



Southampton Natural History Society
ANNUAL REPORT
2004

**SOUTHAMPTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY
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Chairman's Comments

2004 was the most active year for the Southampton Natural History Society for a very long time. The highlight was without doubt the Chris Packham talk at the Avenue Campus on 25th June. A close second to this was the successful bid for funding of several activities through the Awards For All scheme. This funding, which was received in the spring, is being used (amongst other things) to help fund a ladybird survey and two workshops. The first of these two workshops was run at the Testwood Centre on 26th September and the second is (at the time of writing) being planned for the same venue on 12th February 2005. We didn't neglect our traditional 'bread and butter' activities, however. We held twenty-four 'normal' Field Meetings and the usual seven Indoor Meetings.

Our membership finally exceeded 100 and (at the time of writing) a quick head count revealed that our membership had reached 112. Our Chris Packham talk was very productive in this regard as we gained seven members on that night alone. Sadly one of our most active members in the last twenty-five years, Chris Boulton, passed away on 17th May.

Our committee remained stable with no changes through the year. The Southampton Wildlife Link, our sub-committee, continued to function well and saw a welcome increase in representation. We again produced a multi-coloured Annual Report and have finally given most of the copies a good home. In the summer we launched our new Membership Forms after working on them for over a year. Ten boxes of them are gradually being distributed far and wide.

Our traditional recording of flora and fauna continues as before and this is being boosted by our society website, which is functioning well and has received over 3000 'hits' but we are slowly becoming aware of the limitations of the Communigate set-up. Project work is very much to the fore, with projects being carried out by individual members (e.g. on crayfish in the New Forest), by The Link (e.g. churchyard and allotment surveys), and by the membership as a whole (e.g. the ladybird survey). Also, we hope to write up the dragonfly survey early in 2005 and to launch a new survey project, perhaps on the subject of shield bugs. Our ladybird survey has also been extended beyond its original remit by the launch of a special survey package for children's groups (also funded by Awards For All).

As far as wildlife is concerned, the trend towards a more Mediterranean style of climate seems to be continuing. The summer, although warm, was rather wetter than we would have liked. However, this fostered an excellent autumn fungus season. Earlier in the year yet another mild winter led to another early spring.

One other feature of the wildlife scene has been our awareness of the colonisation of nearby coastal areas, especially around Gosport and Bournemouth, of warm climate flora, Bryophytes, insects and reptiles. We hope to explore this phenomenon in some of our Field Meetings in 2005.

In a broader context there are still many concerns about the impact of man's industrial activities on the environment of the world, but the jury still seems to be out on whether so-called 'global-warming' is an effect of this or just a coincidence. One potentially very bright note, depending on one's point of view, was the shelving of plans to build a new port at Dibden Bay.

Phil Budd

Southampton Wildlife Link

The Southampton Wildlife Link (SWL) continued to meet at the Sholing Valley Study Centre, courtesy of the Sholing Valley Study Centre (SVSC) Association. The SWL met here on five occasions during 2004: 2nd February, 5th April, 5th July, 6th September and 1st November.

The other organisations, which currently send representatives to the SWL meetings, are the Hawthorns Wildlife Association (HWA), Sholing Environmental Group (SEG) and the Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society (SCPPS). The Percy Road Residents Association is also a member but have not, as yet, sent any representatives to the meetings. The SWL has links to the city council via Ian Barker, the City Ecologist. John Poland, and Jan Schubert (Secretary), represent the SNHS on The Link. At our meeting on 5th July I was voted as Chairman of The Link for another year. Since the move to the SVSC in summer 2003 several new representatives have sat at the meetings including Jean Velecky (SCPPS), John Vetterlein (HWA) and both Mary Carnegie and Liz Bushnell (SEG).

SWL members have worked on three projects during 2004. Our butterfly transect continued for a second year, with the monitoring equally shared between Peter Burford and myself. The allotment survey has continued and at the time of writing (December 2004) work is about to begin on the final report on our findings in the twenty-three surviving allotment gardens in Southampton. Survey work has commenced on a survey of the cemeteries and churchyards in Southampton, several of which contain interesting relic habitats. We have surveyed the vascular flora, Bryophytes and fungi of the burial grounds. Further work is planned in 2005.

We continue to monitor planning applications, and other issues, which affect the greenways and open spaces of the city. We are working mainly with the city ecologist in this regard. Issues which we have been following through the year,

include the redevelopment of Vospers site at Woolston, the redevelopment of the St Clement's Church site at Regents Park, plans to build on the playing field at Thornhill Primary School (a major site for orchids), development plans at South Stoneham House and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust initiative regarding the Itchen Navigation. SWL representatives have also assisted the SEG with a project to develop Sholing Village Green at South East Road. We were delighted in the summer when the ABP plans to create a new port at Dibden Bay were overturned by the Government.

Phil Budd

Membership Secretary's Report

I am delighted to report that our efforts at publicising the Society to as many people as possible is proving a success and in the past year we have pleasure in welcoming 24 new members: Lesley Akhurst, Mary Carnegie, Eric Clements, Jane Cotton, Ron Dillury, Michael Doyle, Brian and Lynda Elstone, Alan Gilbert, Julie Giles, Joanna Haigh, Kay Harman, Vernon and Anthea Jones, Alan Moore, Darren Naish, Rose Nicole, Sholing Environment Group, Mr & Mrs Shorter, John Vetterlein, Imelda Wainwright, Julia Wetherall, Gwendoline Willis. This brings the total number of members to 109.

Barbara Thomas

Field Meetings

Twenty-four Field Meetings were held during the course of 2004. The Field Meetings continued to be advertised on our web site and the traditional coloured cards as well as more widely.

As usual we held a wide variety of events: five bird watches, three botanical forays, six insect 'forays', three fungus forays, two lichen and Bryophyte forays, two miscellaneous autumn events, three general wildlife events and one coach trip. Most of our Field Meetings were Southampton Natural History Society only events, although many were advertised more widely. We held joint meetings with the Hawthorns Wildlife Association (HWA, 4), Hampshire Ornithological Society (2), Hampshire County Council (HCC) West Wood Team (2) and Butterfly Conservation (BC, 2).

The leaders for the meetings were Chris Oliver, Andy Collins, Gerry Wilding, HWA committee members and myself. We could still do with more people to lead meetings as I am still running too many. However, we have some fresh leaders lined up for 2005. We also thanked John Horne for permission to search for Glow-worms at Old Bursledon, Fran (our guide at Woodmill Salmon Pools) and

HCC countryside rangers Alex Watts (West Wood) and Pete Potts (The Moors, Bishops Waltham) for their co-operation with our Field Meetings programme.

Attendances (of SNHS members only) at our Field Meetings averaged seven to twelve and ranged from zero (at Titchfield Haven bird watch) to thirteen (at Woodmill Salmon Pools). However, the general attendance at two fungus forays were about thirty-five (The Moors, Bishops Waltham) and about fifty (Southampton Common—far too many!). Joint meetings were generally very successful except that at the two Butterfly Conservation events (West Wood butterflies and Peartree Green moths) no BC members could be found other than those already members of our society!

We were less fortunate with the weather than in 2003. On eleven meetings the weather was mostly clear (Peartree Green moths) or sunny. Overcast, but dry conditions were experienced on eight other occasions. We suffered two real soakings (but carried on regardless at Nursling and Townhill Park). One other meeting was cut short by light rain (Boundway Hill) and another affected by heavy showers (Pigbush). The summer was not a scorcher and there were no cases of sunstroke or heat exhaustion! We did experience one bitterly cold winter meeting (at Half Moon Common).

