

Southampton Natural History Society
ANNUAL REPORT
2002



**SOUTHAMPTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
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Chairman's Comments

During 2002 the Southampton Natural History Society continued to make steady progress. We maintained a varied and successful programme of Field Meetings, saw a slight increase in membership, worked on producing an effective display and, most dramatically, took Southampton Wildlife Link under our wing (see separate article below). In the autumn, our Recorder, Andy Collins, set up a web site for the Society and began work on developing it.

On the debit side, we experienced some misfortune with our Indoor Meetings. A speaker pulled out at short notice in March, attendances fell slightly and there have been increasing difficulties with the Friends Meeting House as a venue. After nearly a century of meeting at Ordnance Road, we have sadly been compelled to seek an alternative venue.

At the Annual General Meeting Peter Burford joined the Committee and we elected a new Auditor, following the resignation of Mr Heppleston.

As usual, the wildlife of the Southampton area held some surprises for us in 2002. It came as no surprise that we experienced another mild winter and, yet again, 50% more rain than usual. After a poor start we finally saw summer in July and August, but a dry early autumn was followed by one of the wettest months ever in November. These weather patterns led to a relatively poor autumn for fungi. But earlier in the year there was an 'explosion' of botanical surprises. It was not the best of summers for insects, but some groups continue to benefit from the on-going trend towards mildness.

Phil Budd

Southampton Wildlife Link

On 15th July the Society took over the ailing Southampton Wildlife Link, the most important development of 2002. One of the conditions of the takeover was that I report on the progress of 'the Link' in our Annual Report.

Southampton Wildlife Link, which was formed in 1988, ran successfully for many years. But, recently, following the passing of Pat Loxton and of our ex-Secretary, Peter Soanes in 1999, it faltered. Our Committee formulated a rescue package and on 15th July, on the resignation of the Link Chairman, Reg Russell, the new structure was put in place. The Link is now a sub-committee of the Natural History Society. The other representative bodies on the Link now pay an annual corporate membership fee to the Society and can send two representatives to the bi-monthly Link meetings held at the Civic Centre.

The roles of Chairman, Secretary and Treasurer of the Link are occupied by the same people who occupy them in the main Society. Ian Barker, the ecologist working for the City Council, is the Council's representative on the Link. The other bodies represented so far are Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society, Sholing Valley Study Centre Association, Hawthorns Wildlife Association and Percy Road Residents Association. From July onwards we abandoned the old Link constitution and formulated our own 'Terms of Reference'.

We then set to work resurrecting the former work of the Link. So far we have identified a list of priority sites for wildlife interest in the City, mostly open spaces accessible to the public. We will consider issues related to each site one by one. We are planning to set up a butterfly transect on Peartree Green. We are liaising with the City Council over bio-diversity issues. We also regularly examine planning applications and scan the media, always on the look-out for developments that may affect wildlife.

2003 promises to be an interesting year for the Southampton Wildlife Link.

Phil Budd

Membership Secretary's Report

The total membership for 2002 was 81, plus members of the Hawthorns Wildlife Association, Sholing Valley Study Centre and Percy Road Residents' association.

This is slightly down on last year, but we are making a big effort to publicise the Society in the hope of attracting more members. So, if you know of anywhere we can display posters or leave our display boards, please contact me.

New members we welcome are

Miss Victoria Booth, Westrow Gardens

Mrs Felicity Coles, Ash Close, Whitenap

Miss Coxney, Newton Road, Woolston

Miss Penelope Downs, Brunel Road, Redbridge

Mr and Mrs Noddings, Bassett Green Drive

Mrs Lindsey Neve, Brangate Manor, Netley Abbey

Mr Christopher Tindall, Newton Road, Woolston

Barbara Thomas

Obituary

Mrs Madge Goodall

The Southampton Natural History Society was greatly saddened to hear of the passing of one of our Honorary Members (and Co-President) Mrs Madge (Marjorie Alice) Goodall on 23rd January 2003 at the age of 86. Madge, who had attended the 2002 AGM with her husband David, had been ill for about six months. She had served our Society very enthusiastically for forty years, including terms on the Committee and she and David had been at one time joint Recording Officers and, most recently, joint Presidents.

In my teenage years, and since, I had learnt so much from both Madge and David. Many times Madge stressed to us the importance of finding new blood for the Society, especially amongst the younger generation, and she would have been delighted to learn that six new members have joined us in January 2003 alone! Mary Smith, who probably knew Madge for longer than anyone now active in the Society, has written the following tribute to her.

Phil Budd

It is with very great sadness that this Society has learnt of the death of Madge Goodall. 'Madge and David', so we have linked them, when we remember all the excursions they have led, and the talks they have presented to us so enthusiastically.

Madge gave her time unstintingly and shared her knowledge of natural history, particularly botany, to help us all. I remember with much pleasure our recording expeditions around Chandler's Ford, Boyatt Wood, Ramaley, etc. when the new *Flora of Hampshire* was under preparation, and when Madge was especially keen to record and protect the open countryside between Southampton and Winchester.

Nowadays we hear so much about the need and legal requirements for ecological surveys to be undertaken prior to new building developments. That was Madge's concern thirty-odd years ago and, although much of the country, hedges and farms that we surveyed are now under bricks and concrete, I am sure that some of Madge's work has some relevance.

We shall remember her joy and enthusiasm for wildlife, particularly wildlife in her garden.

God bless her.

Mary Smith

Field Meetings

2002 was a very successful year for our Field Meetings, with only one cancellation due to bad weather. There was one indoor meeting at the start of the year and the rest were held out in the fresh air. We held joint meetings with several other groups, including Hawthorns Wildlife Association, Southampton Bird Group, Hampshire Wildlife Trust and Bishopstoke Society. Two of our advertised events were public activities run by Hampshire County Council countryside staff.

On 12th January we revisited the **Cumberland House Natural History Museum** in Southsea, our last visit being in January 1984. The proprietor showed a disappointingly small group of five of us around the museum. We saw numerous displays and collections of the historical development of Portsmouth, its prehistory, geology and present natural history. We also spent some time in the butterfly house at the rear (then in its dormant winter season) and were shown a pond containing two huge thirty-year-old Mirror Carp, numerous cocoons of Atlas Moths; several economically useful plants, such as Coffee Tree, Turmeric and Date Palm, and an alien spider, *Steatoda nobilis*—a relative of the Black Widow from the Canary Islands—which has now become established in the Portsmouth area.

Our first fresh-air venue was a wild and windy, **Bunny Meadows**, Warsash on 9th February. A group of five led by Andy Collins saw eighteen species of birds, the most interesting being Golden Plover and Greenshank. Earlier Andy had seen a Great Northern Diver and the pale-bellied race of Brent Goose at nearby Hook Spit. We also examined the seashore life and discovered, amongst other things, the Sea-slater (*Ligia oceanica*) and Large Sunset Shell (*Gari depressa*).

We followed this with a marine-life study at **Weston Shore** on the morning of 10th March, but mistakes over the tides and timing, as well as furious onshore gales, persuaded the group of seven to take shelter whilst they were shown items collected from the beach earlier. These included fourteen species of seaweed, twelve species of mollusc (seashell), four species of crustacean and the massed colonies of four species of Bryozoid. Amongst these were several alien species now well established in Southampton's mild waters, including Japanese Kelp Seaweed (*Undaria pinnatifida*), Australian Barnacle (*Elminius modestus*) and Korean Leathery Sea-squirt (*Styela*). We headed for the coast again on 23rd March for a bird watch at **Keyhaven** led by Chris Oliver. Only two members joined Chris, but thirty-eight species of birds were recorded. The most interesting were six Bar-tailed Godwits, three early migrant Wheatear and singing Chiffchaffs and Cetti's Warblers.

Spring was well underway when Greg Alexander led his walk around **Nursling** on 21st April. This area has not been visited by the society for some time and it proved to be a popular venue on a sunny and warm day as ten members turned up.

The morning walk route covered Nursling Street, Station Lane, Church Lane and the former Nursling Gravel Pits. Forty species of spring flora were seen in bloom, but the more interesting ones were not in flower, including Wall Pennywort (*Umbilicus rupestris*)—at the eastern edge of its range and scarce around Southampton—Goat's Rue (*Galega officinalis*) and Rampion Bellflower (*Campanula rapunculus*). Eight species of butterfly and twenty-six species of birds were also seen, including two singing Garden Warblers, two Whitethroats, numerous Chiffchaff and just one Willow Warbler, a species which is declining probably due to global warming.

Further evidence of the decline of the Willow Warbler came when I led an early morning bird song meeting with the Hawthorns Wildlife Association on **Southampton Common** on 5th May, when none were heard at all! The group of twelve, however, heard or saw thirty-one species of birds between 6am and 8am. These included four Song Thrush, six Blackcap and six Robins all singing, the breeding pair of Little Grebe on the Boating Lake and numerous Stock Doves, rather rare birds elsewhere around Southampton. On 18th May, five of our members took up the invitation of a coach trip **Minsmere** organised by the Southampton Bird Group. The weather was overcast and breezy, but seven Marsh Harriers and numerous Avocets and Sand Martins were seen as expected. Other birds included Bittern, Black Tern over the sea, seven Knot in brick-red breeding plumage and a splendid male American Wigeon.

As a damp spring merged into a rather soggy early summer our attention turned to insect life and on 25th May Andy Collins led a group of five on to the old water meadows at **Itchen Valley Country Park** in search of Odonata. The weather was cool, but there was sufficient sun to record six species of Odonata, including at least thirty Beautiful Demoiselle (*Calopteryx virgo*) and around twenty Southern Damsselfly (*Coenagrion mercuriale*). Southern Damsselfly is a speciality of the site, but we were surprised to find it so early. Other interesting wildlife included Kingfisher, Palmate Newt and the Small Yellow Underwing Moth.

Our second marine-life excursion of the year followed on 7th June at **Royal Victoria Country Park**. I led a group of six, but no society members, on this public afternoon event, but the other leader, countryside ranger Neale Hider was distracted by a very important cricket match! Despite the dull, and unusually cold, weather we found most of the expected salt-loving life plus a few special discoveries, such as Dahlia Anemone (*Tealia feline*), Coat-of-mail Shell (*Lepidopleurus asellus*), Butterfish (*Pholis gunnellus*) and caste-up *Rhizostoma octopus* (despite its name, a large but harmless jellyfish).

Our summer evening excursions began at **Yew Hill** butterfly reserve near Winchester on 10th June. A group of twenty-one, including ten of our members, were taken on a guided tour of the site by warden, and former member, Colin Matthews. We were lucky that heavy afternoon rain had cleared to allow us to see six species of moths including the Grass Rivulet, but recent bad weather had killed off most of the butterflies! We also saw fifteen spikes of Greater Butterfly Orchid, a single Bee Orchid, numerous Knapweed Broomrape and the fungus *Hypholoma epixanthum*. Our next evening meeting, on 18th June, took place in fine weather when Mary Smith led a party of just three members along the southern edge of **Lower Test Reserve** at Old Redbridge. The car park at Old Redbridge was very rewarding for flora, producing twenty plants of Sulphur Cinquefoil (*Potentilla recta*) and Blue Fleabane (*Erigeron acer*). Elsewhere along the road we found naturalised *Cotoneaster franchetii*, Wild Celery (*Apium graveolens*), whilst on the reserve itself Water Whorl-grass (*Catabrosa aquatica*) was an interesting find. Five species of butterflies were seen and both Cuckoo and Cetti's Warbler were heard singing.

A morning walk, the first of two visits to the New Forest, followed on 30th June. Gerry Wilding's walk at **Homesley** was attended by thirteen members and fine weather. Gerry showed us various botanical highlights of the area, including Bastard Balm (*Melittis mellisophyllum*), Marsh Cinquefoil (*Potentilla palustris*), Lesser Butterfly Orchid (*Platanthera bifolia*), Bee Orchid (*Ophrys apifera*), Wild Gladiolus (*Gladiolus illyricus*) and the self-propagating Pitcher-plant (*Sarracenia purpurea*). Some insect highlights in Homesley Inclosure included Silver-washed Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and a probable Festoon Moth.

Two evening moth events were held in July. On 12th July Butterfly Conservation member Juliett Bloss kindly invited a group of eight, including six members, to her garden at **Forest Meadow**, Hythe, to observe moths lured to ultraviolet light. Inside, as we awaited darkness, we listened to a short lecture on moths. Then we went out and, despite the cool conditions, identified forty-four species on the sheet. The moths included Swallow-tailed Moth, both Rosy and Four-dotted Footman, Oak Nycteoline and, from the local heathland, True Lover's-knot. A week later, on 19th July, five members, including myself, joined Andy Collins and ranger Phil Halliwell for a public moth event at the **Grange Fields**, Netley. Again it was a cool and clear night, but sixty-one moth species included Dusky Sallow, Double Kidney, Elephant and Poplar Hawks (see coloured pages), Lackey Moth and both of the confusingly named Bright-line Brown-eye and Brown-line Bright-eye!

