NBRC Newsletter 14

Autumn/Winter 2017

A couple of apologies....

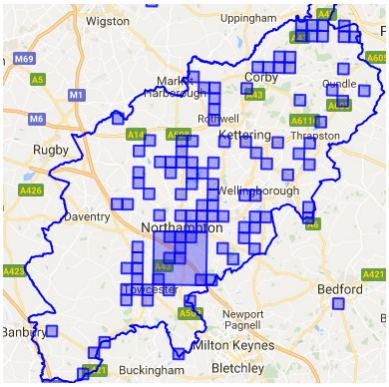
Newsletter

Unfortunately we were not able to produce the Spring/Summer newsletter this year. We will be continuing with a biannual newsletter next year, so do please get in contact if you have any articles for the next issue in April 2018. Thank you to all those who provided articles for the Spring/Summer newsletter which have been added to this edition instead.

Website

If you are a regular user of our website, then you will most likely be aware that our website went through a period of being offline during May and June. This was due to some technical issues we experienced, but we are pleased to say that the site is back up and running.

If you've not yet visited our website, or would like to use the online recording facility, then please do take a look. http://www.northantsbrc.org.uk



Just under 1500 records have been submitted so far with a good spread across the county as can be seen from the map. The one thing that does stand out is the lack of records received for the south of the county, something which is often referred to by county recorders

Users can add photos, like this Painted Lady, to support their identifications.

Painted Lady, by Jan Devito, 03/06/2017, High Wood

Staffing

Following interviews held in mid-January for the WILDSide project co-ordinator role, we are pleased to welcome Ryan Clark to NBRC. Ryan will be with us until at least December 2018.

After university I firstly volunteered with, and then worked for, Buckinghamshire County Council as an ecologist. My passions have always lied with vascular plants and invertebrates so I left this position to take up a TCV Natural Talent Traineeship with Buglife and Natural England. During this time I surveyed Blenheim Palace for its dead wood associated beetles and showed that this was an internationally important site for these beetles. After this position finished back in February, I started working for NBRC as WILDside Project Coordinator. Like most of you I am happiest outside exploring the natural world. My interests lie in species identification, biological recording and

engaging other people with the natural world through photography, writing and social media. I am a bit of a generalist but have particular passions for solitary bees, beetles, wasps and vascular plants. I sit on the committees of the Bees, Wasps and Ants Recording Society (BWARS), Botanical Society for Britain and Ireland (BSBI) and A Focus on Nature (AFON) and help these societies engage people with biological recording, especially other young naturalists. The project is really exciting for Northamptonshire and I hope to meet as many of you as possible at our WILDside Events.

Ryan Clark, WILDside Project Coordinator

During the summer Steve Whitbread left as manager of NBRC and Josh Hellon (Monitoring and Research Manager, WildlifeBCN) has been acting as manager in the interim. We would like to wish Steve all the best in his new role.

Interviews for a new manager were held recently and it is hoped somebody will be in place early within the New Year.

Thank yous....

Alex Wildman (Moulton College)

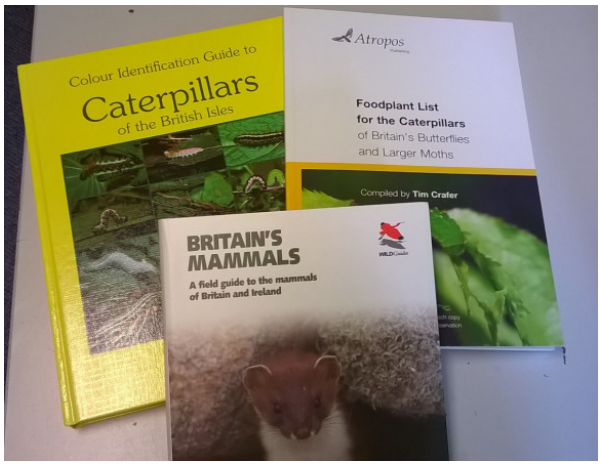
During the summer, NBRC hosted its first student placement. It was a great pleasure to have Alex with us, who got stuck in with everything from field surveys, scanning and digitisation of old surveys to joining the Wildlife Trust reserves team to help with habitat management. We wish Alex all the best with her continued studies

NWT Digitising Volunteers

Thank you to all those currently supporting NBRC with the digitising of some historical Northants Wildlife Trust records.

Donation from Viridor

We would like to say a big thank you to Viridor for their donation of £100 to the NBRC. This was received in relation to some moth trapping (see article later) which was carried out during 2016 at the Wootton Landfill site. It was decided to use the money to purchase the identification books pictured below, which everybody, including Wildlife Trust staff, and recorders will be able to use for years to come. Thank you!



Please note that, these books, along with others purchased as part of the WILDSide project are available for people to come in and use.

WILDside heritage lottery fund LOTTERY FUNDED

Update

The WILDside Project is supported by the Heritage Lottery Fund and launched in March 2017. The project aims to encourage and support biological recorders in Northamptonshire. We have been really busy running a variety of free training workshops and field sessions, including visits to private Local Wildlife Sites where access wouldn't usually be possible. These sessions supplement the excellent range already provided by the Wildlife Trust, who have just released their training workshop programme for 2018. We will be planning lots more workshops to take place next year.

