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Norfolk Biodiversity  
Information Service



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Norfolk  
Non-native  
Species  
Initiative



Norfolk County Council



# Biodiversity News in Norfolk

## No 28 (August 2013)

Photos: Left - Hay bales at County Hall, Ed Stocker (NCC); Below - Male blackbird visiting the garden, [Some rights reserved](#) by [OAndrews](#). Bottom - Common chafers, Heidi Thompson.

# Welcome to our August e-bulletin

The sun is still shining and the weather is still hot, and we are entering September.....a great time then to sit down with a chilled glass of lemonade and enjoy this bumper edition of the e-bulletin.

Firstly many thanks to those of you who have submitted **Tree Bumblebee** (*Bombus hypnorum*) records over July and August. Please submit any more sightings of *Bombus hypnorum* here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/tree-bumblebee>.

Our **species of the month** this month is the humble Blackbird! A question that the British Trust for Ornithology's (BTO) Garden Ecology Team hears a lot at this time of year is 'Where have all my birds gone?'. One of the most conspicuous disappearances from British gardens at the end of the summer is that of the Blackbird. Between September and October Blackbirds are more absent from people's gardens.

For a bird that features in the majority of British gardens, the sudden loss of 'your' local Blackbird must come as quite a shock. But all is well. As results from the BTO's weekly Garden BirdWatch (GBW) survey show, it happens every year – there is always a pronounced 'trough' between September and October when Blackbirds are more absent from people's gardens. See the full BTO article here: <http://www.bto.org/news-events/press-releases/bye-bye-blackbird> and a graphical representation of this here: <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/gbw/results/2012>.

We are therefore interested to see if we can help the BTO with looking at this Blackbird 'trough' in Norfolk, by asking you to record this bird and whether it was seen in your garden or elsewhere. It should be particularly interesting due to the reports of late autumn bringing a bumper fruit crop for wildlife, as reported by the Woodland Trust: <http://bbc.in/13RHrBi>. Please submit any sightings of Blackbirds here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/blackbird>.



There are plenty of highlights in this month's e-bulletin, including:

- Outstanding conservation projects celebrated at Community Biodiversity Awards (Local News)
- Hay baling at County Hall (Local News)
- Important Biodiversity 2020 documents, including the updated delivery plan (National News)
- Bio-climatic models shows that 60 % of the UK would be suitable for the Killer Shrimp (National News)
- Various consultations to give your views on, including new wildlife guidance and Norfolk County Council's budget proposals - 'Putting people first'. (Getting Involved)
- Plenty of exciting events, including the one-day conference "Trees, Greenspace and Wellbeing". (Events)

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

[nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk)

Please do email us at [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto: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-bulletinAugust2013.pdf>

You can also download past e-bulletins as a pdf here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/newsletterse-bulletins>

[Local NEWS](#)  
[National NEWS](#)  
[GETTING INVOLVED](#)  
[SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS](#)  
[EVENTS](#)  
[AND FINALLY](#)

## Local NEWS

### **Annual Community Biodiversity Awards celebrates outstanding conservation projects**

The annual awards ceremony in July, held by the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership, recognised the achievements of twelve high quality conservation projects. These projects are run by groups and individuals who work within their community, usually as volunteers, to make a difference for wildlife and people. See the EDP article

here: [http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/EDP\\_article\\_25thJuly2013\\_CROPPED.pdf](http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/EDP_article_25thJuly2013_CROPPED.pdf) and the Future radio interview here: <http://futereradio.co.uk/podcast/2013/august/report-norfolk-community-biodiversity-award-ceremony-2013>

### **Make hay while the sun shines!**

July saw the perfect conditions for hay meadows with many landowners busily mowing and baling up their hay before the rain comes. NCC is no exception and you may have seen the tractors at County Hall (see top photo) mowing and baling our very own conservation meadow (once part of Repton's landscaped grounds and originally grazed by cattle).

Four years ago NCC Ecologist, Ed Stocker, was granted permission from the County Hall Users Group to pilot a scheme to change the mowing regime of the meadow area with the aim of improving the wildlife value, reducing maintenance costs and helping to reduce our carbon emissions. Read the full article

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

### **Filling the seed and nectar hungry gaps for birds and bees:**

Lessons from personal experience of agri-environmental schemes since 1992 by John Bingham:

Published paper: [http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/JBingham\\_PublishedPaper.pdf](http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/JBingham_PublishedPaper.pdf)

Poster: [http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/FillingSeed&NectarGaps\\_Poster2013.jpg](http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/images/FillingSeed&NectarGaps_Poster2013.jpg)

### **Honey, I'm just popping out for some pollen. I may bee some time**

Hungry bumblebees are being forced to travel more than a mile to find food, a study has found.

