



## Biodiversity News in Norfolk No.10 (January 2012)

Winter sun (David Yates)

### Welcome to our January bulletin

Happy New Year!

I am delighted to have been appointed as Coordinator for the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership and look forward to working with many of you over the coming months. I hope my name will be familiar to many of you as I have lived and worked in Norfolk for many years, with previous roles at Natural England, Norfolk County Council's Environment and Waste Team and at the Norfolk Coast Partnership. I am passionate about the natural environment, and am excited about the prospect of continuing Scott's legacy and developing the Partnership over the coming months as we strive to broaden our remit through establishing a Local Nature Partnership with Suffolk. Exciting times ahead!

We've started the year with the excellent news that Gerry Barnes, Environment Manager at Norfolk County Council and Chair of the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership has been honoured with an MBE for services to Forestry and the Community. Gerry received his award in recognition of the work he has undertaken to establish many community woodlands across the county. "I was delighted and very surprised to receive this honour," he said. "I doubt that I'll ever see the fruits of my work - but I hope that the next generation will benefit."

Finally, please do consider nominating any outstanding individuals or groups for a Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership Community Biodiversity Award – further details appear below (under Getting Involved).

**Haidee Bishop**

[Haidee.bishop@norfolk.gov.uk](mailto:Haidee.bishop@norfolk.gov.uk)

[top]

[Local NEWS](#)

[National NEWS](#)

[GETTING INVOLVED](#)

[SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[AND FINALLY](#)

### Local NEWS

#### Honour for Gerry Barnes

Gerry Barnes, Environment Manager at Norfolk County Council and Chair of the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership

has been honoured with an MBE for services to Forestry and the Community.

<http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/news/?id=18>

[http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/norfolk\\_suffolk\\_and\\_cambridgeshire\\_s\\_new\\_year\\_honours\\_in\\_full\\_1\\_1166222](http://www.eadt.co.uk/news/norfolk_suffolk_and_cambridgeshire_s_new_year_honours_in_full_1_1166222)

### **Facebook page for Community Groups**

Check out a new Facebook page for environmental community projects and share your successes and worries!

<http://www.facebook.com/Norfolk.Community.Conservation.Grants>

### **Map-based approach used to illustrate landforms in Bedfordshire and Cambridgeshire**

A recent collaborative study funded by Natural England and Geo-East used Digital Terrain Mapping (DTM) to draw conclusions about the age and origins of some of the familiar features in the area. It is hoped that HLF funding might extend the availability of DTM to others who are interested in interpreting landscape.

<http://www.bedfordshiregeologygroup.org.uk/landforms.html>

### **Guiding the County to a Biodiverse, Bright Future**

The EDP ran a piece on Scott and his legacy for biodiversity in Norfolk. Read more here:

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

### **Wensum River Trust to 'hibernate' due to lack of funds**

[http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/wensum\\_river\\_trust\\_to\\_hibernate\\_due\\_to\\_lack\\_of\\_funds\\_1\\_1186347](http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/wensum_river_trust_to_hibernate_due_to_lack_of_funds_1_1186347)

### **Harold Hems, who discovered the West Runton Elephant passes away**

[http://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/obituary\\_retired\\_teacher\\_harold\\_hems\\_who\\_discovered\\_the\\_west\\_runton\\_elephant\\_1\\_1181305](http://www.eveningnews24.co.uk/news/obituary_retired_teacher_harold_hems_who_discovered_the_west_runton_elephant_1_1181305)

[[TOP](#)]

## **National NEWS**

### **All Party Parliamentary Political Group - Biodiversity**

Sign up to receive regular news and policy briefings by contacting [secretariat@appg-biodiversity.org.uk](mailto:secretariat@appg-biodiversity.org.uk)

### **Data Management tools workshop report**

The NBN Trust and JNCC recently co-hosted two workshops on the use of available tools for managing biodiversity data. Read a report on the workshops here:

<http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Data-Management-Tools-Workshops-report.aspx>

### **Download some WOW !**

From February 1<sup>st</sup>, 2020Vision will be publishing a new image every day at [www.2020v.org](http://www.2020v.org). You'll be able to download it as wallpaper, or just check in each morning to brighten up your day! You can also access the day's picture via Facebook <http://www.facebook.com/2020V>

Find links to more interesting national news stories here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#January2012NationalNews>

[[TOP](#)]