Our hottest venue of the year was the sweltering **Jurd's Lake** on 28th July. Nine members turned up on this afternoon insect walk led by myself in the grounds of the former naval depot. Some interesting flora, not on a checklist initially supplied by Mary Smith, included Rest-harrow (*Ononis repens*), Yellow Loosestrife (*Lysimachia vulgaris*) and Grass Vetchling (*Lathyrus nissolia*). Fifteen species of butterfly included Essex Skipper and Marbled White. Also seen was Beautiful Demoiselle (*Calopteryx virgo*) and heard was Wood Cricket (*Nemobius sylvestris*). Jurd's Lake is probably the only Wood Cricket site within the Southampton city boundary as yet.

Another late summer afternoon walk followed at **Furzley Common/Stagsbury Hill** on 31st August, our second New Forest trip in 2002. Eleven members joined me in the warm, bright conditions and some stayed to view the botanical specialities at nearby Cadnam Common, including Small Fleabane (*Pulicaria vulgaris*) and Pennyroyal Mint (*Mentha pulegium*). During the walk itself seldom seen flora including Ivy-leaved Bellflower (*Wahlenbergia hederacea*) and Marsh Speedwell (*Veronica scutellata*), plus the attractive fungus *Xerocomus rubellus*. Insect life included Grayling butterfly, Emerald Damselfly (*Lestes sponsa*) and a cooperative Southern Hawker (*Aeshna cyanea*). Twenty Crossbills flew over Stagsbury Hill.

To complete the summer, Chris Oliver led a small group of four around **Normandy Farm**, Lymington on the morning of 15th September, but a biting east wind spoiled things a little. Forty-seven species of birds included five Little Egrets, four Greenshank, two Wheatear, two Whinchat and singletons of Knot, Little Tern, Dartford Warbler and Whitethroat. The extensive cobwebbings on gorse bushes were caused by a species of Red Spider Mite.

Of the final four Field Meetings the bird watch at Farlington on 23rd November was a victim of the foul late autumn weather, so that left the three fungus forays, all led by myself. The first, at the familiar venue of **Swanwick Nature Reserve** was held on 6th October. There was a large group of twenty-four, including eight members and the former warden Di Smith. The dry, sunny weather reflected recent conditions, so the fungi had to be sought out. We found forty-seven species, of which fifteen were new to the site, including Dog Stinkhorn (*Mutinus caninus*), *Polyporus varius*, the deadly poisonous *Lepiota josselandii*, and a milkcap (*Lactarius pyrogalus*), which is noted for its burning hot milk.

On 19th October, members of the Society, plus members of the Bishopstoke Society, seventeen people in all, visited a new venue for us—the private land of **Allington Gravel Pits**. The weather was sunny and fairly warm and this enabled us to see both Red Admiral and Comma butterflies as well as a Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna mixta*) dragonfly. We also saw a Roe Deer and a Little Egret. Fungi were a little

disappointing, but thirty species included the large edible funnel-cap *Clitocybe geotropa* and the ‘toffee-apple-scented’ *Hebeloma sacchariolens*. We also found fruiting stems of an unknown Helleborine (*Epipactis*) species under poplars.

Finally, on 3rd November seven members joined a group of twenty-three on the regular fungus foray that I lead for the Hawthorns Wildlife Association on **Southampton Common**. It was the 12th time that I have held this annual event and the thirty-eight species of fungi identified included a few species new to the Southampton Common list. The most interesting fungi recorded here included Bachelors’ Buttons (*Bulgaria inquinans*), Liberty-caps (*Psilocybe semilanceata*) and the dark blue agaric *Enteloma lazulinum*. The parasitic *Xerocomus parasiticus* was found on Earthballs.

I would like to thank all organisers and leaders of these events and all members who supported the Field Meetings programme of 2002.

Phil Budd

Indoor Meetings

We held our first meeting on 1st January (New Year’s Day), hoping that members would turn up on such a socially inconvenient date. In the event, twelve people came along—the lowest attendance ever recorded. The main event of the night was a fifty-question quiz organised, for the first time, by Jan Kidd. Afterwards there was a short slide talk on Norway given by Julie Watson. Barbara and Ron kindly organised the tea in the absence of Ted and Shirley.

On 5th February our member and botanist, Pete Selby, gave a talk promoting the work of the organisation Plantlife. There was an encouraging audience of twenty-six. Peter Burford also showed us some of his excellent digital camera photographs. (You can see some of them on the colour insert in the centre pages of this Report.)

The meeting of 5th March was something of a disappointment. Our arranged speaker, Dennis Charlton, was forced to pull out at the last minute, but kindly offered to give his talk in March 2003 instead. I gave a slide talk on Magdalen Hill Down to entertain the very small audience of thirteen, but experienced unusual, but not serious, problems with the slide projector. It was just one of those nights!

Our AGM was held on 2nd April and we were delighted that twenty-two members, including our Presidents Madge and David Goodall, were able to attend. It was a much less hectic AGM than that of 2001, but there are still some changes to report. Ted and Shirley Wills stepped down from the Committee and Mr Heppleston resigned as Auditor. All three had served us for many years and were thanked for all they had done. Ted and Shirley continue to organise the tea table at our meetings.

We were pleased to appoint Miss Christine Davies as the new Auditor. Peter Burford was voted on to the Committee. After the AGM there were slide talks by Jim Earwood and myself, the latter an update on the dragonfly project.

Our 2002/03 programme began with a talk by Nick Smith of the Hawthorns Wildlife Association. The subject was the reptiles of Hampshire, but also included were a few southern European species, and twenty seats were filled. Jim, Keith and Heather ably handled the refreshments in the absence of Ted and Shirley.

On 5th November, against a backdrop of noisy fireworks, John Poland presented a talk about the rare wildlife in Britain, starting down in Cornwall and the Isles of Scilly and finishing with his botanical adventures in the Scottish Highlands. Seventeen members attended this event, including two non-members.

On 3rd December we invited Marine Conservation Officer Lisa Browning of Hampshire Wildlife Trust to give us an insight into the wildlife and ecology of the eastern English Channel and the Straits of Dover and the many pressures put upon it by various human activities. Up-to-date technology was on hand for this excellent talk and so it was unfortunate that only sixteen members turned out to see it.

Many thanks are due to all the speakers and organisers of our Indoor Meetings programme plus those who organise the refreshments.

Phil Budd

Short Stay on the Isles of Scilly

Phil Budd

Between the 10th and 13th May 2002 I enjoyed a short spring visit to the Isles of Scilly. I had never previously visited these islands but had been determined to do so for some time. I chose May because I wanted to see the spectacular flora and scenery of the islands at their best.

Landscape

The Isles of Scilly lie 22 miles off the western tip of Cornwall and they consist of an assemblage of five large, inhabited islands, forty smaller vegetated ones and a further hundred or so named rocks. The islands are actually the severely eroded, and mostly drowned, remnants of an ancient volcanic dome and consist entirely of granite and its constituent minerals. It is notable that the granite of the Scillies is paler, and also softer in texture, than similar rocks on the adjacent Cornish mainland.

The islands are also quite small—the largest, St Mary's is barely 2 miles (5 kilometres) square. The other four inhabited islands of Tresco, St Agnes, Bryher and St Martin's are all roughly half this size. The landscape on the islands is generally quite hilly, but the highest land is only about 50 metres above sea-level.

The natural vegetation of the islands consists mainly of heather and grass moorland, with granitic tors and rocky areas and patches of low wind-blasted, scrubby woodland. There are a few damp hollows with occasional ponds and, in the south of St Mary's, two small stream valleys with willow scrub and sedge beds. The coastal areas consist of rocky headlands interspersed with small bays containing either a dark grey clayey mud or a coarse silvery sand. There are no proper sand dune systems but on the eastern side of St Agnes an inter-tidal sandbar connects St Agnes to the smaller island of Gugh which is, therefore, an island only at high tide.

Although the uninhabited islands retain their natural vegetation, most of St Mary's and large tracts of St Agnes, Bryher and St Martin's are taken up by cultivated land where small rectangular fields for pasture or the growing of flowers predominate. These fields are surrounded by hedges of mainly foreign evergreen shrubs to provide shelter from the strong Atlantic winds. I visited three of the major islands, but didn't have time to visit St Martin's or Tresco. The southern part of Tresco holds lush ornamental gardens and something approaching proper woodland surrounding an old abbey.

Climate

The name Isles of Scilly actually means sunshine island and it is, indeed, much sunnier than Cornwall and most of the rest of Britain. It is also remarkably mild in the winter when temperatures typically exceed 10²⁰°C, even in January, and frosts are very rare. The Atlantic air seems exceptionally clear and unpolluted, as do the shallow seas around the islands—I've never visited anywhere quite the same, in either respect, without going abroad. Whilst I was there I enjoyed two warm and very sunny days followed by a cloudy one and then eighteen hours of continuous rain and south-east gales on the final night. Such contrasts are typical of the islands at all times of the year.

Birds

Some sea and marsh birds were numerous, such as Common Tern, Shelduck, Gannet and Whimbrel. A number of seabirds nest on the offshore rocks, especially the Western Isles, the uninhabited island of Annet and the Northern Rocks. Birds breeding on the rocks include Cormorant, Shag, Fulmar, Razorbill, Puffin, Kittiwake, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Oystercatcher and Rock Pipit. Surprisingly, Guillemots don't breed here and neither do the Gannets.

The Scillies are famous amongst naturalists as a place to see rare birds, especially passerines from America, Russia or southern Europe, which finish up there after being blown off-course by certain weather conditions. Although some of these rarities can appear in the spring (rather than the usual autumn months) I didn't see any on my trip as the winds were mostly unfavourable northerlies.

I did make some unusual observations regarding the commoner birds, however. The commonest bird on the Scillies is the Song Thrush and the islands are home to the highest density of this bird in the British Isles. The Song Thrushes here are different from their mainland cousins in several respects: they have paler breasts, they don't repeat phrases when they sing and they can be approached to within two or three feet! The Blackbirds are different too—the males have reddish-orange bills rather than the usual amber colour. Some birds, such as Linnet, Cuckoo, Swallow and Wheatear, are also particularly plentiful and I was pleased to see a couple of Turtle Doves in a cultivated area. Magpies, however, are nowhere to be seen and many common woodland birds are absent.

Mammals

Atlantic Grey Seals can be seen in small numbers, especially on one of the Northern Rocks appropriately named Seal Rock. Rare Harbour Porpoises can also be seen sometimes between the islands. There are few small mammals on the islands, but there are abundant rabbits and some islands are home to an endemic race of the Lesser White-toothed Shrew known as the Scilly Shrew. Hedgehogs didn't used to occur but some misguided individual, who has so far escaped prosecution, has introduced them on to St Mary's. I saw one of these insectivores myself on an evening stroll on St Mary's.

Flora

There are some rare natives on the islands, mainly species of extreme western distribution. On, and near, Heathy Hill in the south of Bryher can be found Spring Squill (*Scilla verna*), Orange Birdsfoot (*Ornithopus pinnatus*) and Dwarf Pansy (*Viola kitaibeliana*). *Ornithopus pinnatus* also grows on Wingletang Down on St Agnes, as do two rare species of Adderstongue Fern—*Ophioglossum lusitanicum* and *O. azoricum*. Heathy areas often hold such delights as Lawn Chamomile (*Chamaemelum nobile*), Small-flowered Catchfly (*Silene gallica*) and Western Clover (*Trifolium occidentale*). Locally, in damp ditches, one can sometimes find Cornish Moneywort (*Sibthorpia europaea*). In the cultivated areas various scarce species of Fumitory (*Fumaria* sp.) occur, as do two interesting buttercups, *Ranunculus parviflora* and *R. muricatus*, Four-leaved All-seed (*Polycarpon tetraphyllum*) and plentiful Corn Marigold (*Chrysanthemum segetum*). By roadsides and on waste land one can expect to find Fiddle Dock (*Rumex pulcher*), Balm-leaved Figwort (*Scrophularia scorodonia*), Sheep's-bit (*Jasione montana*), Smaller Tree-mallow (*Lavatera cretica*) and Lesser Quaking Grass (*Briza minor*) amongst the commoner species.

The native vascular flora is somewhat limited by the islands' isolated position, but the strong winds and proximity to the sea mean that coastal species are widespread throughout the islands. The only common native trees appeared to be Cornish Elm (*Ulmus minor* var. *cornubiensis*) and Sallow (*Salix cinerea*). Most other trees are scarce and Field Maple (*Acer campestre*), Cherry (*Prunus avium*), Hazel (*Corylus avellana*), Beech (*Fagus sylvatica*) and all species of Birch (*Betula* sp.) are completely absent.

Of shrubs and climbers, Bramble (*Rubus fruticosus*), Elder (*Sambucus nigra*), Gorse (*Ulex europaeus*), Broom (*Cytisus scoparius*), Honeysuckle (*Lonicera periclymenum*) and Ivy (*Hedera helix*) are in plentiful supply, whilst Hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) has been introduced from the mainland. Most other native British shrubs are rare or absent. The most plentiful native herbaceous plants include many coastal species, such as Thrift (*Armeria maritima*), Scurvy-grass (*Cochlearia officinalis*), Rock Sea-spurrey (*Spergularia rupicola*), Sea-kale (*Cakile maritima*), Sea Beet (*Beta vulgaris*) and Rock Samphire (*Crithmum maritimum*).

Other particularly abundant natives on the islands include Creeping Buttercup (*Ranunculus repens*), Wild Radish (*Raphanus raphanistrum*), Scarlet Pimpernel (*Anagallis arvensis*), Wall Pennywort (*Umbilicus rupestris*), English Stonecrop (*Sedum anglica*), Round-leaved Mint (*Mentha sauveolens*) and Bluebell (*Endymion non-scripta*).

A particular feature of the islands is the abundance of established alien flora, especially on Tresco, where a riot of species has escaped from the gardens. Elsewhere there are species from South Africa, New Zealand, the Mediterranean, Chile, the Canaries, Madeira, Mexico, Morocco and California flourishing and reproducing in the mild, sunny climate. Some have escaped from gardens; others from the bulb fields. Yet others have escaped from current cultivation or have appeared as bird-sown shrubs from the hedges and shelter-belts. I identified seventy-seven species of this foreign legion growing free, with the bulbs and corms, and various evergreen shrubs and climbers particularly prolific.

Two evergreen shrubs that originate in New Zealand are particularly abundant in the wild: *Pittosporum crassifolium* and *Coprosma repens*. Both are frequent even out on the heaths and the latter is actually a close relative of the Coffee Tree. In the flower fields two particularly abundant and showy aliens are the scarlet Whistling Jacks (*Gladiolus communis* ssp. *byzantinus*) from the Mediterranean and the misnamed Bermuda Buttercup (*Oxalis pes-caprae*), a relative of Wood Sorrel from South Africa. Another relative of the latter, the yellow-flowered Fleshy Oxalis (*Oxalis megalorrhiza*) from Chile is found on walls. Also growing on walls is *Pericallis hybrida*—a composite from the Canaries with ragwort-like sprays usually of an intense mauve colour. Other composites are common aliens and a purple or bluish flowered South African species *Osteospermum eklonis* is often seen in grassy places.

Alien climbers include a very invasive autumn-flowering relative of sorrel from New Zealand called Wire-plant (*Muehlenbeckia complexa*)—it had swamped Buzza Hill on St Mary's—the Pale Dew-plant (*Drosanthemum floribundum*), a showy South African succulent, and the misnamed German Ivy (*Delairea odorata*),

actually an autumn-flowering relative of ragwort, also from South Africa. One can also find more spectacular aliens, such as the Madeiran Giant Herb Robert (*Geranium maderense*), the Giant Viper's Bugloss (*Echium pininana*) and the yellow-flowered succulent *Aeonium cuneatum* from the Canaries—the list is almost endless. The commonest four aliens are, however, more familiar and include the Hottentot Fig (*Carpobrotus edulis*), two yellow roadside umbellifers—Fennel (*Foeniculum vulgare*) and Alexanders (*Smyrniolum olusatrum*)—and that ubiquitous weed Three-cornered Leek (*Allium triquetrum*).

My list for lower plants included twelve species of seaweeds and fifteen species of lichen, but I saw few mosses or fungi. Lichens were particularly plentiful on the granite rock outcrops, especially close to the sea. On St Agnes I found a rare smoky grey coloured lichen only known in far south-west Britain called Orchil (*Roccella fuciformis*), which was growing amongst the abundant Sea Ivory (*Ramalina silquosa*). Ferns do well in the mild, damp climate and include most typically west-country species of walls and hedge banks. Two particularly interesting native ferns on St Mary's were Sea Spleenwort (*Asplenium marinum*) and Lanceolate Spleenwort (*A. obovatum*). Royal Fern (*Osmunda regalis*) grows in wet areas on St Mary's.

Invertebrates

Insect life wasn't particularly abundant on these breezy islands, but certain nectar sources, such as the naturalised New Zealand Cabbage Palm (*Cordyline australis*), were highly attractive to bees, hoverflies and Holly Blue butterflies. I did see some other common butterfly species, such as Speckled Wood, Large White, Red Admiral and Small Copper, but it was too early for the endemic Scilly race of Meadow Brown. Six-spot Burnet Moth larvae and pupa cocoons were everywhere, but I was still surprised to see two adults in flight on St Agnes—six weeks earlier than I would expect to see them in Hampshire! I also saw the larvae of both Oak Eggar and Grass Eggar Moths as well as the Green Tiger Beetle (*Cicindela campestris*) in heathland areas.

Common seashore fauna included Beadlet Anemone (*Actinia equine*), Shore Crab (*Carcina maenas*), Sand Mason Worm (*Lanice conchilega*) and Prawns (*Leander* sp.). There were very few bivalve molluscs, but lots of various species of limpet, top-shell, whelk and winkle. In a rock pool on Gugh I discovered an unusual small, blue jellyfish from the open Atlantic called *Velella velella*, also known as a By-the-wind-sailor.

So I conclude my account of the wildlife found on the Scilly Isles in just three days in May 2002.

Travellers

Mary Smith

This spring, to prevent self-styled 'travellers' from encamping on Freemantle's Common, Bitterne, mounds of earth were dumped, carefully raked into long banks and seeded with grass. Within a few weeks they looked quite natural, doing the job for which they were intended.

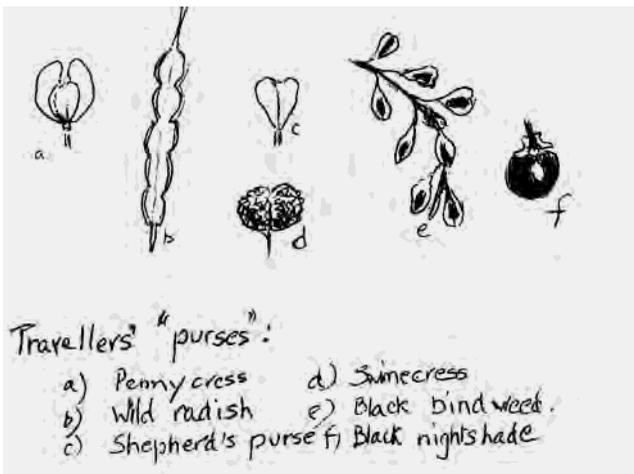
And lo! There appeared on them the age-old travellers that have not been seen on the Common for many a long year—the 'weeds of cultivation' that have accompanied farmers and their animals since Neolithic times:

Mithridate Mustard or Pennycress	
Corn Marigold	Black Bindweed
Goosefoot	Black Nightshade
Couch	Common Orache
Scarlet Pimpernel	Petty Spurge
Corn Spurrey	Charlock
Swine-cress	Couch Grass
Nigella	

All but Nigella bear good old English names.

By the late summer, Small White butterflies were haunting the banks—a promise of other butterflies to follow?

Welcome, travellers!



Avocet Breeding in Hampshire—The First Record

Andy Collins

A rather uneventful couple of hours birding in the Warsash area on May 4th 2002 improved markedly when I came across three Avocets on a lagoon. Things rapidly became even more interesting when I realised that the bird sitting very still on an island was perhaps not just ‘tired’! Final proof of my suspicions came when a second Avocet flew onto the island and replaced the sitting bird followed by careful ‘settling in’. I concluded that this must be Hampshire’s first ever Avocet nest. The role of the third bird was unclear and remained so after the two non-sitting birds flew off south together. I left the area after an hour during which the sitting bird had remained rather still, with head tucked in, but remaining alert and looking up occasionally.

Clark and Eyre (1993) describe Avocet as a scarce passage migrant and winter visitor to Hampshire. The 2000 *Hampshire Bird Report* notes that approximately forty individuals were recorded in 2000 and contrasts this relatively low number with Dorset, where, for example, 800 now regularly winter in Poole Harbour. Given this, a breeding attempt in Hampshire, rather than Dorset, seemed fairly remarkable.

Avocets had been reported in the Warsash area for some time and mating was noted at the very end of April. Incubation is described by Cramp and Simmons (1983) as taking 23–25 days. I therefore speculated that, if incubation were to be successful, the first young would appear around the third week of May. I was anxious to see how things were going and decided to visit regularly in the early mornings during this period. Fortunately the area was very quiet at this time of day with only small numbers of dog walkers and one or two local birders. The area could be observed without disturbance and it was possible to note the very interesting nesting behaviour of this exciting species. I spent a total of about 19 hours at the nest site over the course of May and this account is a summary of my observations. Most of my observations relate to the incubation period, which was, as would be expected, relatively uneventful most of the time. However, there were some relatively dramatic moments, and, during early morning visits there were often opportunities to observe other wildlife in the area.

It was not possible to see how many eggs were being incubated because of the vegetation surrounding the nest scrape, but also because incubation was virtually continuous with a sitting bird always present. Both adults incubate and frequently ‘exchange’, with one adult replacing the other. This is termed nest relief. During the course of my observations I noted eight exchanges, suggesting they were taking place about every two hours. Avocet behaviour is highly ritualised and elaborate.

Nest relief usually occurred when the second adult flew onto the nesting island and approached the sitting bird. The standing bird would then start picking up small pieces of vegetation near the nest and start throwing them to its sides ('throwing sticks'). After a minute or so the sitting bird would stand and be instantly replaced by the second bird. It was often possible to distinguish the larger and more contrasting black and white male from the female, but I didn't gain much idea about how much time each spent incubating. One curious feature of the nesting was that neither adult spent very much time feeding at the lagoon and would invariably fly off to Titchfield Haven to feed. This might reflect poor numbers of invertebrates in the lagoon or inappropriate depths, but it is curious that this was selected as a nest site.

Interactions with other species were also of interest. On the same small island two to three pairs of Lapwing and one pair of Redshank were nesting (Lapwing within 2 metres or so) and although there were a number of minor aggressive incidents the situation was well tolerated by both species. Mostly this involved chasing by a standing Avocet when a Lapwing strayed too close to the site. However, Cramp and Simmons (1983) note that the presence of other species may help in the defence of a common breeding ground. In contrast, Oystercatcher were not tolerated at all and frequently the sitting bird would become very distressed and start calling and 'head-bobbing' when Oystercatcher were nearby. Possibly the noise and/or the black and white plumage were the reason for the distress caused by this species! However, a fox in the area would cause far more distress than anything else, as I will describe shortly.

At the beginning of the incubation a third Avocet was present but this disappeared in early May. On the 17th of May two Avocets flew onto the island to join the sitting bird. It seemed that at least the third bird (a large and particularly white adult) was new and I was surprised to see it apparently prospecting for a nest site on the western end of the nesting island (this involved gently moving vegetation around and sitting in the cleared area). After 20 minutes or so the two adults left to the south together. I considered that this was a second pair and they were indeed prospecting for a nest site and that the 'resident' adult was still away feeding at this time. The following day (18th) saw the most dramatic incident of the incubation period. When I arrived at 7.40am an Avocet was incubating as normal but at 8.25 two birds flew in and onto the island. The 'large white' adult began scrape making again tossing vegetation around (but in several areas). All was relatively calm until a Fox appeared at the back of the lagoon. The Fox took no interest in the island but the three Avocets were highly alarmed and the sitting bird was provoked to leave the nest and vigorously attack the two other Avocets. The chase period took about 10 minutes with the nest exposed the whole time. Previously

I had not seen the nest left for more than 10 seconds. However, incubation resumed at 8.45 and the two other adults remained at the end of the island. Confusingly, two more Avocets flew in at 8.55, giving a total of five Avocets on the island. Three of these flew off at 8.56 and the remaining standing bird relieved the incubating adult. The 21st of May was also interesting. At 6.10am there were three Avocets on the island in addition to the incubating bird. On the western end of the island the female of the second pair adopted a distinctive posture with head held flat against the water. The male of the pair spent 2 minutes making preening actions and probing within the water on either side of the female, brushing against the female as he moved around repeatedly. Mating quickly followed after which the two 'ran on' together for a short distance. At this point it seemed that there would soon be a second nest at the site.

By the 22nd of May I was certainly expecting to start seeing Avocet chicks and I was delighted to see Hampshire's first Avocet chick at 6.40am on that day. The female was still incubating with the chick wandering freely on the island and the male in attendance. The chick was grey and white with a fairly stout straight bill. I noted nest relief that day and also the female was seen brooding the chick. By the 25th there were four chicks present on an island closer to the bank, presumably having been moved by the adults. This flatter island possibly had more mud for feeding. The second pair was by this time occupying the original island but had apparently not settled for nesting.

For various reasons I was not able to continue Avocet watching much beyond the end of May. My understanding is that the second pair was not successful, but the original pair reared two of the four young. As was widely reported there was an 'incident' at the nest site which appeared to prompt the adults to move their two remaining (unfledged) young by (remarkably) walking for several miles down the beach. They were found when they reached Titchfield Haven and the wardens carried the two young (in full view of the adults) into the reserve where they presumably fledged.

Given the numbers of Avocet now wintering nearby it seems likely that this exciting species will attempt to nest again in the near future. The success of this pair demonstrates the resilience of the species given various pressures, including disturbance, predation, lack of food and fluctuating water levels. It will be interesting to see if Avocets return to the area in summer 2003. Let's hope so.

References

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Cramp S and Simmons KEL (1983) *Handbook of the Birds of the Western Palearctic. Volume 3* Oxford University Press.

The Natural History of Southampton

John Poland

Southampton, I would argue, is perhaps one of the finest UK cities for wildlife and perhaps fortunate in the fact it has many 'greenways' interwoven with the city and surrounded by diverse countryside. Several habitat types are present within the city, albeit in small quantity and many sadly fragmented. Mature woodland, river corridors, acid and calcareous grassland, even heathland, all exist in the city's greenways.

One of the most valuable areas for wildlife is Southampton Common. Botanically the site is of local interest with Southern Marsh, Bee Orchid and Autumn Lady's Tresses. The rare spring fungus *Amanita eliae* has also occurred in recent years. White Admiral butterflies used to breed and it is hoped managing 'cascading' honeysuckle will encourage them to return to their former haunts. White-letter Hairstreaks still occur on the remaining Elm trees (also at many other sites in the city). The adjacent cemetery boasts a locally impressive list of butterflies: Marbled Whites, Ringlet and even occasional Silver-studded Blues (see coloured pages) have been recorded in recent years. The unvegetated and seemingly barren boating lake supports the uncommon Freshwater Periwinkle (an indicator of good water quality) and one of Hampshire's largest colonies of Great Crested Newts. Sadly, Bog Bush-cricket and Variable Damselfly have died out from the nearby fishing lake with no chance of natural re-colonisation.

The River Itchen is an important feature within the city landscape and the dramatic partial transition from chalk stream to tidal river occurs at Woodmill. Here the appearance of brackish-water invertebrates and the estuarine seaweed *Fucus ceranoides* indicates the increase in salinity. The Itchen provides territory to Otters, which have been observed as far down river as Northam Bridge, probably feeding on abundant Grey Mullet and Eels. Even the managed parklands of Riverside are not totally devoid of wildlife, as the neatly kept greens by Woodmill provide excellent 'airspace' foraging for Serotine bats.

Peartree Green, near Woolston, is a flora-rich area of disturbed calcareous grassland partially formed of imported chalk. Colonies of Pyramidal and Bee Orchids occur, with Marbled Whites and a small population of Brown Argus. Kidney and Horseshoe Vetch have been introduced, creating an artificial chalk downland habitat. These vetches are foodplants of Small and Chalkhill Blues and could even sustain a population, should any vagrants appear by chance.

However, it is not just greenways and public open spaces which are of interest to the urban naturalist; brownfield sites are equally worthy of investigation. A tiny area adjacent to Mayflower Park has a thriving colony of the much declined Mouse-tail and the adjacent park contains scattered plants of the locally scarce Early Meadow-grass.

Some species are not confined to individual sites and rely on the whole 'city ecosystem' in order to maintain viable populations. Southampton supports a substantial population of the extraordinary Stag Beetle, its prolonged larval stage probably reliant on old tree roots in private gardens. Another declining species, the Buttoned Snout moth, is also thriving in Southampton, its larvae feeding on garden hop plants.

Casual observations have given rise to some recent unusual records. Downy Emerald dragonfly has been found at a pond in Shirley and flightless Wood Crickets have appeared at Jurd's Lake, Woolston—a species more or less confined to the New Forest. Neither of these species is usually associated with urban settings.

Recording on our own doorstep is a vital part of maintaining the variety of flora and fauna present in our city. Sympathetic management cannot occur if we do not know what is already there.

Weather Records 2002

Keith Plumridge

Records made at 6 Thorold Road, Chandler's Ford (SU442221)

Introduction

2002 was warm, wet and dull. It was also a year of more records. Over the five years from 1998 to 2002, 2002 had or was:

1. The lowest pressure: the 2002 mean was 1013.8mb.
2. The highest mean temperature: 11.5°C —mainly because there were no prolonged cold spells.
3. The highest mean minimum temperature: 7.9°C .
4. The lowest number of days reaching 20°C : only 70.
5. The lowest number of air frosts: only 18 compared with 2001 when I recorded 55.
6. The lowest number of ground frosts: 55.
7. The wettest year: 1151.3mm of rain—2000 had 1142.5mm.
8. The lowest number of days on which snow fell: only 2.

January was the mildest January of the five years. It was also very dull, with only 36 hours of sun (against an average of 70) and 18 sunless days. The 1st was a day of records. It was the sunniest of the month, with 5.57 hours. It was also the coldest with a maximum temperature of 4.5°C and the very cold morning temperature of -6.6°C was the lowest of the whole year. Finally, the 9am pressure was the highest of the year at 1038.5mb. But the 1st didn't take all the records: the warmest of the month was the 27th at 13.4°C and the wettest was the 26th with 24.5mm.

February was the warmest and wettest of the five Februaries. The start of the month was very windy. Although there were no gales, there were gale-force gusts on four of the first five days. The windiest day was the 4th, with a top wind speed of 46mph. It was also the wettest with 23.1mm. The 16th had 8.83 hours of non-stop sunshine.

March was quite warm and dry. There were few wet days. The first week and the last ten days were very dry. The 26th was the first day of the year to register 10 hours of sun.

April was dry and very sunny, the warmest and driest of the five Aprils. With a total of 174.4 hours, it was the sunniest month of the year—the first time in my ten years of sunshine recording that this happened. The first 20°C of the year happened on the 4th with 20.6°C. Yet on the 18th (between 15.41 and 15.45) there was a hailstorm!

May was dull and the wettest of the five years. Nearly an inch of rain (23.4mm) fell on the 13th. Summer arrived for two days. The 16th was the hottest day of the month at 23.9°C and also the sunniest with 12.2 hours. The 17th was still very warm at 23.7°C, but there were only 0.16 hours of sunshine.

It was an average sort of **June**. The wettest day was the 5th with 20.6mm. The 26th was both the warmest day of the month at 23.2°C and the sunniest day of the year with 14.44 hours.

July was the wettest for five years by far and the second dullest. But it still produced the hottest day of the year with 28.8°C on the 29th.

August was the warmest of the five years, mainly because of its mild nights, the warmest being that of 29th/30th at 17.7°C. Even on the 27th, the windiest day of the month, the wind reached only 19mph.

September was the sunniest of the five because of its warm sunny days, but a few cool nights meant that it wasn't the warmest. With 33.2mm the 9th was the wettest day of the year, yet there was no measurable rainfall for the rest of the month!



Left (from top): Clouded Yellow (pp 13, 34), Clouded Yellow *Helice* form (p13), Berger's Clouded Yellow (p13)

Right (from top): Adonis' Ladybird (p16), *Henosepilachna argus* (p15), Orange Ladybird (p18), 7-Spot Ladybird (p17)

Photographs: Peter Burford, Andy Collins; Design: Mike Creighton



Left, Slime Moulds (from top):
Lycogala terrestris (p25), *Trichia decipiens* (p25), *Ceratiomyxa fruticulosa* (p25)

Right (from top): Cauliflower Fungus (p26), 'Chicken-of-the-Woods' (p26), Great Broomrape (p29), Italian Blubell (pp 6, 30)



Left (from top): Aunt Eliza (p30),
 White Horehound (p30), Musk (pp 7,
 30), Narrow-leaved Ragwort (p30)
Right (from top): Large and Lesser
 Marsh Grasshoppers (p33), Roesel's
 Bush-cricket (p33), Currant
 Clearwing—a moth (p35)





Left (from top): Death's Head Hawk-moth (pp12, 38) and pupa (p38), Convolvulus Hawk-moth larva (p38)
Right (from top): *Palpita unionalis* (p38), White-point (l) (p39), Merveille du Jour (r) (p37), The Vestal (l) (p38), Scarce Bordered Straw (r) (p39), Eurasian Woodcock (p42)

October was reasonably sunny and quite mild. The 3rd to the 10th were very mild, dry and sunny. The 13th was the wettest day of the month at 27.3mm. On October 19th I recorded the earliest air frost (-1.6°C) I have ever recorded, either here or in North Wales! The only gale of the year happened on on the 27th when the maximum gust was 51mph at 8.45am.

November was the dullest and warmest of the five and also the wettest with 238.6mm. It was also the first of the five Novembers not to register an air frost. On the 15th there was a thunderstorm (18.57 to 21.23) described by Penny Gower of Radio Solent as “spectacular”.

December was the warmest and wettest of the five. The 32.4mm of rain that fell on the 31st meant it was the second wettest day of the year and it took the annual total beyond that of 2000.

Table 1. Summary of Weather Statistics for 2002.

Month	Mean Maximum Temp		Mean Minimum Temp		No of air frosts	Total sun (hours)	No of wet days	Rainfall	
	°C	°F	°C	°F				mm	ins
January	9.3	49	4.0	39	8	36	15	100	3.9
February	11.0	52	5.0	41	3	69	16	112	4.4
March	12.3	54	4.4	40	3	90	11	48	1.9
April	15.4	60	5.4	42	0	175	9	48	1.9
May	16.5	62	8.7	48	0	111	16	105	4.1
June	18.8	66	10.7	52	0	129	11	57	2.2
July	20.9	70	12.5	55	0	133	9	90	3.5
August	22.2	72	13.5	56	0	166	7	45	1.8
September	19.9	68	10.7	51	0	173	3	37	1.5
October	14.7	58	7.9	46	2	102	15	98	3.9
November	12.1	54	6.8	44	0	57	22	239	9.4
December	8.8	48	5.1	41	2	43	18	173	6.8
Means/ Totals	15.2	59	7.9	46	18	1,284	152	1,152	45.3

Note. A ‘Wet Day’ is one on which more than 1mm of rain falls.

MEMBERS' RECORDS FOR 2002

Compiled by Phil Budd (Flora) and Andy Collins (Fauna)

There were a number of exciting observations in 2002, despite rather disappointing summer weather. The first breeding of Avocet in Hampshire was a highlight for some and there were many exciting botanical records. The SNHS dragonfly survey continued, although lack of sunshine was a problem. Hairy Dragonfly was confirmed in our area (at Hackett's Marsh) and Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly was well seen at Hamble Common. (See coloured pages.) The survey will continue to the end of 2003. Orthoptera will be our next target and it was encouraging to confirm Wood Cricket within the City boundary at Jurd's Lake. Amongst butterfly records, the finding of Silver-studded Blue at Hamble Common was of particular interest. (See coloured pages.)

The year 2002 initially showed signs of becoming one of the great insect migration years. The period from the end of May to mid-June produced a number of unusual early butterfly and moth migrants (Painted Lady, Vestal, Bordered Straw and Striped Hawk). This was similar to the pattern seen in previous 'good' years (like 1992, 1995 and 1996), when the largest numbers and greatest variety of migrants appeared in August–October, following an interesting selection of early migrants. However, the poor summer weather in 2002 was perhaps responsible for a rather poor showing of migrant insects in the autumn.

Contributors

ALB	Andy and Linda Barker	SM	Suzanne Mazdon
VB	Virya Best	CO	Chris Oliver
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PRB	Peter Burford	JP	John Poland
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HWC	Hawthorns Wildlife Centre	JS	Dr Jan Schubert
RC	Ron Cooke	RS	Rod Ship
KE	Kathy Emmott	MS	Mary Smith
MAG	David and Madge Goodall	BT	Barbara Thomas
NH	Neale Hider (with reports from Westwood team)	KEW	Keith Watson and Jim Earwood
JH	John Horne	IW	Ian Watts
SJ	Steven Jakubowski, Chris Farris and Barry Friend (Lakeside CP)	KJW	K. J. Wheeler
		MO	many observers

Abbreviation: RVCP Royal Victoria Country Park

MYCOTA

FUNGI

A poor fungus year by any standards. There were no spring records of note at all. The dry April didn't help and the miserable May/June rains came too late to do anything but mess things up for everything else! The summer and early autumn were far too dry except, briefly, early August. The autumn fungus season started and ended late. Only in mid-October did things really get going and, again, November was the peak month. However, it was a good year for unusual fungi. The exotic stinkhorn known as *Clathrus archeri* (**Devil's Fingers**) appeared at Setley Plain near Brockenhurst. (See coloured pages.) The Hampshire Fungus Recording Group discovered the very rare *Omphalotus illudens* in August at IBM, Hursley, only found five times previously in Britain. In America it is known as 'Jack-o-Lantern' because of its bioluminescence.