The study, led by the University of East Anglia (UEA) in Norwich, found that on average the insects would travel between 880ft to 1,800ft. It is hoped the findings could help improve conditions for the vital pollinators.

<http://ind.pn/1d2EuDS>

### **Icon of the Norfolk coast under threat from changing shoreline - The little tern**

[http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/icon\\_of\\_the\\_norfolk\\_coast\\_under\\_threat\\_from\\_changing\\_shoreline\\_1\\_2352240](http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/icon_of_the_norfolk_coast_under_threat_from_changing_shoreline_1_2352240)

### **Breckland Society celebrates 10th anniversary by launching recruitment drive for volunteers:**

<http://t.co/cGZYRjEgT>

### **North Norfolk Coastal Path: final proposals for 41 km stretch of England's Coast Path between Sea Palling and Weybourne:**

<http://ow.ly/nbGdm>

### **Work starts again at Hilgay wetland creation site:**

<http://t.co/uaTlcYckfZ>

### **Read more about interesting Non-native Species, such as the puzzling Carpet**

**sea squirt on the RINSE blog:** <http://www.rinse-europe.eu/blog/view/have-you-heard-of-carpet-sea-squirt>

Recent newsletters:

**The summer edition of the RINSE newsletter**, which gives a snap-shot of the projects deliverables over the last few months or so, can be found at: [http://www.rinse-europe.eu/assets/\\_files/issue3\\_final.pdf](http://www.rinse-europe.eu/assets/_files/issue3_final.pdf)

**Available now: The summer edition of the Norfolk Coast Partnership e-newsletter, 'Wide skies'**, aimed at widening connections within and across partner organisations:  
[http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/WideSkies10\\_Summer\\_2013.pdf](http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/WideSkies10_Summer_2013.pdf)

**Broadland Catchment Partnership newsletter "catchup":**  
<http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/BroadlandCatchupJul13final.pdf>

[[TOP](#)]

## National NEWS

### **Biodiversity 2020 - Important recent updates:**

**An updated version of the Biodiversity 2020 Delivery Plan**

[http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Bio2020DeliveryPlan31Jul2013\\_Defra.pdf](http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/Bio2020DeliveryPlan31Jul2013_Defra.pdf)

### **Other related useful Biodiversity 2020 reports that have recently been published:**

> A breakdown of priority habitats that Natural England want partners to create:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/4787624740913152?category=5856835374415872>

> A guide to potential funding sources to help partners deliver Biodiversity 2020:

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/grantsfunding/default.aspx>

> A simple guide explaining how you can record your conservation work: <http://ukbars.defra.gov.uk/>

> 10 Components of Excellence in Local Delivery Approaches:

<http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/5822819233431552?category=5856835374415872>

### **Biodiversity 2020 is now live on the Natural England website:**

<http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/ourwork/conservation/biodiversity/protectandmanage/biodiversity2020.aspx>

### **Biodiversity segmentation scoping study - Engaging people in biodiversity issues - Final Report:**

<http://randd.defra.gov.uk/Default.aspx?Menu=Menu&Module=More&Location=None&ProjectID=18411&FromSearch=Y&Publisher=1&SearchText=WC1056&SortString=ProjectCode&SortOrder=Asc&Paging=10>

## National pollinator strategy

A look at new government plans to address the loss of pollinator species and the economic consequences for agriculture in England. <http://bio-diverse.org/2013/08/14/national-pollinator-strategy/>

### **New version of the NBN Gateway on the NBN website:**

- User testing of download functionality – 16th – 20th September
- Dataset submission deadline (for loading to old NBN Gateway) – 20th September
- New NBN Gateway launch – 18th October
- Data loading (to new NBN Gateway) starts – 4th November

Please contact us on [access@nbn.org.uk](mailto:access@nbn.org.uk) if you have any queries and thank you for your continued support.

