

## NBRC Newsletter 19

Spring/Summer 2020

What a changed world we are now in! We hope that like us, you are keeping safe, well and adapting to the new normal of a covid-19 world. The NBRC office has been taken home and we have been working remotely since late march. During lockdown it was certainly 'business as usual' with many local ecologists catching up on paperwork our information service was kept pretty busy. We have now completed our annual update of the protected, notable and invasive species layers.

Many of you may have heard the good news on [BBC Radio Northampton](#) the NBRC have reached a milestone achievement for all of us in the Northamptonshire recording community, James added our **millionth inclusion to our database!** A Painted Lady butterfly, recorded last July in Brampton Ash, and was one of many of this migrant species seen in the summer of 2019.



*Vanessa cardui*, Painted Lady ©David James

"I am delighted to hear the Northamptonshire Biological Records Centre has added the 1 millionth record to their system and it's fitting that the record should be a Painted Lady butterfly that was recorded during an invasion year for the species. This incredible milestone in the NBRC's history is a testament to all the hard work put in by the staff and I'd like to not only say a huge well done but also a big thank you for their continued support and encouragement of biological recording in Northamptonshire" – David James, Northamptonshire Butterfly Recorder.

The Northamptonshire Biodiversity Records Centre database now holds 1,072,173 verified & validated species records. Added this year, in addition to 10,000 of the 28,000 records received in the 2019 butterfly county dataset, were over 100,000 additions from the huge plant dataset received in 2016, which the team continue to quality process and incorporate. Of course, there have also been large number of recent incidental records, with many of the 12,000 records generated across the taxon through our WILDside Project added this year.

"Biological records underpin evidence based conservation. The WILDside Project helped to reinvigorate recording in the county and in the process helped to push the total number of records in the NBRC database over the million mark. Anyone can submit their sightings. Records for common species are equally as important as rarer species" Ryan Clark – WILDside Project Coordinator

We have a number of our popular online 'look out for... surveys' currently active, as started through WILDside. We have been looking for your [bee-fly](#) records for a third year and we are into our second year of our Wildlife BCN joint surveys for [river mammals](#) and [swifts](#). In partnership with the [Northamptonshire Badger Group](#), we are looking for your badger setts and sightings with a particular aim of generating records in the south of the county. Since Brockwatch disbanded, we know very little about current badger activity in this region and we hope that by joining forces we can fill this information gap. The group are also interested in any volunteers, particularly in this region, who may be able to help in rescue and reporting.



Watch tips on what to look for in this [YouTube](#) video from the group. Our ['look out for ...badgers'](#) recording



form automatically blurs your records so full details are only visible to ourselves and the Northants Badger Group.

Our recording community has shown us that enthusiasm for the natural world doesn't 'lockdown'. It is wonderful to see your #wildlifefromhome sightings and wildlife ID tips shared during the lockdown in the [WILDside Recording Community](#) facebook group and on the [NBRC twitter](#). From the 23<sup>rd</sup> March, over the last three months, the NBRC website received 383 records from your gardens and local green spaces. As we enter a new phase with lifted travel restrictions, we hope to see more and more of your record submissions from across the county to our website. Our [three counties recording handbook](#) is now provided as part of the [Wildlife Trust BCN Training Courses](#) and available on our website to share and support quality recording!

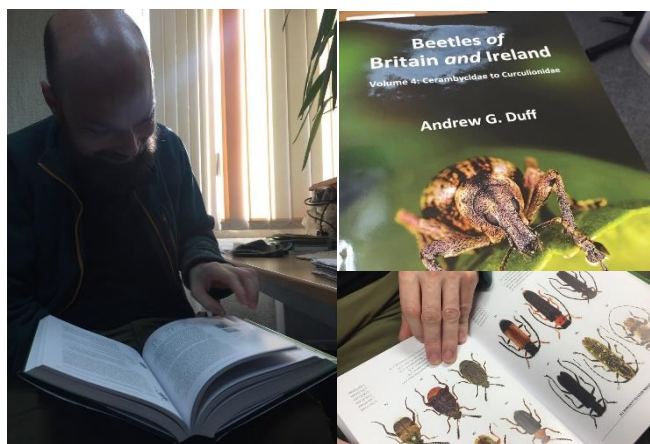


In this very unusual year, with rewilding tested on an unprecedented scale as lives and travel slowed. It is more important than ever to track the effect on Northamptonshire's flora and fauna. Thank you for your part in this much needed citizen science.

**Rosalind Johnston, NBRC Centre Manager**

Follow us on social media and keep our mailing list up to date. Email us [nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk](mailto:nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk) for changes to your contact details and preferences.

