



Biodiversity News in Norfolk

September 2011

(No.6)

Senecio inaequidens (Credit: Robin Stevenson)

Welcome to our September biodiversity e-bulletin

We hope you are enjoying our e-bulletin and that we are including enough of the type of news that you want. As we have been producing these newsletters for 6 months we would like to give you the chance to let us know what you think. Please complete our **reader survey** <http://www.nbis.org.uk/e-bulletin-survey> and we will use your responses to shape the way in which we take the newsletter forward.

In the news this month we have some new species for Norfolk, some major publications, a new public survey and a great number of events, all of which go to show that there is a lot happening in the world of Biodiversity and Geodiversity. It also looks like summer has returned to give us a last few sunny days of recording before autumn takes over.

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.

If you'd rather not receive this in future, please email us at nbis@norfolk.gov.uk, and we'll remove you from our circulation list.

Best wishes,

Martin

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Norfolk Biodiversity Information Officer, NBIS

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Local NEWS

Innovative post delivers ecological benefits

Dr David White started in post as District Ecologist based at Norfolk County Council, in July 2011. His role is an innovative approach to bring ecological expertise to district councils to help them make best use of habitats and species data provided by NBIS. Find out Broadland District Council is already benefiting from the scheme at: <http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#districtEcologist>

New report showcases environmental data for North Norfolk District

NBIS is delighted to announce publication of its first "State of the Environment Report" a new concept that uses information drawn from the NBIS database and a wide range of individuals and organisations, to provide a rich illustration of the district's wildlife, historic assets, landscape, habitats, species and public access. Read more at <http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#stateEnvReport>

Norfolk coastal gems put forward as proposed Marine Conservation Zones (MCZ)

Sheringham chalk reef and seven other Norfolk sites could get special protection under the 2009 UK Marine Bill which is seeking to afford protection to 25% of the nation's coastal waters.

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/sheringham_reef_and_seven_other_norfolk_coastal_gems_could_get_special_protection_1_1017241

Best bird breeding season for 15 years at Blakeney Point

Warm spring weather, eagle-eyed wardens and respectful visitors combined to make it the best breeding season for 15 years at Norfolk's oldest nature reserve.

http://www.edp24.co.uk/news/best_bird_breeding_season_for_15_years_at_blakeney_point_1_1015499

Breeding spoonbills return to Holkham

Staff at Natural England were delighted when eight breeding pairs of spoonbills successfully fledged 14 young at Holkham NNR this season.

<http://cot.ag/n8UZol>

E bulletin Reader Survey

Please complete our reader survey for this newsletter!

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/e-bulletin-survey>

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National NEWS

UK Geodiversity Action Plan launched

The plan, which provides an agreed framework for geodiversity action across the UK, can be downloaded at:

<http://www.ukgap.org.uk/>

Tracking equipment could harm wild birds

High-tech tracking equipment attached to birds including red kites, may cause lesions and even death, experts have warned.

<http://gu.com/p/32339/tw>

Report reveals loss of protected newt habitat

A new report commissioned by Natural England and carried out by Amphibian and Reptile Conservation has revealed that numbers are still declining, and deterioration of habitat remains a key threat.

http://www.naturalengland.org.uk/about_us/news/2011/160911.aspx

English wildlife sites under threat from planning reforms

Wildlife Trusts warn that 'sustainable development' changes to planning rules do not recognise key nature areas

<http://www.guardian.co.uk/environment/2011/sep/20/english-wildlife-sites-threat-reforms>

Disappointing news for UK butterflies

UK butterfly numbers have fallen following the coldest summer for 18 years.

http://www.butterfly-conservation.org/article/9/261/cold_summer_hits_uk_butterflies.html

Ecosystem Services affected by urbanisation policies

A presentation at the British Ecological Society's annual meeting highlighted how two alternative urban planning scenarios – "densification" or "sprawl" – can affect agricultural production, carbon storage in soil and flood mitigation.

Read more at: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/news/science-environment-14804551>

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GETTING INVOLVED

Moth survey needs your help

Remember to send NBIS your records of three autumn-flying moth species: red underwing; large thorn and figure of 8.

<http://www.nbis.org.uk/MothsAutumn2011Survey>

"Broadsweep" encourages visitors to the Broads to record invasive alien species

NNNSI has been in the media recently, with a front-page article in the EDP on Saturday 17th September <http://t.co/Pqtpcqez> followed by an Anglia TV interview with Mike Sutton-Croft - see <http://www.itv.com/anglia/norfolks-most-wanted19919/>

Send in your records of: Himalayan balsam; giant hogweed; Japanese knotweed; floating pennywort; red-eared terrapin and American mink to NBIS at <http://www.nbis.org.uk/BroadSweep2011>

Help spot cetaceans off the Norfolk coast

For more information, contact Dave Powell, East Anglia Sightings Co-ordinator for the Sea Watch Foundation:

dp.shearwaters@gmail.com

Report sick birds to the RSPB

Are any of the birds visiting your garden exhibiting symptoms of trichomonosis (lethargy, fluffed-up plumage, and difficulty in swallowing or laboured breathing)? If so, contact wildlife@rspb.org.uk or call 01767 693690 (Monday to Friday, 9 am to 5 pm).

Find out more at: <http://bit.ly/qaf7Rp>

Help with next year's Bee Scene survey

Sign up to receive information about next year's bee survey for primary schools and youth groups, organised by "Wild About Plants", Plantlife's exciting project celebrating the world of wild plants.