An excellent introductory lichen workshop with Mark Powell at Billing Road Cemetery

We have also organised a variety of talks which take place at the Northamptonshire Natural History Society each month. These usually provide an

introduction to the ecology and identification of a taxonomic group. We plan to have more of these next year and are always looking for speakers.

We have also been building up a library of books, resources and equipment which can be used by recorders in the county. We wouldn't have been able to purchase these resources, which are used for workshops and will be available to be borrowed, without the HLF funding.

Our WILDside Area at Lings. Full of resources which recorders can use. Please get in contact to arrange to come use them.

We are also using this project to encourage online recording. You can enter records for Northamptonshire on our website and I plan to run training on using the website over next few months. We will also be signposting people via our website to existing online resources. We also have the first of our 'Look Out for …' Surveys. We would love you to Look out for Mistletoe and send us your sightings!

Mistletoe - take part in our survey! This photo was taken by Nathalie Hueber

Our Facebook Group now has over 110 members and is becoming a nice little community of people interested in recording Northamptonshire's wildlife. There you can get help with identification along with keeping up to date with events and what other people in the county are seeing! You can also keep up to date with the project by emailing me and asking to be added to the mailing list.

This project is really exciting and will leave a lasting legacy of more records and better supported recorders in the county. Thank you to all those that have taken part so far. To keep up to date with the project, why not join our Facebook Group, where you will find details of upcoming events and can get help with identification. If you have any questions, or comments, please drop me an email at WILDside@northantsbrc.org.uk

Ryan Clark – WILDside Project Coordinator

The pseudoscorpions of Northamptonshire

Pseudoscorpions are a small arachnid, typically 1-5mm, with a resemblance to true scorpions but without the sting tipped tail. There are 27 species known to exist in the UK but over 4000 worldwide. They eat smaller arthropods including small flies and springtails.

Pseudoscorpions are known for being an under recorded group but this seems to be even more noticeable within Northamptonshire. 12 of the 27 species that occur in the UK have been recorded in Northants with many species only being recorded once or twice and one of which was only found within the last 2 years.

Chernes cimicoides. A species surprisingly only recorded once in Northamptonshire ©Liam Andrews

Historic records

Dinocheirus panzer, Lamprochernes chyzeri, Allochernes powelli, Chthonius tetrachelatus, Chthonius tenuis, Chernes cimicoides and *Allochernes wideri* have all only been recorded in this county on one occasion, the first 4 at the Newton Field Centre near Kettering, the A. wideri in Southwick and the *C.*

tenuis and *C. cimicoides* in Sulehay forest. There are also very few historic records of *Neobisium carcinoides* and *Cheiridium museorum.* These are particularly common species and it is surprising there are not more records. *Lamprochernes nodosus* has only been recorded a few times in 1979 again at the Newton field centre but there have been around a dozen records of *Chthonius ischnocheles* from all over the county in the 70s and 2000s.

Cheiridium museorum. Commonly found in old houses and thatched roofs ©Liam Andrews

Modern records

In 2015, I was able to add a species to the Northamptonshire list, *Roncus lubricus* in the graveyard of St Giles church in Desborough. I was also able to find a 2nd county C. tenuis in a garden centre outside Desborough and recorded Neobisium carcinoides in several locations within Desborough and Cheiridium museorum in Orton as well as Chthonius ischnocheles in most of the villages surrounding Kettering.

Chthonius ischnocheles. Found all over Northamptonshire ©Liam Andrews

Why so few records?

The answer to this can only be the lack of recorders. The many records from around the area of the Newton Field Centre and around Desborough where I have been recording show that when people look for them they are there to be found. Perhaps the small size of pseudoscorpions and difficulty identifying them has put people off. This being said the new of FSC key to pseudoscorpions and online resources such as the pseudoscorpion UK Facebook page and twitter account has made it easier than ever to identify finds and get tips on locating specimens.

How to find them

Coleopterists and dipterists are probably most likely to find them by chance phoretic on the legs of insects but the easiest way to search for them is to look under rock, logs and planks of wood. You can also sieve leaf litter and look under tree bark.

For more information:

Email: liamandrews183@gmail.com, Facebook: www.facebook.com/groups/479900348856287/ (Pseudoscorpion UK) Twitter: @psudoscorpionUK

Liam Andrews

My name is Liam Andrews and I have just completed a degree in wildlife conservation at Nottingham Trent university. During my first year of study I attended an FSC spider identification course in Shropshire and there I first learned about pseudoscorpions. After a small introduction to spiders in which the basic biology of pseudoscorpions where also discussed we went into the field in search of arachnids. Towards the end a single Lamprochernes nodosus was found in a pile of grass and I was transfixed. On returning home I tried to research these brilliant little animals but there is very little information out there. I spend most of the summer piecing together every scrap of information I could find and looking for pseudoscorpions and from then on, I have been trying to spread the word about pseudoscorpions and help make information accessible about this incredible but extremely overlooked group of animals.