## Viridor Donation adds 'Beetles of Britain and Ireland: Volume 4' to our Recording Library



Viridor have very generously donated £100 to the NBRC as a thank you to James, for his summer of moth trapping and recording in their Wootton Landfill site. We would like to say a big thank you to Viridor for this donation, from which James has chosen to add to our recording library. Now available for reference for local recorders, along with Volume 1 that was kindly donated by Tony Drane, is the newest edition from Andrew Duff, covering phytophagous (plant-feeding) beetles in the superfamilies *Chrysomeloidea* and *Curculionoidea*, including the familiar and popular longhorn beetles, seed and leaf beetles, weevils and bark beetles.

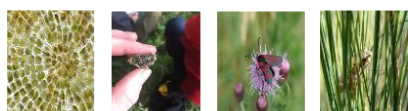
Please contact us for a full list of our library resource and to arrange safe use when we are able to re-open access: [nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk](mailto:nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk)

### Volunteer milestone!

Our data digitisation volunteers help the NBRC with our paper records, ensuring important historic information is extracted in a useable format and in the process preserved for use in perpetuity. Over the last year, our volunteers gave over three hundred hours of their time to this significant work.

Momentously, Steve has now completed a whole drawer of historic Wildlife Trust BCN record cards and, not pausing for breath, he is continuing in this task to embark on another. Rachel has been on hand during lockdown and we are very grateful that all of our current volunteers, like us, have set up what they need and are still digitising for us from home.

If you are interested in hearing about upcoming volunteering opportunities. Email us with your CV, availability & interests: [nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk](mailto:nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk)

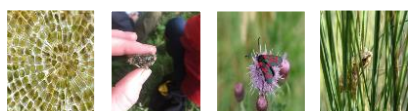




When I was younger, I used to love looking at old maps from around the world. In the far flung reaches of the map there were blank areas of *uncharted and unexplored lands*... that little sentence that aroused the adventurer in me –‘here there be dragons!’

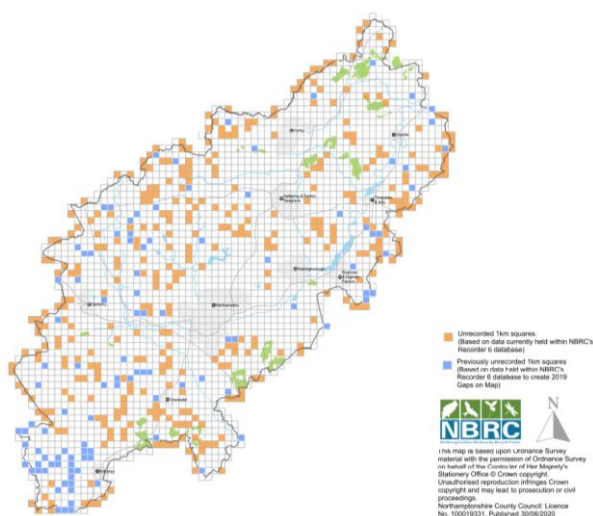
Taking the ordnance survey maps of the South of Northamptonshire I planned routes along roads and footpaths criss-crossing the unrecorded squares trying to take in as many different habitats as I could. There were difficulties, if there are no rights of way or if the

A couple of squares proved to be particularly difficult for access, frustratingly several were in a RAF/USAF base at Croughton just South of Brackley. As luck would have it, I was invited to join a survey day on the site organised by the woodland wings project with David James and a few others for a day hunting for Brown Hairstreak eggs on the Blackthorn around the



base. This provided the ideal scenario for me to make a note of everything else I could find as we ambled around from location to location in the end racking up quite an impressive tally but alas no Brown hairstreak eggs.

As our increasingly changing world continues to put pressure on natural environments and wildlife it's vitally important we get as full a picture of the effects. Recording what we can and helping to putting the dots on the map, we can get a better understanding of this effect on the natural world. With this information we can strive to protect our environment and give us all a better world to live in.



**Updated for 2020, the new 'gaps in the map' 1km unrecorded squares overlaid on the 2019 newly recorded squares (in blue). A change of over 100 squares in one year of targeted recording effort.**

I learnt so much about my local area and discovered and experienced so much amazing wildlife some new to me. This whetted my appetite to go out again to discover and record even more. I hope this small piece on my exploits will inspire you to get out there and find your own new discoveries and learn more of what's out and about in our area... who knows you might be the one to find those illusive Northamptonshire dragons!