Early in the year the most interesting records were the small Agaric *Arrhenia spathulata* on a Chandlers Ford garden lawn on 22/1 (PB) and the bracket *Ganoderma resinaceum* on Red Oak (*Quercus borealis*) at Gregg School on 14/1 (PRB), which was found again on an English Oak trunk at Woodmill Salmon Pools on 2/9 (PB). In August the most interesting discoveries were the parasitic 'club' *Cordyceps ophioglossoides* at St Mary's Wood, Netley on 2/8 (PB) and the now common *Boletus radicans* (formerly *B. arbidos*) by Bassett Avenue on 30/8 (PB). Further afield a new site was found for **Devil's Boletus** (*Boletus satanas*) at Longwood, near Owslebury on 27/8 (MO).

September was so dry that most fungi discoveries were either on trees, such as Chicken-of-the-Woods (*Laetiporus sulphureus*) at Woodlands on 5/9 (KEW) or in usually waterlogged Alder woodland. In this wet habitat at Emer Bog on 21/9 four seldom seen fungi were discovered (PB)—the rare milkcap *Lactarius aspideus* (noted for its purple 'milk'), *Inocybe flavella*, *Cortinarius uliginosus* and *C. bibulus*. The last species was seen again under Alder at Royal Victoria Country Park on 25/9 along with *Lactarius obscuratus* (PB). Another September record was a fine display of *Leucopaxillus giganteus* by Hocombe Road, Chandlers Ford on 25/9 before they fell foul of the kicking feet of brainless vandals (PB).

In October and November I (PB) was involved in Hampshire County Council fungus surveys at a number of locations, including Round and Gull Coppices, Whiteley, Berry Coppice at Funtley, and further investigation of St Mary's Wood, Netley and the Military Cemetery at Netley. Highlights included the velvet blue skin *Pulcherricium caeruleum* on Ash (see coloured pages) and *Mycena rorida* (noted for its slime-coated stalk) at Berry Coppice on 18/11, *Armillaria tabescens* on 10/10 and the scarce *Inocybe petiginosa* and **Hare's Ear Fungus**

(*Otidea onotica*) on 20/11 at Gull Coppice. At nearby Round Coppice discoveries included *Collybia cookei* (noted for its yellow sclerotum) on 18/10, *Lentinellus cochleatus* on 20/10 and **Magpie Ink-cap** (*Coprinus picaeus*) on 11/11. At St Mary's Wood both *Cortinarius olidus* and *C. alboviolaceus* were found on 16/10. At Netley Military Cemetery on 1/11. I found the normally coastal *Crinipellus scabella*, with its concentric rings of hairs on its cap. *Collybia cookei* was also found on bark mulch at Dible's Road on 18/11 (PB).

In late autumn new sites for the striking orange-capped *Stropharia aurantiaca* were found at Blackberry Drive, Fair Oak on 26/11 and at Southampton General Hospital on 9/12, both on bark mulch (PB). On 26/11 Blackberry Drive was also a site for the yellowish Agaric *Enteloma icterinum* (PB), with its characteristic smell of essence of pear drops or amyl acetate (see coloured pages). It was also found in the garden of the Swordfish pub at Stubbington on 18/11 (PB). The pub garden also yielded the **Birdsnest Fungus** (*Cyathus olla*), the hallucinogenic *Psilocybe cyanescens* and *Lepiota josserandii* (PB). At West End Burial Ground on 26/11 there were *Lepiota ventriospora* and a fine display of the **Giant Earthstar** *Gaeastrum triplex* (PB). Nearby and on the same date there were four specimens of *Amanita gemmata* at its only known Southampton site in Telegraph Woods. On a pile of Pine bark chippings in the same woods there was a fine display of the seldom seen *Pholiota spumosa* (PB) and *Coprinus lagopus* was found there on 5/11 (KEW).

In late November/December there were the usual displays of waxcaps on many lawns around Southampton. A particularly rich selection was found at Meon Court, Harefield. A large colony of Autumn Lady's Tresses had been found here in early autumn, and among the common fungi on 12/12 were *Hygrocybe unguinosa* and *Cuphophyllus russocoriaceus* (PB). A *Hygrocybe laete* was of interest at Rownhams Churchyard on 19/12 (PB).

In November and December I (PB) was also contracted by Hampshire County Council to carry out full-scale fungus surveys at Bishops Waltham Moors and Kite's Croft, near Titchfield. Approximately three hundred species were found on the Moors, including the scarce resupinates *Steccherinum ochraceum* and *Antrodia amentaceum* on Alder on 10/12, the uncommon and striking Agaric *Rhodotus palmatus* on the same date and two small club fungi—*Typhula erythropus* on 14/11 and *T. uncialis* on 30/11. At Kite's Croft two fungi of interest on Gorse on 7/12 were *Daldinia vernicosa*, which resembles a small King Alfred's Cakes, and the Polypore *Polyporus floccipes*. *Lentinus conchatus* was an interesting find on Birch on 18/12. Finally at Kite's Croft on 18/12 I found **Scarlet Elf-cup** (*Sarcoscypha coccinea*)—a species which doesn't usually appear until February!

LICHENS

One of the highlights of the year was the discovery of the rather rare, but distinctive, lichen *Gyalecta jenensis* on three sandstone graves at Netley Military Cemetery during a survey on 27/5. This species is supposed to occur on Netley Abbey, but was not found there during a search on 26/3. But on the same date *Aspicilia caesiocinerea*, a rare species in Hampshire, was found to be still present on a granitic cross at Hamble Church. On 14/12 a lichen survey at Weston Shore turned up *Collema auriforme* on grassy shingle and both *Phaeophyscia nigricans* and *Hyperphyscia adglutinata* on alkaline Lombardy Poplar bark. Later in the year the lichen *Chaenotheca brachypoda* was seen on an Oak trunk at Nightingale Wood on 19/12. All records were made by PB, except that further afield *Ramalina canariensis* was an interesting find at Inchmery on 18/7 (KEW).

FLORA

BRYOPHITES

On 19/12 PB helped Roger Veall and Rod Stern who were completing a Bryophyte survey of the north-west of the Southampton area. Among the interesting species found were the mosses *Trichostemon sinuosum* (= *Didymodon sinuosus*) and *Barbula trifaria* (= *Didymodon luridus*) at Nursling Church, *Zygodon viridissimus* on a kerbstone and *Barbula nicholsonii* (= *Didymodon nicholsonii*) on tarmac at Rownhams Church and, in an arable field at Upton, plenty of the liverwort *Riccia glauca* and the tiny moss *Ephemerum serratum* var *minutissimum*. *Barbula nicholsonii* is a relatively new discovery in Britain and tends to be specific to tarmac surfaces. Among other records were the following mosses: *Scleropodium cespitans* and *Cratoneuron filicinum*, found during a survey at Weston Shore on 14/2, *Cryphaea heteromalla* on Willow bark at Copperfield Road, Bassett on 8/7 and the scarce *Scorpidium circinatum*, which was found to be still abundant at Netley Abbey on 26/3. All records by PB.

VASCULAR PLANTS

No phenological records were received this year and, generally, the Society is currently doing rather badly at recording botanical information. We have never recovered from the loss of Paul Bowman in this regard. Again, the number of establishments of naturalised species was remarkable. Most of these records appear in the systematic list below, but one exciting discovery, slightly outside our normal area of coverage, was of *Cerithe major* (**Greater Honeywort**)—a South European spring-flowering member of the Borage family—not previously seen in Hampshire in the wild and not usually grown in gardens. Several plants were found along the base of the outer eastern wall of St Cross Priory on 21/2 and were in

bloom by April. Of native species, members of the Fabaceae (Pea-flower) family generally did very well in 2002, none more so than *Lathyrus nissolia* (**Grass Vetchling**), with records from new sites at Sholing Wild Park on 24/5 (PB) and Marchwood Shore on 11/6 (KEW). It was also abundant on Peartree Green on 11/6 (MS).

Escapes and Naturalisations

Listed in alphabetical order of scientific names.

Allium neapolitanum (**Neapolitan Garlic**) in muddy grassland, Hum Hole 29/6 (PB)

Allium roseum (**Rosy Garlic**) Palmerston Park 24/5 (PB)

Allium subhirsutum (**Hairy Garlic**) Palmerston Park 24/5 (PB)

[The last two were growing together and were apparently naturalised, but exact status is unknown.]

Amelanchier lamarkii (**June Berry**) Home Court, Netley 2/5 (PB)

Anemone blanda (**Balkan Anemone**) Windmill Hill, Bursledon 8/4 (PRB)

Apera spica-venti (**Loose Silky-bent**) four plants, St Mary's 5/7 (PB)

Briza maxima (**Giant Quaking Grass**) along Millbrook dual carriageway 7/7 (PB)

Calystegia pulchra (**Hairy Bindweed**) Manor Farm Country Park 7/7 (PB)

Campanula poscharskyana (**Trailing Bellflower**) by Pudbrook Lake, Botley 14/6 (PB) and base of wall Belvidere Road, Southampton 5/7 (PB)

Colutea arborescens (**Bladder Senna**) 1 bush at Dibden Purlieu roundabout 12/7 (PB)

Consolida ajacis (**Larkspur**) St Mary's wasteground 5/7 (PB)

Cotoneaster bullatus (**Hollyberry Cotoneaster**) south of Ashlett Creek 24/9 (PB)

Crataegus persimilis (**Broad-leaved Cockspur Thorn**) one birdsown, south end of Chessel Bay 19/7 (PB)

Datura stramonium (**Thorn Apple**) on dumped soil, Hackett's Marsh 16/8 (PB)

Duchesna indica (**Yellow-flowered Strawberry**) established on bank, Cemetery Road, Southampton 5/5 (PB)

Galinsoga quadriradiata (**Shaggy Soldier**) Trebourba Way, Shirley 10/11 (KEW)

Gaultheria shallon (**American Strawberry**) well established at St Mary's Wood, Netley 25/4 (PB)

Geranium x oxonianum (**Druce's Crane's-bill**) Peartree Green 18/7 (PB) and Frog's Copse 18/7 (PB)

Hedera colchica (**Persian Ivy**) rampant at Broadlands Valley 8/4 (PB)

Helianthus x laetiflorus (**Perennial Sunflower**) well established west of Mansbridge 30/9 (PB)

- Jasminium officinale* (**Summer Jasmine**) along a wire fence, Mount Pleasant 5/7 (PB)
- Leycesteria formosa* (**Himalayan Honeysuckle**) one bush naturalised at West Wood, Netley 26/10 (PB)
- Linaria maroccana* (**Annual Toadflax**) common on disturbed soil, Warsash 12/9 (PB)
- Mentha x villosa* (**Apple Mint**) large patch, South East Road/Kathleen Road 26/9 (PB)
- Muehlenbechia complexa* (**Wire Plant**) rampant and established on bank below Swordfish pub, Lee-on-Solent 18/11 (PB)
- Nigella* sp. (*N. arvenis*?) on earth banks at Freemantle's Common, Bitterne, July (MS)
- Onobrychis vicifolia* (**Sainfoin**) by A3024 at the Target, Hightown 2/6 (PB)
- Poa chaixii* (**Broad-leaved Meadow-grass**) still present in woodland at Manor Farm Country Park 10/7 [Recorded in 1969.]
- Prunus serotina* (**Rum Cherry**) two trees, Dibden Purlieu woodland 25/5 (PB) and one small tree naturalised at Chessel Bay 19/7 (PB)
- Rapistrum rugosum* (**Bastard Cabbage**) south of St Denys railway station 5/5 (PB)
- Solidago gigantea* (**Early Goldenrod**) Peartree Green 2/9 (PB)
- Spartium junceum* (**Spanish Broom**) several, by A326, Hounslow 28/7 (PB)
- Spiraea douglasii* (**Steeple Bush**) well established in hedges, Manor Farm Country Park 4/7 (PB)
- Vicia tenuifolia* (**Fine-leaved Vetch**) on bark mulch, Dible's Road, Warsash 12/9 (PB)

Wild and Native Species

Listed in alphabetical order of scientific names.

- Anagallis tenella* (**Bog Pimpernel**) large patch Netley Military Cemetery 2/5 (PB)
- Briza minor* (**Lesser Quaking Grass**) abundant in arable fields, Manor Farm Country Park 10/7 (PB)
- Carex curta* (**White Sedge**) Wildhen Wild Park, near Colt's Foot Close 17/5 (PB)
- Carex extensa* (**Long-bracted Sedge**) thirty plants in saltmarsh, Hamble Common 15/6 (PB)
- Carex pilulifera* (**Pill Sedge**) St Mary's Wood, Netley 25/4 (PB) and Netley Military Cemetery 20/5 (PB)
- Chamaemelum nobile* (**Lawn Chamomile**) reported to PB at Rownhams Churchyard by P Ward
[The only site in Southampton to my knowledge except for one on Southampton Common.]

Chrysanthemum segetum (**Corn Marigold**) on earth banks, Freemantle's Common, July (MS)

Cochlearia danica (**Early Scurvy-grass**) under traffic signals, Lance's Hill 19/4 (MS)

Corydalis claviculata (**Climbing Corydalis**) Alderhill Inclosure 18/6 (KEW)

Crataegus laevigata (**Midland Hawthorn**) two trees, Manor Farm Country Park 10/7 (PB)

Dactylorhiza fuchsii (**Common Spotted Orchid**) Peartree Green 11/6 (MS) [first record here]

Erodium moschatum (**Musk Storksbill**) by hedge, Redbridge Lane Recreation Ground 23/4 (PB)

Erophila glabrescens (**Glabrous Whitlowgrass**) by Weston Parade, Weston Shore 14/2 (PB)

Euphorbia platyphyllos (**Broad-leaved Spurge**) two plants, Manor Farm Country Park 4/7 (PB) and fifteen plants by Millbrook dual carriageway 7/7 (PB)

x Festulolium loliaceum (**Hybrid Fescue**) Pudbrook Lake Meadow, Botley 14/7 (PB)

Filipendula vulgaris (**Dropwort**) Southampton Cemetery 7/7 (PB)

Gentianella amarella (**Autumn Gentian**) Horseshoe Bottom, New Forest 27/8 (KEW)

Glyceria declinata (**Small Sweet-grass**) in acid pond, Hamble Common 28/5 (PB)

Hypericum humifusum (**Trailing St John's-wort**) on garden lawn, West End 19/7 (KEW)

Hypericum maculatum (**Imperforate St John's-wort**) Ashlett Creek 4/7 (KEW)

Lathyrus aphaca (**Yellow Vetchling**) three plants on wasteground, St Mary's 5/7 (PB)

Lathyrus tuberosus (**Tuberous Pea**) two large patches on New Hill, Swanwick Reserve 30/7 (PB) [See coloured pages.]

Lepidium ruderale (**Narrow-leaved Pepperwort**) one plant, wasteground, St Mary's 5/7 (PB)

Linum bienne (**Pale Flax**) large colony in field west of Netley Chase, Hightown 20/8 (PB) [See coloured pages.]

Lotus subbiflorus (**Hairy Bird's-foot Trefoil**) two colonies, Northam Road/Radcliffe Road 1/7 (PB)

Melilotus indica (**Small-flowered Melilot**) St Mary's wasteground 5/7 (PB)

Neottia nidus-avis (**Bird's Nest Orchid**) three plants under Oaks, Pond Lane, Ampfield 14/7 (PB)

Orchis mascula (**Early Purple Orchid**) Home Covert, Nursling 2/5 (PB) [Nearest site to Southampton city centre that I know of.]

Orchis morio (**Green-winged Orchid**) reported to PB at Rownhams Churchyard by P. Ward

Orobanche minor (**Common Broomrape**) one plant, Windy Bay, St Denys, near TV studios 5/7 (PB)

Polypogon monspeliensis (**Annual Bead-grass**) by Albert Road, Southampton 5/7 (PB)

Polypogon viridis (**Water Bent**) Copse View, Thornhill 19/6 (PB) and Lakeside Country Park 8/8 (PB)
[This grass is spreading very rapidly in the Southampton area.]

Potentilla x mixta (**Hybrid Cinquefoil**) Netley Military Cemetery 20/5 (PB) and Manor Farm Country Park 4/7 (PB)

Rosa stylosa (**Short-styled Rose**) Manor Farm Country Park 4/7 (PB)

Sanicula europaea (**Sanicle**) Frog's Copse 19/4 (MS)

Silaum silaus (**Pepper Saxifrage**) Peartree Green 18/7 [my first here] (PB)

Sisymbrium orientale (**Eastern Rocket**) several locations around Northam, St Mary's and Mount Pleasant area 5/7 (PB)

Spiranthes spirales (**Autumn Lady's Tresses**) two plants, Rownham's Way 24/8 (PB) [Also reported still at Rownham's Church.], about seventy plants Harefield 20/8 (PB), Horseshoe Bottom, New Forest 27/8 (KEW)

Thlaspi arvense (**Field Pennycress**) on earth banks at Freemantle's Common, July (MS)

Trifolium fragiferum (**Strawberry Clover**) by Bitterne by-pass 30/8 (PB) and abundant at Redbridge Wharf Park 5/10 (PB)

Valeriana dioica (**Marsh Valerian**) wood south-west of Netley Military Cemetery 28/4 (PB)

Verbascum nigrum (**Dark Mullein**) Netley Military Cemetery 20/5 (PB)

Verbascum virgatum (**Slender Mullein**) five plants, by Northam Gasworks 1/7 (PB) [See coloured pages.]

Vicia lutea (**Yellow Vetch**) large patch at Lakeside Country Park 12/9 (PB)

FAUNA

MOLLUSCS

Land species

Jenkin's Spire Snail (*Potamopyrgus jenkinsi*) Peartree Green 8/7 (PB)

Prickly Slug (*Arion intermedius*) RVCP 7/5 (PB)

Waxy Glass Snail (*Aegopinella nitidula*) RVCP 7/5 (PB)

ARACHNIDS

Opiliones: Harvestmen

Dicranopalpus ramosus Kathleen Road, Sholing 7/10 (ARC)

Araneae: Spiders

Argiope bruennichi (**Wasp Spider**) Lakeside CP 8/8 (PB) and Hamble Common 28/7 (ARC)

Microlinyphia pusilla Pudbrook Lake Meadow 15/7 (PB)

Pachygnatha degeeri Lakeside CP 8/8 (PB)

Steatoda nobilis Porchester Castle 17/6 (PB)

Zygiella atrica Lakeside CP 8/8 (PB)

MISCELLANEOUS MARINE INVERTEBRATES

Common Shrimp (*Crangon vulgaris*) Weston Shore 6/2 (PB)

Coat-Of-Mail Shell (*Lepidochitona cinereus*) found alive, Weston Shore 6/2 (PB)

Leathery Sea Squirt (*Styela clava*) a native of Korea, introduced to Europe by shipping, found at Weston Shore 6/2 (PB)

Snakelocks Anemone (*Anemonia sulcata*) RVCP16/8 (PB)

INSECTS

ODONATA (Dragonflies and Damselflies)

This was not the best of years for this group, but there were a number of exciting records. The SNHS dragonfly survey is continuing in 2003 and we require all records for this group so that we may complete the survey with good coverage. A number of exciting 2002 and earlier records were received from JH at Hackett's Marsh. These included **Red-veined Darter** on 19/5/98 (the only known Southampton recording area record), up to ten **Yellow-winged Darter** on 2/8/95 and **Vagrant Emperor** on 2/7/90. Also **Common Hawker** on 14/8/97 and **Keeled Skimmer** on 3/8/97.

Banded Demoiselle fifteen, Itchen Valley CP 11/5 (ARC). Frog's Copse 18/7 and Coltsfoot Copse, Hedge End 29/8 (PB)

Emerald Damselfly recorded annually at Hackett's Marsh (JH), and from 24/6 in 2002. Reported at Dibden Purlieu Woodlands Pond 28/7 (PB) [a new location]. Westwood was another new location (two 18/8, ARC).

Large Red Damselfly from 18/4 Monk's Brook (IW), 23/4 at Hackett's Marsh (JH) and 25/4 at Chandler's Ford (KJP)

Small Red Damselfly Dibden Purlieu Woodlands Pond 28/7 (PB) [a new location]

Azure Damselfly from 22/4 at Hackett's Marsh (JH) and 15/5 at Chandler's Ford (KJP). Only nine on the Lakeside CP transect (SJ).

Common Blue Damselfly from 15/6 (5) at Fernyhurst Pond (CO) and 19/6 at Hackett's Marsh (JH). 299 on the Lakeside CP transect (SJ).

Southern Damselfly fifteen Itchen Valley CP 25/5 (PB, ARC)

Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly one male and one female, Hamble Common 18/7 (JP), four there 22/7 (PB)

Blue-tailed Damselfly from 1/5 Hackett's Marsh (JH) 228 on the Lakeside CP transect (SJ). [See coloured pages.]

Red-eyed Damselfly This species certainly appears to be spreading. Hackett's Marsh from 2/5 (JH). [JH has noted this species annually at Hackett's in recent years, but not in 2001.] One at Fernyhurst Pond 3/6 (CO) [a new location]. This was sat on reeds there are no lily pads here. One Swanwick 28/7 (JP). One Itchen Valley CP 2/8 (JP). Lakeside CP 16/8 (JP). SJ reported 64 on the transect at Lakeside CP. Woodmill Salmon Ponds [a new location] 2/9 (PB).

Hairy Dragonfly recorded annually from 5/6/96 by JH at Hackett's Marsh with first record in 2002 on 2/6.
[This is the only Southampton recording area locality with recent records. Efforts to find the species at Itchen Valley CP (where previously reported) were unsuccessful.]

Migrant Hawker recorded from 13/8 at Hackett's Marsh (JH). Seven on the Lakeside CP transect (SJ). PB reported his first garden record (Bitterne) at 8.00 pm on 24/8.

Golden-ringed Dragonfly first 25/6 at Hackett's Marsh (JH), one Hamble Common, 18/7 (JP), Bannister Park 25/8 (PB)

Downy Emerald recorded annually Hackett's Marsh (JH) and from 2/6 in 2002

Four-spotted Chaser recorded annually at Hackett's Marsh with the first on 2/6 in 2002 (JH). One on the Lakeside CP transect (SJ).

Broad-bodied Chaser from 12/5 Hackett's Marsh (JH) and 27/5 Chandler's Ford (KJP)

Black-tailed Skimmer several, Lower Test Marshes 19/7 (JP). Hackett's Marsh from 29/7 (JH). Fifteen on the Lakeside CP transect (SJ).

Ruddy Darter one Itchen Valley CP 2/8 (JP). There were two at Dibden Bay on 15/8 (RS). Hackett's Marsh 18/9 (JH).

Common Darter a late date of 7/11 Bishop's Waltham Moors (PB)

ORTHOPTERA (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

Roesel's Bush-cricket (*Metrioptera roeselii*) a very interesting record was of one nymph seen at Manor Farm CP 10/7 (PB)

Wood Cricket (*Nemobius sylvestris*) heard at Jurd's Lake 13/7 [also recorded there in 2001, ARC]; five plus stridulating there 28/7 (JP ,PB). [Jurd's Lake is the only known locality within the City boundary.]

Field Grasshopper (*Chorthippus brunneus*) an urban colony found by PB at Redbridge Wharf Park 5/10

DERMAPTERA (Earwigs)

Lesnei's Earwing (*Forficula lesnei*) Lakeside CP 8/8, found on Salix (PB)

HEMIPTERA (Bugs)

Calocoris roseomaculatus Pudbrook Lake Meadow 15/7 (PB)

Cymus melanocephalus (a ground bug) Pudbrook Lake Meadow 14/6 (PB)

Deraeocoris lutescens (a capsid bug) Lakeside CP 8/8 (PB)

Dicyphus epilobii Hamble Common 20/6 and Lakeside CP 8/8 (PB)

Dolichonabis limbatus (**Marsh Damsel Bug**) Pudbrook Lake Meadow 15/7 (PB)

Gorse Lace-Bug (*Dictyonota strichnocera*) RVCP 19/7 (PB)

Miridius quadrivirgatus Lakeside CP 15/8 (PB)

Peritrechus lundii Pudbrook Lake Meadow 14/6 (PB)

Pithanus maerkeli Lakeside CP 8/8 (PB)

Plagiognathus chrysanthemii RVCP 19/7 (PB)

Polymerus unifasciatus Lakeside CP 15/8 (PB)

Trigonotylus ruficornis RVCP 19/7 (PB)

Troilus luridus (a shield-bug) Lakeside CP 8/8 (PB) and Chandler's Ford 21/11 (KJP)

Water Measurer (*Hydrometra stagnorum*) in pond south of Hawthorns Centre, Southampton Common, 7/7 (PB)

HOMOPTERA

Ledra aurita (**Eared Leaf-Hopper**) nymph, St Mary's Wood, Netley 1/6 (PB)

LEPIDOPTERA

Butterflies

Clouded Yellow from 20/6 in Shirley (RR); Itchen Valley CP, 'Helice' form, 2/8 (JP); Chandler's Ford 12/8 (KJP); one, Westwood 18/8 (ARC); four, Hamble Common 25/8 (ALB); seven, Lepe 14/9 (ARC); one, Southampton General Hospital 28/9 (ARC); Bevois Valley 6/10 (JS); two, RVCP 5/9 and 10/10 (NH). A very impressive total of seventeen, Dibden Bay 15/8, with three present here 14/9 (RS).