## The economic case for Green Infrastructure (GI)

A new report confirms the value of green infrastructure based on looking at 7 economic characteristics across a range of UK and international case-studies. <http://bio-diverse.org/2013/08/14/the-economic-case-for-green-infrastructure/>

**Bio-climatic models shows that 60% of the UK would be suitable for the Killer Shrimp to invade:** <http://link.springer.com/article/10.1007/s10530-011-0154-0#page-1>

## Biodiversity app logs insects by their telltale call

Much like Shazam, which can identify unknown songs, a new app can recognise a species from a sample of its

call

[http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21929324.000-biodiversity-app-logs-insects-by-their-telltale-call.html#.Uh8tUXc3eWk?utm\\_source=NSNS&utm\\_medium=SOC&utm\\_campaign=twitter&cmpid=SOC|NSNS|2012-GLOBAL-twitter](http://www.newscientist.com/article/mg21929324.000-biodiversity-app-logs-insects-by-their-telltale-call.html#.Uh8tUXc3eWk?utm_source=NSNS&utm_medium=SOC&utm_campaign=twitter&cmpid=SOC|NSNS|2012-GLOBAL-twitter)

## **Major investment for species recovery**

Nearly £1m to be focused on conservation efforts for our most threatened native species - Natural England website - 29 August 2013: [http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about\\_us/news/2013/290813.aspx](http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/news/2013/290813.aspx)

## **Turtle doves dying out**

<http://t.co/o95EMknxb4>

## **Hedgehog wins UK natural emblem poll**

<http://t.co/OAGfo3crV1>

## **Britain's crops brace for invasion by hundreds of exotic pests and pathogens**

<http://ind.pn/1czcQKV>

## **Planning for a healthy and natural environment? - The Wildlife Trusts**

As Planning Minister Nick Boles launched an online planning guidance resource, The Wildlife Trusts reiterate that the natural environment should be at the heart of all planning decisions. Planning has a critical role to play in securing nature's recovery and creating wildlife-rich places in which people want to live.

<http://www.wildlifetrusts.org/news/2013/08/28/planning-healthy-and-natural-environment>

## **Identifying Wildlife is an "endangered skill"**

<http://t.co/Zb4SqJX1du>

## **The RSPB: Hen harrier on the brink of 'extinction'**

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/news/351221-hen-harrier-on-the-brink-of-extinction->

## **Defra publishes Triennial Review**

The Triennial Review of the Environment Agency and Natural England concludes that they should be retained as two separate organisations.

[https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment\\_data/file/209382/triennial-rev-ea-ne.pdf?utm\\_source=eshot&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/209382/triennial-rev-ea-ne.pdf?utm_source=eshot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign)

## **Britain's barn owls under threat due to extreme weather**

<http://t.co/l83Ql1Hi5q>

## **New renewable energy planning rules unveiled**

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/jul/29/new-renewable-energy-rules>

**More National news here:**

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#August2013NationalNews>

## GETTING INVOLVED

### ***Consultations to respond to:***

#### **Defra: Sep 27th deadline to comment on draft new wildlife guidance**

Introduction page: <http://guidanceanddata.defra.gov.uk/landingpage/>

Send your comments here: <http://tinyurl.com/kupvhhk> - as the next phase of Smarter Guidance begins, following the Habitats Directive Implementation Review recommendations.

#### **Norfolk – putting people first**

The Norfolk County Council (NCC) 'Putting people first' web pages went live on 21st August at [www.norfolk.gov.uk/puttingpeoplefirst](http://www.norfolk.gov.uk/puttingpeoplefirst)

As you are either one of our stakeholders, volunteer or community groups we are making sure that you know that NCC will be consulting on the council budget from 19 September for 12 weeks. We encourage you to respond and give your views.

#### **Challenges and Choices consultation 22 June – 22 December 2012**

Environment Agency (EA) have recently launched their Challenges and Choices consultation, seeking views and opinions on the biggest challenges facing our water environment, and how we can best manage these issues in the future.

The Anglian River Basin District consultation can be found here:

<http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/140076.aspx>

#### **England's first marine plans go out to consultation**

The Marine Management Organisation (MMO) has launched England's first draft marine plans for the seas from Flamborough Head in the north to Felixstowe in the south. These are the first two of 11 marine plans to be delivered for England, and we are one of the first countries in the world to plan across all marine activities. The consultation will run for 12 weeks, until 8 October. You can submit your comments online and read the plans <https://www.connect.marinemanagement.org.uk/consultations/consult-draft-east-marine-plans>

**NBIS are still looking for volunteers to join our species monitoring project. We are specifically looking for people interested in recording Bryophytes and Fungi. More at <http://www.nbis.org.uk/SpeciesSurveillanceNetwork>**

**Please submit any sightings of Blackbirds here: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/blackbird>**

#### **Mammal Society's Mini Mammal Monitoring Programme for 2013 has begun!**

Take part from September until December. Purchase DNA kits from the Mammal Society's website and start surveying! <http://www.mammal.org.uk/mmm>

#### **Have the house spiders started arriving with you?**

<http://ow.ly/od4t6>

The Society of Biology needs records of the big, dark, hairy ones:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/housespidersurvey>

ID sheet is available here: [https://www.societyofbiology.org/images/pdf/Spider\\_identification\\_document.pdf](https://www.societyofbiology.org/images/pdf/Spider_identification_document.pdf)

#### **Plea for Asian Tiger Mosquito records**

**Dr Tony Irwin (County Recorder) posted this plea on the Norfolk wildlife Yahoo forum:** "I've just had a colleague describe a black and white mosquito with stripy legs and a white stripe down its back which landed on her in central Norwich. The fact that it landed on her in the middle of the day rather than the evening is supporting evidence that it might be the Asian Tiger Mosquito, *Aedes albopictus*, a species which has been spreading throughout Europe, and is the vector of several nasty diseases. To my knowledge, it has not yet been recorded in this country, but everyone agrees it's only a matter of time. This is a plea for everyone to keep an

eye open for likely candidates, and try to catch or (gently) swat any suspects"  
Please do email us at [nbis@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:nbis@norfolk.gov.uk) and we will pass the records to Tony.

## Find out all about Norfolk cetaceans and submit your sightings here:

<http://norfolkcetaceans.wordpress.com>

## We all need to be looking out for the Asian Hornet. Report it straight away if you spot

it: <https://secure.fera.defra.gov.uk/nonnativespecies/downloadDocument.cfm?id=859>

### **Chalara:**

#### Ashtag re-launched

[http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/AshTag\\_phase2FINAL.pdf](http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/AshTag_phase2FINAL.pdf)

Facebook game Fraxinus targeted at beating ash dieback: <http://gu.com/p/3txzx>

Really good ash dieback ID guide from the Tree Council, highlighting summer-specific symptoms: <http://ow.ly/nWQm5>

## Record your waterways at Great Nature Watch

<http://canalrivertrust.org.uk/great-nature-watch>

## Tree health survey – join in today; just 4 weeks left to take part

<http://www.opalexplenature.org/TreeSurvey>

## Bugs Count – join in the nationwide bug hunt

<http://www.opalexplenature.org/bugscount>

## Watch Bird ID workshop videos, to help develop your bird ID

[http://www.bto.org/about-birds/bird-id?dm\\_i=IG4,10XLA,BJMT2W,34UH1,1](http://www.bto.org/about-birds/bird-id?dm_i=IG4,10XLA,BJMT2W,34UH1,1)

[\[TOP\]](#)

## SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

### **BTO cuckoos update - Where are Chris and his other Norfolk buddies?**

There are currently four Norfolk tagged Cuckoos that are being tracked by the BTO during their annual migration. Three new Cuckoos were tagged this year in May/June and they have been named Ken (after one of our moth recorders Ken Saul), Skinner and Derek. They were tagged at Burgh Common, Whitlingham Marsh and South Fen (East Ruston) respectively. You will of course remember our favourite bird Chris (after Chris Packham), who is probably the only original tagged Cuckoo still being tracked; he was tagged in 2011 at Santon Downham.

Chris has followed his usual route through central Europe to Sicily and then taking the huge crossing through the Sahara to Chad in central Africa. This year he completed the 1885 mile crossing from Sicily to Chad in three and half days! He should then follow his usual route (as in the last two years) to the Congo rainforest via the Central African Republic; then returning to the UK via Cameroon, Nigeria, Ghana and of course the Sahara. The three new Cuckoos have taken a different route down through west Africa and are currently in Nigeria, after passing through Burkino Faso.....where will they head next.....eventually the Congo most probably? We shall let you know in the next issue.

To keep up to date, please visit the website:

<http://www.bto.org/cuckoos>

## Cetacean County Recorder

Carl Chapman has recently been appointed as Norfolk's Cetacean Recorder. He has set up a site called Norfolk Cetaceans to elicit records from around our coastline and raise interest in generating records:

<http://norfolkcetaceans.wordpress.com/>

**NWT Blog: Ash dieback, the fungal villain (Tony Leech, NWT Trustee and County Fungus Recorder):** <http://bit.ly/16A6PcY>

**Whorled water milfoil found end of July - a new site record for Wheatfen**, with no mention in records going back to 1934 - Dan Hoare (Wheatfen)

**The Osprey is back at NWT Ranworth Broad** - showing well since Sunday 1st August.

**Our very own Norwich Cathedral peregrine family are the stars of Britain's Big Wildlife**

**Revival:** See the program on BBC iplayer: <http://fb.me/VD9w0q0d>

[\[TOP\]](#)

## EVENTS

**Please find details of free wildlife ID training days in September 2013 - guided nature walks in Pigneys**

**Wood:** [http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/TCV\\_AutumnActivityFlier\\_Sept.pdf](http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/TCV_AutumnActivityFlier_Sept.pdf)

