



Biodiversity News in Norfolk

No 72

(January 2018)

Male Black Redstart © Archie Dundas Photography, 19/01/2018

Welcome to our January e-bulletin!

We hope you all had a great Christmas and are excited for what is to come in the New Year. There are many **local NEWS** stories to read about this month. In **National NEWS** the government's 25 year plan for our environment is out and in **International NEWS** the ocean rising temperature effect on green sea turtles.

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. 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/>

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!

**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-BulletinJan2018.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 best wild wonders of Britain, according to David Attenborough

Cley Marshes has been named as one of David Attenborough's top 5 favourite spots for wildlife on the UK coast. <https://tinyurl.com/y75dblfv>

Majestic falcon which calls church home set for fruitful 2018

A female Peregrine falcon, who took up residence at St Mary's Church in Bungey, is looking for a mate. A 6 month community project has already created a good place for her to nest. <https://tinyurl.com/ycp4r5yt>

What bird species will be visiting your garden this winter?

The British Trust for Ornithology have compiled a list of birds to look out for and record this winter in Norfolk. If you record any species please send the records to us nbis@norfolk.gov.uk. <https://tinyurl.com/y9vsmhbh>

Norfolk identified as priority area in fight against raptor persecution

Norfolk has been recorded as having the second highest number of raptor deaths over five years. Raptor persecution maps have been published for police to identify areas with high numbers of incidents. <https://tinyurl.com/ybplaxw4>

Balmy 2017 threw Britain's wildlife clock haywire including in Norfolk

The weather in May encouraged the appearance of Purple Emperor butterflies colonies in Sheringham Park last year. <https://tinyurl.com/y7aqhyoz>

Broads National Park shortlisted in the BBC Countryfile Magazine Awards for National Park of the Year! You'll also find Holkham beach shortlisted in 'Beach of the Year' <https://tinyurl.com/y8u87q6z>. Cast your vote [here](#).

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National NEWS

Prime Minister launches 25 Year Environment Plan

The PM has laid out a plan for a cleaner, greener Britain including no avoidable plastic waste by the end of 2042. <https://tinyurl.com/yaweq8ym>. For full report <https://tinyurl.com/ybl5stva>

BTO's 2017 Bird Trend report

BTO have released their Bird Trend Report on the latest population status of 121 common breeding birds in the UK countryside. <https://tinyurl.com/y94j4wjg>

New bee species in London garden generates buzz

A new species of bee Hawk's-beard nomad (*Nomada facilis*) was found by NHM entomologist David Notton in his London garden last year and was confirmed by DNA sequencing. <https://tinyurl.com/yb6ofecf>

National Trust to create UK sanctuary for endangered butterfly

The high brown fritillary is the UK's most endangered butterfly due to changes in woodland management. The National Trust have been given £100,000 by the People's Postcode Lottery to improve 150 acres of lowland heath and wood pasture in the Heddon Valley, Devon. <https://tinyurl.com/y8n7duj3>

50 disused quarries turned into wildlife habitats to help Britain's endangered birds

The conservation project has been completed two years early with 1000ha of grassland, woodland, heath and wetland land has been created, which will support threatened birds. <https://tinyurl.com/ycttzsap>

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International NEWS

New study suggests shark declines can lead to changes in reef fish body shapes

<https://tinyurl.com/y8kbhxqj>

Great Barrier Reef: rising temperatures turning green sea turtles female

<https://tinyurl.com/yd2gde76>

Deadly irukandji jellyfish 'drifting south towards Gold Coast as sea temperatures rise

<https://tinyurl.com/yaxfv537>

More news here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#Jan2018NationalNews>

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GETTING INVOLVED

National Nest Box Week 14th - 21st February

Register for a **FREE** information pack on making and buying nest boxes and how to put them up and their maintenance. <https://tinyurl.com/zo7fkel>

Hedgehog hibernation

As hedgehogs are hibernating, visit Hedgehog Street for help in supporting hedgehogs in your own garden:

<https://www.hedgehogstreet.org/>

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

Toads on the Road!