Toninia physaroides

(IUCN Critically Endangered) found in Northamptonshire, and several new 'smoothies'

Nearly four years ago a member of the Northamptonshire Wildlife Trust staff handed me a fragment of a terricolous lichen from Stonepit Close (part of the Old Sulehay Forest reserve). Despite hawking it around to various experienced lichenologists, its exact identity remained a mystery. There are three British look-alikes: *Toninia physaroides*, *T. opuntioides* and *T. sedifolia*, all forming grey 'blobs' on calcareous soils. *T. sedifolia* is rather common in limestone districts but rare in the South Midlands and not recorded for Northamptonshire. *T. physaroides* is IUCN Critically Endangered with only one recent British record (Suffolk, 1998). *T. opuntioides* has no confirmed record in Britain since the nineteenth century. It had been suggested to me that the vertically-elongated, columnar structure might indicate *T. opuntioides* which is distinguished by a unique chemistry, containing a substance which produces a bright yellow spot on a thin layer chromatography (tlc) plate. Without the equipment to perform tlc at home, my interest was sparked by the recently published 'S-test' which aims to replicate the colours produced by charring with sulphuric acid on a tlc plate but without running the chromatography. All one requires is a microscope slide, acetone, sulphuric acid and a tee-light candle. I could not produce any colour reaction using the S-test on the Stonepit Close material, a result that initially disappointed me. After a recent visit to Old Sulehay Forest, during which a small specimen was collected, a renewed effort has allowed this material to be identified as *T. physaroides*. A very well written Estonian paper on this group of lichens is available online and this provided the additional anatomical characters which gives us confidence in the identification. It is a relatively recent luxury that we have access to so much of the world's literature via an internet connection. *T. physaroides* lacks lichen substances and hence the negative S-test provides further reassurance.

Figure 1. The 'grey blobs' of Toninia physaroides growing on calcareous soil (along with Placidium squamulosum) at Stonepit Close.

The *Toninia* species mentioned above are conspicuous and easily visible to the naked eye, but I am equally interested in lichens with minute 'black-dot' fruiting bodies. On a recent visit to Salcey Chase, four out of the five British species of *Anisomeridium* were recorded, two of which (*A. ranunculosporum* and *A. viridescens*) are new to the region. Another exciting 'smoothie' (dots on smooth bark) to turn up in the region for the first time is *Eopyrenula avellanae*. Up until three years ago I was a full-time coppice worker and used to scrutinise hazel rods while splitting them for thatching spars. Despite the tiny nature of these smoothies, I am convinced that I would have noticed them if they had been around with any frequency. In the same way that many conspicuous lichens are invading the Midlands, so it seems that these minute organisms are also on the move. While I haven't got scientific proof to back up my gut reaction of their recent spread, from now on I will be taking careful note of the communities of smooth bark to monitor any future changes. The smooth bark of relatively young rods arising on old hazel stools, especially in humid situations, are likely to be particularly worth examining. Some lichenologists shy away from these tiny organisms, assuming that they are 'difficult', but many of them simply require some careful microscopy to arrive at a positive identity.

Figure 2. A single fruiting body of *Eopyrenula avellanae*, one of the 'smoothies' recently added to the Northants list. This fruiting body is only 0.2 mm diameter but contains plenty of interesting microscopic features inside.

I am always pleased to help people to learn more about lichens and to receive specimens or photographs for my appraisal. As part of NBRC's WILDside project, we are planning to provide training in lichen identification so there will be plenty of opportunity to learn more about these intriguing organisms

Mark Powell (Lichen recorder)

If you would like to find out more or would like some help with identification, please feel free to contact Mark directly at **markpowell222@btinternet.com**

National Forum for Biological Recording Conference 2017

Think globally, record locally- effective biological recording at the scale needed.

The day covered 10 talks on various recording projects, plus workshop discussions, discussing how recording can help conservation efforts on a local, landscape, national and global scale.

Approximately 41 various organisations were represented, lots of interesting people from across the country and various recording backgrounds in one room.

The opening address was a rally call for recorders to "Think globally and Record Locally". The conference kicked off with the two keynote addresses by the Centre for Ecology and Hydrology, (CEH) and Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service.

Nick Issac from CEH talk was regarding how biological records contributed to UK Biodiversity indicators and the State of Nature Report. Two thirds of the data set for the State of Nature Report were sourced from Biological Records collated across the country. Why is this important? The biological records used were from volunteers such as ourselves. Data from scientific studies and long term studies following recognised methodologies are important as this gives a more robust data set, however with some clever modelling of our opportunistic biological records, biases can be ironed out and the data set cleaned for use, ready to help give a clear picture regarding our natural world and enabling evidence based decisions, (Evidence based decisions….that's another story!). If your interested in the how, there is a scientific paper published…. Statistics for citizen science: extracting signals of change from noisy ecological data. http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/2041-210X.12254/full.

Martin Horlock from Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service talk was "What has local ever done for us." Local records collated by local recorders are supporting work carried out at a national level. There is a need to collect quality data and to achieve this the key is to have a robust network of recorders and to achieve this, recorders require support and access to training. The WILDside project came to mind at this point .

Norfolk have carried out their very own Country State of Nature report and groups are carrying out structured surveillance of sites, which has produced robust data which can be used to inform decisions for land management, planning and conservation. One such project caught my attention was the Bat Monitoring Centers. When in Norfolk you are only ever 20 miles from a Bat Monitoring centre. The centres are equipment hubs, you can borrow bat monitoring equipment and on return the data collected adds to the counties bat data set. Wow! Imagine the information they can gain from all that bat data and the informed decisions that can be made. At this point my head was whizzing….What if you could pop into your local library or visit your library van and pick up ecological equipment and survey pack?

