMAN	JOHN BLACKBURN
SECRETARY	JEANETTE RHODES
TREASURER	BOB WASLEY
MEETINGS SECRETARIES	JOHN & FAY BLACKBURN
RECORDER	CAROLE WILLAN



CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is a pleasure to report that this year we celebrate 21 years and continue to flourish as an active society. Our visiting speakers covered a wide range of subjects which were appreciated, though the weather did interfere with some of our summer outings.

Reports of our meetings will continue to appear in 'Club Call' in the Long Eaton Advertiser and notice of our meetings will also appear in 'What's On' in the same paper. A programme of our events is, as usual, on display in Long Eaton Library.

Carole Willan has expressed a wish to stand down as secretary and I am sure you will all join me in thanking her for the work she has done on our behalf. Fay Draper has also stepped down as treasurer to whom we also express our grateful thanks. Changing officers and committee members introduces new ideas as well as giving a rest to those who have given so generously of their time.

A survey of Trowell Marsh Nature Reserve was carried out for Groundwork Erewash Valley which proved to be a useful exercise in recording. This is a role in which our society can play an important part. The society also assisted with a survey at Stanton Gate. Such work often contributes to sites getting nature reserve status, thus preventing vital habitats being lost due to 'development'.

A publication about the history, description and species recorded at Forbes Hole Nature Reserve has been compiled on behalf of Friends of Forbes Hole. Much of the recording was carried out by LENS members and this illustrates again the valuable service a society like ours can give to the community.

We are fortunate to still have Trent College as our venue and, whilst costs have increased, we were able to negotiate favourable terms within our financial budget.

Again this year we have had the pleasure of welcoming new members and thank all our members for their continued support.

Alan W. Heath - CHAIRMAN.

THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING - 19th October 1998

The Chairman gave his report as did the Treasurer. We are in a sound financial position and no changes were recommended to subscriptions.

The following OFFICERS were elected : -

OFFICE		PROPOSED	SECONDED
CHAIRMAN -	Alan Heath	R. Wasley	Norah Knight
VICE-CHAIRMAN -	John Blackburn	J. Rhodes	J. Smith
SECRETARY -	Jeanette Rhodes	C. Willan	F. Blackburn
TREASURER -	Bob Wasley	F. Blackburn	J. Haynes
MEETINGS			
SECRETARIES -	John & Fay Blackburn	Ann Haynes	R. Wasley
RECORDER -	Carole Willan	Norah Knight	B. Warhurst
COMMITTEE -			
	Ken Stevens	Jean Jones	G. Hallam
	Max Bryce	J. Rhodes	Fred Ellis
	Ann Haynes	J. Haynes	Mrs Carter
AUDITOR	Brian Warhurst	C. Willan	G. Hallam

The meeting approved a new office of Vice-Chairman and John Blackburn agreed to fill this role if the Chairman should be absent for any reason.

A further proposal by the Chairman was accepted by the meeting that prospective new members should be allowed to attend their first meeting free of charge. If they liked what we had to offer it is hoped they would join us.

As two names were proposed for the new office of Vice-Chairman, it was necessary to take a vote, the meeting accepting the majority in favour of John Blackburn.

MEMBERS MEETING : -

Following the AGM, Max Bryce gave an interesting account of his role as Tree Warden for Erewash Borough Council. A lively discussion followed. Slides with an autumn theme were shown by John & Fay Blackburn and Alan Heath showed a few slides of pond life, Derbyshire caves and some relating to astronomy. The final contributor of the evening was Tony Maggs who gave a most informative account of the infestation of honey bee colonies by the parasitic mite *Varroa jacobsoni*. He brought along a microscope to let members see the mites for themselves and this talk prompted many questions.

Jeanette Rhodes brought along her illustrated journal of society outings and events, a well presented record which was enjoyed by members.

