



Biodiversity News Norfolk

No 25 (April 2013)

Photo: Peregrine Falcon [Photo: Some rights reserved by Nikon]

Welcome to our April biodiversity e-bulletin

Wow, so spring is finally here....or is it summer, maybe best not to get too excited with the lovely weather we are having. Spring has certainly well established itself in nature, with Cuckoos, Swallows, bumblebees, frogs, toads Peacocks, Speckled Woods, Commas, Brimstones all out and on the move and the sound of Chiffchaffs singing.

Talking about **Cuckoos**, we are launching our new series of recording challenges this month. Every month we will be getting people to record one key species - our "**Species of the Month**". The inaugural species being the **Cuckoo**.

So if you have heard or seen one please record it here:

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

There are plenty of exciting things going on in this month's issue:

- NBIS completes State of the Environment Report on Norwich Policy Area (Local News)
- Norfolk Bat Survey goes live (Local News)
- NBIS continues to search for volunteers for its Species Surveillance Network (Getting Involved)
- Fourth Peregrine chick hatched at Norwich Cathedral (Species Highlights)
- Do you have a Ghost pond on your land? - UCL need your help (Getting Involved)

Also don't forgot there are exciting events on this month, including Go Wild at Barton Broad, Strumpshaw Fen recording week and Wild about Norfolk.

**Biodiversity and Countryside Team
Environment, Transport and Development,
Norfolk County Council**
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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-bulletinApril2013.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

Norwich Policy Area State of the Environment Report

The latest NBIS State of the Environment Report is finished and is now available for download

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

The "Norfolk Bat Survey" goes live

The aim, to conduct bat surveys across the whole of Norfolk, by providing an opportunity for anyone to take advantage of recent advances in technology for automating the capture and analysis of acoustic data for bats.

If you might be interested in taking part, please see the Norfolk Bat Survey press release, the website

www.batsurvey.org or their social networks: Twitter: @BatsNorfolk Facebook: Norfolk Bat Survey

See the EDP article here:

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/norfolk_bat_survey_will_explore_the_secrets_of_our_nocturnal_neighbours_1_2023072

Gunton wood volunteers need you to log on and show support

Volunteers behind a community woodland project have been short-listed for a National Trust award and are calling on people to get behind them and vote.

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/gunton_wood_volunteers_need_you_to_log_on_and_show_support_1_2161066

Mousehold Heath Earth Heritage Trail article in Geoconservation UK

Please find the article starting on page 2 and continuing on page 5.

http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/GCUK_Newsletter_Vol_4_No_1_FINAL_CORRECTED.pdf

Norfolk Coast Partnership spring e-newsletter

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/WideSkies9Spring2013.pdf>

Norfolk Barbestelle Study Group Spring Newsletter

[http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/NBSG Newsletter Jan 2013.pdf](http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/NBSG_Newsletter_Jan_2013.pdf)

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National NEWS

IEEM has become CIEEM

Professional Ecology and Environmental Management is changing as IEEM becomes CIEEM with a Royal Charter.

http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Professional-Ecology-and-Environmental-Management.aspx?utm_source=eshot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=report%20name

National Federation for Biological Recording has become the National Forum for Biological Recording. It came to life at the annual conference in April.

http://www.nfbr.org.uk/wiki/index.php5?title=Main_Page

Green space in urban areas can improve wellbeing and quality of life

More evidence to back up previous research and what we already knew.

<http://bbc.in/108jrTx>

New report looks at Natural England's intergrated species monitoring programme

<http://ow.ly/jSz8>

You can become involved in this work in Norfolk too, by volunteering for our Species Surveillance Network:

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

Taxonomists an endangered species

<http://t.co/EehLyvxe1o>

Are childhood experiences the key to the long-term health of nature and the conservation sector?

<http://t.co/MUcBuu0KQs>

Food chain in disarray after changes in voles' boom-and-bust breeding cycle

<http://ind.pn/12kcXs5>

Long-term farm research gives farmland birds a lift

For the last five years, Hillesden Farm in Buckinghamshire has been the home of a detailed study where areas of the farm have been managed under different Environmental Stewardship options to provide a scientific comparison on how best to tackle the 'hungry gap' for farmland birds - the period between mid-winter and spring.

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/news/2013/050313.aspx

Field Studies Council and Natural England announce 'citizen science' programme to train volunteer wildlife recorders

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/news/2013/020413.asp

More National news here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#April2013NationalNews>

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GETTING INVOLVED

NBIS are still looking for volunteers to join our species monitoring project more at

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

Do you have a 'Ghost Pond' on your land?

So what are 'Ghost ponds'? Ghost ponds are former ponds subjected to agricultural land reclamation, they appear as damp, circular crop marks, or bowl shaped depressions out in the fields. The 'Ghost Ponds' project aims to bring half a dozen of these former Norfolk ponds back to life!

Why do we need farmland ponds? Farmland ponds provide an extremely important oasis for wildlife and are part of our cultural heritage, and act as 'stepping stones' allowing wildlife to migrate across the landscape.