The rest of the morning included talks from:

The Freshwater Habitats Trust, looking at their Pondnet project http://freshwaterhabitats.org.uk/projects/pondnet/. The Peoples, Ponds and Water project makes use of training videos uploaded to You Tube, they are very informative, take a look.

British Trust for Ornithology, (BTO) on use of BTO data in the UK and across the world. BTO is renowned for the its bird data and long term studies, which includes the Bird Ringing scheme. Andy Musgrove highlighted the issue of detectability when recording birds and that this should not be overlooked when interpreting data. Detectability is an issue for all biological data, as is interpretation of the data. If something is not recorded, does it mean it's not there? Another reason to go out and record. Can we get all Northamptonshire squares covered for all groups?

I enjoyed the next talk, I have been out and about with the dipterists, really nice group of people. Darwyn Sumner from the Dipterest Forum talk was on an endangered UK species in a European context.

Rainieria calceata is a Stilt fly that can be found associated to rotting Beech trees and has just 22 UK records. Yes, this fly has its own You Tube clip! https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZN33SS1ZTX4 Darwyn looked to Europe for additional records, which proved challenging, but not completely mission impossible.

The afternoon session included talks form Butterfly Conservation; Leeds University on Citizen Science; Greater Manchester Ecology Unit, Monitoring the Carbon landscape and Lancashire Wildlife Trust and Merseyside Biobanks Biodiversity Society Project.

The Biodiversity Society Project focused on raising the awareness of Local Wildlife Sites and building an active biological recording community, linking people to local naturalist groups. This project has involved 317 volunteers and 3000hours, plus increasing the number of biological records received. This news was very encouraging, think what the WILDside project could achieve.

The last talk of the day was by Jo Judge, National Biodiversity Network Secretariat. How can the NBN Atlas help to deliver "bigger, better, more, joined up?"

The National Biodiversity Network is where many of our biological records are shared and to some degree are accessible to all via the NBN Atlas (replacing the NBN Gateway) https://nbnatlas.org/. Jo Judge and the NBN team are looking to recorders and users for feedback. How can they improve this resource? How can the network help?

The message from the whole day is that your biological records are important, be it a casual observation to being involved in long term surveillance. Your records are important and are being used locally and nationally. Record once and the data will be used many times.

My take home message from the conference…..to collect some quality biological records, send them in to NBRC and shout louder for Wildlife. Attending WILDside project events is a great place to start.

Thank you NBRC for the opportunity to attend the conference. It was an inspiring day and I highly recommend attending next year.

Joe Gamble (NBRC volunteer)

Wootton Landfill site - Moth trapping 2016

An area where previously sand and gravel extraction was carried out, Wootton Landfill site closed in 2001 after receiving over 1,000,000m3 of waste. Now well into its aftercare phase there is an ambitious biodiversity action plan across the 12 hectare site to ensure that the habitat can not only be sustainable but nurture rare fauna and flora for the coming years.

I visited Wootton Landfill Site on four occasions during 2016 (5th May, 6th June, 4th July and 16th August). On most occasions a 125W MV Skinner type trap was ran from close to a footbridge into a small wooded area (Grid reference SP75975520), with another following the perimeter path. This was often seen to be a good place in that it was often protected from the wind, which, due to the exposed nature of the site, was often felt needed. A significant amount of light pollution affects the site, with large floodlight

type lights from the adjoining warehouses and it was suspected that this would likely have a significant effect on the species and numbers attracted to the trap.

Numbers weren't great, but a total of 125 (1 Nb, 11 Local, 112 Common, 1 Migrant) moth species were recorded. Three of these were rare, and one scarce within the county.

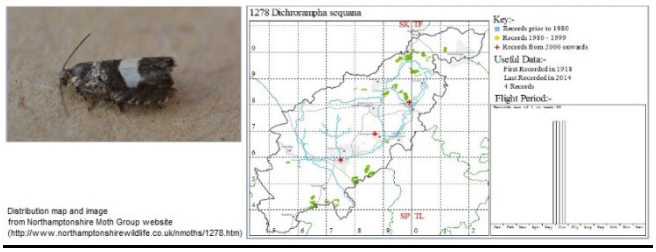
ABH No.	Taxon	Larval Food plant	Northants Status
49.316	Dichrorampha sequana	Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*)	Rare
49.324	Cydia nigricana	Pea, Sweet Pea and Common Vetch	Rare
49.334	Cydia cosmorphana	Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*)	Rare
37.035	Coleophora alcyonipennella	White Clover (*Trifolium repens*)	Scarce

Cydia cosmorphana

A single specimen taken to MV light on 6th June and a new species for the county. The species was confirmed by genitalia dissection (image below) and verified by David Manning and Mark Hammond. Most active in hot sunshine at midday and in the afternoon the larva feed within the damaged bark of Scots Pine, subsequently feeding on resin.