There were five all-day events, seven morning excursions, nine afternoon events and three evening/night meetings. We didn't get anyone out of bed too early in 2004! Apart from the coach trip to Westonbirt, all of our Field Meetings took place in Hampshire. Thirteen of our excursions took place in the Southampton area, between the River Hamble and the River Test. Other destinations were New Forest (5), North-West Hampshire (1—Danebury) and South-East Hampshire (4).

The findings at all of our meetings were recorded and full lists are available from the Recording Officer or myself. Some of the more interesting records are highlighted in the systematic records or appear in the list of events below.

January: Shatterford and Denny Wood, 10th: A group of seven saw nineteen species of fungi, three species of self-sown conifer and twenty-one species of birds. The mild weather had enticed a Dartford Warbler to sing.

February: Rans Wood & Furzey Lodge, New Forest, 8th: Eleven members enjoyed a sunny morning in the New Forest and were surprised to see a Painted Lady butterfly. We also identified fifteen species each of lichens and Bryophytes. **Black Hill and Half-moon Common, 28th:** A very chilly third visit to the New Forest this year. Eight members found seven species of fungi, sixteen species of lichen and eighteen species of heath land mosses and liverworts.

March: Corhampton Forest, 27th: The highlight of this early spring stroll, for the ten members present, was a rare sighting of a pair of boxing hares. We also recorded twenty-seven species of birds and twenty-one species of plant in flower.

April: Home Covert, Nursling, 18th: I stood in for Greg Alexander and decided to explore the old oak wood of Home Covert. Eight members braved a steady soaking but found twenty-nine plants in bloom, including naturalised Summer Snowflake and ten spikes of Early Purple Orchid. We also witnessed a House Sparrow boxing match! **Bassett Wood and Daisy Dip, 24th:** A very sunny afternoon walk enjoyed by ten members to an overlooked locality. Although we found thirty-four flowering plants (including Solomon's Seal) and seven species of butterfly the highlight was the Hummingbird Hawk moth at Daisy Dip.

May: Corhampton Forest (second visit), 2nd: A joint meeting with the Hampshire Ornithological Society attended by eleven people. Spring sunshine brought fifty-four flowers, thirty-three birds, eight species of butterfly and many insects. The highlights were the morels *Mitrophora semilibera* and *Verpa conica* at Sailor's Lane plus Wood Warbler singing in King's Copse. **Southampton Old Cemetery, 9th:** Ten members joint the two leaders on our first ladybird foray. Five species of ladybird and many other insects found despite the dull weather. There were also some fungi including out-of-season Parrot Waxcaps. **Danebury Hill, 22nd:** A group of eleven enjoyed a fine National Moth Day at this fine chalk land site. We failed to see any bee hawk moths but did find seven species of moth, twelve species of butterfly and ten species of bird including Spotted Flycatcher.

June: Westonbirt Arboretum coach trip, 5th: A dry and warm early June day for the two-hour coach trip to Gloucestershire. As well as the vast collection of trees and sculptures the limestone grasslands and woodland glades produced Greater Butterfly Orchids and eight butterfly species, including Small Blue. **Boundway Hill, Sway, 26th:** Before the cool drizzle became too unpleasant nine members guided by Gerry Wilding were shown the flora of the alkaline bogs. The orchids included Fragrant Orchid and Marsh Helleborine. The Lesser Butterfly Orchids were over. A brave Meadow Brown was on the wing!

July: West Wood and Grange Fields, Netley, 4th: Dull weather again, but the group of five found a butterfly species each plus the larva of Common Blue. Also the large, bronze leaf beetle *Chrysolina banksii* and a good display of Yellow Bartsia this year. **Old Bursledon Nature Haven, 9th:** Despite another cool evening there were fifteen Glow-worms on show for the twelve members who turned up. Also an interesting moth, the Webb's Wainscot, was sighted before it became too dark. **Woodmill Salmon Pools, 19th:** I was most grateful that Chris Oliver was able to

stand in for this meeting and guide the thirteen members who came along. Highlights included a late-flying Green-veined White and a Kingfisher.

August: Peartree Green, 7th: Twelve members enjoyed a warm, humid evening ideal for the forty-nine species of moth and many other insects that turned up. Two moth lamps were run at the south end of the green. Saltern Ear and Silky Wainscot were the best moths. **Netley Common, 22nd:** Our second ladybird identification session of the year. Only a small group despite the warm weather but five ladybird species recorded. There were other interesting insects, such as Lesser Cockroach and Pine-cone Bug.

September: Titchfield Haven, 4th: Chris Oliver was on her own for this one. This was sad but not for Chris didn't mind. She logged thirty-two species of birds including Marsh Harrier and Peregrine. There were also five species of butterfly including Clouded Yellow. **Pigbush, New Forest, 12th:** Gerry Wilding took a group of eight for a New Forest stroll. Gerry showed us Marsh Gentians and Coral Necklace as promised. The wet weather encouraged twenty-eight species of fungi including the rare Nail Fungus.

October: Southampton Common, 3rd: A group of ten just got back before the rain and found six species of gall on Oak plus another on thistle. However, they were all mystified by an unidentified jelly like substance under some holly leaves. **West Wood, Netley, 17th:** A crowd of twenty-two (including ten SNHS members) were shown what to eat in the woods by ranger Alex Watts. At the same time I showed them what not to eat and identified fifty-nine species of fungi. **Townhill Park, 23rd:** Probably the wettest SNHS meeting ever but four members still sloshed around the relatively sheltered ground of The Gregg School, rewarded by fifty-six species of fungi and some spectacular yellow leaf colour.

November: The Moors, Bishops Waltham, 14th: The fungi were well past its peak on this chilly late autumn afternoon but twenty-five species identified including the scarce autumn version of the St George's Mushroom known as *Calocybe leucocephala*. The large crowd included seven SNHS members. **Southampton Common Fungus Foray, 21st:** A dozen SHNS members were lost amongst a record crowd for this fourteen-year-old annual event. Thirty-two species of fungi included Jew's Ear on ivy, also a Song Thrush in song.

December: Hamble Area, 28th: A group of five enjoyed a crisp, sunny mid winter day and visited Hamble Common and Hamble Rail Trail. The group stopped to identify bare winter trees. Thirty-four bird species were seen, including Kingfisher and Dartford Warbler.

September Workshop

On Sunday **26th September** the first of two identification workshops took place at the Testwood Centre at Totton. The event was organised by John Poland and was attended by about thirty delegates from as far away as Surrey. Amongst the delegates were representatives of other bodies such as the Hampshire Biodiversity Centre and the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. Four workshop sessions were held in total. In the morning there were simultaneous sessions on fungi identification (by myself) on leaf-mining moths by lepidopterist David Green. In the afternoon we convened to look at either ladybirds with Andy Collins or the identification of flowering plants by using vegetative features with John Poland. There was also a buffet lunch arranged by Jan Kidd.

I would like to thank all leaders, landowners and the people involved in the September Workshop for making the 2004 Field Meetings programme such a success.

Phil Budd

Indoor Meetings

We held our usual quota of seven Indoor Meetings through the year and it was our first full year at the Edmund Kell Hall in Bellevue Road. Attendances were encouraging, varying from nineteen to twenty-six. The highest turnout was for the meeting on **2nd March**. We held raffles at most of our meetings and Ted and Shirley Wills kindly organised the refreshments.

