



Fairhaven garden, South Walsham, © Paul Dickson, 27 Feb 2018

Biodiversity News in Norfolk

No 73 (February 2018)

Welcome to our February e-bulletin!

We thought spring was rolling in but February was finished with a Siberian blast. There are still many opportunities to get involved within the coming months in Norfolk. Go to **Local NEWS** to nominate in the Community and Biodiversity awards. In **National NEWS** the first Burial ground database to be created and in **International NEWS** the importance of protecting the world's peatlands.

Don't forget, you can submit your wildlife records online at <http://nbis.org.uk/AllSpeciesSurvey> or email them to us at nbis@norfolk.gov.uk. Our data protection policy can be found on our website at <http://www.nbis.org.uk/privacy-policy>.

It doesn't have to be a rare or unusual species – recording common and widespread species are just as important. From blackbirds to oak trees, hedgehogs to ladybirds, let's see how many species can be recorded in 2018!

Happy reading!

**Natural Environment Team
Community and Environmental Services,
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-BulletinFeb2018.pdf> You can also download past e-bulletins as a pdf here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/newsletterse-bulletins>

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Local NEWS

The NBP Community and Biodiversity awards nominations are now open!

We are looking for individuals or groups that are making an amazing contribution for wildlife and inspiring others in your local communities in Norfolk – such as town and parish councils, groups, individuals, schools and businesses. Winners will be celebrated at an awards evening in the summer.

Download the Awards Flyer to see the categories: <https://tinyurl.com/ybtme9v3>

Nomination form Pdf version <https://tinyurl.com/oq85ba2> and email to biodiversityawards@norfolk.gov.uk

Or fill out the online nomination form: <http://www.smartsurvey.co.uk/s/CBANomination/>

Stunning shots of feathered friends featured in Norfolk Wildlife Trust's Bird Photographer of the Year exhibition

Spectacular images of wildlife from around the world are on shown at Cley Marshes visitors centre. The exhibition runs until the 16th April. <https://tinyurl.com/y8exshos>

Norfolk team to take part in international bird race in Israel

A team of birdwatchers from Norfolk will take part in a bird race competition in Israel. The race is aimed to raise money for BirdLife international to combat illegal hunting of migrant birds in the Mediterranean.

<https://tinyurl.com/yc8m4tue>

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National NEWS

First database of burial grounds in England and Wales to be created

The database will record all natural and manmade treasures of burial grounds through a HLF grant. The charity Caring for God's Acre will work with many partner organisations, including NBIS to achieve this.

<https://tinyurl.com/ya86b9oj>

Water vole areas in England and Wales fall by 30% in a decade

Habitat loss, water pollution and American mink has led to the species remaining the UK fastest declining mammal. Analysis from the Wildlife Trusts found a 30% decline from 2006 to 2015. <https://tinyurl.com/yavehxb4>

Rare high-altitude money spider discovered near Loch Ness

At Dundreggan Conservation Estate in Glenmoriston near Loch Ness an adult male of *Hilaira nubigena* was spotted. The first record of this spider west of the Great Glen for more than 25 years. <https://tinyurl.com/ybvs4lwo>

Hedgehog numbers 'down by half', warn wildlife groups

Survey from citizen scientists have shown hedgehogs have declined by 50% at the turn of the century. There is particular concern for them in the countryside because of the loss of field margins and hedgerows. However the population may be showing signs of recovery in urban areas. <https://tinyurl.com/y9vppy8k>

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International NEWS

Protecting peatlands, protecting the planet

Highlighting the importance of peatlands in World Wetlands Day, which is on the 2nd February.

<https://tinyurl.com/ya858xm2>

'Evolution in real time': silent crickets still singing for a mate

<https://tinyurl.com/yb4q4xfr>

First images of creatures from Antarctic depths revealed

<https://tinyurl.com/ya3w9hqm>

More news here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#Feb2018NationalNews>

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GETTING INVOLVED

Help record parasitical mistletoe on oaks

Mistletoe has a wide range of hosts including oaks. Oaks with parasitical mistletoe are still quite rare. Can you help collect the records for Norfolk? If you find any mistletoe, contact NBIS at nbis@norfolk.gov.uk

Norfolk's Freshwater Study Group Meetings

Are you keen to learn more about freshwater life?