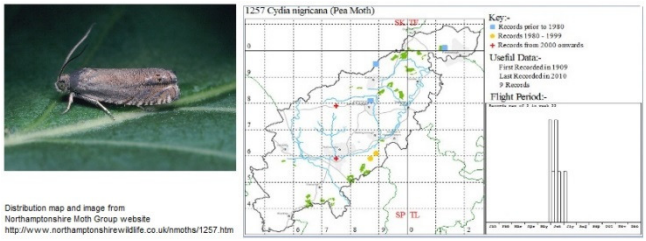
Dichrorampha sequana

A single specimen taken to light on the 6th June. Only four other records known for the county. It prefers unkept verges and embankments, where yarrow is common, and flies in the afternoon and towards dusk. Adults are on the wing in June, and rest on the flowers of the foodplants. The larvae, rather like other Dichrorampha species, feed internally in the rootstocks of the foodplant, yarrow (Achillea millefolium).



Cydia nigricana

Three individuals taken to MV light on the 6th June. Nationally regarded as common although only nine other records are known for Northamptonshire. Quite often a pest of cultivated and garden peas and various related Leguminosae, the larvae of this moth feed internally in the pods, eating away the peas themselves



My thanks go to Philip Kitchener and Viridor for permission to trap on the site. I would also like to thank David Manning (Previous county recorder for micro moths for Bedfordshire & Northamptonshire prior to 01/01/2016) and Mark Hammond (Northamptonshire county moth recorder) for their help confirming species for me.

James Skinner

2016 Bioblitz – Rushden Lakes & Wilson's Pits

……a belated report and summary of results.

In July 2016, NBRC held its annual Bioblitz event at two sites adjoining the Rushden Lakes shopping centre complex that was under development. These were the newly acquired Skew Bridge Lakes (Ski Lake & Delta Pit), also known as Rushden Lakes, and the Wildlife Trust's long established reserve, Wilson's Pits.

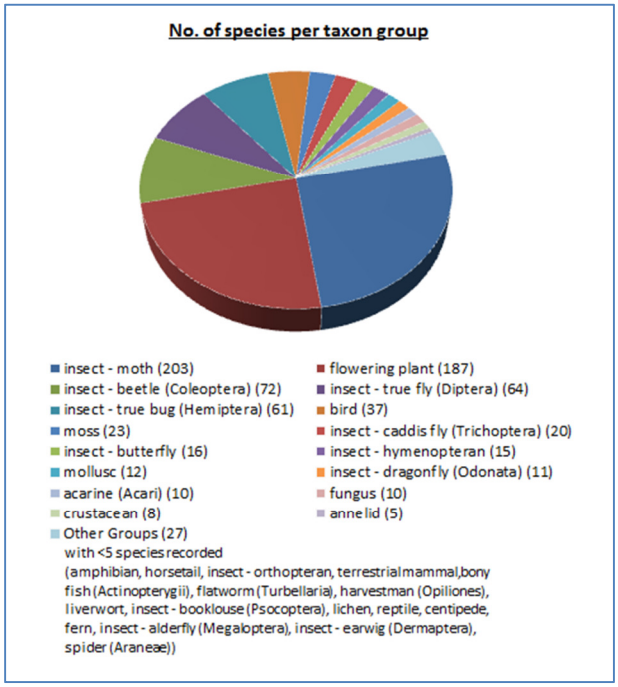
Wilson's Pits, Nathalie Hueber

Since then, the shopping centre has been opened to the public, the Wildlife Trust BCN has its first visitor centre and the whole of the area managed by the Wildlife Trust is collectively known as Nene Wetlands. This comprises the previous Trust reserves known as Ditchford Reserve, Wilson's Pits, Irthlingborough Lakes & Meadows and Higham Reserve, and the two areas in between these, Skew Bridge Lakes, and Higham Gravel Pits West. The map below shows the extent of the new reserve.

Map of Nene Wetlands courtesy of WildlifeBCN

Prior to the event, NBRC held 2196 records (1795 Wilsons, 401 Rushden Lakes) comprising of 483 species at Wilsons and 227 at Rushden Lakes. There was plenty of scope for adding new species and groups to both sites and with the efforts of all those who took part, this was very much the case.

In total 1597 observations were made, comprising of 781 different species and 32 taxon groups. This ranged from single records for centipedes, ferns, earwigs, alderflies and spiders to nearly 500 records for flowering plants.



The total number of different species across both sites within each taxon group is indicated in the chart above

The group with the highest number of species this year was moths with 203 species recorded, all 163 which were new to Rushden Lakes, and 78 which were new to Wilson's Pits. This was closely followed by flowering plants with 187 species, 53 which were new to Rushden Lakes and 12 which were new to Wilson's. And in third place were the beetles with 72 species.

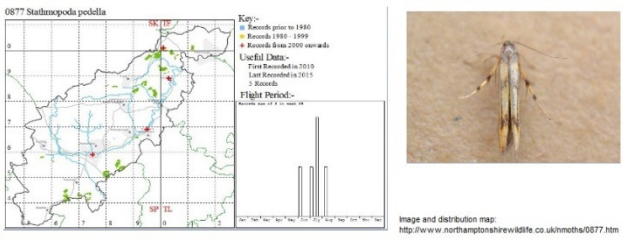
Of the 203 species of moths recorded a few stood out.