The meeting ended at approximately 9.30 pm

**LONG EATON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT  
FOR THE YEAR ENDED 5 OCTOBER 1998**

	1998	1997
<b>INCOME</b>		
Meeting Fees	409.00	210.00
Annual Subscriptions	132.50	122.50
Donations	1.00	20.00
Coffee Sales	24.92	23.31
Raffle	18.00	29.00
Groundwork Erewash	200.00	-
Interest Received	<u>16.94</u>	<u>8.25</u>
<b>Total Income</b>	<b><u>802.36</u></b>	<b><u>413.06</u></b>
<b>EXPENSES</b>		
Payments to Speakers	175.00	253.40
Stationery and Photocopying	44.54	23.74
Insurance	55.00	50.00
Room Rent	55.00	50.00
Affiliation Fees	32.00	12.00
Donations	17.99	-
Equipment	14.50	2.99
Coffee Supplies	4.69	8.07
Committee Expenses	<u>6.60</u>	<u>1.35</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b><u>405.32</u></b>	<b><u>401.55</u></b>
<b>Excess of Income over Expenses</b>	<b><u>397.04</u></b>	<b><u>11.51</u></b>

**LONG EATON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY  
BALANCE SHEET  
AS AT 5 OCTOBER 1998**

	1998	1997
<b>Current Assets</b>		
Pre-paid Rent	80.00	-
National Westminster Bank:		
Deposit Account	643.68	626.74
Current Account	410.47	125.55
Cash in Hand	<u>46.15</u>	<u>30.97</u>
	<b><u>1,180.30</u></b>	<b><u>783.26</u></b>
<b>Represented By</b>		
General Fund		
Balance B/F	783.26	771.75
Add Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>397.04</u>	<u>11.51</u>
	<b><u>1,180.30</u></b>	<b><u>783.26</u></b>

**Audit Report**

The accounting records and documents for the year under review have been examined and, in my opinion, the Income and Expenditure Account and Balance Sheet fairly represent the state of affairs of the Long Eaton Natural History Society.

R Wasley

19 October 1998

from Youlgrave via Overhaddon and Alport. 1st Aug 1998

Six of us turned up on this rather dubious morning and as we got into Youlgrave the heavens opened up and it started to pour! We were not going to be put off and with a great deal of optimism we set off over the high ridge squelching through very wet grass and mud and not seeing very much at all except our own boots. Most of us had waterproofs and umbrellas but in spite of that some of us got very wet. We decided to review the situation over a hot drink at Overhaddon. Sure enough, as we dropped down into the valley on the other side, the rain subsided and finally stopped. In fact, I think if we had started off from Over Haddon we might not have got wet at all. Very welcome though were the hot drinks and toasted tea-cakes we had at the first tea shop we came to. We dried out there quite considerably and from then on had a lovely walk. No more rain but rather cloudy. Both Dales were as beautiful as ever, the water crystal clear and we watched trout darting about. A total of 84 wild flowers were listed and 21 birds. No butterflies around unfortunately. I was interested to note how different the flora was from the same day but one last year when I visited. Then there were sheets of wild Thyme and Hairbells covering some of the slopes. This year, because of all the wet weather, the grass undergrowth was much higher and there was nothing like that. Also, more flowers were over. I think all agreed at the end it had been a very good day and worth getting a bit wet in the beginning!

FLOWERS -

Agrimony	Cranesbill Meadow
Angelica	Cranesbill Shining
Agrimony Hemp	Crosswort
Balsam Himalayan	Crowfoot ? Chalkstream
Bedstraw Ladies	Daisy
Bellflower Nettle-leaved	Daisy Ox-eye
Betony	Dandelion
Bindweed Hedge	Deadnettle White
Bindweed Field	Dock Broad-leaved
Birdsfoot Trefoil	Feverfew
Brooklime (not in flower)	Figwort Water
Burdock Lesser	Forget-me-not Water
Bramble	Forget-me-not Field
Buttercup Meadow	Groundsel
Campion	Harebell
Cat's Ear	Hawksbeard Smooth
Celendine Greater	Hawkbit Autumn
Cleavers Common	Hedge Parsley Upright
Clover Red	Herb Bennet
Clover White	Herb Robert
Comfrey	Hogweed
Cow Parsley	Knapweed Black