If you are an enthusiastic beginner or have some experience of investigating the wealth of freshwater life in the county, then the Norfolk Freshwater Study Group meetings could be for you. Meetings take place every third Thursday of the month in the study centre at the Wheatfen Nature Reserve, Surlingham from 19:00 onwards. The focus is typically on invertebrate samples from ponds, dykes, broads and rivers, though they are happy to be side-tracked by anything aquatic! There is a range of microscopes, equipment, identification guides and a vast store of knowledge available to share and use. These meetings are an ideal opportunity to increase your identification skills and understand more about freshwaters.

If you would like to come along and see what is available, please contact Dan Hoare: daniel.j.hoare@gmail.com

If you have any wildlife scheme please contact nbis@norfolk.gov.uk

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SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

Norfolk godwits found in Portugal

Two young black tailed godwits released on WWT Welney from Project Godwit last year have been seen in Portugal – 1200 miles away. This is the first non UK sighting and have integrated with another flock of Godwits. The two birds were part of the first ever British wading birds to be released into the wild under a new conservation technique called 'headstarting'. It is great to hear they have migrated safely. It is unlikely the Godwits will breed this year, but the hope is they will return to Welney next spring. <https://tinyurl.com/yde4ygu9>

Bewick's swan departure from East Anglia heralds arrival of spring

Leho, the Bewick's swan, who arrived at WWT Welney on 15th December has now left to return to Arctic Russia where he stays during the summer, an indicator the winter is ending. <https://tinyurl.com/ybquxh6t>

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EVENTS

NNNS Walk – Lichens of Ashwellthorpe Lower Wood and Church, 10:30 – 13:30, Sunday 4th March 2018, The Street Ashwellthorpe, NR16 1HD

With Peter Lambley and the Norfolk Lichen Group. Beginners are welcome.

<http://norfolknaturalists.org.uk/wp/events-page/>

NNNS Annual General Meeting and 'Norfolk's Deep History Coast: a living landscape museum', 19:30 – 21:30, Tuesday 13 March 2018, St. Andrew's Hall, Eaton, NR4 6NW

Illustrated talk by Dr. David Waterhouse, Senior Curator of Natural History and Acting Curator of Geology, Norfolk Museums Service. <http://norfolknaturalists.org.uk/wp/events-page/>

Photographic Group Members' Evening: 'Show your own', 19:30 – 21:30, Tuesday 27th March 2018, St Andrew's Hall, Eaton NR4 6NW <http://norfolknaturalists.org.uk/wp/events-page/>

"Birdwatch by Sound", outdoor event at Felbrigg and Cley, 9:00 – 15:00, Sunday 29 April 2018, National Trust - Felbrigg Hall, Gardens & Estate, Felbrigg, Norwich NR11 8PR

Insight into identification of birds call and song with Carl Chapman. Booking essential

<http://norfolknaturalists.org.uk/wp/events-page/>

**Orchards East Winter Workshop Program:
All are FREE!**

Grafting Workshop, Saturday 10th March, 10:00 - 16:00, Working Woodlands Centre, Maulden Wood, Haynes West End, Bedfordshire, MK45 3UZ

Led by Paul Read, of Suffolk Traditional Orchard Group and Orchards East. Following a talk on the propagation of fruit trees and demonstrations of grafting, participants will be able to try “bench grafting” for several hours, principally using the whip-and-tongue method. Paul will demonstrate other methods, and other propagation techniques will be discussed. <https://tinyurl.com/y87ukv9u>

Formative Pruning Workshop, 9:45 - 15:30, Saturday 24th March, Tewin Orchard Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust, Tewin, AL6 0LY

Learn how to prune fruit trees. The workshop covers the pruning, shaping and training of traditional open-centre trees from years 1 to 5 years. Led Anna Baldwin, orchard specialist and experienced trainer.

<https://tinyurl.com/y87ukv9u>

More details and how to book, download the programme: <https://tinyurl.com/y87ukv9u>

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AND FINALLY.. Incredible aerial photos show one of Norfolk’s natural wonders, now under government protection <https://tinyurl.com/y9nswxbg>

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

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

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