Monochroa suffusella (pRDB3)

A single specimen was taken. This is only the second record for this species within the county, the first being in 1995 from Fineshade Wood to a Rothamsted Insect trap. Although the foodplant (Common Cottongrass, *Eriophorum angustifolium*) is not recorded on the site, the species is known from other locations where the stated foodplant doesn't exist (i.e. Wicken Fen). It is not known what the species is feeding on. The species was identified by genitalia dissection by David Manning. Habitat is Fens, marshes and lowland raised bogs. The larva mines the stem and lowest part of the leaves in the autumn, overwintering in the mine, and continuing to feed in the spring. Adults can be disturbed from the foodplant during the day, and come to light. Flight period is June – July

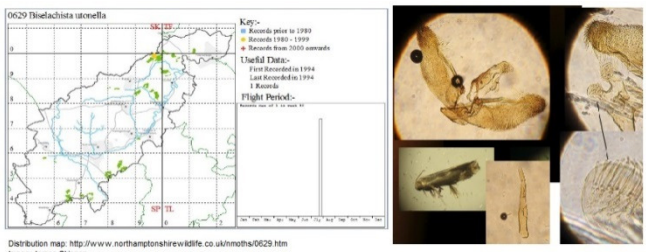
Stathmopoda pedella (Nb)

A rare species within Northamptonshire with only 5 previous records, although has previously been recorded at neighbouring Irthlingborough Lakes & Meadows when it was beaten from Alder during the day. The records for the county are widely scattered which may suggest it is simply under recorded. Has a very distinctive resting position in which the hind legs point upwards. Larvae feed on the seeds and ripening fruits of Alder. Overwinters as a pupae. Habitat: Damp woodland. Adults fly between June and July.



Elachista utonella

A few individuals taken and the second record for this species within the county. It was first recorded in 1994 at Fineshade Woods when it was taken in a Rothamsted Insect trap. The species was confirmed by genitalia dissection (image below) and verified by David Manning and Mark Hammond. Favours wet and boggy areas. The larvae mine the blades of various sedges, especially lesser pond-sedge, greater tussock-sedge and bladder sedge and can be seen between March and May. Adults fly between June and August.



Distribution map: http://www.northamptonshirewildlife.co.uk/nmoths/0629.htm
Image: James Skinner

Others included: (Elachista subocellea – Six other records to date, mainly from the north of the county, Apotomis lineana – Few modern records but widely scattered suggesting it may be more common that records suggest, Gypsonoma opressana – Only 4 previous records to date, Orthotelia sparganella – 8 records over the last 100 years, again mostly from the north of the county, Carpatolechia alburnella – Five previous records, although most are modern records, since 2010, Coleophora taeniipennella – No modern records and last recorded in 1995. Nationally recorded as common, so status in Northants may be due to under recording, especially as many Coleophora sp. Are virtually impossible to identify without genitalia dissection)

The top 10 most frequently recorded species this year fell exclusively to the water beetles and water bugs.

Of these the most recorded species was *Noterus clavicornis*. This water beetle, that belongs to the family Noteridae (Burrowing Water beetles), is around 4mm in length and can be recorded all year round. It's widespread within England and Wales and quite common within Northamptonshire. Both adults and larvae are aquatic where they have a habit of burrowing through pond and marsh substrate.

This was closely followed by the Saucer Bug *Ilyocoris cimicoides*, Water Scorpion *Nepa cinerea* and the Common Backswimmer Notonecta (Notonecta) glauca

County Waterbug Recorder Kevin Rowley also made the most northerly record (so far) of the water skater, *Aquarius paludum* with key identification features of larger than normal at 15mm long, a pale yellow line on the side of the thorax and upturned tips of the abdomen, all clearly seen below.

Aquarius paludum

True flies were well recorded as always with 64 species recorded. One fly that did stand out to some, other than those recording Diptera, was the Twin-lobed Deerfly *Chrysops relictus.*

Deerfly sp, Nathalie Hueber

The description given by Rachel to our county recorder John, suggested this as the highly likely suspect of the nasty bite that Rachel received. The females suck the blood of grazing animals, whilst the males are much more pleasant, feeding on flower pollen. Its preferred habitat is damp floodplain meadows, although it will use other moist areas and woodland, particularly if there is mud or soft wet ground close by

It was great to see that a number of new groups for both sites were recorded, 13 for Rushden Lakes and 10 for Wilson's Pits. This included caddis flies where previously we held no records at either site. Mike Killeby, county Trichoptera recorder, braved the midges along with Peter Terry and myself and made excellent use of the moth traps that were ran on site overnight, managing to record 16 species for Skew Bridge Lakes and 6 for Wilson's Pits.

