



Biodiversity News in Norfolk

No 30 (Nov/Dec 2013)

Photo: Environment Team Christmas Jumper Day (C) Lizzy Oddy

Welcome to our November/December e-bulletin

Hello to all of our readers - we hope you are all looking forward to the Christmas and New Year festivities that will soon be upon us. How this year has flown!

We've had another busy couple of months here. In November NBIS hosted another very successful Recorders Evening with the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society. Attendees enjoyed talks on the Norfolk Bat Survey, iSpot and online recording to name but a few, as well as the obligatory curly fries! The RINSE Project has published a report on predicting where non-native species may thrive and become invasive within Europe (see National NEWS). And in December, members of the Environment Team got in the festive mood and took part in Christmas Jumper Day in support of Save the Children (see photo above)!

The big news this month in Norfolk has been the storm surge which hit the county (and other parts of the East coast) on the 5th December. As well as the flooding of property and erosion of cliffs, the effect on some of the county's wildlife reserves has been devastating. However Norfolk's iconic seal colonies fared better than was feared (see Local NEWS).

There have also been a couple of species discoveries over the last two months - including a new liverwort for The Broads (see SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS)

Enjoy the issue and have a great Christmas!

SPECIES OF THE MONTH

Many thanks to those of you who have submitted Hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) records over October and November. **Please submit any more sightings of *Erinaceus europaeus* here:**

<http://nbis.org.uk/hedgehog>

Our species of the month this month is that Christmas favourite, the **European Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*).**

You may wonder why we want records of this popular and commonly seen bird. But the fact is that most people don't bother to send in records of 'common' species as they think they're not important. This means that the information we hold on the distribution of robins in Norfolk is patchy to say the least. Records of common species are just as valuable as those of rare species - how else will we be able to see when a species starts becoming less common? **Please help us fill in the gaps by sending in your sightings of robins in Norfolk here:**

<http://nbis.org.uk/robin>



[A Robin in a frosty bush by the Grand union canal](#)

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We hope you have a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

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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-bulletinNovDec2013.pdf>

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

[top]

[Local NEWS](#)

[National NEWS](#)

[GETTING INVOLVED](#)

[SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS](#)

[EVENTS](#)

[AND FINALLY](#)

Local NEWS

Storm surge impacts Norfolk's wildlife

The recent storm surge which affected much of the Norfolk coastline has also impacted some of the county's wildlife and nature reserves <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-25298428>. The RSPB has launched an appeal to help them to repair some of the damage caused to their reserves <http://tinyurl.com/pst7vyr>. It was at first thought that many of the young seal pups recently born at Blakeney and Horsey would have perished in the surge. However, although there were some losses, overall the seals fared much better than was feared <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-norfolk-25290146>.

Two minke whales washed up on Norfolk's beaches

A 25 foot long minke whale was found washed up on Cromer beach on 22nd November <http://tinyurl.com/p9b7j2b>. Then the following Monday another was washed up at Sea Palling. An investigation found that they both probably died as a result of ship strikes <http://tinyurl.com/q7k2gmn>

Rare sunfish washed up on Happisburgh beach

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/rare_sunfish_found_washed_up_on_happisburgh_beach_1_3068135

Plans submitted for new nature reserve

Plans have been submitted for Norfolk's newest nature reserve at Taverham Mill, near Norwich. <http://tinyurl.com/owofgdo>

Norfolk Coast Partnership winter newsletter available

The Winter 2013/14 Norfolk Coast Partnership newsletter is now available for download.

<http://www.norfolkcoastaonb.org.uk/pages/pspage.php?PageID=443>

[\[TOP\]](#)

National NEWS

England names 27 new marine conservation zones

The new MCZs cover 9700 kilometers squared, although there is concern that they may not go far enough.

<http://www.theguardian.com/environment/2013/nov/21/england-27-new-marine-conservation-zones>

The State of the UK's Birds

The new report is available to download here <http://www.bto.org/volunteer-surveys/bbs/bbs-publications/sukb>

What's the buzz? The bumblebee is back!

A project that began as an attempt to reintroduce an extinct bumblebee to Britain has sparked a comeback by five other species whose numbers have dwindled alarmingly in recent decades.

<http://www.independent.co.uk/news/uk/home-news/whats-the-buzz-the-bumblebee-is-back-9005432.html>

New RINSE Report published

The new RINSE Project report, 'Targeting and prioritisation for INS in the RINSE Area' has been published.