**The 9 Chalk Rivers Project will be at Green Build at Felbrigg on the 7th and 8th September**

<http://www.norfolkriverstrust.org/2013/07/9-chalk-rivers.html>

**Claylands Arable flora training event**

Courtesy of Thelveton Farms

9.30am – 1pm

Tuesday 17th September

Location: The Granary, Grange Farm, Thelveton, IP21 4EP

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/sites/default/files/documents/ArableFloraInvite-SouthNorfolk.pdf>

**Sculthorpe moor Big Birthday BioBlitz and bug hunt**

21st and 22nd of September

Pond dipping bug hunting and much more.

<http://fb.me/122Pm4NI7>

**Meet the Mini Mammals of Wheatfen**

Sun 22 Sept AM. Booking essential

<http://www.wheatfen.org/tethtml/events.html>

**Trees, Greenspace and Wellbeing - a one-day conference hosted by the ICF East England Regional Group**

Thursday 26th September

Girton College, University of Cambridge

*Concerns about public health are at an all-time high. In England the Government is developing new approaches; empowering individuals to make healthy choices and giving communities tools to address their own needs.*

*New institutions such as Public Health England and local Health and Wellbeing Boards are driving forward change and there is increased recognition of the significant part greenspace can play in contributing to a healthy lifestyle. In the future, grants for countryside work is likely to depend on the delivery of the sorts of benefit discussed at this conference:*

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

**Introduction to river invertebrates.**

Sun 29 September.

Holt Hall

<http://bit.ly/15l18UQ> Info: <http://bit.ly/14d78cb>

**Wild about Norfolk**

12th October

## Wild about the Brecks

Saturday 19th October

The Large Court in the Thetford Guild Hall

RSPB and Norfolk Wildlife Trust will be running this event to celebrate the wildlife and heritage of the Brecks.

The event will begin at 11am and finish at 3pm.

## NBN Conference

Early Bird deadline

Make sure you book before 13th September to get the early Bird rate for this year's NBN Conference.

Read more...

[http://nbn.org.uk/Events/Events-and-Training/Seminars-and-conferences/NBN-Conference-2013.aspx?utm\\_source=eshot&utm\\_medium=email&utm\\_campaign](http://nbn.org.uk/Events/Events-and-Training/Seminars-and-conferences/NBN-Conference-2013.aspx?utm_source=eshot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign)

## University of Oxford online short-courses:

Taught online over five weeks, these part-time courses offer excellent training opportunities for those working full-time or wishing to study at their convenience.

- [Field Techniques for Surveying Vegetation running 18th September to 23rd October 2013](#)  
*This module will appeal to a variety of students, practitioners and volunteers in conservation wishing to advance their vegetation surveying skills and knowledge in ecology.*
- [Data Analysis in Ecology: Statistics for Ecologists and Field Biologists running 30th October to 4th December 2013.](#) *This module is designed to enable students to improve their ability to display ecological data, and to use descriptive and inferential statistics to analyse the results from field surveys. The course introduces students to the use of the following software: QED statistics and R.*

For full details please visit: [www.conted.ox.ac.uk/est](http://www.conted.ox.ac.uk/est) and contact us on +44 (0)1865 286952 or [est@conted.ox.ac.uk](mailto:est@conted.ox.ac.uk)

**There are still spaces available on the Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists Society workshops this year.**

See the general poster here <http://bit.ly/ZduQFN> and the list of workshops here: <http://bit.ly/18sZWYG>

[\[TOP\]](#)

## AND FINALLY..



**Black cat sightings again!!!**

**Norfolk puma spotted in Gorleston: 'When you see a lion going for a kill - it was like that'**

[http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/norfolk\\_puma\\_spotted\\_in\\_gorleston\\_when\\_you\\_see\\_a\\_lion\\_going\\_for\\_a\\_kill\\_it\\_was\\_like\\_that\\_1\\_2356562](http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/norfolk_puma_spotted_in_gorleston_when_you_see_a_lion_going_for_a_kill_it_was_like_that_1_2356562)

[http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/large\\_black\\_cat\\_spotted\\_at\\_hainford\\_1\\_2353641](http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/large_black_cat_spotted_at_hainford_1_2353641)

**Large black cat spotted at Hainford**

[http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/large\\_black\\_cat\\_spotted\\_at\\_hainford\\_1\\_2353641](http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/large_black_cat_spotted_at_hainford_1_2353641)

**Common chafers around in huge numbers on the coast in late July (Photo left).**

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