Knotgrass	Sowthistle Perennial
Matweed Pineapple	Speedwell Germander
Meadowsweet	Stitchwort Marsh
Medick Black	Stonecrop Biting
Monkey Flower	Sweet Cicely (not in flower)
Mouse-ear	Thistle Creeping
Mustard Hedge	Thistle Marsh
<b>Mettle Stinging</b>	Thistle Spear
Nightshade Enchanter's	Toadflax Ivy-leaved
Nipplewort	Toadflax Yellow
Orache Common	Valerian Common
Pellitory of the Wall	Vetchling Meadow
Plantain Greater	Willowherb Broad-leaved
Plantain Ribbed	Willowherb Greater
Ragwort	Willowherb Rosebay
Raspberry Wild	Watercress
Rose Guelder	Watercress Fool's
St. John's Wort Perforate	Woundwort Hedge
Scabious Field	Yarrow
Self-heal	
Shepherd's Purse	
Sorrel Common	TOTAL 84 plus 2 not in flower
Sowthistle Smooth	

#### BIRDS

Blackbird	Magpie
Blue Tit	Moorhen
Coot	Mallard
Crow	Martin House
Bullfinch	Pigeon Wood
Dove Ringed	Pippit Meadow
Goldfinch	Swallow
Great Tit	Swift
Grebe Little	Wagtail Grey
Heron	Wren
Jackdaw	
	TOTAL 21

### Are They Still There?

One of the things that adds zest to our holidays is to visit, or revisit, sites where there are flowers which to us are uncommon. So in this talk I thought I would describe some of these.

#### Barnack

A few miles south of Stamford, on the A1, there is a turning to the east, to the village of Barnack. As one enters it from a northerly direction there is a large area on the right, and a number of pulling-off places, which is a reserve. It is particularly renowned for its Pasque flowers, which grow there in abundance in the Spring. However we have never managed to be there when they are in flower, though we have seen their remains somewhat later, in June, when we have seen the Man Orchids, which also grow there in profusion.

#### Cheddar Gorge

Prior to the making of the road through the gorge the Cheddar Pink is said to have grown there in abundance. Now it is regarded as rare. In June, a few years ago, we started at the bottom end of the gorge, near Cheddar village, and took a steep path on the left to the top of the cliffs, following it parallel to the road up the gorge for a mile or two, until we reached a path on our right which went down into the gorge and up the other side. We took this and turned right at the top, so returning, eventually, to our starting point by going back along the other side of the gorge. It was on this part of the path that we found several quite extensive patches of Cheddar Pinks.

#### The Lizard

Some years ago I read that Thyme Broomrape could be found near the car-park for Kynance Cove, so being nearby we went to look for it and found it. In July 1997 we tried again and failed to find it. However on the cliff walk from the Cove to Lizard we found it in fair abundance.

#### Noar Hill

This is a site near the famous Selborne, in Hampshire. We were coming (June 1997) from the Portsmouth area and approaching Selborne on the B 3006. Just before entering the village we took a steep narrow road on the left for about two miles and then turned left again, on another narrow road, for about half a mile, parking on the verge near a bridle way, which went off to the left, uphill. A short walk up this led to the Noar Hill reserve, which is noted for its large population of MUSK ORCHID, which we readily found along with more familiar orchids.

#### Slad Valley

The B4070 north from Stroud goes up this valley, which is quite unspoilt and very beautiful. It is the home of several reserves and is well worth visiting, though the car parking is very limited for the reserve on the eastern side. In July 1997 we parked near the first turning to the left, where a minor road goes to Painswick, and walked in the reserve which begins at this junction and runs parallel to the road in the direction back to Stroud. We had heard, and were able to confirm, that Bird's Nest Orchids could be found there.

#### Teesdale

Going up the dale on B6278 from Barnard Castle there is a visitor's centre at Newbiggin, which is a few miles beyond Middleton in Teesdale. From this centre, where there is ample car parking, there is a fairly short walk to a fine waterfall. On the way, in July, a number of different orchids can be found, including Butterfly Orchids. The whole area is very rich in flowers and we can also recommend the circular walk which begins by going north from near Newbiggin, to High Force, and returns along the west bank of the Tees.

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Situated west of the Erewash and north of the Trent, my house, despite the persistent intentions of subversives who address my mail to Nottinghamshire, is, for better or worse, firmly ensconced in the county of Derbyshire. Nevertheless Nottinghamshire is little more than one mile away as the crow flies, and Leicestershire is slightly closer.

