



Biodiversity News in Norfolk

No 38
(Aug 2014)

Photo: All set up and ready to go at the Dinosaur Adventure Bioblitz © Lizzy Oddy

Welcome to our August e-bulletin

The temperatures have dropped and the swifts have departed - it seems that autumn is fast approaching. But there is still plenty going on!

The Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative are hosting a major European conference here in Norwich in September. Called 'Bridging the Gap: Working together to tackle invasive non-native species in Europe', the event will bring to a close the work of the RINSE project and look ahead to a new initiative - SEFINS. See [EVENTS](#) for more information and how to register.

NBIS were part of another bioblitz at the start of August - a return to Dinosaur Adventure at Lenwade. The weather was kind to us and the species total, while not as high as the first bioblitz there in 2012, did manage to beat last year's count - see [Local NEWS](#) for more details. There was also a 'first for Norfolk' record made of a species of gall - see [SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS](#) to find out more! If you're not yet bioblitzed out, there will be another on the 21st September at Hingham, with lots of activities planned. Another event to put in your diary for October is the ever popular Wild About Norfolk at Easton College. Always a favourite, the day promises to be a great one (see [EVENTS](#)).

In other [Local NEWS](#), there is good news for Roydon Common in West Norfolk. They have secured a large grant to help restore the rare mire communities on the common. And in [National NEWS](#), it seems that the menu in fish and chip shops may soon be changing, as warmer seas change the makeup of fish stocks around our shores.

Finally, you only have one month left to get involved with this year's Norfolk Bat Survey which finishes at the end of September (see [GETTING INVOLVED](#) to find out how).

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Many thanks to those of you who have submitted records of Otter. **Please submit any more sightings of Otter here:** <http://nbis.org.uk/Otter>



Our Species of the Month for September are the **Common Wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*)** and the **German Wasp (*Vespula germanica*)**.

These two related species feed the larvae in their nest with caterpillars and other insects, and in return the larvae provide them with a sweet saliva. The adults often seem to suddenly appear in September as this is the time that the queen stops laying eggs. The workers' time is no longer spent feeding the larvae and so they start searching for other sweet foods for themselves - this could include your pint of cider or your jam sandwich!

Wasps, unlike bees, can use their sting multiple times. This makes them more likely to sting than a bee. However they are unlikely to do so unless threatened by a sudden movement or violent behaviour.

The Common Wasp and the German Wasp are both commonly found and look very similar. The best way to tell them apart is that the Common Wasp has an anchor shaped black mark on the front of its head, while the German wasp has three small dots (this difference is particularly obvious in females).

For more information and to record either wasp species click here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/Wasp>

Photos: (Left): Common Wasp (*Vespula vulgaris*) face © [Tim Evison](#) and licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution-Share Alike 2.5 Generic](#) licence; (Right): German Wasp (*Vespula germanica*) showing the three dots on its face © [Maciej Skorecki](#) and licensed under the [CC BY 3.0](#) licence.

Biodiversity and Countryside Team
Environment, Transport and Development,
Norfolk County Council
nbis@norfolk.gov.uk

Please do email us at nbis@norfolk.gov.uk if you have any news or events that you would like us to feature in the next or coming issues. And do feel free to forward to anyone you feel would also be interested.

You can download this e-bulletin as a pdf here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/E-BulletinAug2014.pdf> You can also download past e-bulletins as a pdf here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/newsletterse-bulletins>

[top]

[Local NEWS](#)
[National NEWS](#)
[GETTING INVOLVED](#)
[SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS](#)
[EVENTS](#)
[AND FINALLY](#)

Local NEWS

West Norfolk 'mire'-loving orchid habitat's £249k grant

The build-up of "100 years of air pollution" will be removed from Roydon Common's mire habitat.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-28868247>

National Trust warning to protect bird colonies on Blakeney Point

The National Trust, which looks after Blakeney Point, have reiterated the importance of keeping a distance from breeding birds including common, sandwich, little and arctic terns.

<http://tinyurl.com/ldllbns>

Dinosaur Park Bioblitz, 2nd-3rd August 2014

Thanks to all of the people who came to help out at the Dinosaur Park Bioblitz, the species total for the 24 hour period is 470 records of 406 species. This includes a gall never before recorded in Norfolk - see SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS.

http://www.nbis.org.uk/DinosaurAdventureBioblitz_ResultsMap

A11 Elveden bypass to be shut for bat bridges

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-28642459>

'Hidden gem' of the Norfolk Broads gives up its secrets

<http://tinyurl.com/lm35frd>

New fish pass at Denver Sluice will help conserve sea trout and coarse fish

<http://tinyurl.com/ow3y9fm>

New appeal to help Norfolk seals

<http://tinyurl.com/qdy4enp>

Peregrine chicks YV and T6 are doing well

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6YD9KJxKbL4&feature=youtu.be&a>

[\[TOP\]](#)

National NEWS

Gurnard and chips, please: warmer seas change UK fish stock as cod head north

Marine experts have warned that rising sea temperatures are transforming the makeup of fish stocks in our coastal waters.