Orange Tip best ever numbers reported by KJP at Chandler's Ford (maximum nineteen between 3/4 and 27/5)

White Admiral two, Lord's Wood 15/7 (ALB). RVCP from 27/6 (NH).

Painted Lady a fairly average year; early examples reported from Broadlands Valley 18/5 (KE), Itchen 22/5 (JS), Southampton General Hospital 22/5 (ARC), Chandler's Ford 1/6 (KJP) and Bitterne 4/6 (PB). Only three at RVCP (NH). A late record was 7/11 (KJP).

Small Tortoiseshell twelve, Lordsdale Greenway 3/4 (ARC). Poor numbers reported by KJP from Chandler's Ford a maximum of thirteen 22/3–28/10. Reported as 'almost non-existent' at RVCP (only one record all year, NH).

Red Admiral a poor showing in comparison with 2001. One at RVCP on 26/1 (NH), one at Weston Shore 14/2 (PB) and one at Lordsdale Greenway on 7/3 (ARC). KJP reported poor numbers (maximum fourteen) between 16/2 and 5/12 from Chandler's Ford. CO reported this species in Rownhams between 15/6 and 28/10. PB recorded his last of the year in Bitterne 11/11 and NH reported one at RVCP 5/12.

Peacock best ever numbers reported by KJP from Chandler's Ford (maximum of 44) between 7/3 and 19/10. Rarely seen after mid-May at RVCP (NH).

Comma five, Lordsdale Greenway 7/3 (ARC). KJP reported best ever numbers with maximum of fourteen from Chandler's Ford between 7/3 and 8/10.

Brimstone one, Lordsdale Greenway, Shirley 22/2 (ARC). PB recorded his first on 5/3 in Bitterne. Best ever numbers recorded by KJP at Chandler's Ford with a maximum of thirteen between 7/3 and 18/10. A poor showing was reported by NH at RVCP with numbers down by 50–75% on transect index totals since 1996. PB recorded his last of the year at Bitterne on 28/10.

Green Hairstreak RVCP from 11/5 (NH)

Purple Hairstreak first of the year 1/7 at Manor Farm CP (PB). PB also reported seven plus around an old Ash tree at Hackett's Marsh on 16/8.

Small Copper from 22/4 RVCP (PB)

Silver-studded Blue one male, Hamble Common, 18/7 (JP). One female here 22/7 (PB). One male 28/7 (ARC). [There are no other known sites in our Southampton recording area, so the status of this species at Hamble Common is worthy of further investigation.] PB recorded a very late example at Ober Heath on 2/10 (a male). [See coloured pages.]

Holly Blue five, Lordsdale Greenway, Shirley 16/4 (ARC)

Common Blue recorded as a new species to Chandler's Ford garden by KJP (three, 17/5–1/9). RS recorded 53 in a 400m stretch of coast path at Dibden Bay on 15/8. Numbers at Royal Victoria Country Park (transect) were the best for four years (NH).

Brown Argus one, Westwood 18/8 (ARC)

Silver-washed Fritillary a female reported as a garden visitor at Chandler's Ford by ALB on 5/8. ALB also reported two in Lord's Wood on 15/7.

Speckled Wood from 3/4 Hollybrook Cemetery (PB). Average numbers reported by KJP in Chandler's Ford between 20/4 and 24/9. NH reported particularly high numbers in August at RVCP, contributing to the highest index total for the species (since 1996).

Marbled White three at Jurd's Lake 16/6 and thirty there 13/7 (ARC), eight at Hamble airfield 13/7 (ARC), two in Lord's Wood 15/7 (ALB) and ten Southampton Common 17/7 (ARC). The colony at RVCP (established since 1998) continued to grow in 2002 (NH).

Grayling two, Hamble Common 28/7 (ARC)

Small Heath not recorded for the third year running at RVCP transect (NH). None reported in the Southampton area in 2002 (PB)

Ringlet PB recorded his first at Southampton Old Cemetery 7/7 (2), one at Manor Farm CP1/7. Also recorded at Pudbrook Lake, Botley 15/7. [This species is clearly increasing in the Southampton area].

Moths

Records from ARC were from Kathleen Road, Sholing and records from PB were from Caerleon Avenue, Bitterne, unless otherwise stated.

Festoon (*Apoda limacodes*) the 'first record for many years' reported by ALB at Chandler's Ford 15/7.

[A very good record, with no other Southampton area localities known.]

Tinea trinotella Chandler's Ford 10/5 (KJP)

Currant Clearwing (*Synanthedon tipuliformis*) KJW reported nine, to the 'tip' pheromone, between 1.00 and 3.30pm on allotment at Fareham 29/6

Red-belted Clearwing (*Synanthedon myopaeformis*) KJW reported garden records in Fareham to the 'myo' pheromone between 6/7 and 27/7, a total of eleven between 10.12am and 2.55pm

Sallow Clearwing (*Synanthedon flaviventris*) KJW reported individuals to a combination of the ‘myo’ and ‘tip’ pheromone in the garden at Fareham 18/7 (one at 2.55pm) and 28/7 (two at 5.00pm).

[These are currently the only pheromone records for this species known to ARC.]

Red-tipped Clearwing (*Synanthedon formicaeformis*) singles, Lower Test Marshes at 11.35am 24/6 and 12.45pm 26/6 (ARC). Single in the garden at Sholing (second garden record) at 5.45pm 26/6 (ARC). [All were to pheromones.]

Six-belted Clearwing (*Bembecia ichneumoniformis*) recorded at the Swanwick Reserve as follows: twelve 8.21–9.11am 29/6; fifteen at 11.45am 13/7; twenty-five 9.00–9.15am 14/7; seventy 10.20–10.45am 4/8 (ARC). There were also three 12.30–1.00pm 17/7 Southampton Common old cemetery. [All to pheromones.]

Lozotaenia forsterana Chandler’s Ford 14/6 (KJP)

Acleris cristana Chandler’s Ford 4/4 (KJP)

Celypha cespitana 29/7 (PB). [A local species.]

Gypsonoma sociana Whiteley 21/6 (PB) [A local species.]

Ancyliis unguicella a heathland species 19/7 (PB)

Enarmonia formosana 11/7 (PB)

Pammene aurana a very local species found on Hogweed blooms by PB in Southampton Old Cemetery on 7/7

Rhyacionia pinicolana Chandler’s Ford 15/7 (KJP)

Crambus hamella new to Sholing on 31/8 (ARC).

[There is only one other recent VC11 record outside of the New Forest.]

Agriphila selasella new to Sholing on 3/9 (ARC)

Catoptria falsella a rather uncommon species, recorded for the first time by ARC on 20/6

European Corn-borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*) three between 14/7 and 30/7 (ARC)

Meal Moth (*Pyralis farinalis*) one on 18/6 (ARC)

Cryptoblabes bistriga one on 14/6 (ARC).

Conobathra repandana an oak species. ARC recorded his first on 23/7

Dioryctria abietella ARC recorded his first at Sholing on 28/7. The large size of this specimen suggests it may have been a migrant.

Oak Eggar (*Lasiocampa trifolii*) Lakeside CP 1/8 (PB)

Yellow Horned (*Achlya flavicornis*) new to Chandler’s Ford garden 8/3 (KJP)

Balsam Carpet (*Xanthorhoe biriviata*) one on 20/7 (ARC)

[The second Southampton record of this species which may be spreading down the Itchen Valley.]

The Streamer (*Anticlea derivata*) Chandler's Ford 22/3 and 3/4 (ALB), single 25/4 (ARC)

Cypress Carpet (*Thera cupressata*) increasing steadily, ARC recorded six between 13/6 and 23/6 and two on 30/10

Scallop Shell (*Rheumaptera undulata*) one on 7/7 was the first recorded by ARC in Southampton

Plain Pug (*Eupithecia simpliciata*) largely coastal but reported from Chandler's Ford 6/8 and 12/8 (KJP)

Black-streaked Pug (*Eupithecia phoeniceata*) nineteen records from 7/8 (ARC) [compares with ten in 2001]

Scorched Wing (*Plagodis pulveraria*) one at Chandler's Ford 31/5 (ALB) and recorded new to Chandler's Ford garden on 20/6 (KJP)
Also reported from Otterbourne on 8/6 and 9/6 (MAG)

August Thorn (*Ennomos quercinaria*) new to PB's garden 5/8

Dusky Thorn (*Ennomos fuscantaria*) singles 5/9 and 1/10 (ARC)

The Engrailed (*Ectropis bistortata*) two from 28/7 (ARC)

Barred Red (*Hylaea fasciaria*) single 30/6 (ARC)

Pine Hawk-moth (*Hyloicus pinastrī*) two from 29/6 (ARC)
Also, one at Southampton General Hospital 29/7

Eyed Hawk-moth (*Smerinthus ocellata*) two from 21/5 (ARC) larva reported in the garden on 13/8 at Bitterne Way (MS)

Elephant Hawk-moth (*Deilephila elpenor*) 107 from 14/6
[By far the highest single-year count for any hawk species recorded by ARC in fifteen years of moth trapping.] [See coloured pages.]

Small elephant Hawk-moth (*Deilephila porcellus*) single on 28/7 (ARC)

Lobster Moth (*Stauropus fagi*) three, Otterbourne 9/6 (MAG)

Great Prominent (*Peridea anceps*) Chandler's Ford 10/5 (KJP)

Cream-spot Tiger (*Arctia villica*) one 24/5 (ARC)
[This is the first Southampton area record and arrived during strong south-westerly winds and rain so was presumably pushed in from the south-western Hampshire coast.]

Ingrailed Clay (*Diarsia mendica*) three, Otterbourne 8/6 (MAG) and an extremely unusual second brood example on the late date of 29/10 in Chandler's Ford (KJP).

Dotted Clay (*Xestia baja*) ARC recorded his first on 31/7.
[This local species favours heathland.]

The Champion (*Hadena rivularis*) first for the garden on 24/7 (PB)
[Scarce in the Southampton area.]

Tawny Shears (*Hadena perplexa*) Warsash 26/8 (PB)

White-L Wainscot (*Mythimna l-album*) single 14/9 (ARC)

The Mullein (*Shargacucullia verbasci*) larvae reported by PB at Silverdale Road, 2/6 and by MS at Bitterne Way on 12/6 [See coloured pages.]

Feathered Ranunculus (*Eumichtis lichenea*) five from 1/10 (ARC)

The Suspected (*Parastichtis suspecta*) single 28/6 (ARC)

The Coronet (*Craniophora ligustri*) two from 7/8 (ARC)

Old Lady (*Mormo maura*) six from 17/7 (ARC)

Double Kidney (*Ipimorpha retusa*) single 6/8 (ARC)

The Olive (*Ipimorpha subtusa*) single 25/7 (ARC)

Small Clouded Brindle (*Apamea unanimitis*) PB recorded his first since 1987 on 13/6

Dusky Sallow (*Eremobia ochroleuca*) singles 24/7 and 28/7 (ARC)

Small Yellow Underwing (*Panemeria tenebrata*) Itchen Valley CP 25/5 and Manor Farm CP on 23/5 (PB)

Gold Spot (*Plusia festucae*) single 7/8 (ARC) and one at Titchfield 21/8 (PB)

Buttoned Snout (*Hypena rostralis*) single 14/6 (ARC)

Migrant Moths

Diamond-backed moth (*Plutella xylostella*) total of 126 between 21/5 and 9/11, peaks were 23 on 7/8 and 25 on 14/9 (ARC)
[There were 33 in 2001 and 93 in 2000.]

Rusty Dot Pearl (*Udea ferrugalis*) nineteen recorded from 26/6 (ARC)
[There were five in 2001 and 52 in 2000.]

Rush Veneer (*Nomophila noctuella*) fifteen from 14/6 (ARC).
[There were none in 2001 and 294 in 2000.]

