BIODIVERSITY NEWS IN NORFOLK

NO 84 (APRIL 2019)


Red Admiral, photo credit: Liam Smith

Welcome

Welcome to the new (and hopefully improved) BIODIVERSITY NEWS!

In Local News we see early signs of success for the new celebrity Peregrines of Norfolk, in National News we find out what the UK government is doing to fight illegal wildlife trade and in World News we discover which vertebrate class is the "most threatened" with extinction.

If you have any comments on the new layout/style/content of the E-bulletin please email us at: nbis@norfolk.gov.uk



SEND YOUR RECORDS

You can submit your wildlife records by emailing them to nbis@norfolk.gov.uk. A records spreadsheet can be downloaded from the NBIS website.


https://www.flickr.com/photos/acidpix/4660612406

PROMOTE YOUR PROJECT

If you have any news, events or groups that you would like us to feature in future editions of the BIODIVERSITY NEWS please contact us at nbis@norfolk.gov.uk.

You can download this e-bulletin as a pdf here: http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/E-BulletinApril2019.pdf
If you no longer wish to receive this email, please email nbis@norfolk.gov.uk with the title 'Unsubscribe Biodiversity News in Norfolk'

WHATS BEEN HAPPENING?

Local News

Early signs of success for new Peregrine nest box at Cromer

In early April keen birdwatchers noticed that a pair of peregrine falcons had taken up residence on a church tower in Cromer. With the help of the Hawk and Owl Trust a nesting box and camera were installed. Since then, the pair have produced 2 eggs with more expected over the coming days.

Moorhens given 5 start treatment at Beeston Common

Volunteers at Beeston common noticed that in previous years the resident moorhens have struggled to rear their young due to high predation rates. In the hope of helping the birds, the volunteers have designed and built a floating raft that will hopefully provide a safe haven for the chicks to develop.

Schoolchildren help to paint nest boxes

Schoolchildren and nursing home residents have been painting nest boxes across the county. The nest boxes have been donated by Buzz Bee Gardening with the hopes of getting the public closer to nature.



© Copyright Christine Matthews and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence.

National news

Historic whale and dolphin stranding data made public for the first time.

The Natural History Museum has made their historical records of whale and dolphin stranding's in the UK publicly available for the first time. They hold more than 20,000 records made up of 28 different species, including beluga, narwhal and Cuvier's beaked whale.



https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/

White-tailed eagles to be reintroduced to the Isle of Wight

230 years ago, white-tailed eagles were declared extinct in England. They had been persecuted because of their perceived threat to sheep and lambs. Now, Natural England plan to reintroduce the species to southern England, starting with the Isle of Wight. The first release is planned for this summer.

UK government to fund fight against illegal wildlife trade

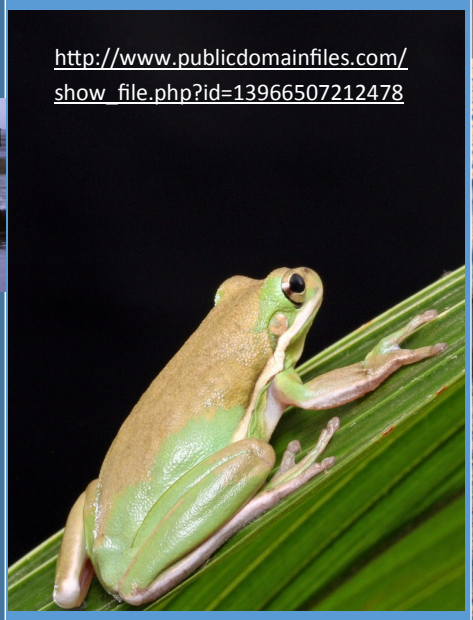
It has been six months since the UK hosted the illegal wildlife trade conference in October 2018 and now the government have announced they will be contributing £4.6 million towards combating it. The funds will be split between 14 projects, including ones to focus on sea turtles and African grey parrots.