Our first meeting took place on **6th January**. Naomi Ewald, formerly of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust (HWT), gave a talk on biodiversity in Southampton, including a small quiz. A donation to the HWT was presented afterwards. Our next meeting on **3rd February** included a local history and natural history lecture about the former Hiltisbury Common and present Flexford HWT nature reserve, by Barbara Hillier of Chandler's Ford, who kindly offered to show us the area in a walk arranged for April 2005. The very popular meeting of **2nd March** included a Power Point presentation of the wildlife and cultural life of the Masai region of northern Tanzania. The speakers were Peter Burford's daughter Gemma and son-in-law Lesikar. Our AGM took place on **6th April**, and the business part of the meeting progressed smoothly. Following this there were brief slide presentations by Jim Earwood, Julie Watson, John Poland and myself. Keith Watson kindly stepped in to organise the raffle. The attendance was nineteen.

Our new winter programme began on **5th October**. A large attendance heard Chris Matcham of the HWT talk about mammal identification. Chris showed us both visual slides and also sound recordings, including the hair-raising calls of Sika Deer! There was a 90th birthday presentation, in her absence, to Mary Smith. Mary

was later presented with a signed card, flowers and framed pictures of local flora. Another well-attended meeting was held on **2nd November**. The lecture, by Andy Barker, was on a subject that we don't often cover. Andy showed many of his own pictures when he talked about the life of rocky shores and he particularly focused on the unexpected creatures to be found at low tide on some of our local shores, including Bembridge on the Isle of Wight. Finally, on **7th December** Peter Burford kindly presented his second lecture this year. This was a film show to blow away those winter blues. The subject was the wildlife of Trinidad in part 1 followed by Tobago in part 2.

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

Chris Packham Talk

In addition to our regular programme of winter talks we were able to organise a special, and very successful, event in the summer. TV personality and local naturalist Chris Packham kindly agreed to present a film show about his experiences as a naturalist over the years. This talk was entitled "Postcards from Paradise" and was held at the Avenue Campus of Southampton University on the evening of Friday **25th June**. We sold about ninety tickets, but made a very small financial loss on the event. However, we did gain lots of useful publicity and seven new members.

Phil Budd

My Experience with Otters

Chris Boulton

Chris Boulton died on 17th May at the age of 86 after a long illness. His obituary appeared in the Autumn 2004 newsletter. In his memory we here re-print part of one of his articles that first appeared in the 1989 Annual Report.

When people say to me "I've never seen an otter", I realise how fortunate I have been to have sighted them so many times.

In the mid-1940s, I used to see these fascinating creatures quite often on the rivers Itchen, Hamble and Meon. I have seen them hunting above Botley Mill in mid-afternoon, but most sightings were made very early in the morning, in late afternoon or after dark with a spotlight. I found, in every instance except one, that their travels were upstream in the evening and downstream in the morning.

When swimming, all that is visible is the nose, eyes, ears and the face fur. In other words, they swim very low in the water. I was once given a dead otter which I

examined and then skinned. I was intrigued by the perfect way nature had developed this creature for its way of life. Its feet are slightly webbed, its coat consists of three layers. Firstly, there are coarse guard hairs, then a second, denser coat and next to its thick, tough skin, a deep velvet-like undercoat which is perfectly watereproof and insulating. The teeth were very much like a cat's, the eyes were small for the size of this creature and the nose was quite large, with a slight flap which can be closed. The most important adaptation seemed to be the whiskers: these were very thick, long and tapered. Nerves at the base of these whiskers were very large and said by experts to be its main means of following fish by registering turbulence in murky or dark water.

An otter's body is perfectly streamlined and finished off by a very thick, tapered muscular tail, which helps it to turn quickly when hunting its prey. I have, when my hearing was acute, located a feeding otter by hearing the crunching bones and watched it feed very much like a cat by holding its head sideways, using its molar teeth. I think that the half-open mouth slightly amplified the crunching sound.

I have watched several bitches with cubs and there were always three youngsters except once on Avington Lake where a female was carrying a single cub. I was near enough to hear it squeak as she saw me and turned back. It was probably nipped by the mother in her anxiety. I have never heard a dog otter whistle as they are said to do as a mating call.

Otters totally ignore a spotlight and by this means I have seen them catch fish and eels, which are always eaten ashore. *Lutra* which means "wanderer", will eat river creatures of all kinds, from shrimp and crayfish to coarse and game fish and waterfowl. They are very partial to duck. One winter's night around 1950 and about 100 yards below Mansbridge, I heard a frantic quacking and flapping and there, in the spotlight beam, a Mallard drake was struggling for its life in mid-stream. An otter had grabbed it by one leg but failed to get a better grip, thereby losing its meal, for the frantic bird flew upstream and landed on the bank above me. I could see by my light that its leg was hanging off, so I gave it a sharp crack with my stick to put it out of pain. The otter had lost a meal, but I had gained one!

People say that otters are shy creatures: I do not agree. I have seen an otter fishing at Woodmill under a street lamp with traffic noise and people shouting and skylarking on the road alongside. Creatures ignore sounds that they regard as harmless. Otters are only sedentary when with cubs, at other times they would move from, say, the Itchen to the upper Hamble and Meon by following tributary streams and short cuts over land. I heard of two killed by traffic at Horton Heath where the map shows that two branch streams nearly meet, one from the Itchen and the other from the Hamble. This happened about forty years ago.

The Natural History of the Southbourne/Boscombe Cliffs

Phil Budd and Andy Collins

Located to the west of Christchurch are the remarkable undercliffs which extend from Southbourne at the eastern end towards Boscombe which is adjacent to Bournemouth. This area is special because it is unusually warm, the south-facing cliffs being fully sheltered from cold winds from the northern sector. In this respect they are similar to the undercliffs on the Isle of Wight (including, for example, areas such as Compton Chine) and also the cliffs further east into Hampshire, such as those at Milford on Sea.

Both of these areas famously have populations of the highly localised **Glanville Fritillary** butterfly, although the mainland colony is rather small. The Southbourne cliffs came to prominence recently as the first locality in Britain ever to have over-wintering **Clouded Yellow** butterfly (Skelton, 1999). We had gradually become accustomed during the 1990s to recording the **Red Admiral** butterfly during the winter months—successful over-wintering having been doubted or poorly documented prior to that decade. The evidence that the formerly relatively uncommon Clouded Yellow butterfly was also over-wintering was something of a revelation. Recently an account of Clouded Yellow over-wintering records in this area has been presented (Skelton, 2003).

It is thought that pockets of particularly warm micro-climate allow the butterfly larvae to gain maximum benefit from any winter sunshine. The unique warm micro-climate undoubtedly influences other aspects of the flora and fauna of this interesting area and there is a remarkable mix of introduced and establishing southern species as a result. The area could be regarded as being at the ‘front line’ in the process of global warming where certain species may be gaining a foothold in the country.

The area holds some remarkable reptiles in addition to butterflies and other unusual insect species and a fascinating introduced and naturally established flora. We here outline our recent observations in this interesting area and encourage other naturalists to explore these cliffs with an open mind, in the expectation of some unique discoveries.

Flora

The flora of this section of coastline is perhaps even more dramatic than the fauna. To say that the flora is sub-Mediterranean is perhaps being rather conservative. We have no particular knowledge of the potential for fungi, lichens or Myxomycetes in this area, but the best guess is that there are surprises in store.

Two particularly interesting Bryophytes, both liverworts, have recently been discovered. The pale green liverwort *Lophocolea semiteres*, from the southern Hemisphere, was found at Southbourne on 12/4/2004 by PB— it is the second record for mainland England and is previously known from the Isles of Scilly, Berkshire and Argyllshire. An even more exciting liverwort, called *Telaranea murphyae*, is now rampant in the sandy woodlands and under Rhododendron at Branksome Chine, Poole. This species was new to science when discovered at its two other known sites at Wisley, Surrey, and on Tresco (Isles of Scilly) and its native sites are unknown, but are thought to be somewhere in Portugal.