The Vestal (*Rhodometra sacrararia*) Manor Farm CP 23/5 (PB)

The Gem (*Orthonama obstipata*) singles 6/9 (male) and 2/11 (ARC)

Hummingbird Hawk (*Macroglossum stellatarum*) The first for very many years at Otterbourne, on Red Valerian, on 15/6 and 16/6 (MAG); single on 4/8 to buddlea at 8.00pm (ARC)

Striped Hawk-moth (*Hyles livornica*) one recorded by ARC on 14/6: found resting on the edge of the moth trap at 3.15am
[A spectacular and rare migrant from southern Europe or north Africa. There were more than 50 records in the UK in spring and early summer 2002. This is the first Southampton City record.]

Dark Sword-grass (*Agrotis ipsilon*) singles 18/5 and 20/8 (ARC) [There were five in 2001.] KJP recorded one on 20/10 at Chandler's Ford.

Pearly Underwing (*Peridroma saucia*) one only 9/11 (ARC)

White-point (*Mythimna albipuncta*) singles 21/8, 22/8 and 28/8. [There were also three in 2001 (ARC).] Two at Warsash on 26/8 (PB)

Bordered Straw (*Heliothis peltigera*) singles 23/5 and 4/10 (ARC)

Silver Y (*Autographa gamma*) one 18/5 Dibden Purlieu (RS) Recorded from 18/5 (ARC), a total of 133. The peak was 18 on 31/7 (ARC).
[There were 113 in 2001 and 256 in 2000.]

DIPTERA (Flies)

Bombylius major (a bee-fly) from 30/3 in PB's Bitterne garden and Lordsdale Greenway on 3/4 (ARC)

Conops quadrifasciata (a conopid or thick-headed fly) Holly Hill Park 1/6 (PB)

Deer-fly (*Lipoptena cervi*) Berry Copse, Funtley 24/10 (PB)

Drone-fly (*Eristalis tenax*) (a hover-fly), first of the year 16/2 in PB's Bitterne garden (PB)

Marmalade Fly (*Episyrphus balteatus*) (a hover-fly), a very early record from Peewit Hill by PB on 28/1

Stratiomys furcata (a soldier-fly) Pudbrook Lake Meadow 14/6 (PB)

[This is an uncommon species.]

HYMENOPTERA (Wasps and Allies)

Chrysis ignita (a ruby-tailed wasp) Manor Farm CP 10/7 (PB)

Hornet (*Vespa crabro*) ARC recorded his first garden examples in Sholing 4/9 and 2/10. These were found in the moth trap. There was also one on Buddleia 5/10.

Pharaoh's Ant (*Monomorium pharaonis*) one seen in PB's Bitterne garden 4/5
[Native to Africa, now a pest species, usually in heated buildings.]

COLEOPTERA (Beetles)

Adrastus pallens (a click beetle) St Mary's Wood, Netley and Holly Hill Park 1/6 (PB)

Adonis' Ladybird (*Adonia variegata*) two in *Atriplex* at Lee on Solent 12/9 (PB)

Anthrenus fuscus (a carpet beetle) Pudbrook Lake Meadow, Botley 14/6 (PB)

Chrysomela populi (a leaf beetle) Gull Coppice, Whiteley 10/10 (PB)

Axinotarsus pulicarius (a flower beetle) Pudbrook Lake Meadow 15/7 (PB)
[This is a scarce species, largely restricted to the South-East of Britain.]

Black-headed Cardinal (*Pyrochroa coccinea*) Southampton Common 2/6 (PB)
[This species is usually only seen in the New Forest.]

Cantharis fusca (a soldier beetle) Southampton Common 2/6 (PB)
[Although quite common, this species is not often seen.]

Carabus nemoralis (a ground beetle) Bishops Waltham Moors 30/11 (PB)

Glow-worm (*Lampyris noctiluca*) Hackett's Marsh between 24/6 and 25/9 (JH), with a maximum of 39 on 12/7. Also reported (for the first time) from Hamble Common (four in July, ten in August). Three sites around the Common held insects (SM).

Metoecus paradoxus an uncommon wasp parasite seen at MV light on 21/8 at Little Oak, Titchfield (PB) [See coloured pages.]

Notaris acridulus (a weevil) PB Pudbrook Lake Meadow 14/6 (PB)
[Regarded as generally quite common in marshy localities.]

Omius mollinus (a weevil) Pudbrook Lake Meadow 14/6 (PB)

Pileostoma fastuosa (a leaf beetle), a rare but increasing species (on Fleabane) Pudbrook Lake Meadow 14/6 and Lakeside CP 8/8 (PB)

Rhynchites cupreus (a weevil) Lakeside CP (from Rowan berries) 8/8 (PB)

Sciaphilus asperatus (a weevil) Pudbrook Lake Meadow 14/6 (PB)

Sitonia striatellus (a weevil) RVCP 19/7 (PB)

Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) an unusual winter record at Regent's Park, Southampton on 15/2 (RC). In the spring the first record was on 16/5 in Bitterne garden (PB). Other first records were 13/6 at Chandler's Ford (KJP) and 14/6 at Dibden Purlieu (RS).

Staphylinus caesareus (a rove beetle) Itchen Valley CP 26/5 (PB)
[This impressive species is rare in Britain.]

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Common Frog first pairing 26/1 and first spawn 14/2 in Bitterne garden (PB). Hatching from 10/3. PB also recorded spawn from Peewit Hill on the early date of 3/2. The recording highlight of the year was of a frog arriving down the chimney at PB's house in Bitterne 25/10!

Bullfrog (*Rana catesbeiana*) one at Lakeside CP 16/8, removed and taken into captivity (JP).

[This introduced (North American) species bred in England for the first time in 1999. There is some concern that this large predatory species might become established.]

Great-crested Newt one Emer Bog 21/9 (PB)

Palmate Newt bred in garden at Chandler's Ford (KJP). Four in Bitterne garden 4/4 (PB). One at Westwood 21/5 (ARC).

Smooth Newt one in Bitterne garden 23/3 (PB). Two Sholing Valleys Study Centre 12/5 (ARC)

Slow worm Thornhill 15/8 (BT)

Red-eared Terrapin three Miller's Pond 12/5 (ARC)

BIRDS

Garden bird records

Kingfisher was a very good garden record at Chandler's Ford 18/6 and on seven dates 29/11–15/12 (KJP). **Sparrowhawk**, **Pheasant** and **Treecreeper** were also new to the garden (KJP). CO reported a Sparrowhawk taking a bird near the feeder in Rownhams 9/7. RS had several exciting garden records at Dibden Purlieu, including **Hobby** 14/7 and 8/9, **Crossbill** 29/8, **Honey Buzzard** overhead 2/9, **Spotted Flycatcher** 2/9, **Woodlark** (three to south) 30/9. A pair of wintering **Blackcap** were present at Chandler's Ford 15/11–20/12 (KJP), a male and female were reported by ALB in January (Chandler's Ford), and up to two males were reported at Rownhams in January–February and one female in November (CO). **Brambling** are exciting garden birds and CO reported good numbers in the early part of the year from Rownhams (eighteen records in March and eleven in May). CO reported both **Green** and **Great Spotted Woodpeckers** in the garden at Rownhams, including at least two families of the latter with two juveniles in each. A pair of **Long-tailed Tit** was noted feeding on peanuts at Rownhams by CO between January and April. CO reported **Siskin** in all months except June and August to October. (See coloured pages.) This included one juvenile in July. ALB reported a maximum of two Siskin, 23/2–17/3. RS recorded Siskin on four dates in June at Dibden Purlieu and PB recorded two 12/3. CO reported both **Blackbird** and **Starling** feeding on slugs (which were present in large numbers) during the summer. PB recorded the worst year ever for Starling at Bitterne, but large increases (over 2001) in **Jay** and **Green** and **Great Spotted Woodpeckers**. PB also recorded **Mute Swan** over 27/3, **Chiffchaff** from 23/3, **Swallow** from 14/4, and twenty **Fieldfare** north-west overhead 3/12. ARC reported **Whimbrel** over Sholing garden 10/5 at 8.00 pm and **Redwing** (ten plus) over from 7/10.

Other records from Southampton and area

Red-throated Diver singles, Weston Shore 10/2 and 17/11 (ARC)

Great Northern Diver one Warsash 9/2, one Lepe 23/11 (ARC)

Red-necked Grebe one Weston Shore 28/12 (ARC). This bird stayed into 2003.

Slavonian Grebe one Weston Shore 14/12 (ARC)

Little Grebe pair bred at Southampton Common for second year (PB)

Little Egret recorded on the Itchen between Northam and Horseshoe Bridge in May, July, September and October (JS). Recorded at Weston Shore in March, April, November, December in small numbers (ARC).

Shelduck a pair recorded between 27/2 and 12/6 on the Itchen between Northam and Horseshoe Bridges (JS)

Common Scoter a male at Weston Shore 21/2 (ARC)

Red-breasted Merganser poor numbers reported on the Itchen: a maximum of four 25/1 (JS). Maximum of fifteen off Weston Shore 9/3 (ARC).

Buzzard now regularly seen in the area, particularly south-east of the City. One over the Hawthorns, 25/9 (HWC). One north-east over St Mary's, Northam on 5/10 (RS). Two Westwood 20/4 (ARC).

Merlin One north over A326 at Totton 4/3 (RS)

Peregrine Two over Town Quay 15/10 and one there 22/10 had made a Feral Pigeon kill (RS). One female at Cheesefoot Head 15/12 (PB). Regularly seen Vospers, Woolston (for example, 12/1 and 7/10, ARC).

Avocet a pair bred in the Warsash area, the first breeding for Hampshire [See separate report.]

Ringed Plover Twenty Weston Shore 14/12 (ARC)

Common Sandpiper between Northam and Horseshoe Bridges recorded 12/3 and regularly from 7/8 with two on 28/11. Probably two birds overwintering, one by Horseshoe Bridge and one by Meridian (JS).

Herring Gull a striking leucistic adult, Itchen area 9/4–14/4 (ARC), also reported on 17/6 between Northam and Horseshoe Bridges (JS)

Mediterranean Gull Weston Shore an adult summer 10/2–16/2; three adults 23/2–1/3; two adults 2/3–8/3; first winter 13/4–14/4 (ARC)

Iceland Gull beautiful second winter bird Weston Shore 10/2–9/3 (ARC, PB)

Guillemot Weston Shore 3/2 (2), 9/3 (1), 16/11 (1), 17/11 (1) (ARC)

Razorbill Weston Shore 24/2 (2), 1/3 (1), 9/3 (1) (ARC)

Barn Owl a pair bred in the nest box at Westwood (ARC)

Turtle Dove singing bird at Swanwick Reserve 29/6 (ARC)

Black Redstart one Magdalen Hill Down 9/4 (RS)

Redstart PB recorded his first at Magdalen Hill Down 28/8. Singles on 8/9 and 10/9 at the Hawthorns (HWC)

Wheatear two Warsash 16/3 (ARC)

Whinchat one, very late at Stubbington (north of Swordfish Pub) 18/11 (PB)

Reed Warbler singles Hawthorns, Southampton Common 18/8, 20/9 (HWC)

Dartford Warbler one plus Hamble Common 23/6 (ARC)

Chiffchaff one Woolston 12/1 (ARC)

Firecrest one in the garden at Regent's Park 14/4 (RC). Singles 26/9 and 27/9 at the Hawthorns (HWC). One singing at Warsash on 25/5 (ARC).

Spotted Flycatcher single at the Hawthorns 4/9 (HWC)

Crossbill nine over 3/9 and two over 5/9, at the Hawthorns, Southampton Common (HWC). Twenty east at Furzley Common 31/8 (PB).

Redpoll Peewit Hill 3/2 and 9/3 (PB)

MAMMALS

Brown Rat six Southampton Cemetery 28/12, including two partial albino (PB)
Fox PB recorded his first in the area, since the outbreak of the mange, 30/11 at
Bishop's Waltham Moors.

Harvest Mouse one in Longworth trap at Itchen Valley CP 21/9 (JP).
[Also caught were two **Common Shrew** and one **Field Vole**.]

Common Shrew February at Highfield (VB)

Hedgehog a late wanderer 21/11 at Thornhill (BT)

Pipistrelle Bat (sp.) the second earliest record by PB at Bitterne 26/2

Serotine Bat Whiteley 21/6 (PB)

Roe Deer seven Allington Lane (field near railway bridge) 16/2 and eight 2/3
(PB). At Warsash 26/5 ARC noted a doe persistently chasing a Fox! More
Roe Deer fun was noted by ARC at Warsash 9/5 when a doe entered
Southampton Water (at 6.15am) and began swimming straight out. After 5
minutes of strong swimming (and before reaching the main shipping lane)
the deer turned back and emerged from the water in the same place at
6.30am!

Water Vole near St Cross Hospital, Winchester 21/2 and 2/3 (PB)

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