The toad migratory period will soon be upon us and at many locations around Norfolk, toads will be running the gauntlet on the county's roads to reach their breeding sites.

With this in mind, Norfolk County Council Ecologist, Ed Stocker has been working with Balfour Beatty Construction Services UK and the Norfolk County Council Northern Distributor Route Project Team, to find homes for spare amphibian fencing that is currently not being used.

Some of the donated fencing has already been installed on the A134 by the Cranwich Toad Watch Patrollers, and will keep toads away from the road until volunteers can safely collect them and help them on their journey in buckets!

Norfolk County Council has been working with the Cranwich Toad Watch Patrollers, Friends of Thetford Forest and Forestry Commission Ecologist Neal Armour-Chelu for several years at a site on the A134 in Cranwich. In 2014 this crossing was the No.1 Toad Crossing in the UK according to the league table of Department for the Environment, Transport and the Regions (DETR) approved Toad Crossing points, with 9000 toads being safely collected from the highway.



© David Goodrum, Friends of Thetford Forest, 21/01/18

Some fencing is still available!

If you have a toad crossing in your parish and would like some fencing to keep the toads off the road until they can be moved safely, please contact Norfolk County Council Natural Environment Team <mailto:NETI@norfolk.gov.uk>.



If you already have an active community group or a site in the parish where toads are often killed on the road during migration, why not register it as an official Toad Crossing?, or form your own Toad Patrol? Guidance including important road safety advice can be found on the Froglife Charity Website: <http://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads/>

If you register your Toad Crossing via the Froglife website, <http://www.froglife.org/what-we-do/toads-on-roads/register-a-toad-crossing/> Your crossing will then be eligible to apply for an official Toad Warning Sign!

Thanks to Ed Stocker for this piece.

Black Redstart

Bird watchers have been heading up to Sheringham to see if they can spot the male Black Redstart that has made appearance. They do winter in North Norfolk, but in small numbers as they are usually found in Southern Europe. Black Redstarts are on the Red List of Birds of Conservation Concern and are also listed as a Schedule 1 species within The Wildlife and Countryside Act. <https://tinyurl.com/yb9yrm3t>

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EVENTS

Hanging by a thread - Norfolk's threatened spiders, 19:30 – 21:30, Tuesday 13 February 2018, St. Andrew's Hall, Eaton, NR4 6NW

Presidential Address by Dr Helen Smith. <http://norfolknaturalists.org.uk/wp/events-page/>

Wildlife of Cuba, 19:30 – 21:30, Tuesday 27 February 2018, St. Andrew's Hall, Eaton, NR4 6NW

Illustrated talk by Hans Watson of the NNNS Photographic Group. <http://norfolknaturalists.org.uk/wp/events-page/>

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

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/>

British Trust for Ornithology events coming up: <https://tinyurl.com/ydcqrsp4>

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

Formative Pruning Workshop, 10:00 - 13:30, Saturday 10th February 2018, Metfield Community Orchard, Metfield, Suffolk, IP20 0JY

Learn how to prune to create specific tree forms – standard, half-standard, bush, multi-stem. Problem solving: tree predators and sward management, and how they might determine your tree form and advanced techniques. Tree age 1 - 5 years. Led by Bob Lever, orchard enthusiast and experienced trainer. <https://tinyurl.com/y87ukv9u>

Grafting Workshop, 10.00 - 16:00, Saturday 10th February 2018, Foxburrow Farm, Saddlemakers Lane, Melton, Woodbridge IP12 1NA

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>

Restorative Pruning Workshop, 10:00 - 15:00, Sunday 11th February 2018, Rummer’s Lane orchard, Wisbech St. Mary, Cambridgeshire

Learn how to renovate and prune old apple trees to encourage longevity, improve stability, and encourage growth in the right place. Tree age 50 years and upwards. Led by Bob Lever, orchard enthusiast and experienced trainer. Open to people with some understanding of pruning apple and pear trees. <https://tinyurl.com/y87ukv9u>

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 form 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.. Piggyback riders: Funny photos of lazy hitchhiking animals

<https://tinyurl.com/y9rexxyk>

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

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

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

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

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