Now, the primary interest of local natural history societies is, we may reasonably assume, local natural history. But what is 'local'? Addressing this matter many years ago, I recall that the then committee took the view that for purposes of recording and special interest, our patch should be defined as national reference grid square SK43 and SK53 as far as the eastern limit of the Attenborough gravel workings. Alternatives that could make sense might be, say, the circular area defined by a 10km radius from Long Eaton (Sawley Junction) railway station, or even more grandly, the area between Derby, Loughborough, Nottingham and Ilkeston, all of these places having their own societies or field clubs.

Whichever area were adopted, it is evident that records of three counties should feature strongly in LENHS reports. Indeed Notts. and Derbys. do so feature, but I have the distinct impression that Leicestershire is seriously under-represented. Its status as poor relation is the more surprising because our society with its many bird watchers is located right alongside one of Leicestershire's prime birding locations: that county's only access to the Trent valley: Trent Valley Pits as they record them.



Fortunately, this area between Sawley and Shardlow is regularly monitored by Leicestershire Ornithological Society, and I recall that in my young days I myself would cycle to Sawley from the far side of Leicester, such was the reputation of the gravel pits hereabouts. That that reputation is in no way diminished today can be illustrated by the reports in the two most recent L.O.S. newsletters, thus:

MAY/JUNE: Arctic and Black Terns, Barn Owl, Black-Tailed Godwit, Corn Bunting, Egyptian Goose, Gadwall, Grey Wagtail, Grasshopper Warbler, Osprey, Oyster Catcher, Redshank, Ringed Plover and Lesser Ringed Plover, Shelduck, Tree Sparrow and Turtle Dove.

AUGUST/SEPTEMBER: Arctic and Black Terns, Black-tailed Godwit, Common and Green Sandpipers, Curlew, Common Scoter, Dunlin, Greenshank, Ringed and Lesser Ringed Plovers, redshank, Shelduck, Snipe, Turtle Dove, Wheatear, Whinchat, Yellow-legged and Mediterranean Gulls. A Pratincole was recorded over Sawley and a Honey Buzzard over Sandiacre, and I can add our own local record that Oyster Catchers nested in Leicestershire within a mile of Sawley.

I rest my case.

So, LENHS birders, why not give Attenborough a miss occasionally and sample a different local menu? Try going west for a change.

## THE RECORDING OF WILDLIFE OBSERVATIONS

On Saturday, 24th October 1998, Max Bryce, Alan Heath and Marion Smith attended the DERBYSHIRE RECORDING FORUM at Derby University which was organised by Derbyshire Wildlife Trust

Some 70 people attended and 10 contributors discussed various projects. LENS put on a small exhibit and we had the opportunity to meet some old friends including Pat Brassley.

The value of recording was stressed and with new technology much of this is computerised. Local Record Centres will feed into a National Biodiversity Network. Details of the Derbyshire Biodiversity Network were given and visitors were given a pack which contained numerous examples of recording forms. These included the Butterfly Site Recording Form, Derbyshire Bird Breeding Survey and the Derbyshire 2000 Common Plant Recording Card. The importance of recording common species was stressed as well as the more rare forms as this will give information of any decline in numbers. Members were encouraged to use forms provided and they usually were at two levels which included a Casual Recording Sheet. Compared with the rest of the country, Derbyshire has a very active volunteer force of recorders.

There was much discussion in the afternoon session during which Alan expressed some concern about information being made freely available over the Internet. It was clear that some form of security was required as unscrupulous users of the Internet could well access details of badger setts as an example as well as the location of rare plants, rare breeding birds etc. We were assured that a security system would be introduced though Alan was not convinced.

Alan will be pleased to supply photocopies of recording forms to any members who would care to take part in any recording as such activities are an important role in which our society can play.