**Tim Pridmore**

The NBRC's latest 2020 recording gaps map is available as a PDF & [online](#). When recording please check you have legal access on the [Northamptonshire Council Website](#). Use the [WILDside Recording Handbook](#) to get you started and remember to [submit](#) your sightings to us.

## Look out for... swifts! A three county update

For many people, the sound of swifts screeching overhead tells us that summer is here. On a bleak January morning like today, it seems like this is a way off - but every year these birds come back. The fastest bird in level flight; swifts are built for speed and to stay on the wing the whole time, apart from when they are nesting and raising their young.

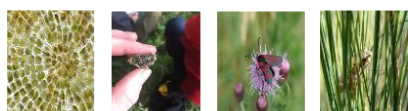
The population of these birds has halved in the last twenty years. The reason for this decline is complex, but we do know that they need safe nesting sites in order to breed and that these nesting sites are being lost as older buildings are replaced by newer, less swift-friendly buildings.

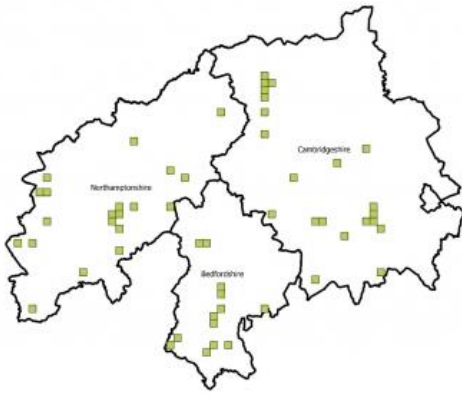


By installing swift boxes we can do our part to help increase the habitats available for swifts in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. With your assistance, the Trust can help build a connected network of nesting sites (and habitats for their insect food) to help these wonderful birds recover in numbers.

During 2019, we launched the three counties swift survey and asked you to send in your records of breeding behaviour of swifts. It is important that we know where swifts are breeding to help protect these sites and install new nest boxes in areas where screaming swifts are recorded.

Thank you to everyone that took part, we received nearly 100 records of screaming parties of swifts or nest boxes from across the three counties. This knowledge really is invaluable to help build up a picture of how swifts are faring on our patch. Your records really are essential to our work.





**A map showing the records received during the 2019 'look out for... swifts' survey**

As you can see from the map, we received records from all over the three counties, but we still need more data to inform conservation measures. We will be running the survey again in 2020 in order to gain more information on this iconic species and need even more people to take part to record breeding information about swifts in Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire and Northamptonshire. Keep an eye on our website for more information.

**Ryan Clark, Monitoring & Research Officer  
Wildlife Trust for Bedfordshire, Cambridgeshire &  
Northamptonshire**

Learn More! <https://www.wildlifebcn.org/swifts>

Swifts need your help, install your own nest box, watch the sky and submit your sightings. Join the [WILDside Recording Community](#) and take part in our [Look out for Swifts 2020 survey](#).

## Cranefly first for Northants!

With wider field-based recording in hiatus due to COVID-19, I used the opportunity of lockdown time to go through and identify my stored samples. I examined many flies that had been collected in flight interception traps at Yardley Chase in 2018. The traps were set in ancient and decaying trees as part of a study of saproxylic beetles on the site. The flies were stored in alcohol and most were in poor condition. However, I did manage to identify quite a few, including one found to be the rare (RDB3) saproxylic cranefly, a female *Rhipidia uniseriata*. The *Rhipidia uniseriata* cranefly is associated with decaying wood in a range of broad-leaved trees.

John Kramer and Pete Boardman, who run the national Cranefly Recording Scheme, confirmed

Identification. This is a significant find for the county as the first record for Northamptonshire.



**A general view of *Rhipidia uniseriata* (RDB3) saproxylic cranefly © John Showers**

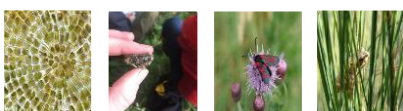


**The head showing the serrated antenna typical of female *Rhipidia* species © John Showers**



**The wing markings showing the vague spots on the outer leading edge and cross-veins but no spots on the basal half © John Showers**

**John Showers, Diptera County Recorder for VC32**





## The occurrence of *Rosalia alpina* (Linnaeus) (Cerambycidae) in a village garden at Denford, Northamptonshire

A.B. Drane<sup>1</sup> & S. Manning<sup>2</sup>

1 Rocklands, 19, Station Road, Cogenhoe,  
Northamptonshire NN7 1LT;  
[tdrane.ecosurveys@outlook.com](mailto:tdrane.ecosurveys@outlook.com)

2 Green Gates Cottage, Freeman's Lane, Denford,  
Northamptonshire NN14 4EF;  
[sue.manning@live.co.uk](mailto:sue.manning@live.co.uk)

[Originally published in The Coleopterist 28(4),  
November 2019]

In August of this year [2019] A.B. Drane received an email from a local naturalist, Martin Izzard, saying he had been contacted concerning a sighting of a large beetle that had been identified as *Rosalia alpina* (Linnaeus) by S. Manning who lives in the Nene valley village of Denford (SP9976). Martin asked if I could follow this up and confirm the validity of the record. Both he and I were sceptical as it was from way out of its normal central European range.