The sandy coastal cliffs all the way from the eastern end of Southbourne to East Cliff, Bournemouth are full of colour in the spring and early summer but tend to show a characteristic drying-off trend as the summer progresses such as is familiar in Mediterranean regions. Amongst familiar British coastal flora are **Thrift**, **Sea Campion**, **Storksbill**, **Tree Mallow**, **Sheep's-bit**, **Stinking Iris**, **Haresfoot Clover**, **Wallpepper** and **Bugloss**, but there are more exciting natives, such as **Suffocated** and **Clustered Clovers**, **Mossy Stonecrop**, **Hairy Bird's-foot Trefoil**, **Hoary Stock** and the **Small-flowered Catchfly** (colour page 1). The Catchfly has increased recently and is particularly common around Honeycombe Chine, Boscombe and at the central section of Southbourne Cliffs. Many exotic species from the foreign legion have become established and in various places can be found the likes of **Eastern Gladiolus**, **Seaside Daisy** (*Erigeron glaucus*), **Fragrant Evening Primrose**, **Treasure Flower** (*Gazania rigens*), **White Stonecrop**, **Rosy Garlic**, **Three-cornered Leek**, **Tree Lupin**, **Silver Ragwort**, shrubs such as **Rosemary**, **Bay Tree** and *Escallonia rubra*, and the autumn-flowering climber **Wire Plant** (*Muehlenbeckia complexa*) from New Zealand. Hundreds of globular heads of an oversized, but as yet unidentified, species of thrift can be seen above the East Cliff at Bournemouth—these flowers vary from purest white to deepest carmine pink and belong to a species close to the Portuguese **Estoril Thrift** (*Armeria pseudoameria*) (colour page 1). Earlier in the year (April) a particular fenced-off section of Southbourne Cliff sports a magnificent display of **Spring Starflower** (*Tristagma uniflora*) and the occasional **Hoop-petticoat Daffodil** (*Narcissus bulbocodium*) (colour page 1) amongst the **Pink Oxalis**, **Grape Hyacinth**, **larger Narcisii** and **Early Scurvey-grass**.

Even the grasses are unusual along these cliffs, with several alien bromes *Anisantha* species and the striking **Hare's-foot Grass** (*Lagurus ovatus*), **Sorghum halepense** and **Giant Quaking Grass** (*Briza maxima*) abundant locally.

Fauna

Perhaps the most prominent introduced species is the **Common Wall Lizard** (colour page 1). Although this lizard is found throughout southern Europe, it is considered to be introduced in the UK and there are other populations on the Isle of Wight (Ventnor) and Portland. Interestingly, different subspecies appear to have become established. Those on the Isle of Wight appear to be of an Italian subspecies, which is unusually bright green. Those at Portland seem to be rather brown and those at Southbourne are somewhat intermediate, having a rather green back. Compared to our **Common Lizard** the Wall Lizards are brighter and more mottled, with darker blotching below and particularly on the throat and also have longer toes and limbs adapted to clinging on walls. Interestingly, Skelton suggests that the establishment of the Clouded Yellow may be hindered by the actions of the predatory Wall Lizards, since they are very active in the early spring when the butterfly larvae are wandering to pupate. Alongside native **Sand Lizards**, which are also recorded, are large and striking **Green Lizards** (colour page 1).

ARC made several visits to this area during 2004. Although relatively few Clouded Yellow larvae appear to have successfully survived the 2003–2004 winter, two early emerging adults were seen on 25th of April. Numbers of other butterflies in this area are generally fairly low, although **Small Copper**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Brimstone** and **Red Admiral** are quite common.

Three paths down to the beach towards the Boscombe end are particularly productive. These are Gordon's Zigzag to the east, Fisherman's Walk slightly further west and Portman Ravine which is furthest west of the three. The last is by far the best location to observe the introduced Wall Lizards. About seven were seen on the April 2004 visit and at least fifteen in May. Remarkably, this species of lizard is active during mild days throughout the winter. Five were seen in Portman Ravine on 13th of November, a day on which the maximum daytime temperature was 9°C. Wall Lizards are most readily seen on the walls that line the path, particularly on the sunny but undisturbed wall faces (best seen by looking over the walls to see the opposite side). Although fairly shy, they are more easily watched than most specimens of the Common Lizard and one or two individuals allowed close observation. A single Green Lizard was seen here on several dates (April to August). This was a female, possibly immature, and was found in roughly the same location each time, sunning in the vegetation above the wall. This species is larger than the Wall Lizard and has distinctive black spotting alongside narrow pale stripes along the back. Although this individual was rather dull grey/green overall, the throat and upper belly were strikingly bright green.

This is a good area for shield bugs, with several species seen in 2004 (**Dock Bug**, **Bishop's Mitre**, **Forest Bug** and **Brassica Bug** — colour page 2). The last is very common on and around the base of crucifers along the cliffs. Many adults and nymphs were seen during the summer. The most remarkable shield bug record was of the striking red and black species *Eurydema dominulus*. Two were seen on crucifers on 25th April above Gordon's Steps. None were seen subsequently, despite searching. First recorded in Dorset in 1997, with few subsequent records, this species is clearly well worth looking for. This species is possibly a migrant and is more regularly recorded, but still infrequently, in Kent and East Sussex.

Amongst the other fauna of this are interesting invertebrates such as the **Wasp Spider** and the native **Tawny Cockroach**. A **Slow-worm** was also seen on the cliff tops in August. The gorse bushes are good for **Stonechats**, and the occasional **Dartford Warbler** and **Wheatears** are frequent on passage while **Sparrowhawks** patrol the cliffs.

Although this area is outside of our normal recording area, we will be very interested to receive all records of interesting and unusual species seen here.

References and further reading

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The Shieldbugs and Related Insects of the Southampton Area

Andy Collins and Phil Budd

Most observers will be familiar with two 'shieldbugs', namely the 'green one' (Green Shieldbug) which is very common in gardens and the 'brown one' (Dock Bug) which is common along hedgerows. The latter however, is actually not a shieldbug but is from a related group loosely called 'Squash' bugs. In addition to these there are many more species, several of which are not too difficult to find and have interesting and diverse biology.

Fortunately, in 2003 The Surrey Wildlife Trust published another volume in their excellent series of wildlife atlases entitled 'Shieldbugs of Surrey' (Hawkins, 2003). This provides an inexpensive guide to these species and is invaluable because

the standard text by Southwood and Leston (1959) is now largely unobtainable. This book describes about 46 species of shield and related bugs that have been recorded in Surrey along with many photographs and it also gives a key to all other British species.

Encouraged by this book we have reviewed SNHS records of these insects and took a particular interest in looking for these species during 2004. There are clearly many gaps in our records and there are few records of the smaller and more elusive species. However, many of the larger and more striking species are relatively easy to find in our area and it is hoped that the following account will stimulate interest.

These insects are particularly interesting because several are migrants and potential colonists. An examples is the striking red and black *Eurydema dominulus* found in 2004 near Bournemouth and perhaps on its way to becoming established, perhaps assisted by global warming. Other interesting species, some migrants included, might be found with a concentrated effort.