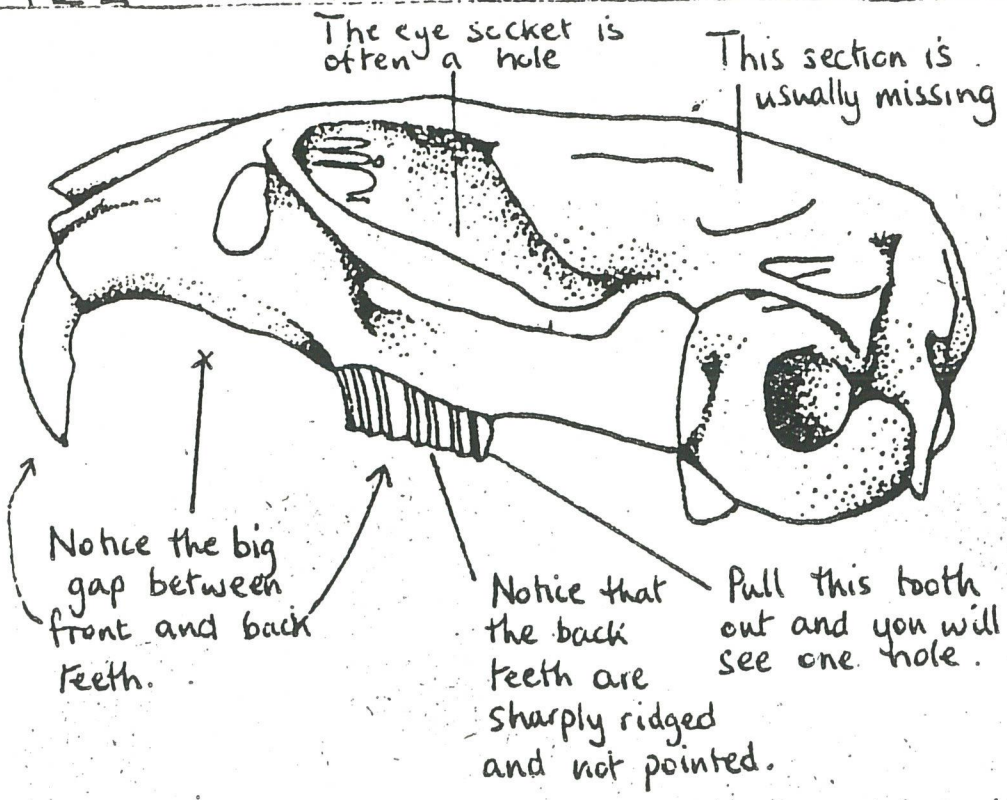
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### LENS RECORDING AREA

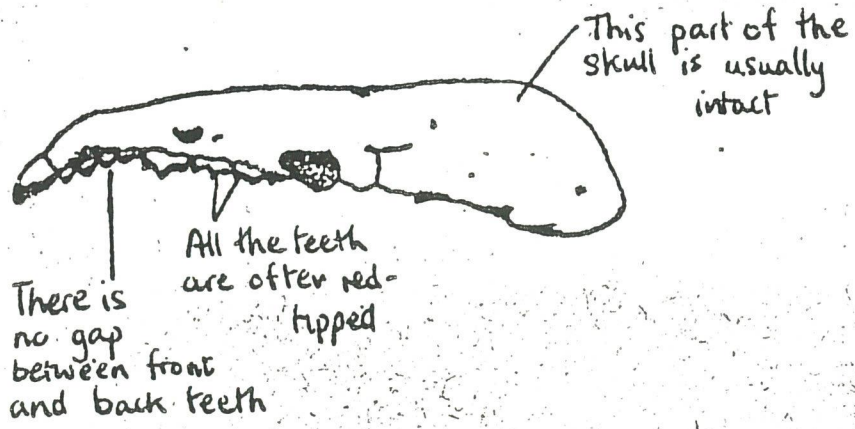
It is proposed that LENS consider a recording area of 10 km radius from Long Eaton. This would be approximately as far as Ilkeston to the north, Bunny to the east, Sutton Bonnington to the south and Spondon to the west (which would include Elvaston). Boundaries are not necessarily rigid but the area proposed included the Trent Valley, Attenborough Nature Reserve and Dale Abbey. It is further proposed that if this is agreed, a map of 'our patch' shall be made available. It does not mean of course that recording outside these boundaries should be neglected, merely that we concentrate within the proposed boundaries and that our records be forwarded to the appropriate recorders for the three counties of Derbyshire, Nottinghamshire and Leicestershire. Participants have the opportunity to do something of scientific value.

# SMALL ANIMAL SKULLS:

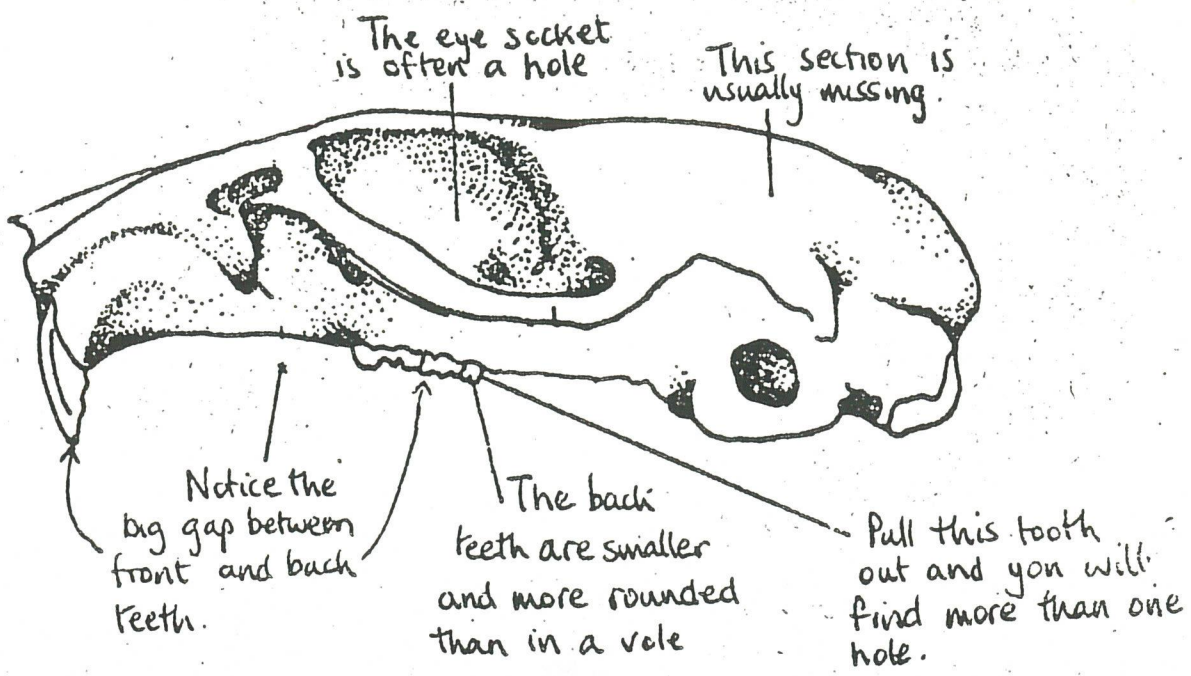
VOLE



SHREW



MOUSE



LOCAL RECORDS

May 1998 OYSTER CATCHER nest by the pylon near the third  
lagood near Ennemix, Sawley Marina.  
Belived successful brood  
N.G.R. 461 303  
Max Bryce

18th September 1998 KINGFISHER - Two seen at Forbes Hole  
Nature Reserve.  
Max Bryce

Records at 6 Harlaxton Drive, Long Eaton and adjoining Manor  
Farm Open Space. N.G.R. 502 340 approx.

Since moving to this address the following have been  
recorded in the immediate area during 1998.

BIRDS

Blackbird  
Blue Tit  
Chaffinch  
Cormorant  
Great Tit  
Crow  
Feral Pigeon  
Greenfinch  
Heron  
Kingfisher  
Long-tailed Tit  
Magpie  
Robin  
Sparrow  
Sparrowhawk  
Starling  
Thrush  
Wren

BUTTERFLIES

Comma  
Common Blue  
Large White  
Orange Tip  
Peacock  
Small Tortoiseshell  
Small White  
Speckled Wood

MAMMALS

Fox (regular visitor)  
Grey Squirrel (regular visitor)

OTHERS

Garden Spider (Aranea diadema)  
Frog  
Toad

Alan Heath