Fortunately, S. Manning photographed and videoed the beetle. So striking is this large cerambycid with its light blue with black blotched elytra that it is hard to mistake for any other European species. The beetle was correctly identified by S. Manning through use of internet search. The sighting took place during the hot spell on 24 June 2019 in her back garden at 1.00pm, where the beetle was attracted to a yellow coloured paddling pool. It was found initially in the water, then 'rescued' and put on some trellising prior to scuttling up a nearby apple tree. Yellow water traps are used by entomologists as they are very effective in attracting insects and this probably accounts for the beetle's presence in the garden. The source is unknown but likely to be from structural timber or furniture present in the area.

Currently I can find no specific published records of it occurring in Britain. Duffy (1953), in his monograph on imported species of Cerambycidae, states he has had reports of instances of emergence from imported structural timber and furniture. *Rosalia* seems to prefer hardwoods, such as horse chestnut and beech, though it will utilise conifers. Emergence from the pupal state occurs on sunny days in June and July. Duff (2018) includes it in the list of imported species. In Europe it is listed on Annex II of EU Council regulation 92/43/EEG and classified as a priority species and its status 'Vulnerable'. It is also protected

by Annex II of the Berne Convention of 1979, which means it is forbidden to capture, kill or possess the beetle.

Though there is a steady stream of new species finding their way to Britain, *Rosalia alpina* is unlikely to become established in the near future and this record needs to be added to the list of beetles imported from foreign timber sources.

### References

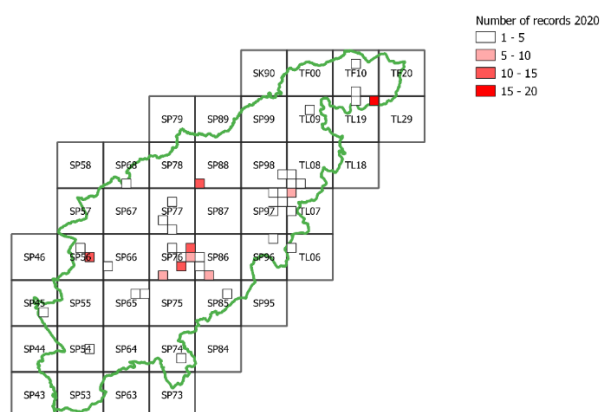
DUFF, A.G. (ed.) 2018. Checklist of Beetles of the British Isles. Third edition. Iver: Pemberley Books (Publishing).

DUFFY, E.A.J. 1953. A Monograph of the immature stages of British and Imported Timber Beetles (Cerambycidae). London: British Museum (Natural History).

## Bees, Wasps and Ants Update



*Andrena flavipes*, a rather lovely mining bee species ©Ryan Clark



### Records Received ©Ryan Clark

The season for bees, wasps and ants is just getting started but due to current restrictions, most records are coming from gardens. So far, [April 2020] I have received 139 verifiable records in 2020 through



iRecord or the NBRC website. I have received records for 27 species, of which 22 are bees, 34 are wasps and one ant. The most frequently species has been the Buff-tailed Bumblebee (*Bombus terrestris*) and the Hairy Footed Flower Bee (*Anthophora plumipes*). The map below shows the tetrads in which I have received records for so far this year. We need records for this underrepresented group and it is great to see regular photos of finds and requests for ID support showing growing interest through which I hope to see many more records submitted.

Due to the current situation, several planned training workshops have been cancelled so far this year. So, I am therefore looking at alternative ways that I can train people in identification. More generally through my work with the Wildlife Trusts Monitoring and Research team, I have been trying to encourage people to record all taxa in their gardens across the three counties. The Wildlife Trusts [Monitoring and Research Facebook Group](#) has become really active with people posting photographs recently asking for ID help, as has the [WILDside Recording Community Facebook Group](#). The next challenge is to encourage and support them with submitting records for their sightings. I have put together [seven blog posts](#) covering different aspects of biological recording in the hope that it will help people get into, or learn more about recording. As part of #wildlifefromhome on facebook, the team are encouraging people to get “buzzy with bees” from Monday 29th June in their gardens or on their daily walks. I have put together a [bee identification guide](#) and am (as always) on hand to support recorders in bee-ID.