	Species (Records)			
	Wilson Pit's		Rushden Lakes	
Species Group	Pre	Post	Pre	Post
Fungus	1 (1)	5(5)		1(1)
Liverwort	2 (2)	2(2)		3(3)
Moss	33 (33)	33(33)		23 (23)
Fern			1 (1)	1(2)
Conifer	2 (2)	2(2)		
Flowering Plant	179 (297)	191(399)	143 (264)	196(619)
Horsetail	3 (3)	3(4)	3 (8)	3(13)
Insect - Alderfly (Megaloptera)	1 (1)	1(2)		
Insect - Beetle (Coleoptera)	15 (16)	89(178)		63(46)
Insect - Butterfly	25 (104)	29(118)	6 (9)	17(36)
Insect - Dragonfly (Odonata)	18 (133)	20(150)	7 (9)	11(28)
Insect - Hymenopteran	17 (20)	24(30)		7(7)
Insect - Moth	39 (93)	117(185)		163(173)
Insect - Orthopteran	1 (2)	4(7)		1(3)
Insect - Scorpion Fly (Mecoptera)	1 (1)	1(1)		
Insect - True Bug (Hemiptera)	24 (248)	52(365)	3 (3)	24(13)
Insect - True Fly (Diptera)	41 (134)	53(155)	39 (67)	60 (96)
Reptile	1 (2)	1(2)		1 (2)
Bird	76 (699)	81(733)	25 (40)	45(87)
Terrestrial Mammal	4 (4)	5(5)		1(3)
Caddis		6(6)		16(16)
Amphibian		3(4)		2(3)
Crustacean		3(11)		2(2)
Mollusc		8(22)		1(1)
Acari		2(6)		
Annelid		5(13)		
Bony Fish		1(3)		
Flatworm		2(3)		
Harvestmen		2(2)		
Lichen		1(1)		
TOTAL	483 (1795)	746(2447	227 (401)	641(1177)
Total groups	19	29	8	21

Table showing a comparison of the records and species held at both sites, prior to, and after the bioblitz.

We'd like to thank everyone who participated and contributed to what was a very successful event.

James Skinner

Tony Castello (Nene Wetlands Senior Ranger), would love to put in place regular surveys at the Nene Wetlands reserve Please do get in touch if you think you can help Toni.Castello@wildlifebcn.org

County recorders wanted

County bird recorder– currently vacant.

Please contact the Northamptonshire Bird Report Committee if you would be interested in taking on or sharing the work.

Mike Alibone: (Twitter: @Bonxie),

Email: alibone.mike@gmail.com

https://northantsbirds.com/contact/

Any bird records can be sent to

Chris Coe, 3 Manor Rd, Weedon, Northampton NN7 4QN, email c.coe898@btinternet.com

Of course there are various other species groups and at least one whole Kingdom (fungi), where Northamptonshire is currently lacking a county recorder (Another reason why all County Recorders, past and present deserve our very grateful thanks). If there is somebody with an interest in a particular group, who might then inspire others to get involved with, recording, coordinating their efforts and ensuring they know where to find support, then do consider putting yourself forward. WILDside provides an excellent opportunity for this and the various national schemes and societies are very supportive. We can provide full details on request.

Training Courses

WTBCN's 2018 programme is now out and bookings being taken

A whole range of species groups and ecological or conservation skills are covered (with great tutors). There is bound to be more than one course to suit you so why not book up now.

To find out more join the WildlifeBCN Facebook group or sign up to their 'Local Wildlife - in Depth' e-newsletter.

National Events

Looking back....

Hedgehog Awareness Week ran from 30th April to the 6th May 2017. Hedgehogs were featured on TV, radio and locally during the week by individual's raising awareness of the plight of hedgehogs and raising money to help the cause. The target amount to raise for the Hedgehog Preservation Society was £2000 but they actually raised £3,336.94.

The Wildlife Trusts #30dayswild started on the 1st June and continued throughout the month. This is a fantastic way to get people engaged and talking about wildlife. Just do something wild every day throughout June: that's 30 simple, fun and exciting Random Acts of Wildness.

Shut your eyes to listen to bird song. Take a wild walk at lunchtime. Lie back in the long grass. Search out urban wildlife. Talk to someone on your street about nature. Use wild ingredients to mix a wild cocktail.

Thousands of people took part sharing all the things they did with others on social media using #30DaysWild.

Visit http://www.wildlifebcn.org/30dayswild-0 for more information and look out for next year's event

Beth Aucott, Conservation Officer for Beds. at the Wildlife Trust BCN crocheted a different wildlife themed square each day to make up this amazing blanket

The Big Butterfly Count ran from the 14th July – 6th August

This nationwide survey run by Butterfly Conservation is aimed at helping them assess the health of our environment. It was launched in 2010 and has rapidly become the world's biggest survey of butterflies. Over 36,000 people took part in 2016, counting almost 400,000 individual butterflies and day-flying moths across the UK. For more information and to get involved please visit www.bigbutterflycount.org

2016 Northamptonshire Bird Report - out now!

Essential reading for all Northants Birders, the latest, annual Bird Report for, Northamptonshire is now available with details of all species reported in 2016.

It also contains details of ringing in the County, a comprehensive list of all birds recorded in the County with arrival and departure dates for all migrants and is packed with photographs and illustrations.

Available from:

Oundle Bookshop, 13 Market Place, Oundle PE8 4BA

or by post from

R W Bullock, 81 Cavendish Drive, Northampton NN3 3HL

Phone: 01604 627262

Price £7.50 (£9.00 including post)

Cheques payable to 'Northamptonshire Bird Report'

Please do help the committee make the report even more comprehensive by sending them your records.

Records can be sent to:

Chris Coe, 3 Manor Rd, Weedon, Northampton NN7 4QN, email c.coe898@btinternet.com

NBRC Contact Details

Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre

c/o The Wildlife Trust BCN
Lings House, Billing Lings, Northampton, NN3 8BE
Tel: 01604 400448, Fax: 01604 784835

Email: nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk
Website: www.northantsbrc.org.uk

NBRC's staff members are Nathalie Hueber, Rachel Tate, James Skinner and Ryan Clark

LOOK OUT FOR MISTLETOE

Join in with our first WILDside project "Look out for" survey.

