



Biodiversity News in Norfolk

No 35
(May 2014)

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Welcome to our May e-bulletin

This time of year is great to get out and watch wildlife, with flowers in bloom, migrant birds returning and insects emerging and active. If you need more encouragement to 'find your inner wildlife spotter' then try this article: <http://www.independent.co.uk/environment/nature/find-your-inner-wildlife-spotter-emma-townshend-reveals-how-to-recognise-the-flora-and-fauna-all-around-us-9314132.html> And check out EVENTS for ideas on how to take your interest further.

Following last month's appeal for Ramsons Hoverfly records (of which only one was known of since 1938!) there have been several more sightings of the species - see SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS for more information.

The Norfolk Bat Survey is continuing apace, with the bat detector from the County Hall monitoring centre booked out almost continuously until mid-July. However there are lots of other centres across the county with good availability, so plenty of opportunities to get involved - see GETTING INVOLVED to find out how.

In NationalNEWS, are UK cities becoming more mosquito-friendly? And what are the top 10 species new to science in the past year? In LocalNEWS, a State of the Environment Report for the River Glaven catchment is published, the secret lives of unique Brecks wildlife is revealed and an egg accidentally cracked by Charles Darwin!

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Many thanks to those of you who have submitted records of Ramsons Hoverfly. **Please submit any more sightings of Ramsons Hoverfly here:** <http://nbis.org.uk/ramsonshoverfly>

Our species of the month for June is the **Swallowtail butterfly**(*Papilio machaon*).

The British race of this strikingly beautiful butterfly is only found in the Norfolk Broads. Its distribution is restricted by that of its sole larval food plant, milk parsley.

With distinctive colouration and 'tails' on the hindwings, the swallowtail butterfly is unmistakable, and searching for it is a great way to get excited about spotting wildlife!



For more information and to record the Swallowtail butterfly click here:

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

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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-bulletinMay2014.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

River Glaven State of the Environment Report published

A State of the Environment Report for the River Glaven catchment written by NBIS on behalf of the 9 Chalk Rivers Project is now available for download from the NBIS website. The report brings together key information about the catchment and aims to inform, inspire and enthuse local people to get out and enjoy the Glaven area. <http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#GlavenReport>

RSPB Wings over the Brecks project to put bird lovers in the nest with streaming video

A pioneering video project is set to give nature enthusiasts an insight into the secret lives of unique wildlife in the Brecks. <http://tinyurl.com/omgqkoe>

Egg accidentally cracked by Charles Darwin goes on display

Along with around 220 other items, the egg is on display at the Castle Museum in Norwich as part of the

'Wonder of Birds' exhibition.

<http://tinyurl.com/pc7zb45>

Thetford Forest wildlife 'performs' Living Symphonies' premier

It is the culmination of a two-year project by composers to turn four forests across England into natural orchestras.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-27256881>

Dartmoor ponies set to graze Thetford Forest land

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/environment/dartmoor_ponies_set_to_graze_on_thetford_forest_land_1_3586708

How one man's vision led to the natural playground of Burlingham Woodland walks

<http://tinyurl.com/p9sbesv>

St Benet's Abbey in Norfolk gets mole help for project

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-27375871>

Swan shot with crossbow in 'horrific' attack in Norfolk

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/swan-shot-with-crossbow-in-horrific-attack-in-norfolk-9361889.html>

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National NEWS

Purple jellyfish with multiple mouths could be new species

The jellyfish was found washed up on Queensland's sunshine coast.

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/may/21/purple-jellyfish-with-multiple-mouths-could-be-new-species?CMP=tw_t_gu

RSPB uses drone to keep watch on Britain's vulnerable birds

The remotely controlled device safeguards reintroduced species and monitors endangered species.

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2014/may/11/rspb-drone-britain-vulnerable-birds?CMP=tw_t_gu

UK cities becoming mosquito-friendly habitats

Warmer ambient temperatures and more water containers in gardens are bringing mosquitoes into closer contact with people.

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-27491891>

Top 10 new species of the past year

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2014/may/22/top-10-new-species-of-the-past-year-in-pictures?CMP=tw_t_gu

Electrical devices 'disrupt bird navigation'

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-27313355>

Overview of Natural England's National Character Area project

Natural England has now completed the revision of the full set of profiles for England's 159 National Character Areas (NCAs). NCA boundaries follow natural lines in the landscape, which means they provide a useful spatial framework to use when making decisions about the natural environment. Understanding landscape character alongside ecological processes at this scale can help in deciding how we safeguard and enhance the natural environment.

For Norfolk the Brecks NCA profile was the first revised profile to be published at the end of 2012. Since then Natural England has published the profiles The Broads, The Fens, North Norfolk Coast, North West Norfolk, Mid Norfolk, Central North Norfolk, South Norfolk and High Suffolk Claylands and the North East Norfolk and Flegg.

All of the 159 NCA profiles can be accessed on Natural England's website at:

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

More National news here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#May2014NationalNews>

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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.

Or visit our website: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/SpeciesSurveillanceNetwork>



Norfolk Bat Survey Is Back

Following last year's success, Norfolk Bat Survey is back! 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. You can sign up for a 1km square and reserve equipment online at <http://www.batsurvey.org/>

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>

Urban Invaders Survey

The Norfolk Non-native Species Initiative has launched a new 'Urban Invaders' survey, asking people to record six species of invasive plant found in urban areas. You can record these species online at:

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

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SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

The Ramsons Hoverfly has been found!

In our last e-bulletin we asked you to look out for the Ramsons Hoverfly, a species found on Wild Garlic that had only been recorded once in Norfolk since 1938. NBIS has since received nine new records of this species, from as far and wide as Reffley Wood (near King's Lynn), Hockering and Cromer. Many thanks to everyone who sent records in. You can view the results here: http://nbis.org.uk/ramsonshoverfly_Map

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EVENTS

National Bat Monitoring Programme Field Survey Workshop 4th June 2014, 7pm-10.30pm.

A workshop focusing on the species identification and survey techniques needed to

take part in the Field Survey of the National Bat Monitoring Programme (NBMP). £15/£7 concessions. Up to 15 free places for Norwich Bat Group members. <https://bats.eventhq.co.uk/nbmp-norfolk-june2014>

The Green Festival, Fairhaven Woodland & Water Garden 22nd June 2014, 10am- 5pm.

Bigger and better than before, the festival now includes the Broads Green Boat Show. Boat trips, green living advice, rural crafts, children's activities and lots more. Included in garden entry price, booking not required. <http://www.fairhavengarden.co.uk/greenfestival14.html>

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>

Norwich Bat Group Events 2014

See the website for more information.

<http://www.norwichbatgroup.co.uk/events/>

Gaywood Valley Living Landscapes Events 2014.

Free wildlife events in the Gaywood Valley run by Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/documents/a-living-landscape/gaywood_valley_web.pdf

Bure Valley Living Landscapes Events 2014.

Free wildlife events in the Bure Valley run by Norfolk Wildlife Trust.

http://www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk/documents/a-living-landscape/bure_valley_web.pdf

Wheatfen Events Programme 2014.

Events at the Ted Ellis Nature Reserve at Wheatfen, including walks, workshops, moth night and the annual Swallowtail Day. <http://www.wheatfen.org/tethtml/events.html>

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AND FINALLY..

A wildlife garden has been made...entirely out of lego:

http://www.theguardian.com/environment/gallery/2014/may/14/lego-wildlife-garden-in-pictures?CMP=tw_t_gu.

If you wish to be removed from this mailing list, please email us: nbis@norfolk.gov.uk

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<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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