**Ryan Clark, Hymenoptera (Bees, Wasps and Ants)  
Northamptonshire County Recorder**

Learn more: <https://www.ryanclarkeecology.co.uk/>

## Butterflies of Northamptonshire 2019

The incredible butterfly season of 2018 was always going to be a hard act to follow. Although some species were down in 2019, the year still held some great success stories. Among 2019's achievements was a very welcome spike in Peacock numbers, a Painted Lady invasion, the continued colonisation of Dark Green Fritillaries and of course the incredible news of the first Chequered Skippers to emerge in the wild in the county for nearly half a century. One of the main reasons for the great butterfly season in 2018 was the long hot summer. 2019 started with an unseasonably warm spell, which then gave way to a

wet and windy spring where sunny days were few and far between. The summer didn't fare much better, despite a few sunny days in July the following month saw the return of high winds and rain and after a dry September unsettled conditions dominated for the rest of the year. Despite the less than ideal butterfly observing conditions, the number of records received were the highest they have ever been!

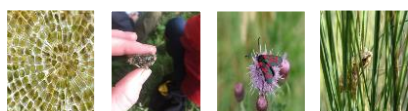
Due to the big increase in records received in the last few years most of the averages in the account below, are taken from figures over three years.

### The Skippers



**Chequered Skipper, Rockingham Forest ©David James**

Small and Essex Skippers all had a good year in the county with Large Skipper especially so and all three showed an increase over the previous year. The Dingy Skipper also had a good year putting it 86% over its average. The Grizzled Skipper was slightly down from the previous year but was still just above average and it's season was notable though as three new locations were added when they were recorded for the first time in Bucknell Wood, Roade and the Nene Wetlands. The top sites to see Dingy and Grizzled Skippers were Twywell Hills and Dales, Fermyn Country Park and Great Morton Sale. Of course, I can't complete an account about the Skippers without mentioning the headline grabbing news regarding the Back from the Brink's Chequered Skipper reintroduction. Not only was I lucky enough to be recording butterflies around the release area in spring this year on the day the first Chequered Skippers emerged in the wild I also managed to photograph the very first one! This is a historic moment for the butterflies in Northamptonshire and is testament to the hard work put in by so many people involved in this project. For more information about this fantastic





project please see the [Roots of Rockingham](#) section of the Back from the Brink website.

### The Blues and Coppers

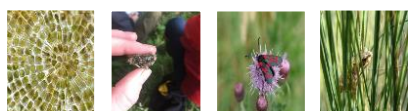
The Small Copper had a higher than average year and could be seen anywhere with suitable habitat, the highest counts came from Ravensthorpe Reservoir dam, Twywell Hills and Dales and Pitsford Reservoir. The Brown Argus had a better than average year and were seen in good numbers at Clifford Hill gravel pits (aka Nene Washlands), Harlestone meadow, Summer Leys, Ring Haw and Twywell Hills and Dales. The Common Blue had an incredible year in 2018 so it's not surprising it was down 70% from the year before. When compared with the average figure for a decade they seem to have had a pretty standard year though with a slightly 7% increase. The Holly Blue was slightly down from the previous year but was 53% above average and were readily seen especially in urban areas such as Abington Park, Isebrook in Wellingborough and also cemeteries in Brackley and London Road in Kettering.

### The Hairstreak

The Green Hairstreak had an average year and this localised butterfly could be readily found in its key sites such as Twywell Hills and Dales, Fermyn Country Park, Great Morton Sale, Weekley Hall Wood and Ring Haw. The Purple Hairstreak had an extremely good season in 2018 so it's no surprise 2019 saw a 64% drop although looking at the long term trend they were still recorded in numbers that were above the ten year average and could be seen flitting around the Oaks in most of our woodlands. The White-letter Hairstreak showed a similar trend and although down from the previous year were still higher than average. It is always worth observing Elms during the butterfly's flight period as new locations for White-letter Hairstreaks are found every year. The Black Hairstreak were seen in record breaking numbers in 2018 which in turn meant that the following winter and spring gave us the best opportunity to learn more about this secretive butterfly. The early stages of Black Hairstreaks are very hard to find in the wild but after hours of searching in Glapthorn Cow Pastures I managed to find and photograph eggs, larvae and pupae. Pupae were also found at Fermyn Country Park and Salcey Forest by other recorders willing to take up the challenge! The Black Hairstreak flight period that followed saw them flying in much lower numbers than 2018 but still slightly higher than average.



**Black Hairstreak egg, larvae, pupae and adult**  
©David James





### The Fritillaries

The Silver-washed Fritillary showed a slight drop in numbers from the previous year but were still 35% above their average. They could be seen in most of our woodlands but the best sites were Fermyn Woods, Bucknell Wood, Salcey Forest, Wakerley Wood, Fineshade Wood, Great Morton sale and Hazelborough Forest. The beautiful colour form valezina was also seen in most of the colonies but Bucknell Wood remains the best sites in the county to see them. The Dark Green Fritillary has really gained a foothold in the county in recent years and the records in 2019 show a good increase in numbers. Although the populations remain concentrated in the north of the county we did see some recorded at different sites with singles seen at Croughton Quarry, Roade and Twywell Hills and Dales. The main sites to see them though were Old Sulehey and Ring Haw, Great Morton Sale, Wakerley Great Wood and Fineshade Wood.

### The Whites

The Wood White had an average year and was seen in good numbers in Bucknell Wood, Hazelborough Forest and Salcey Forest. There has been some great conservation work carried out by Butterfly Conservation's Woodland Wings project and Forestry England have widened up quite a few rides in some of the locations which should benefit the species in the years to come. This species is known to occasionally wander quite far from its strongholds and 2019 was no exception with singles appearing at Brampton Ash and Summer Leys. A small number of Wood Whites were also discovered in the private Geddington Chase during a Rockingham Forest woodland survey by Back from the Brink. They appear to have done very well as many more were recorded in 2020 with the species now also spreading into Harry's Park and Fermyn Wood so let us hope they can colonise these sites too. Migrant Clouded Yellows were recorded at a small handful of sites during the year with evidence of breeding at the National Trust's Lyveden New Bield where they flew almost in double figures in late summer. As for the commoner Whites the Small and Green-veined White were down from 2018 but the Large White did a little better and was up slightly. The Brimstone had a good year and was 95% up over its average and the Orange-tip also had a superb season with a 104% increase

### The Aristocrats

The White Admiral had an average year in our woodlands and the best sites to see them were Bucknell Wood, Fermyn Woods, Hazelborough Forest, Plumpton Wood, Harry's Park Wood and Salcey Forest. The Purple Emperor didn't have a particularly good year in the county but although numbers were down in the Fermyn Wood complex some other sites saw slight increases. Numbers were higher than usual in Salcey Forest with 16 observed along the rides south of the Horsebox car park on the 9<sup>th</sup> of July.



**Purple emperor, Salcey Forest ©David James**

There were a few surprises too as single Purple Emperors were recorded in a garden in Flore, along the footpath between Upper and Lower Harlestone and also at Summer Leys nature reserve! Other good sites to see Purple Emperors were Bucknell Wood and Hazelborough Forest although their rapidly increasing range in the county proves they may be encountered in any woodlands with a suitable mix of Oak and Sallow. The Red Admiral, Comma and Small Tortoiseshell had a good year and were above their average numbers and the Peacock saw a huge increase of 318% over the three year average which was a surprise considering the lack of records at the end of the previous summer. There was a theory that the Peacock entered aestivation (diapause caused by excessive heat) prior to overwintering during the 2018 summer heatwave. This seemed to be proven correct when suddenly a large amount appeared in spring 2019. The Painted Lady was another much talked about butterfly as the UK experienced an invasion year with thousands migrating to the UK from the continent. Nearly 4000 Painted Ladies were recorded in Northamptonshire alone! The Painted Lady is very fond of nectar sources in gardens and I am sure the spectacle of this beautiful butterfly on the Buddleias encouraged more of the public to take part in the [Big Butterfly Count](#) (17<sup>th</sup> July-9<sup>th</sup> August)!



## The Browns

Although down from 2019 the Speckled Wood had a slightly better than average year. The Marbled White also had a better than average year and its ever-increasing range meant it can now be seen on most suitable grasslands. The best locations to see them were Twywell Hills and Dales, Bradlaugh Fields, Weekley Hall Wood, New Duston, Old Sulehey and Ring Haw and Barford Meadows. The Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown and Ringlet all had much better than average years and were all seen in good numbers in our grasslands. The Small Heath too was 75% above average with the best sites being Twywell Hills and Dales, Ring Haw, Croughton Quarry, Borough Hill, Welford Quarry, Weekley Hall Wood Quarry, Great Morton Sale and Barford Meadows.

So that concludes my brief account of the 2019 butterfly season here in Northamptonshire, I would like to say a big thank you to everyone who sends in butterfly records as without them the above account would not be possible. In total, we received 28,307 records for the year detailing over 111,300 individual butterflies. These records come from the UKBMS transect data, the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey, the Big Butterfly Count, Migrant Watch, the Garden butterfly survey, casual records and records submitted to iRecord. We are always on the lookout for more records, the ideal method for butterfly submissions to me is to use iRecord but feel free to contact me for more information on recording methods. Along with a superb amount of people recording butterflies in the county we also have some excellent conservation volunteers who are willing to roll their sleeves up and help with the various work parties put on over the winter by the Butterfly Conservation Beds and Northants branch, Woodland Wings and the Back from the Brink Project.

**David James, Northamptonshire County Butterfly Recorder**

You can find out more about future events and my contact details on the [Beds and Northants local branch website](#).

## **A warm introduction to Jonathan Cook, new Northants County Bird Recorder!**

Since moving to Northamptonshire in 1998, I've greatly enjoyed birding in the county, while bringing up a family and working most days in Watford (Herts). My passion for birding began in the 1970s. Growing

up in rural Nottinghamshire, I got the bug from my dad, Tony, now living in Market Harborough and still avidly birding.

We would spend as much time as possible in the field - we had a great local patch and spent many happy hours there and in the surrounding area, exploring the gravel pits and wetlands of the Trent valley, the heathland and parkland sites in the north of the county, and the Lincolnshire and Norfolk coast.

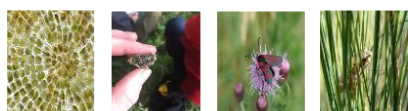


Living in Hollowell since 2005, I would say I'm now mainly a local-patch birder, and over the last couple of years I've become more interested in photography. I will also make a trip for a local rarity and I try to include birding interest in any decisions on any holiday location (thanks to my wife Rachael for accommodating this!).

During my time in Northamptonshire I've enjoyed helping out a couple of times with the annual Northamptonshire Bird Reports and with my children now being young adults, I feel ready to take on a bigger commitment. I look forward to the challenge that this role brings and to working with the birders of the county and beyond - and I finally would like to thank Mike and the rest of committee for giving me this opportunity.



*Tyto alba*, Barn Owl Brixworth 2020 © Jon Cook





As many of you will know this post is highly significant as we have SPA status in the county. After three years of searching, Jon - who is well known for his expertise in the birding community- has been warmly welcomed by the Northants Bird Committee and ourselves as a fantastic choice to fill the post. Jon aims to bring greater structure to bird reporting and support recorders in delivering this high quality data goal.

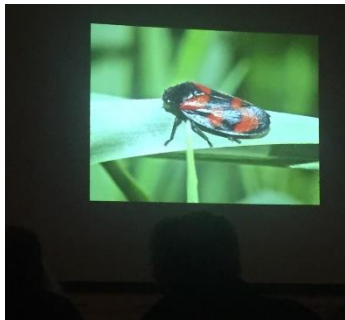
Follow & contact Jon on twitter and email: @jcbirder  
[joncooknorthantsbirds@gmail.com](mailto:joncooknorthantsbirds@gmail.com)

Northants Bird news: <https://northantsbirds.com/>

## Training Courses, Talks & Surveys

### Thank you to Bob Gil

In mid-March, we were treated to a tour of the true bugs of Northamptonshire, by the knowledgeable Bob Gil in his introduction to "Shields, Damsels and Lace" as hosted by the Northamptonshire Natural History Society. This was the first talk post WILDside and we were delighted to see some familiar faces in the crowd. When it is safe to do so, we hope to hold more natural history talks in collaboration with the society with you.



Get in touch if you have a recording passion you would like to share and help grow our community  
[nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk](mailto:nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk)

## Wildlife Trust BCN Wildlife Training Workshops 2020 Programme



After lockdown hiatus the Wildlife Trust have been working hard to bring the planned 2020 Training Workshops back safely, moving from field centres to

online for the first time. Trainers will run their courses remotely, using Microsoft Teams Live, giving you the opportunity to use our increased time at home to brush up on your identification skills, enhance your wildlife spotting on local walks and get survey ready. Starting with an Introduction to Grasses, with Brian Eversham in July keep an eye on the website for online events as they are added.

### [Online Wildlife Trust Training Events](#)

Introduction to Grasses: 23<sup>rd</sup> July 7pm

Price: £7 or £5 for BCN Wildlife Trust Members

### Lings Wood 'Stag' Weekend

Back in May, Nathalie and family headed out for their daily exercise in her local wood here at Lings, and delighted to come across an unexpected find, which she shared with the team in our 'virtual' catch-up.

*"Our beloved beech tree has got a new life and is now Lesser Stag Beetle heaven. I stopped nearby the fallen tree lying on the path and there were lots of them all over it. I tried to count them but I stopped at 50. I am sure there were more than that!"*



**Lesser stag beetle, *Dorcus parallelipipedus***  
©Nathalie Hueber

Her boys, who are getting to be recording pros, entered the records into our website with her permission. You may have seen the People's Trust for Endangered Species (PTES) 'Great Stag Weekend'; as the NBRC have now formed a new reciprocal data sharing agreement with the organisation some datasets can now be shared between us (where permission is granted) for their use of the data in protected species conservation.

At the moment, PTES share redacted records from the [Big Hedgehog Map](#), [National Dormouse Monitoring Scheme](#), [Living with Mammals](#), and the [National Water Vole Monitoring Programme](#) with us.



## Have you seen this Damselfly?

The British Dragonfly Society are on the hunt for records of the illusive White-legged Damselfly. There are increasing concerns of the species disappearing from some parts of the UK. However, population trends are limited by a lack of long term data.



Learn what you need to ID the species on your waterside walks by visiting the survey [website](#).

## Spittlebug Survey



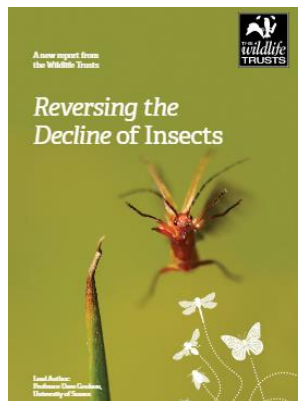
Running from March researchers from the University of Sussex have been looking for your records of spittlebugs (aka froghoppers, cuckoo-spit insects) signs and the plant species on which they are found

See <https://www.spittlebugsurvey.co.uk/> for guides, videos and resources for your survey.

## National Insect week and a new Report from the Wildlife Trusts

In late June we were encouraged to 'appreciate the little things in life' by the Royal Entomological Society, the theme of this year's [National Insect Week](#). With 24,000 species in the UK to explore in learning resources, online talks and #EntoAtHome. The week is repeated every two years and drives a push for insect recording and support for new recorders.

Following this, the Wildlife Trusts most recent [Action for Insects](#) report investigates the declines found in recent monitoring trends and what we can do to protect insects. The report outlines what changes we can make for insect recovery at government, council,



parish and individual levels. It advises a need for a widespread reduction of pesticide use and replacement with insect-friendly practices. The report gives great examples of how on a local scale groups have boosted their local insect populations – proving everyone can be an insect champion!

## Get into Fungi for Autumn!

Last autumn many of you joined local fungi experts, John and Mike, in Salcey Forest – with an inspiring array of finds. Here they shared some tips to get you started:

- Take something to kneel on, to view the under surface of fungi caps.
- A camera is very helpful, although fungi are often in places where there is not much light - I use a tripod and an adjustable camera.
- Only go out with other fungi enthusiasts.
- Get a very big bookcase, mushroom books have a habit of multiplying quite quickly.

Mike is more than happy to take groups of people with an interest in fungi around the site– NBRC can put you in touch. "I suppose the best advice I can give is to get a good book such as Collins Complete Guide to British Mushrooms and Toadstools. There is enormous variety; for some species identification isn't possible without recourse to microscopy, chemical reactions etc. there are varieties I discovered last year which remain unidentified despite micologists from around the world seeing the photos and the descriptions! If it's any help I'm also happy to look at photos of fungi which people are having difficulty identifying to see if I can help." - Mike Taylor

## 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

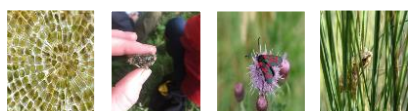
Email: [nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk](mailto:nbrc@northantsbrc.org.uk)

Website: [www.northantsbrc.org.uk](http://www.northantsbrc.org.uk)

Twitter: [@Northants\\_BRC](https://twitter.com/Northants_BRC)

Facebook: [WILDside Recording Community](https://www.facebook.com/WILDsideRecordingCommunity)

NBRC's staff members are Rosalind Johnston, Nathalie Hueber, Rachel Tate, and James Skinner.





In just one year,  
thanks to your  
recording effort  
we have >100 fewer  
'unrecorded' 1km  
squares in the  
county!

Inspired to help us  
get them all?  
Use the online map  
to zoom in on your  
area & target the  
remaining squares  
in your recording  
activity this year.

<https://bit.ly/2OgapNBRC>



Please record safely and legally. Check you have right of access / landowner permissions.