<http://tinyurl.com/n4qkd4g>

How the summer's Mediterranean weather brought rare birds and insects to Britain

Bee-eaters, stilts and rare butterflies have appeared in the UK for the first time in years, tempted by the unusually hot summer sunshine.

<http://tinyurl.com/ojv5df>

Driven to extinction: a bug's life

The number of insects on the planet has plummeted by 45% since the Seventies. Why do we care so little for such a vital resource?

<http://www.telegraph.co.uk/earth/wildlife/11021658/Driven-to-extinction-a-bugs-life.html>

Survey of remote Kimberley islands finds rare and unknown species

<http://tinyurl.com/moswumc>

Wading birds declining in the UK

<http://tinyurl.com/lfw48qw>

How DNA barcodes can beat the wildlife traffickers

<http://tinyurl.com/n5ed2qn>

Protecting produce: ten African countries get biosecurity investment

<http://tinyurl.com/pcdue48>

More National news here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#Aug2014NationalNews>

[\[TOP\]](#)

GETTING INVOLVED

NBIS needs YOU!

NBIS are continuing to develop their Multi-taxon species monitoring initiative known as the Norfolk Species Surveillance Network (NSSN), launched in 2013.

They are expanding this network of reference sites and the recording on them, hence needing as many of you as possible to volunteer to monitor species change across Norfolk. They are looking for individuals or local parish/conservation groups to get involved. No previous experience of the methodology is necessary, just a passion for wildlife.

Each volunteer/group will adopt an important local site for wildlife, either from our list of sites or a site of their own, if they have landowner permission. Volunteers will be expected to visit the site several times throughout the year and record as many or as few species groups as they can. Some species groups are typically under recorded and NBIS would like to target these.

They will provide equipment, support and training in the methods.

Develop your ID skills with wildlife identification training days for specific species groups, running throughout the summer to boost your skills and confidence.

To sign up to the initiative, please click here:

[Sign up to Volunteer for the Norfolk Species Surveillance Network](#)

Or visit our website: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/SpeciesSurveillanceNetwork>



National Hedgehog Survey 2014 -2015

As many people are now aware, Britain's hedgehogs are struggling to survive in the 21st Century with increased habitat fragmentation, agricultural intensification, increased traffic volume and climate change being just some of their problems! A key part of designing a conservation strategy for the species is to get a better understanding of the current UK population.

To this purpose, The National Hedgehog Survey is being conducted by University of Reading and Nottingham Trent University, in collaboration with British Hedgehog Preservation Society and People's Trust for Endangered Species.

They are looking for volunteer recorders in Norfolk, who once registered will be able to collect the necessary equipment from the Regional Co-ordinator Ed Stocker (Norfolk County Council Ecologist) at County Hall, Norwich.

To register as a volunteer and / or to ask any questions regarding the survey, please contact the survey coordinator, Emily Thomas by emailing hedgehogsurvey@ptes.org. When contacting them, please ensure that you include your postcode as this will be used to identify the survey square closest to you. Thank you.

For more information please see <http://ptes.org/get-involved/surveys/countryside-2/national-hedgehog-survey/>

You can also record any Norfolk hedgehog sightings at <http://nbis.org.uk/hedgehog>

Last chance to take part in this year's Norfolk Bat Survey

There is just a month left of this year's Norfolk Bat Survey so if you've not signed up yet you need to be quick! Some of the detectors are fully booked out for the remainder of the season, but there are lots of monitoring centres around the county so you should be able to find one you can pick the equipment up from. You can sign up for a 1km square and reserve equipment online at <http://www.batsurvey.org/>

Summer Snake Stock Take

Gardeners urged to help Amphibian and Reptile Conservation with their Summer Snake Stock Take.

