



Biodiversity News in Norfolk

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(Apr 2014)

Photo: Bluebell Wood © Lizzy Oddy

Welcome to our April e-bulletin

Spring certainly seems to be well and truly here, with cuckoos returning from Africa and bluebell woods in full bloom (see SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS).

The wildlife events season is also upon us - NBIS were at Wild About the Wensum at Pensthorpe on Saturday - and NBIS, NBP and the Norfolk Non-Native Species Initiative will be out and about at events during May, including Nature Day in Harleston, Go Wild at Barton Broad and the Norfolk Bird Fair (see EVENTS). And the Norfolk Species Surveillance Network is gearing up for another year of surveying and is looking for more volunteers to get involved to expand the project - see GETTING INVOLVED for more information.

We are pleased to announce that the Norfolk Bat Survey is back! Following its success last year, organisers are hoping to get even more people involved and even more of the county covered. Equipment can be booked out from now, so see LocalNEWS for more details and how to get involved. There is also an article in the latest edition of British Wildlife all about last year's Norfolk Bat Survey - well worth a read!

In NationalNEWS, there is concern over the future of the natural historian, and (possibly bad news for your lettuces) eight new slug species have been discovered in Britain by researchers in Cardiff!

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Many thanks to those of you who have submitted records of rooks and their nests. **Please submit any more sightings of Rooks here: <http://nbis.org.uk/rook>**

Photo: Ramsons Hoverfly © [Sandy Rae](#) This file is licensed under the [Creative Commons Attribution 3.0](#)

Our species of the month for May is the **Ramsons Hoverfly (*Portevinia maculata*)**.

The Ramsons Hoverfly is under-recorded in Norfolk and we are asking people to check Ramsons (Wild Garlic) sites for the species. Visits should take place while the Ramsons are flowering (May-June).

The hoverfly is distinctive, with bright orange antennae and square grey markings on the abdomen.

There has only been one sighting of this species since 1938 – could you record the next one?

Please include a photo with your records if possible.

For more information and to record the Ramsons Hoverfly click here:

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



As well as our Species of the Month, we are also asking for any records of cuckoos this month, as they return from Africa. Cuckoo records can be submitted here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/Cuckoo>

Biodiversity and Countryside Team
Environment, Transport and Development,
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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-bulletinApr2014.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 Norfolk Bat Survey is back!

Following last year's success, which covered about 8% of the county, the Norfolk Bat Survey returns, and ecologists hope to up this value to 20% this year. The survey is very easy to get involved in and doesn't require any prior experience. And the results will be emailed out to you as soon as they've been analysed, so you can find out which bat species have been flying around in your area! Read more here: <http://tinyurl.com/k3l3muv>. If you would like to get involved you can sign up on the website: <http://www.batsurvey.org/sign-up/>

Save Our Spikes: Appeal to people in Norfolk to report hedgehog sightings

Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership has launched the Norfolk Hedgehog Biodiversity Action Plan and needs your help to try to estimate their population and better understand their distribution <http://tinyurl.com/m3z7xxg>

Norwich Peregrine Update

After a bit of drama <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-26952956>, three peregrine chicks have hatched at Norwich Cathedral http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/three_peregrine_chicks_hatch_at_norwich_cathedral_1_3575466

'An uncomfortable journey' - launching the Wild Anglia manifesto

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yrlsM9s-cHk&feature=youtu.be>

Stunning 25-mile stretch of Norfolk's coast to be opened up to walkers

<http://tinyurl.com/kb2u7gc>

England's first ever marine plans focus on the East of England

<http://tinyurl.com/n3mvd6w>

It's boom time again for one of our rarest birds

<http://tinyurl.com/mh2nw8q>

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National NEWS

The natural historian faces extinction

Experts claim that overspecialism and funding cuts could end a vital scientific tradition.

<http://tinyurl.com/qyhkp2y>

EU blacklist to stop spread of alien species

The European Parliament has approved new legislation to stem the spread of invasive species such as killer shrimp or Japanese Knotweed.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-27039714>

Eight new slugs found in Britain by Cardiff researchers

Bad news for gardeners!

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-wales-27061031>

Bird survey shows half-million acres of farmland is dedicated to wildlife

<http://www.gwct.org.uk/news/news/2014/april/20140414/>

English grasslands in 'catastrophic decline'

<http://tinyurl.com/lqyretc>

More National news here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#Apr2014NationalNews>

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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 email: elizabeth.oddy@norfolk.gov.uk. Visit the website for more information: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/SpeciesSurveillanceNetwork>

Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society ID Workshops - some places still available!

Species identification workshops include Grasshoppers & Crickets, Bugs & Beetles and Fungi on Wood. For more information, see their website: <http://www.nnns.org.uk/content/workshops>

Butterfly Recording Gets Smart

Butterfly Conservation has launched a new butterfly recording app, *iRecord Butterflies*. For more information see: <http://tinyurl.com/lvbtoc>

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SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

Chris the Norfolk cuckoo is back in the UK

Chris is the longest-serving cuckoo in the BTO's tagging programme, having been first tagged in Santon Downham in 2011. The three-years of data collected from Chris' tag is important in helping scientists to understand why cuckoos are declining so much <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-27171529> Skinner, who was tagged last year at Whitlingham Broad near Norwich was the first tagged cuckoo back in the UK last Monday.

You can keep up to date with all of the cuckoo tracking news here: <http://www.bto.org/science/migration/tracking-studies/cuckoo-tracking>

Bluebells blooming three weeks earlier than last year due to warm spring

The bluebells are currently in full bloom, looking absolutely fantastic! <http://tinyurl.com/jvzntph>

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EVENTS

The Norfolk Coast Partnership are holding four community events along the north east coast of Norfolk, entitled 'Living With Our Changing Coast' and celebrating the geology, human history and biodiversity of this fascinating area:

Tuesday 29 April – Overstrand Parish Hall, The Londs

Wednesday 30 April – Sheringham Oddfellows Hall, Lifeboat Plain

Wednesday 7 May – Mundesley Coronation Hall, Cromer Road

Thursday 8 May – Happisburgh Wenn Evans Centre, Blacksmiths Lane

Each has the same timing:

3pm – 6pm Drop-in for an informal chat, bring along your photos, fossils or artefacts, tell us your stories about living in the area

6pm – 7.30pm Join us for presentations by local experts on the geology, biodiversity and human history of this cliffed coast

Free tea, coffee and cake will be available at each event.

You need to register by calling Estelle Hook, on 01328 850530 or emailing estelle.hook@norfolk.gov.uk.

Nature Day Alive, Harleston Primary School 3rd May 2014, 12am-3pm.

A wildlife-packed fun day organised by the Harleston cluster of schools. Free entry.

<http://groupspaces.com/RiverWaveneyTrust/item/639554>

Go Wild at Barton Broad, Barton Turf Adventure Centre 11th May 2014, 11am-4pm.

A fun packed family day of walks, boat trips, crafts, pond dipping and much more. Free entry, booking not required.

<https://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/whats-on/all-events/2014-05-11-go-wild-at-nwt-barton-broad>

The Norfolk Bird Fair, Mannington Hall on 17th-18th May 2014, 9am-5pm.

A two-day event packed with lectures, stands and activities. Plus, raising money for conservation charities.

Tickets available in advance from the website or on the day. <http://www.norfolkbirdfair.com/>

Wymondham Nature Group (WyNG) Nature Day, Sunday 18th May 2014, 1-5pm.

Come and enjoy a really wild family afternoon at the Leonard Cheshire Disability Home, East Carleton NR14 8HP. Walks, crafts, stalls, wildlife information and refreshments. £2 for adults, FREE for children.

BEEcome a Young Recorder, Norwich Castle Museum, Wednesday 28th May 2014, 10.30am-3.30pm.

Come and learn how to attract, identify and record solitary bees and wasps. £5 per young person.

http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Beecome_a_Recorder2014poster.pdf

The Wonder of Birds, Norwich Castle Museum, 24th May - 14th September 2014.

New exhibition open at Norwich Castle Museum, combining art and natural history to explore the cultural impact of birds on humanity. <http://tinyurl.com/lvk25e5>

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AND FINALLY..

Be careful what you flush down the toilet: <http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/carnivorous-piranhas-found-blocking-sewers-in-shropshire-9246807.html?origin=internalSearch>.

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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>

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