How can I get involved? If you would like to find out more and get involved with this fantastic project please get in touch with Dr Carl Sayer (UCL) or Emily Alderton (UCL PhD student).

http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/ghost-pond-flyer_copy.jpg

There are fish ID & marine life ID courses planned in Norfolk this year, geared towards divers but all welcome

<http://www.seasearch.co.uk/training.htm>

Nominate a patch of unloved ground in your area to be turned into insect haven

<http://www.co-operative.coop/Plan-Bee/Ways-to-get-involved/>

Record deer related traffic collisions with the "Oh Deer" app for android and i phone (online form also available)

<http://www.deercollisions.co.uk/pages/participate.html>

Big Norwich Bat Project Survey still has over 50 squares available.

From this years survey they hope to find out if/how light pollution might effect the distribution of bat activity in Norwich.

<http://fb.me/2FGEa8o53>

The Norfolk Bat Survey needs your help!

Follow them @BatsNorfolk and click here for more info: <http://www.batsurvey.org>

Are you taking part in PTES's latest urban mammals survey?

<http://www.ptes.org/index.php?news=213>

Can you help with research into the impact of roads on toad populations?

<http://www.arguk.org/download-document/175-toadsize2013-flyer>

New online resource of ecosystem service mapping projects

The NERC Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services (BESS) Directorate has launched an online survey to find out more about what is being done to map the ecosystem services on which we all depend

http://www.envsurvey.com/map/mapping_surveylogin.html

Brecks Partnership survey about the Brecks and its heritage - Provide your opinion now

www.surveymonkey.com/s/BreakingNewGround

Tree health survey - coming soon

In May 2013, OPAL will launch its seventh survey focusing on the health of the trees in your local environment.

<http://www.opalexplornature.org/tree-survey-preview>

Garden Bioblitz Goes National

On 1st and 2nd June, Garden Bioblitz will ask people to record as many native species as they can find in a 24 hour period. [http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Garden-Bioblitz-Goes-National.aspx?](http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Garden-Bioblitz-Goes-National.aspx?utm_source=eshot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=report%20name)

[utm_source=eshot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=report%20name](http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Garden-Bioblitz-Goes-National.aspx?utm_source=eshot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=report%20name)

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SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

A fourth peregrine falcon chick has hatched at Norwich Cathedral (3rd May), hot on the heels of its three siblings.

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/fourth_peregrine_falcon_chick_hatches_at_norwich_cathedral_1_2178705

<http://upp.hawkandowl.org/>

The Hawk and Owl Trust have some tawny owl chicks in their next box at Sculthorpe Moor, 4 have hatched so far

Watch their progress on <http://bit.ly/ZoXMrJ>

An update from the Moss and Liverwort worlds, including a new county record

Robin Stevenson has provided us with an early 2013 update on some interesting Bryophyte records.

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#MossUpdateMay2013>

Cuckoo Chris leaves France for the UK

On the evening of 1 May Chris left the Champagne-Ardenne Region, heading north-west through Picardy and by the early hours of 4 May Chris was back in the UK, at Lakenheath Warren just east of RAF Lakenheath. By the following afternoon he was back at Cavenham Heath, the area that he spent six weeks in last summer.

<http://ow.ly/jJRFH>

Rare stone curlews found dead after falling victim to long winter

<http://t.co/ubrV3avkVV>

Zebra mussels form habitat for killer shrimp - even an old car tyre can become home

<http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyScinzjyFE>

3 rare Serotines detected in Northwold! Norfolk Bat survey (26th April)

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EVENTS

Public Policy Exchange Symposium “Protecting our most precious resource: tackling water pollution from the urban environment”

Central London, 14th May 2013 from 1015 – 1630. More information and registration:

<https://bookings.publicpolicyexchange.co.uk/bookings/book.php?event=DE14-PPE>

Go wild at Barton Broad

Sunday 12th May

<http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/Home/News/Go-Wild-at-Barton-Broad.aspx>

Strumpshaw Fen RSPB biodiversity recording week

Monday 13th to Sunday 19th May

Once again they will be providing access away from normal visitor routes to many parts of the reserve. On the final two days they will also be running a programme of public workshops, guided walks and other activities which on Saturday 18th will be adult-oriented and on Sunday 19th aimed at the whole family

Symposium at the Zoological Society of London - New technologies for monitoring biodiversity

16 and 17 May 2013

<http://www.zsl.org/science/events/new-technologies-for-monitoring-biodiversity.631.EV.html>

Wild about the Wensum

Saturday 18th May

<http://www.pensthorpe.com/events/2012/12/wild-about-wensum/>

British Ecology Society Project "Summerwatch-Dawn to Dusk"

13th July 2013

Lion Wood (Norwich)

For children, families and adults, will have nature related events running from dawn until dusk

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AND FINALLY..

Return of the 'killer slug'

A new generation of "killer slugs" has emerged in Norfolk's gardens, prompted by the warmer spring temperatures

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/return_of_the_killer_slug_1_2162697

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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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Norfolk County Council