TRUE SHIELDBUGS

Family Acanthosomatidae

Hawthorn Shieldbug *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* (*)()(***)**

This is one of the largest shieldbugs for which Hawthorn is the main food plant, but it is also found on other members of the Rosaceae which have red/orange berries (Rowan, Firethorn, etc.). Adults may overwinter on evergreen plants. This bug is recorded as ubiquitous in Surrey and appears widespread in our area with records from Bitterne 9/4/1992, Lordsdale Greenway 11/5/2004 and 22/9/2004, Jurd's Lake 30/8/2004 and Testwood Lakes 26/9/2004.

Juniper Shieldbug *Cyphostethus tristriatus* (*)**

The history of this species is interesting because it was formerly found only on the declining Juniper trees on chalk downland and was very localised. However, it has made the switch to a new host plant, namely Cypress trees (*Chamaecyparis*), in particular the Lawson's Cypress which is commonly planted in gardens and also the Nootka Cypress. The first evidence of this came from specimens found on Nootka cypress in 1962. Today they are relatively easy to find on these trees. Most adults hibernate in the foliage of the host plants. This species is regarded as common, especially in suburban areas in Surrey. In our area recorded at Bishopstoke 16/2/1977, Old Winchester Hill 15/7/1998, on Western Red Cedar at Royal Victoria CP (RVCP) 15/5/2001, at Southampton Old Cemetery 7/3/2004 (on Sawara Cypress) and there 9/5/2004 and at St Marks, Woolston 30/7/2004. Also found at Exbury Gardens on Lawson's Cypress 9/10/2004. It is possible that this species is now

spreading to broad-leaved evergreens as one was beaten from Evergreen Oak at Highcliff 22/11/2004.

Birch Shieldbug *Elasmostethus interstinctus* (*)**

This bug is somewhat like a smaller version on the Hawthorn Shieldbug. It is closely associated with Birch, the principal food being the catkins of these trees. This species appears more regularly in moth traps (both mercury vapour and actinic) than other shieldbugs. The insects become very dark in the winter and may spend this period in the woodland ground layer. Common in Surrey and we have records from Bitterne 25/4/1984, Lordsdale Greenway 21/9/2004, 4 in a moth trap in Sholing 6/9/2004 followed a single there 28/8/2004.

Parent Bug *Elasmucha grisea* (*)()(***)**

This bug is remarkable in that the female sits on the batch of eggs and over the newly hatched nymphs to the first instar stage. This maternal behaviour has been known for 200 years and hence the common name. Well-grown nymphs also cluster together on Birch and Alder leaves. Common in Surrey and we have records from Lordsdale Greenway 16/6/2004 and 22/9/2004. About 20 nymphs were found clustered on 2–3 Birch leaves at Telegraph Woods, West End 10/7/2004. Also found at Testwood Lakes 26/9/2004 and a late record from Lords Hill 16/11/2004.

Family Cydnidae

Legnotus limbosus

This is a rather small shiny black species with a very narrow white edge to the forewings. It may be associated with Bedstraws (*Galium sp*) in sandy and/or coastal grasslands. It appears in hot, sunny weather in early summer. It is very local in Surrey, with most records obtained by sweeping low vegetation or finding bugs on the ground. It may be more common in southern Hampshire. We have one recent record from a garden lawn adjacent to Hound Bunney, Netley 14/5/2004.

Pied Shieldbug *Sehirus bicolor* (*)()**

This is an unmistakable species being boldly marked black and white. The food plant is White Deadnettle. Like the Parent Bug there is some maternal care up to the early nymphal stages. This bug can be difficult to observe except in fine warm weather because the adults burrow into the soil at the base of the food plant. Locally common in Surrey and recorded in our area at Testwood Park 25/5/1986, 6 were recorded on White Deadnettle at Alresford 10/4/1993 and found at Magdalen Hill Down 30/4/2000.

Negro Bug *Thyreocoris scarabaeoides* (*)()**

The smallest shieldbug found in Britain. A chalk downland species found on Violets. This bug is recorded as very local in Surrey. No records from our area.

Family Scutelleridae

European Tortoise Bug *Eurygaster maura* ()**

In Surrey this is a rare and declining chalk downland species which feeds on grasses. No records are known from our area.

Tortoise Bug *Eurygaster testudinaria* (*)()**

Difficult to separate from the preceding species but this species is far more common (local in Surrey but more common in the south and spreading north). Found in damp habitats on a variety of tall grasses and sedges and some herbaceous plants. There is one confirmed record from Rownhams Wood 25/7/1997 and unidentified *Eurygaster* species were at Southampton Common 11/9/1988 and Netley Common 30/7/1989.

Family Pentatomidae

Turtle Bug *Podops inuncta* (*)()**

A small, skulking, brown shieldbug which through a lens reveals its diagnostic feature of hooked shoulders (the front angles of the pronotum are drawn out into tiny hooks). A local species in Surrey found in a variety of habitats (moss, low herbage and grass tussocks), but often on south-facing slopes on chalk. Little is known of its food plants because of skulking habits. The closest record we have to Southampton is from the chalk at Porton Down 30/5/2004, when found in low herbaceous vegetation.

Nettiglossa pusilla

This is an unassuming, small, speckled, dull brown shieldbug species which is very local in Surrey and typically found by sweeping tall, damp acid grassland. It appears to be absent from the chalk. Despite its reported habitat preferences we have a record of one beaten from Scots Pine at Southampton Old Cemetery 4/8/2000.

Bishop's Mitre *Aelia acuminata* ()(***)**

This shieldbug has the best common name, because it resembles a ceremonial hat! Found on a variety of plants in grassy areas. It was also found on Scots Pine at Warsash 19/9/2004. In Surrey it is recorded increasingly commonly and it is very common in tall grassland around Southampton, including Peartree Green 7/8/2004. Other records are from Magdalen Hill Down 30/4/1993, Portsdown Hill 19/5/1993, Browndown 24/9/2004 and the Southbourne (Dorset) cliffs 28/8/2004.

Woundwort Bug *Eysarcoris fabricii* ()**

This is an attractive small purple and grey shieldbug. Found on Hedge Woundwort and Black Horehound. Common in Surrey and, in our area, several were swept from Woundwort during the Testwood Lakes workshop 26/9/2004. It is

particularly common in chalky areas and there are records from Noar Hill 30/3/1997 and Old Winchester Hill 9/5/1998.

Green Shieldbug *Palomena prasina* ()**

This is the most common shieldbug which is familiar to everyone. It is frequent in gardens often feeding on raspberries, runner beans and shrubs such as Buddleia. The adults darken to be completely brown from November and they overwinter in dead leaves. This bug has been recorded at many localities (and ubiquitous in Surrey) including Pigbush 27/8/1983, Coxford 3/6/1984. An early appearance 14/1/1996 at Noar Hill and a late record in Shirley 11/11/1991. In 2004 found at Swanwick 28/8, Itchen Valley CP (IVCP) 5/9, Lordsdale Greenway 22/9. Several were hibernating in leaves Buddleia plants into at least December 2004 in Sholing.

Sloe Bug *Dolycoris baccarum* ()(***)**

An attractive species found along roadsides and field edges where it feeds on many plants. Ironically, the Surrey survey showed absolutely no connection with sloes or blackthorn (although found on 55 other plants!). Common in Surrey and we have records from Allington Lane 25/8/1983, Otterbourne 13/8/1992, Bishop's Waltham 29/5/1993, Magdalen Hill Down 16/12/1998 and the Hamble Rail Trail 23/5/2004. Also found in 2004 at Martin Down 14/5, 27/6 and Danebury 22/5.