<http://www.arc-trust.org/news/latest-news/summer-snake-stock-take>

Norfolk Trails' Treasure Photo Competition

What do you treasure when you're out exploring the Norfolk Trails? Share it on one of Norfolk Trails' social

media channels and you could be a winner. The competition runs from 23rd July - 30th September 2014
<http://tinyurl.com/pvz96xh>

Urban Invaders Survey

The Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative is running an 'Urban Invaders' survey, asking people to record six species of invasive plant found in urban areas. You can record these species online at:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/UrbanInvadersSurvey>

Living Landscapes: Practical Tasks

<http://tinyurl.com/qyj4pla>

[\[TOP\]](#)

SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

First report of *Andricus gemmeus* in Norfolk

This gall was spotted by county gall recorder Anne Hickley at Dinosaur Adventure (Lenwade) during a 24 hour Bioblitz on the 2nd and 3rd August. Anne double-checked the sighting with the gall society, who confirmed that the species had been identified correctly and that it was a first record for Norfolk.

Tansy beetle sighted in Cambridgeshire Fens for first time in 40 years

This critically endangered beetle was spotted during a ditch survey at Woodwalton Fen National Nature Reserve near Huntingdon.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-cambridgeshire-28680402>

Bolivian golden bat revealed as 'new species'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/28583377>

[\[TOP\]](#)

EVENTS

Norfolk Rivers Trust Wildlife Fun Day, Knights Hill Hotel, King's Lynn, 14th September 2014, 10am - 4pm.

Free event in association with Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

- Meet and find out more from environment and wildlife organisations from around Norfolk.
- Free wildlife activities for the whole family.
- Discover the history of the Gaywood Valley with a free walk and talk led by Dr Clive Bond (Booking required).
- Brush up on your wildlife photography skills with a free photography workshop and session (Booking required).
- Free parking and refreshments available.

<http://www.norfolkriverstrust.org/events/norfolk-rivers-trust-wildlife-fun-day/>

Hedgerow Harvest, Fairhaven Water Gardens, 7th September 2014.

£8 for adults, £5 for children, age 8+. Sorry, no dogs allowed. Booking essential. Please call 10603 270449

http://www.fairhavengarden.co.uk/events_2014.html

Hingham Bioblitz, Hingham NR9 4AF, 21st September 2014

Get involved in a range of hands-on activities, bug hunts, butterfly walks and bat detecting, plus much more. Schedule TBC.

<http://www.bnhc.org.uk/bioblitz/hingham-bioblitz/>

Bridging the Gap: Working together to tackle invasive non-native species in Europe, OPEN, Bank Plain, Norwich.

A major European conference hosted by the Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative on the **23rd and 24th September 2014**. The event marks the end of the RINSE project, but the beginning of an exciting new venture - SEFINS.

The Programme for the 23rd September has been put together by the RINSE partnership - see

<http://www.rinse-europe.eu/conference>

The Programme for the 24th September has come from the SEFINS partnership and can be seen here:

<http://www.rinse-europe.eu/cluster-event>.

Although 'Bridging the Gap' is a two day event you don't have to register for both days, you can pick the one that is of most interest to you. The events are free to attend, but places are limited, so please register early to avoid disappointment. For details on how to register please follow the links above.

Go wild with Wild About Norfolk - your local wildlife and environmental fair showcasing the fantastic nature of Norfolk..

When? Saturday **October 11th, 10am - 4pm.**

Where? **Easton College, Easton.** Just off the A47 next to the Norfolk Showground.

With over 40 exhibitors, learn all about the special wildlife that we are lucky enough to have in Norfolk, and meet

the organisations and individuals which help care, protect, preserve and in some cases restore it. Activities include bird or bug box making, tractor rides, wildlife walks, interactive quizzes, handling unexpected creatures, seeing birds in the hand and birds of prey up close, face painting and many, many more delights! Entry is entirely free, with a café and a BBQ for refreshments - why not make a day of it?

<http://www.wildaboutnorfolk.co.uk/wildaboutnorfolk/>

Norfolk Biodiversity Forum, Thursday 16th October 2014

The theme of the Forum this year will be 'Landscapes and species - managing both in Norfolk'. The Forum will be held at the Chapel at Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse near Dereham. Bookings are open and the booking form can be found at http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/about/annual_biodiversity_forum.aspx. There are 100 places available. If the form is not on the website please email su.waldron@norfolk.gov.uk to be sent one. There will be a £10 fee to help cover costs. Lunch and refreshments will be provided.

[\[TOP\]](#)

AND FINALLY..

Species named after David Attenborough (just some of them!): <http://tinyurl.com/pay7zrz>

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please email us: nbis@norfolk.gov.uk

Your comments about this bulletin are appreciated - please complete our survey at:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/e-bulletin-survey>

Webpages: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/> ; www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/; www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/nonnativespecies

Facebook: www.facebook.com/NorfolkBiodiversityInformationService ; www.facebook.com/NorfolkInvasives

Twitter: <http://www.twitter.com/NorfolkBIS>; <http://www.twitter.com/NorfolkNNSI>

Please consider the environment before printing this email