<http://www.wildaboutplants.org.uk/beescene/>

Take part in the Big Wildlife Garden Competition

Is your garden a winner for wildlife? This is your chance to showcase all the things you do for wildlife in your patch.

Get thinking about your entry now! (deadline 20 May 2012). Prizes include a year's membership of the Royal Horticultural Society and your local Wildlife Trust.

<http://www.bigwildlifegarden.org.uk/>

Try out the award-winning podcast, "Nature's Voice" from RSPB

Each month brings features, interviews and news of birds and wildlife

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/podcasts/naturesvoice.aspx>

Sign up to save the BBC Wildlife Fund

<http://www.savebbcwildlifefund.net/>

Natural History Museum launches Bugs ID iPhone App

This free app which can help you discover interesting facts and ID tips about bugs, can be used on its own or as part of the OPAL Bugs Count survey.

<http://itunes.apple.com/uk/app/opal-bugs-count-pocket-id/id462166466?mt=8>

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SPECIES HIGHLIGHTS

Wood-rust found in Norfolk

Nowellia curvifolia – a tiny liverwort that grows on rotten wood - was recently discovered on a fallen tree in woodland near Aylsham. This is the first record of this species for Norfolk. <http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#newLiverwort>

Narrow-leaved ragwort found in West Norfolk

Another 'first' for Norfolk is the discovery of *Senecio inaequidens* in a car park on the Hardwick Industrial Estate near King's Lynn.

This ragwort species has much narrower leaves than other ragwort species. <http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#newRagwort>

Unusual spider spotted

Assistant Biodiversity Information Officer Lizzy Carroll spotted an unusual “wasp” spider during a brownfield site survey. Click here to have a closer look!

<https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.262805640405431.75313.189697414382921>

If you want help identifying unusual wildlife finds, please get in touch with NBIS

Good year for Sandy Stiltball

It has been a good year for the sandy stiltball, a rare fungus that is a Norfolk BAP species. A recently survey has shown numbers of fruiting bodies are up at sites where it has been previously recorded, and it has also turned up at two new locations in the county. Read more at <http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#sandyStiltball>

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EVENTS

2nd October 2011 (2pm – 5pm) Wheatfen

Fungus workshop

With Norfolk Fungus Study Group. Booking essential: contact David Nobbs on 01508 538036

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

5th October 2011 NWT Hickling Broad NNR

Bringing reedbeds to life workshops

The RSPB is running a workshop to showcase the results of a ten year co-ordinated programme of reedbed wildlife research.

For further information contact: nick.droy@rspb.org.uk

<http://www.rspb.org.uk/ourwork/projects/details.aspx?id=tcm:9-210865>

15th October 2011 (10am – 4pm) Easton College

Wild About Norfolk

Popular Norfolk wildlife fair.

www.wildaboutnorfolk.co.uk

24th October 2011 (10am – 3pm) South Wootton (near King’s Lynn)

An Introduction to Fungus Identification

Booking essential: 01603 598333

http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#NWT_WinterProgramme

This event is part of the NWT “Wild Norfolk” programme funded through Natural England’s Access to Nature scheme.

30th October 2011 (1pm – 4pm) Reffley (near King’s Lynn)

An Introduction to Winter Tree Identification

Booking essential: 01603 598333

http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#NWT_WinterProgramme

This event is part of the NWT “Wild Norfolk” programme funded through Natural England’s Access to Nature scheme.

30th October 2011 (10am – 11.30am) Outside the Green Quay, King’s Lynn

The Natural and Unnatural History of King’s Lynn

Meet outside the Green Quay, south Quay, King’s Lynn, PE30 5DT. Just turn up for a guided wildlife walk.

http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#NWT_WinterProgramme

This event is funded by Sustainable Urban Fringes (SURF).

25th October 2011 (10am – 3pm) BTO offices, Thetford

Capturing Birds Through Art

Learn how to draw birds through field sketching with Norfolk artist Steve Cale

Booking essential 01603 598333

http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#NWT_WinterProgramme

This event is part of the NWT “Wild Norfolk” programme funded through Natural England’s Access to Nature scheme.

29th October 2011 (10am – 4pm) East Wretham Village Hall

Beginner’s Guide to Wildlife Photography

Learn about the basics of digital wildlife photography

Booking essential 01603 598333

http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#NWT_WinterProgramme

This event is part of the NWT “Wild Norfolk” programme funded through Natural England’s Access to Nature scheme

1st November 2011 (10am – 3pm) BTO offices, Thetford

Capturing Birds Through Art

Learn how to use watercolours to illustrate birds with Norfolk artist Steve Cale

Booking essential 01603 598333

http://www.nbis.org.uk/news#NWT_WinterProgramme

This event is part of the NWT “Wild Norfolk” programme funded through Natural England’s Access to Nature scheme

3rd November 2011 (12 noon – 5pm) Norwich

Annual Biodiversity Forum: Playing God: The Science, Art and Controversy of Species Re-introductions

For more information, contact Scott Perkin: scott.perkin@norfolk.gov.uk

<http://www.norfolkbiodiversity.org>

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AND FINALLY..

Name that beaver....

The first beavers to be born in the wild since they were hunted to extinction are to be named by Scottish school children. Read more: <http://www.scotland.gov.uk/News/Releases/2011/08/30115440>

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