Access it here: <http://www.rinse-europe.eu/news/view/report-published>

NBN Conference report and presentations

The full report, presentations and videos from the 13th Annual NBN Conference 'Future challenges for the NBN' can be found here: http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/NBN-Conference-report-and-presentations.aspx?utm_source=eshot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NBN%20eNews%20November%202013

[2](#)

Obituary

Bob George, May 5th 1921 - November 9th 2013

Bob was an Honourary member of the NBN Trust and was the voluntary organiser of the UK Flea Recording Scheme. Norfolk recorder John Goldsmith said: "Bob did occasionally visit the county, but during my early years at Norwich Castle Museum (1967 onwards) I collected hundreds of flea specimens from local birds and mammals, dead and alive, and it was Bob George who examined these fleas and confirmed their identity. These went into the 2008 UK flea atlas giving a good showing for Norfolk records. I can recall finding the first *Orchopeas howardii* – the Grey Squirrel flea for Norfolk, in a Red Squirrel nest, paving the way for suspecting, then proving, the later discovered and disastrous RS2 virus transfer from Greys to Reds."

[http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Bob-](http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Bob-George.aspx?utm_source=eshot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NBN%20eNews%20November%202013)

[George.aspx?utm_source=eshot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NBN%20eNews%20November%202013](http://www.nbn.org.uk/News/Latest-news/Bob-George.aspx?utm_source=eshot&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=NBN%20eNews%20November%202013)

More National news here:

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#NovDec2013NationalNews>

[\[TOP\]](#)

GETTING INVOLVED

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

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

Vincent Wildlife Trust polecat survey

The Vincent Wildlife trust (VWT) is running a national polecat survey for 2014-15 and they need your help. If you spot a polecat, ferret or hybrid then you can submit your record (preferably with a photo) directly to VWT, or to NBIS and we'll forward it on. It may seem unlikely for Norfolk, but there are polecat records from Cambridgeshire and Suffolk, so you never know! For more information please see the Vincent Wildlife Trust website:

<http://vwt.org.uk/our-work/projects/national-polecat-survey>

Environment Agency 'Challenges and Choices' Consultation

There are still a few days left to respond to the Environment Agency's Challenges and Choices River Basin District Consultation, which closes on the 22nd December 2013. [http://www.environment-](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33252.aspx)

[agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33252.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33252.aspx)

Call for artwork Inspired By Birds

If you are an artist living in East Anglia and your work is inspired by birds, then you are invited to submit your work for the fourth Norwich Castle Open Art Show 'Inspired By Birds'. <http://tinyurl.com/pkcq3dh>

[\[TOP\]](#)

SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

Fungal find at Norfolk nature reserve helps fight against ash dieback disease

County Fungi Recorder Tony Leech has found a specimen of the rarely seen benign cousin of the deadly ash dieback fungus. The discovery was made at Sculthorpe Moor Community Nature Reserve and it is hoped that it might help researchers work out how to stop the spread of ash dieback. <http://tinyurl.com/py49zqr>

Early results from the Norfolk Bat Survey are released

<http://www.batsurvey.org/early-results/>

New liverwort discovered for The Broads

Its been confirmed that the liverwort found by Jo Parmenter west of Barton Broad in November is *Pallavicinia lyellii*. This is only the second ever record in East Anglia since it was found once at Staverton Park in Northamptonshire half a century ago, and a new record for The Broads. For more information on this species see http://www.plantlife.org.uk/uploads/documents/Pallavicinia_lyellii_dossier1.pdf

[\[TOP\]](#)

EVENTS

Norfolk Rivers Trust River Catchment Community Events:

Join the Norfolk Rivers Trust for a day learning about your local river, the wildlife it supports and how we can work together to solve the threats it faces. Come for the day or just pop in for five minutes.

Saturday 25th January 2014 - Mundesley Coronation Hall (River Mun)

Sunday 9th February 2014 - North Creake Village Hall (River Burn)

Saturday 22nd February 2014 - Sedgeford Village Hall (River Heacham)

Saturday 8th March 2014 - Snettisham Village Hall (River Ingol)

For more details see: <http://www.norfolkrivertrust.org/2013/11/river-catchment-community-events.html>

[\[TOP\]](#)

AND FINALLY..

A man woke up in the middle of the night to find that he'd been joined in his living room by a tawny owl!

<http://tinyurl.com/pw8ukzf>

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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](https://www.twitter.com/NorfolkBIS); [http://www.twitter.com/NorfolkNNSI](https://www.twitter.com/NorfolkNNSI)

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