## **GETTING INVOLVED**

### **New hedgehog survey aims to track the impact of climate change on hibernation**

Read more at <http://www.hedgehogstreet.org/pages/hibernation-survey.html> and

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

### **Track the spread of invasive alien species – in pictures!**

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/gallery/2012/jan/15/citizen-scientist-invasive-species-pictures#/?picture=384361143&index=0>

### **Do you know a Norfolk Community Biodiversity Champion?**

If you do – groups or individuals who are making a significant contribution to conservation in your area – please do consider nominating them for a Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership Community Biodiversity Award. Find out more here:

<http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/communityprojects/biodiversityawards.aspx> and download the application form here:

[http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/communityprojects/Final%20Nomination%20Form%20-%20\(Versio%20January%202012\).doc](http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org/communityprojects/Final%20Nomination%20Form%20-%20(Versio%20January%202012).doc)

## It's that time again – RSPB garden bird survey weekend 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> January

Find out more here: [http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/?gclid=CM\\_I0IOh660CFSgntAodPFCu6Q](http://www.rspb.org.uk/birdwatch/?gclid=CM_I0IOh660CFSgntAodPFCu6Q)

[\[TOP\]](#)

## SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

### Beard moss discovered

Norfolk Bryophyte recorder, Robin Stevenson went out moss-hunting on New Year's Day and discovered Nicholson's Beard-moss (*Didymodon nicholsonii*) on a tarmac pavement near King's Lynn, a new record for this area of Norfolk. WE'LL NEED TO POST THIS.

Read more: [http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#RobinS\\_BeardMoss](http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#RobinS_BeardMoss)

[\[TOP\]](#)

## EVENTS

### January 28<sup>th</sup> 2012 Birmingham

#### National Moth Recorders' Meeting

Get up to speed with moth recording by attending this meeting. To book a place (cost £5) please contact [info@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:info@butterfly-conservation.org) or phone 01929 400209

### February 1<sup>st</sup> 2012 1pm – 2pm

#### UEA Wildlife Trail Official Opening (by the Mathematical Bridge, west end of UEA Broad)

All welcome. Guest speaker, Mark Cocker. Refreshments, leaflets and guided walks. More information from Elaine Sherriffs [e.sherriffs@uea.ac.uk](mailto:e.sherriffs@uea.ac.uk) [www.uea.ac.uk/volunteers](http://www.uea.ac.uk/volunteers)

### February 3<sup>rd</sup> 2012 Narborough, Norfolk 10am – 4pm

#### Skills for small woodlands: an introduction to coppicing

£40 + VAT with Norfolk Wildlife Services tutor Toby Cheadle. To book a place contact 01603 625540 [tobyc@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:tobyc@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### February 21<sup>st</sup> 10am – 4pm, Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve, Fakenham

#### Barn owl ecology, legislation and mitigation

£60 + VAT with Nigel Middleton, Hawk and Owl Trust. To book a place contact 01603 625540 [tobyc@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:tobyc@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### February 23<sup>rd</sup> 10am – 4pm, Great Massingham, Norfolk

#### An introduction to creating and managing ponds for wildlife

£40 + VAT with Dr Pascale Nicolet, Pond Conservation Trust. To book a place contact 01603 625540 [tobyc@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk](mailto:tobyc@norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk)

### March 1st 2012 Cambridge

#### Identification and Management of Invasive Non-native Plants

Willow Mere House. £95. More details and other courses available from [laura.masterson@rpsgroup.com](mailto:laura.masterson@rpsgroup.com) 01480 302751

### March 13<sup>th</sup> 2012, London 11am – 3.30pm

#### The Water White Paper: A Clear Vision for Water Management

Improve your understanding of the legislative framework and implications for the environment of this important paper at this Westminster Briefing event. Further details from: [Matt.demorais@westminster-briefing.com](mailto:Matt.demorais@westminster-briefing.com)

### March 31<sup>st</sup> 2012 Gressenhall Farm and Workhouse

#### Master Gardener Training weekend

More details from Gabby Sharp, [gsharp@gardenorganic.org.uk](mailto:gsharp@gardenorganic.org.uk) 01362 869286 07584 583803 <http://norfolk.mastergardeners.org.uk/>

[\[TOP\]](#)

## AND FINALLY..

### Will DNA tests solve the mystery of the Gloucestershire big cat sightings?

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/science/will-dna-tests-solve-the-mystery-of-gloucestershire-big-cat-sightings-6288078.html>

### All white blackbird photographed

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/nature/16646922>



Albino blackbird (*Turdus merula*) from Flickr.

<http://www.flickr.com/photos/naturalhistoryman/3632329392/>

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