With autumn drawing in and Christmas approaching, we felt that this traditionally festive plant deserves recording.

As you can see from the map, we currently have very few records of Mistletoe within the county in our database and haven't had any records submitted to the website yet.

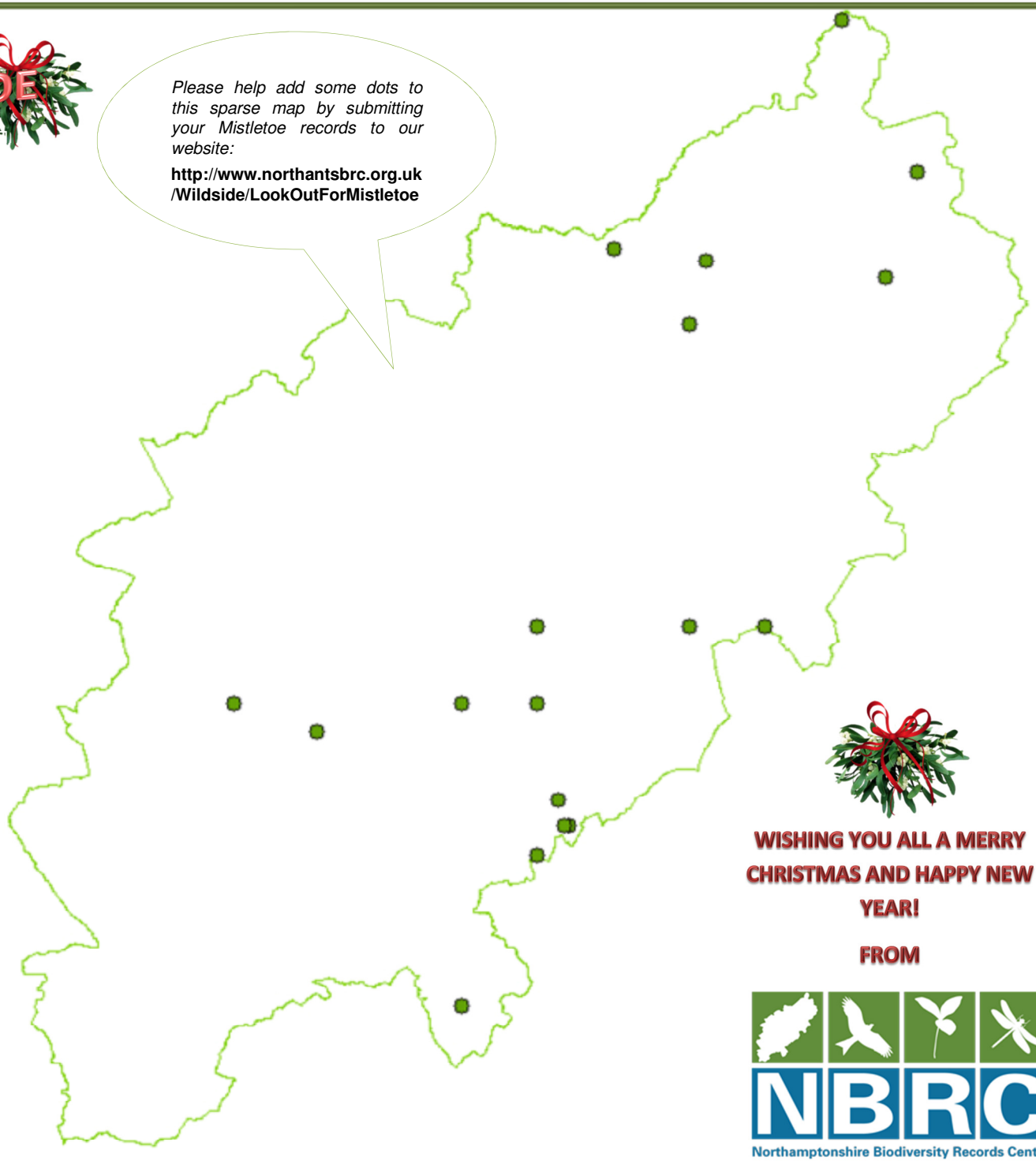
It would be wonderful if we could re-do the map after this survey to show what a difference an increase in recording effort can make to our knowledge of where this species can be found across the county.

Autumn and winter are the best times of year to spot this parasitic plant. When leaves of deciduous trees have fallen and it's easier to spot, usually high up in the tree. When ripe, the white sticky berries are very distinctive.

Mistletoe has male and female flowers on different plants so the presence of berries would confirm that it's a female plant. You can let us know if berries are present in the comments section of the recording form below.

The most common hosts for mistletoe are; apple, lime, hawthorn and hybrid black poplars.

However, oak trees are considered to be a rare host for mistletoe in Britain. A study carried out by John Box from 1996 to 1998 established that there were only 11 confirmed records in Britain at that time, none of which were in Northamptonshire. Please feel free to download and read this published paper. John Box would now like to update those records. Could you be the first to report Mistletoe growing on oak in Northamptonshire?



WISHING YOU ALL A MERRY CHRISTMAS AND HAPPY NEW YEAR!

FROM

NBRC

Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre