



Biodiversity News in Norfolk No 13 (April 2012)



[Celebrating our 1st birthday this month!](#)

Photo credit left (Happy 1st birthday): Flickr user [Shoshanah](#), Creative Commons licence.

Photo far left: Front cover of latest NBIS newsletter (April 2012)

Welcome to our April biodiversity e-bulletin

It has now been 12 months since our first "Biodiversity News in Norfolk" e-bulletin. Although we have not quite got the party poppers out, there is celebration enough in the positive feedback we continue to get (regarding the e-bulletin) and the knowledge that we are disseminating useful news on the excellent conservation, biodiversity and wildlife recording work and events that take place in Norfolk, alongside key national news stories.

This month the Biodiversity and Countryside Team here at Norfolk County Council were delighted with the outcome of the recent government review of the Habitats and Wild Birds Directive (as mentioned briefly in last month's e-bulletin). Far from holding up development, the Directives have been given a clean bill of health, and are acknowledged as essential for the safeguarding of rare species and habitats which are recognised as vital for the prosperity of our countryside and country overall. For more information, the implications are summarised on the Defra website: <http://www.defra.gov.uk/habitats-review/>

Highlights of this month's e-bulletin include the latest NBIS Newsletter (cover pictured above); four new moss records for Norfolk; the Gaywood Valley State of the Environment Report and the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society releases details of a series of Workshops for 2012

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-bulletinApril2012.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

NBIS Newsletter (Issue 7 - April 2012) hot off the press!

The latest NBIS newsletter is linked below. The newsletter contains highlights from Norfolk County Recorders; Green Lane Survey; Recording Fund update; NBIS developments and brief news items.....

www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Su_Newsletter_Edition_8b_A4_FOR_WEB.pdf

Lyster the cuckoo back in the broads!

The BTO had been mildly concerned over the low temperature of Lyster's tag, at the time they received the one location from south of Paris late on Friday. This, however, gave way to relief yesterday morning when his tag began transmitting again and locations showed he was in Norfolk! He had moved 530km (330 miles) almost due north since late on Friday. The sensor data from his tag indicate he was probably actively migrating at the time the Paris location was received. Since he was last in Algeria (25 April) he has moved approximately 1880km (1170 miles) almost due north in less than 5 days. It wasn't possible to pin down his Norfolk location precisely and he may have been moving around during the day but the best quality location placed him in the Broads just north of South Walsham. This is about 10km (6 miles) south-west of his tagging location and about 13km (8 miles) north of the Reedham area where he spent much of his time last summer.

Of the other four cuckoos being tracked by the BTO, Chris is the only other one to have arrived back in the UK - touching down roughly 5km east of Epping Forest. Kasper is still stuck in Algeria and may have died, Martin and Clement have died (in Spain and Cameroon respectively)

To view their migration routes and regular updates, go to the BTO website:

<http://www.bto.org/science/migration/tracking-studies/cuckoo-tracking>

NBIS has recently completed the Gaywood Valley State of the Environment Report

As part of the SURF project NBIS has created a State of the Environment report for the Gaywood Valley. You can view/download either the summary or the final report here:

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

The report also received media coverage, a scan of the EDP article is below:

[www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/GaywoodValleyStateEnvRep_EDPArticle\(scan\).pdf](http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/GaywoodValleyStateEnvRep_EDPArticle(scan).pdf)

A mini-digger has been used to create three new geological exposures on Mousehold Heath, as part of the Earth Heritage Trial:

https://sites.google.com/site/norfolkgeodiversity/news/3_new_MH_sites

Latest Norfolk coast partnership newsletter:

www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/WideSkies6-Spring2012.pdf

Starston, near Harleston, celebrates opening of community meadow - EDP (23/04/2012)

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/starston_near_harleston_celebrates_opening_of_community_meadow_1_1357182

Party to celebrate common restoration work at Shelfanger, near Diss - EDP (23/04/2012)

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/party_to_celebrate_common_restoration_work_at_shelfanger_near_diss_1_1357130

Villagers turn former chalk pit into nature reserve at Ringstead, in Norfolk - EDP (19/04/2012)

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/villagers_turn_former_chalk_pit_into_nature_reserve_at_ringstead_in_norfolk_1_1351968

Having updated data on the Broadlands and Brecks Biodiversity audit, NBIS now has over 2.5million records in our database!!!

The Big Bat Project interactive survey map is now up and running

Register your interest in this survey of Norwich, for your 1-km square, using this interactive map:

<http://www.norwichbatgroup.org.uk/bnbp/>

Local Record Centre led data provider training

RECORD, the LRC for Cheshire, Halton and Warrington and Wirral, has recently been training people in online recording using their web-based system. NBIS will be providing similar training very soon, as per the article below:

<http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/LRC-led-data-provider-training-%281%29.aspx>

Norwich Community Green Gym volunteers rewarded for their efforts - EDP (18/04/2012)

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/norwich_community_green_gym_volunteers_rewarded_for_their_efforts_1_1352984

Race is on to stop 100,000 fish deaths on Catfield Dyke - EDP (14/04/2012)

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/race_is_on_to_stop_100_000_fish_deaths_on_catfield_dyke_1_1348740

Salthouse marshes up for sale on protected north Norfolk coast - EDP (13/04/2012)

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/salthouse_marshes_up_for_sale_on_protected_north_norfolk_coast_1_1348820

'Alien' red-eared sliders find a new home on UEA nature trail - EDP (09/04/2012)

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/alien_red_eared_sliders_find_a_new_home_on_uea_nature_trail_1_1343748

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National NEWS

Record-breaking 2011 Spring helped some of the UK's rarer butterflies - CEH website (19/04/2012)

See articles below:

<http://bit.ly/lo2j6E> and <http://bit.ly/HUwhma>

Study gives new hope for native black honeybee - The Independent (18/04/2012)

<http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/study-gives-new-hope-for-native-black-honeybee-7656887.html>

From microbes to mountains - understand the role of ecosystem services in environmental management

CIWEM will publish a number of documents on ecosystem services during 2012. This initial document seeks to inform environmental professionals through summarising the wealth of information available into one easily digestible document:

<http://www.ciwem.org/media/503645/ECOSYSTEMS%20REPORT%20FINAL%20MARCH%202012.pdf>

More on the Asian-longhorn beetle outbreak:Environmental teams tackle outbreak of tree-killing beetle - BBC News (01/04/2012)

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-17577358> and <http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Asian-longhorn-beetle-outbreak.aspx>

Fera press release: <http://www.fera.defra.gov.uk/showNews.cfm?id=529>

A completely new version of BARS is now available : ukbars.defra.gov.uk

The brand new UK Biodiversity Action Reporting System offers a range of powerful mapping and summary tools. It will provide an important source of evidence to support delivery and reporting of work within the UK to protect and enhance important habitats and species.

New guidance on designing roofs for bugs:

<http://www.buglife.org.uk/News/New+guidance+on+designing+roofs+for+bugs>

Full guidance pdf here:

http://www.buglife.org.uk/Resources/Buglife/GreenRoofGuide_P5.pdf

Spring edition of ARG today

This edition of the Newsletter of the Amphibian and reptile Groups of the UK can be found here:

www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/ARGToday11Spring2012.pdf

Why do we need a Map for England?

RTPI give their view on what we need for planning infrastructure and services:

"Despite the generally recognised and accepted need to ensure a joined up approach to planning infrastructure and services, there is remarkably still no single place or data source within government that makes all of these maps available to view....." Read the full article here: <http://www.rtpi.org.uk/item/5169>

Find links to more interesting national news stories here:

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GETTING INVOLVED

Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society (NNNS) is running a series of ID "Workshops for All" again this year

Following on from the really successful series last year, NNNS is running a full programme again in 2012. Find the course information here:

<http://www.nnns.org.uk/sites/nnns.org.uk/files/imce/user11/programme/NNNS%20workshops%202012%20information.pdf> and the full list of workshops

here: <http://www.nnns.org.uk/sites/nnns.org.uk/files/imce/user11/programme/NNNS%20workshops%202012%20list.pdf>

Further information is available on the society's website at www.nnns.org.uk

"The Big Norwich Bat Project" needs your help!

Do you live in or close to Norwich? If you do – "The Big Norwich Bat Project" wants your help! They are aiming to conduct bat surveys across the whole of Norwich and the surrounding area. If you would be interested in learning more about the bats near your home and are willing to let them carry out a survey on your property for just a single night between April and June please contact them. Importantly they only need one site for each 1-km square, so you need to be quick in expressing interest if you would like to take part! Find out more at:

<http://www.norwichbatgroup.org.uk/project.html>

Your chance to input to the Marine Strategy Framework Directive.

The consultation closes on 18th June:

<http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Marine-Strategy-Framework-Directive-Consultation-U.aspx>

Get involved in the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey which will run again this July and August:

<http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Volunteers-sought-for-the-Wider-Countryside-Butter.aspx>

West Runton Geology Walks 2012

Find our more here:

https://sites.google.com/site/norfolkgeodiversity/news/w_runton_geo_walks_2012

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SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

Four new moss records for Norfolk

Robin Stevenson found the following moss species in the Emneth commercial pear orchard - *Antitrichia curtipendula* (Pendulous Wing-moss), *Orthotrichum pumilum* (Dwarf Bristle-moss), *Orthotrichum speciosum* (Showy Bristle-moss) and *Leptodon smithii* (Prince-of-Wales Feather-moss). He said the following of his discoveries: "Normally we might expect about one, or possibly two, new county records in a year. To find four real 'quality' species in a single site, and in as many days is quite remarkable. This single orchard has now produced 44 species of epiphytic mosses, including several others which are still rare in the county, such as *Leucodon sciuroides* (Squirrel-tail Moss), *Orthotrichum striatum* (Smooth Bristle-moss), *Orthotrichum rupestre* (Rock Bristle-moss) and *Pylaisia polyantha* (Many-flowered Leskea).

These discoveries emphasise the importance of our local orchards for maintaining biodiversity."

Read the full article here:

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

Stuart Paston is the new NNNS recorder for hoverflies

The separation of this family from other flies (still the responsibility of Tony Irwin) for recording purposes reflects an awareness that more naturalists are giving them attention and Stuart is looking forward to receiving your records for the coming year. Stuart's details will soon be on the NNNS website, where the contact details of all county recorders can be found.

Stuart Paston

Participants in the BTO's Nest Box Challenge reported the first Great Tit and Blue Tits eggs at the end of March

(25th and 31st respectively), which is a month earlier than the average. A check of the 30 boxes around The Nunnery on 5th April showed that only one bird, a Blue Tit, had begun to lay. If you find a nest in your box or elsewhere in your garden, then please consider submitting details of the contents on-line via Nest Box Challenge (www.bto.org/nbc) - the results can tell us a lot about just how good gardens are at supporting breeding birds. If you'd rather submit information on paper, then you can send your records to the Nest Record Scheme - visit www.bto.org/nrs or email nrs@bto.org for more information.

Dave Leech (BTO)

Above two articles courtesy of the Norfolk Wildlife Forum Yahoo group (<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/norfolk-wildlife/>).

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EVENTS

19th May 2012 Wild About the Wensum.

At Pensthorpe 10am—5pm. More information at www.pensthorpe.com/events/
Download poster here: www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/WATW12posterf11.pdf

30th May Norfolk Non-native Species Stakeholders' Forum,

Abbey Conference Centre, starting at noon.

People should e-mail michael.sutton-croft@norfolk.gov.uk if they want to come.

9th June—10th June 2012 Gaywood valley Bioblitz

Gaywood valley from 12noon 9th June until 12 noon 10th June

More information from gemma.clark@norfolk.gov.uk

23rd June—24th June 2012 Dinosaur Park bioblitz.

At Great Witchingham Dinosaur Park. More information at

www.dinosauradventure.co.uk/general-information/events.php

23rd June—24th June 2012 Little Ouse Headwaters

Project bioblitz. More information enquiries@lohp.org.uk

27th June—28th June 2012 - Norfolk Show

Norfolk Showground

13th October 2012 Wild About Norfolk

Easton College 10am—4pm

More information at www.wildaboutnorfolk.co.uk/wildaboutnorfolk

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AND FINALLY..

Home is wear the art is: hermit crab moves into Lego shell

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/lifeandstyle/2012/apr/02/hermit-crab-lego-shell-legoland>

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