Gorse Shieldbug *Piezodorus lituratus* ()(***)**

This species is more appropriately named than the preceding species, being found on Gorse and also Broom and other plants. It shows some similarity to the Green Shieldbug. It is worth looking for at the base of Gorse flowers or stems on sunny days from March onwards. This species is common in Surrey and has been recorded in our area at Brockenhurst in 1972, Netley Common 30/7/1989, Lower Test Marshes 8/5/1992 and in the New Forest at Matley 3/6/2004.

Forest Bug *Pentatoma rufipes* (*)()(***)**

Found mainly on broad-leaved trees although nymphs were found on Scots Pine at Telegraph Woods 10/7/2004. This is one of the largest species and is unusual in that it overwinters as a small nymph high on the bark of forest trees. The bug is largely vegetarian feeding on sap in the spring but possibly also feeding on dead insects at certain times of the year. This bug is locally common in Surrey and apparently quite common in our area. It is often active at night and may come to moth lamps. Three were found on Birch on Southampton Common 13/7/1976 and also found there 8/9/2004. Other records at Testwood Lakes 26/9/2004 and found on the Southbourne Cliffs (Dorset) 4/9/2004. Like the Birch Shieldbug, this species often flies at night and comes to moth lamps.

Eurydema dominulus* (**)()**

This is a striking red and black shieldbug which lives on crucifers. There is only one 19th century Surrey record and its status as a resident species in England is in doubt. However, it has been recorded sporadically from Kent and East Sussex and in Dorset it was first recorded in 1997 (DERC newsletter for autumn/winter 2003 <http://www.derc.org.uk/news/newsletter.htm>). Although still rare this species may be spreading from the continent. Two were found in Dorset on crucifers on the cliff top at Gordon's Steps, Southbourne 25/4/2004. No records are currently known from our area, but clearly worth looking out for.

Brassica Bug *Eurydema oleracea* ()(***)**

Found on Horse-radish and other crucifers this species is very common on the Southbourne cliffs in Dorset, where it was found with the preceding species in 2004, from April onwards. Many nymphs were present here 28/8/2004. It is regarded as common in north and west Surrey but local nationally. There are several colour forms which have pale spots are white, yellow or red. No records are currently known from our area.

Spiked Shieldbug *Picromerus bidens* (*)()(***)**

This is a striking predatory shieldbug which is only local in Surrey. It lives in shrubby areas in heathland, chalk downs and marshy areas. Unusually it overwinters as an egg. The bug eats sawfly and moth larvae. It was swept from Heather at Roydon Common 1/9/1999 and also from Heather at St Catherine's Hill, Christchurch 25/9/2004, and found at Hannay Rise, Hightown 24/8/96.

Lurid Shieldbug *Troilus luridus* (*)**

This is the most common of the predatory shieldbugs. It has been called 'Stealthy Shieldbug' because its method of hunting involves stalking prey and gently inserting its rostrum through which its prey is sucked dry. The bug feeds on leaf beetles and also caterpillars. Found on broad-leaved trees generally. Common in Surrey and in our area recorded on oak at Ashurst 7/9/1957, at Lakeside CP 8/8/2002, Chandler's Ford 21/11/2002 and Swanwick 13/7/2004 (on a Sallow).

Blue Shieldbug *Zicrona caerulea* ()**

This is a predatory species of chalk downland, heathland and wet areas which is not often seen. It is wholly dark, metallic, greenish-blue in colour resembling some flea-beetles which form its main prey. It is reported as local in Surrey. We have records from Donkey Common, Bitterne 2/7/1982, Kite's Croft, Titchfield Common 22/3/2004. One was seen on the early date of 28/1/1999 at Magdalen Hill Down.

PART 2. RELATED BUGS

Family Coreidae (“Squash-bugs”)

Box Bug *Gonocerus acuteangulatus*

A formerly nationally endangered species which is now familiar over much of Surrey (status: increasingly common). This species, which seems to be spreading from Box bushes to other plants such as Hawthorn, is worth looking for in our area.

Dock Bug *Coreus marginatus* (*)()**

This bug is often seen in very large numbers along hedgerows, particularly, of course, on Dock plants (principally the Broad-leaved Dock). This is the ‘brown’ bug that we all know and is found throughout our area. Regarded as ubiquitous in Surrey and we have records from Maybush 1/5/1976, Otterbourne 2/9/1993 and Itchen Valley CP 5/9/2004 and there were 30 at Lordsdale Greenway 22/9/2004. A late record is from Lordsdale Greenway 12/11/2004. Also found commonly on the Southbourne (Dorset) cliffs.

***Syromastus rhombeus* (= *Verlusia rhombea*) (**)**

This bug is rare in Surrey and apparently declining. It has a distinctive flattened diamond-shaped abdomen but can be confused with preceding species. It has been found on sandy ground in association with plants such as Bladder Campion and may particularly favour coastal localities. The closest known location to Southampton in the Priddy’s Hard area of Gosport where it was seen in September 2004.

Toothbug *Coriomeris denticulatus* ()**

This species is local in Surrey but regarded as common nationally. This bug has a distinctive row of white spines along the sides of the pronotum and the whole insect is covered in bristly hairs. This bug is found on dry soils which are colonised by leguminous plants (particularly Medicks). In our general area the Toothbug has been recorded at Magdalen Hill Down 19/6/1998 and 16/12/1998. Found to be common at the Grange Fields (Netley) 28/5/2003 and recorded from Testwood Lakes during our workshop 26/9/2004.

Family Alydidae

***Alydus calcaratus* (*)(**)**

In Surrey this is a very local heathland species. This species is often seen as a black insect which shows a sudden flash of red on flying away. The nymphs strongly resemble ants and even live among them.

Family Rhopalidae

***Rhopalus subrufus* (*)(**)**

This bug is common in Surrey found on flowery banks and woodland margins. It is most common on the chalk where it likes grassy banks with a wide range of flowers (particularly Marjoram). However, in our area it appears to particularly favour pine/heathland habitats. This bug is active at night and may appear at moth lamps. We have records from Peewit Hill, Burseldon 15/3/1998, RVCP 4/9/2000, Netley Common 22/8/2004 and Chilworth Common 15/9/2004.

***Myrmus miriformis* (**)**

A pretty, long, narrow and often green-coloured bug that is local in Surrey and probably overlooked as it resembles species of the family Miridae. It favours dry grassland and is best found by sweeping grasses growing on acid soils. It is probably common in our area with records from RVCP 7/7/2000 and Southampton Old Cemetery 4/8/2000.

(*) **Illustrated in Chinery (1973).**

(**) **Illustrated in Chinery (1986).**

(***) **Illustrated on colour page 2.**

References

Chinery M (1973) *A Field Guide to the Insects of Britain and Northern Europe* (Collins, London)

Chinery M (1986) *Collins Guide to the Insects of Britain and Western Europe* (Collins, London)

Hawkins RD (2003) *Shieldbugs of Surrey* Surrey Wildlife Trust, Woking, Surrey
Southwood TRE and Leston D (1959) *Land and Water Bugs of the British Isles* (Warne, London)

Weather Records 2004

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

Keith Plumridge

Introduction

2004 was once again warm and sunny. It was also quite dry. Comparisons for the seven years from 1998 to 2004 are as follows:

1. 2004 was the 2nd sunniest of the seven years after 2003.
2. 2004 was the 2nd driest of the seven years after 2003.
3. There were 47 very sunny days (over 9 hours), the 2nd highest after 2003.
4. June was the sunniest of the seven years
5. August was the wettest of the seven years

6. November was the driest and dullest of the seven years
7. The calmest (most windless) day of the seven years was 4th December

Table 1. Summary of Weather Statistics for 2004.