World news

Scientists warn that amphibians are suffering catastrophic population declines

The Zoological Society of London has declared that amphibians are the most threatened vertebrate class on the planet. The main threats to these species has been attributed to ranavirus and chytridiomycosis.

http://www.publicdomainfiles.com/show_file.php?id=13966507212478



New species of ancient human discovered in the Philippines

Scientists discovered the species *Homo luzonensis* when analysing bones found in cave sediments dated to 67,000 years ago. Researchers believe the species would have been short and may have had curved fingers and toes.

Your news story here

If you have a local biodiversity news story that you would like to share, please get in touch at: nbis@norfolk.gov.uk

EVENTS AND GETTING INVOLVED



Past Events

As part of the Norfolk Festival of Nature NBIS and NNNSI hosted a stand at the forum in Norwich. It was a brilliant day with many young people enjoying NNNSI's "whack a mink" bean bag game and learning about invasive species. More than 100 records of common species were submitted to NBIS on the day.

Upcoming Events and Getting Involved

Breakfast with the birds - Sunday May 12th - Church Marsh Nature Reserve
Join the South Yare Wildlife Group for a guided dawn chorus walk at Surlingham Church Marsh. Breakfast afterwards is served at the Ferry House. Booking is essential (£10 non members, £8 members) More information here

Spring Evening Walk - Friday April 26th - Wheatfen Nature Reserve
Join the warden for a guided walk to see and hear the signs of spring. Tea and coffee provided. (£4 per adult, under 16's free)
Booking is essential by calling 01508 538036 or emailing info@wheatfen.org

Beginner's Birding - Various upcoming dates - Titchwell Marsh
Join guides from the RSPB to view and learn about the resident and migrant bird species at Titchwell Marsh Nature Reserve. (£10 non members, £8 members) More information here

Marvellous Moths - Wednesday May 15th - Hickling Broad
Join Norfolk Wildlife Trust and learn about the moths that can be found at Hickling broad. (There is no cost for NWT members, non members will be required to pay reserve entry fees) More information here

Wild about the Wensum - Sunday May 12th - Pensthorpe Natural Park
Join Pensthorpe Conservation Trust to learn about the diverse habitats and species that make the River Wensum such a special place and discover some of the organisations that promote, protect and enhance the river. More information here

If you would like to promote your biodiversity events in future editions of BIODIVERSITY NEWS, please contact us at : nbis@norfolk.gov.uk.

VOLUNTEER GROUPS OF THE MONTH

Litcham Common's Conservation Group
This group carries out various practical conservation work at Litcham Common Nature Reserve. They meet on the second Saturday of every month at 10am. For more information click here

South Yare Wildlife Group
The South Yare Wildlife Group meet regularly to carry out educational, surveying and practical conservation events. Click here for more information.

Norwich Environmental Weekenders (NEWS)
This group meet on Sundays throughout the year to carry out conservation work at locations across the county. More information here


© Copyright Karl and Ali and licensed for reuse under this Creative Commons Licence

Mid Norfolk Conservation Volunteers
This group meet on Fridays between 11:15 and 14:15 to carry out practical conservation work at a variety of locations. More information here

If you would like your volunteer group to be included in future editions of this the BIODIVERSITY NEWS please get in contact at: nbis@norfolk.gov.uk.

COMMUNITY BIODIVERSITY AWARDS (LAST CHANCE TO NOMINATE)

There are now less than **seven days to make your nominations** for the Community Biodiversity Awards, if you haven't made your nominations, time is of the essence. We rarely have the opportunity to thank volunteers for the time and energy they donate towards improving the biodiversity and wildlife that makes Norfolk such a great place. There are six categories this year: Young Peoples Achievement, Saving Species, Churchyards and Cemeteries, Nature for Health and Wellbeing, Groups, and Above and Beyond.
More information on the awards categories can be found here: http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/community-2/community-biodiversity-awards/
Click here to make a nomination now: http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/AIFJY/

The 2019 Awards have been generously sponsored by:

KELLING HEATH
Pensthorpe Natural Park
R&J HOGG LTD HISTORIC BUILDING SPECIALISTS
BIRDscapes
NORWICH COMMUNITY GREEN GYM CONSERVATION EXERCISE
thelandscapepartnership planning and designing environments for life
nbp Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership

Background: https://pxhere.com/en/photo/323849