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	8.7	48	3.4	38	8	61	15	116	4.6
February	8.9	48	3.1	38	10	76	6	53	2.1
March	10.7	51	3.3	38	6	103	12	50	2.0
April	14.2	58	5.7	42	5	133	16	94	3.7
May	18.0	64	8.3	47	0	171	6	43	1.7
June	21.2	70	11.7	53	0	205	4	34	1.4
July	21.7	71	12.3	54	0	153	7	54	2.1
August	22.4	72	14.2	58	0	162	12	117	4.6
September	20.2	68	11.6	53	0	163	11	54	2.1
October	14.6	58	7.9	46	0	91	19	148	5.8
November	11.1	52	5.6	42	2	47	7	28	1.1
December	8.4	47	2.8	37	8	45	6	50	2.0
Means/ Totals	15.0	59	7.5	45.5	34	1,409	121	839	33.0

January was dull, windy, mild and wet with prevailing SW winds. It was a very boring month apart from the 29th when there was snow up to 10mm deep. The snow started falling on the evening of the 28th and was accompanied by thunder and lightning. 45mph wind gusts occurred on the 8th.

February was a month of contrasts. It started stormy in the first week and then turned calmer and dryer but with variable temperatures. The 1st was the wettest day of the year (30.5 mm) and the 20th the coldest day of the year (4.0°C maximum).

March was windy and showery but with average temperatures. The coldest night of the year occurred on 1st/2nd (-5.4°C). The joint windiest day of the year (with 8th January) was the 14th. Hail fell on four days from 21st to 24th. There was a sunny and warm end to the month, the sunniest day being the 30th and the warmest day of the month was the 31st.

April was wet but not cold. There was a very mixed bag of weather with 24.6mm rain falling on the very wet 18th. The sunny 24th was the first day of the year over 20°C but a sudden drop of pressure accompanied by northerly winds brought a maximum of 8.9°C on 29th.



Green Lizard



Hoop-petticoat Daffodil



Common Wall Lizard



Estoril-type Thrift

Above and right: Wildlife of the Southbourne/Boscombe Cliffs (pp 11–14)
Photographs: Andy Collins and Peter Burford. **Layout:** Mike Creighton



Early Meddick (p28)



Small-flowered Catchfly



Cage Fungus (p24)



Common Morel (p24)



Shieldbugs and related insects (pp 14–21)

First column, from top

- Forest Bug:
- adult and nymph
- Brassica Bug
- Eurydema dominulus*
- Spiked Shieldbug
- Bishop's Mitre



Second column

- Lurid Shieldbug
- Gorse Shieldbug
- Hawthorn Shieldbug
- Juniper Shieldbug
- Parent Bug:
- young and adult



Third column

- Birch Shieldbug
- Sloe Bug





Clockwise from top left: Small Red-eyed Damselfly (p32), Bedstraw Hawkmoth (p37), Four-spotted Footman (p37), Yellow-legged Clearwing (p35), Red-tipped Clearwing (p36), Snakelocks Anemone (p32), Striped Ladybird (p41), Coat-of-mail Shell (p32)





Purple Crane's-bill (p30)



Round-leaved Crane's-bill (p29)



Smaller Tree Mallow (p29)



Alpine Squill (p31)



Green-winged Orchid (p28)



Moth Mullein (p31)



Blue Pimpernel (p29)



Bithynian Vetch (p30)

May was a more settled month with no wet days recorded from 8th to 29th, and mostly warm and sunny in this period. The glorious 19th was one of the sunniest days of the year (13.7 hours of sun) accompanied by temperatures reaching 24.3°C. There were two particularly wet and windy days on the 3rd/4th.

June was warm, dry and sunny—true summer. It was the sunniest June since at least 1997. There were no wet days until the 21st and the maximum temperature exceeded 20°C on every day between the 1st and 17th. The 13th was the sunniest day (13.44 hours) and the 14th the hottest (28.4°C). 22.6 mm rain fell on the soaking 22nd before the weather dried out again.

July was, in terms of overall figures, average for rainfall and temperature. In detail it was a more interesting month. There were a number of cool and dull days but only one wet day after the 10th. The 23rd was the sunniest day of the year (13.75 hours) and the 31st was the hottest (28.6°C), although this wasn't an exceptional figure.

August was warmer than normal but also very much wetter. It was the wettest August since at least 1997 and the second wettest month of the year. The warmest day of the month was the 7th (28.5°C) and warmest night of the whole year was 8th/9th (18.3°C minimum). Thunder and lightning was reported on four days and 21 mm rain fell on the 17th.

September saw warm, dry and sunny conditions extend to the 9th. This was followed by cooler and showery weather from then on but September was still drier and warmer than normal. It was the second warmest September since at least 1997 and temperatures reached 27.9°C on the 8th. There were two very warm nights—6th/7th (17.2°C) and 22nd/23rd (16.4°C)

October was much the wettest month of the year (148mm fell) with over an inch (26.2mm) on the 28th alone. It was also a dull, windy and cool month with an abysmal highest temperature of 17.2°C (on 2nd) and only three days (6th to 8th) with over 7 hours sunshine!

November was the driest and dullest November in seven years. Remarkably it was the driest month this year, on average it is generally the wettest month! Although there was significant rain on only two days there was no sunshine on twelve. The first air frost was measured on 13th/14th and there were early falls of sleet on 20th.

December was another very dull month and it was cooler and much drier than normal. There was no measurable rain until the 15th. The lowest ground temperature of the year (-8.5°C) was recorded on the night of 26th/27th. The early part of the month was very windless with a maximum gust of just 1mph on the 4th.

MEMBERS' RECORDS FOR 2004

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

Contributors

MA	Muriel Arnold	DN	Darren Naish
ALB	Dr Andy and Linda Barker	CO	Chris Oliver
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PB	Phil Budd	KJP	Keith Plumridge
PRB	Peter Burford	JP	John Poland
ARC	Dr Andy Collins	JS	Dr Jan Schubert
RC	Ron Cooke	RS	Rod Ship
CC	C. Corney	BT	Barbara Thomas
KE	Kathy Emmott	JW	Julie Watson
GHW	Graham Harrison-Watts	IW	Ian Watts
JH	John Horne	GW	Gerry Wilding
PH	Dr Peter Hooper	EW	Ted Wills
JK	Jan Kidd		
fm	field meeting	MO	Many observers
RVCP	Royal Victoria Country Park	ICVP	Itchen Valley Country Park

MYCOTA

FUNGI

2004 was an outstanding year for fungi. There was a very strong spring flush in April and May and it was the best spring for morels that I have personally ever known. The great highlight was the discovery of eight fruit bodies of *Morchella esculenta* ('Common' Morel) (colour page 1) on a deliberately burnt (the previous summer) area of Peartree Green on 9/4. I have waited over a quarter of century to see this fungus, so it was very pleasing to discover it on one of my local patches. The summer was fairly damp but warm, so a steady trickle of records continued through to the amazing, but rather early, autumn season in September and October. The season then fell away rather rapidly around 10th November, as conditions turned drier and chillier.

Two other records (also listed below) are worthy of special mention. *Clathrus ruber* (Cage Fungus) (colour page 1) was discovered by T. Walker on a bank of artificial soil in the south of Winchester. This spectacular fungus has previously been reported from Romsey, other sites in the Winchester area and in the Portsmouth area— it is about time it was found under rose bushes in one of the parks or a private garden in Southampton! Also *Hygrocybe calyptriformis* (Pink Pixie Cap) is due to be discovered in Southampton on some old lawn or

cemetery—it was not found in the Southampton Cemetery Survey by the Link but was reported by D. Allen at St Ann’s Cemetery in Gosport.

Not surprisingly, rather a lot of worthwhile fungi records were made on our various Field Meetings through the year. At **Sailor’s Lane, Corhampton** on 2/5 we found one fruit body of *Mitrophora semi-libera* (**Half-free Morel**), two *Verpa conica* (**The Thimble**) and *Calocybe gambosum* (**St George’s Mushroom**). At **Pigbush** on 12/9 we found *Poronia punctata* (**Nail Fungus**) at Stephill Bottom on 12/9 (an early date) and also large numbers of many early species such as the boletus *Leccinum quercinum* and *Leccinum crocipodium*, *Russula claroflava* (**Clear Yellow Russula**) and *Entoloma sordidulum*. The first proper fungus foray took place at **IVCP** on 3/10. The woods were alive with fungi and the highlight here was *Nyctalis parasitica* (one of the Pick-a-back Toadstools) on rotten *Russula nigricans*. This species was seen again at Kite’s Croft (see below). Other species, of interest, on this foray included *Collybia distorta*, *Inocybe praetervisa* and *Lactarius fulvissimus*.

The very wet foray at **Townhill Park** on 23/10 was notable for the discovery of *Sparrasis crispa* (**Cauliflower Fungus**) at the base of a Deodar Cedar—this species normally grows on Pine. Other species of note here included *Hygrocybe subminutula*, *Mycena seynesii* (found here previously) and *Russula grisea*. The weather dried up for our last two forays, but so did the fungi somewhat. At the **Moors, Bishop’s Waltham** on 14/11 there was *Calocybe leucocephala* (a relative of the St Georges Mushroom), a few other species of mild interest such as *Hygrocybe unguinosa*, *Pleurotus dryinus* and *Tricholoma album*. Finally on **Southampton Common** on 21/11 there were six additions to the checklist for Southampton Common—South: *Ascocoryne sarcooides*, *Exidia thuretiana*, *Heterobasidion annosum* (**Root Polypore**), *Panellus serotinus*, *Pluteus ostreatus* (**Oyster Mushroom**) and *Scutellinia scutellata* (**Eyelash Fungus**). Also *Auricularia auricula-judae* (**Jew’s-ear Fungus**) was found on dead Ivy stems—an unusual habitat as it normally grows on Beech or Elder.

The remaining records of interest (all made by PB unless otherwise stated) are:
Abortiporus biennis Harefield Rd, Swaythling 15/9 (found by I. Stenhouse)
Agaricus albertii (= *Agaricus macrospora*) St Mary’s Extra Cemetery 6/9
Agaricus silvicola (**Wood Mushroom**) Avenue Campus, Highfield 2/11 (JW)
Agaricus purpurellus under a Cedar at Chilworth Manor 2/11
Agrocybe aegerita St John’s Churchyard, Hedge End 12/5
Amanita fulva var. alba (**Tawny Grisette—white variety**) Chilworth Manor 6/11
Amanita gemmata Caerleon Ave, Bitterne 30/4
Boletus impolitus on grassy bank of Fort Brockhurst, Gosport 26/8

Collybia cookei Pigbush 23/9
Cortinarius semisanguineus Netley Common 26/10 (new to site)
Cortinarius uliginosus Kite's Croft, Titchfield Common 8/10
Cuphophyllus lacmus Church of Ascension, Bitterne Park 24/11
Gymnosporangium clavariiforme on Juniper along A272 at Chilcombe 5/4
Hebeloma edurum Claylands Reserve, Bishop's Waltham 29/10
Hebeloma strophosum West Hoe, Bishop's Waltham 7/11
Helvella queletii The Moor's, Bishop's Waltham 2/4
Hygrocybe chlorophana Stoneham Cemetery 5/5 (rarely seen in spring)
Hygrocybe punicea St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing 5/11 and Chilworth Manor
6/11
Hygrocybe quieta St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing 5/11
Hygrocybe splendidissima Chilworth Manor 6/11
Inocybe flavella Claylands Reserve 21/9
Inocybe godeyi Dundridge Reserve 22/10
Lactarius acerrimus Claylands Reserve 11/7
Lactarius circellatus under Hornbeams at River Walk, Townhill Park 1/11
Lactarius flexuosus Pigbush 23/10 and Copythorne Common 9/11
Lactarius helvus Netley Common 25/9 (new to site)
Leccinum variicolor Netley Common 26/10 (new to site)
Lentinus conchatus (= *Panus torulosus*) St James Churchyard, Shirley 13/11
Lepiota lutea (= *Leucocoprinus birnbaumii*) Thornhill Primary School 9/6
Lepista gilva Chilworth Manor 6/11
Limacella guttata Longwood Warren, Owselbury—in two places 27/10
Mollisia caespiticia (an uncommon **Disc Fungus**) Kite's Croft 7/2
Morchella elata (a **Morel**) Blackberry Terr, Bevois Valley 23/5 (JS confirmed PB)
Nyctalis agaricoides (**Pick-a-back Toadstool**) Kite's Croft—on rotten *Russula*
sp. 24/10
Nyctalis parasitica Kite's Croft—habitat as above 24/10
Pezizella chryso stigma (a **Disc Fungus**) on dead stems of Buckler Fern, Kite's
Croft 26/11
Phaeotellus rickenii St Andrew's School, Titchfield Common 24/10
Pluteus leoninus Kite's Croft—on bark chippings 7/10
Poronia punctata (**Nail Fungus**) Dur Hill Down, New Forest 12/4 (a late date)
Rhodotus palmatus on Ash log at Testwood 26/9
Russula luteotacta Claylands Reserve 11/7 (very plentiful)
Strobilurus tenacellus on buried old pine cones at Thornhill Park Wood 1/5
Tricholma atrosquamosum, *T. cingulatum* & *T. columbetta* Swanwick
Reserve 2/11
Xerocomus rubellus Weston Common 23/8 and Tunstall Rd, Hightown 25/8

It is worth reminding readers that all Field Meeting records, including fungus lists, are available on request. Also the society has prepared field keys for the identification of macro-fungi (mainly to genus level) and for the commoner Discomycetes (Disc Fungi) and Myxomycetes (Slime Moulds—see article in 2003 Annual Report).

There was also one interesting lichen record that is worth noting here:

Normandina pulchella on Willow bark at **Coxford Copse** 11/3—this species is usually found in the New Forest.

FLORA BRYOPHYTES

The recording of Bryophytes (mosses and lichens) was mainly confined to the cooler and damper parts of the year: up to March and from November. On 11/3 there was a survey by Rod Stern at Dale Valley Allotments, Coxford Copse and the Hollybrook area, including Hollybrook Cemetery. Further similar surveys took place Southampton later in the year. On 24/11 the Church of the Ascension at Bitterne Park, Deep Dene, Witts Hill Allotment and Frog's Copse were surveyed and this was followed by Home Covert (Nursling), Aldermoor Copse and the south of Lord's Wood on 14/12. Records of particular interest during these surveys and otherwise included:

Liverworts

Calypogeia arguta by Holly Brook at Sports Centre 11/3

Cololejeunea minutissima on Sallow at Home Covert 14/12 (a coastal species spreading inland)

Jungermannia gracillima Black Hill 28/2 (fm)

Metzgeria fruticulosa Lord's Wood south-west 14/12

Metzgeria temperata Coxford Copse 11/3 and Dundridge Reserve 29/11

Pellia endiviifolia by Tanner's Brook at Aldermoor Copse and Lord's Wood 4/12

Mosses

Barbula convoluta var. *commutata* Dale Valley Allotment 11/3

Bryum flaccidum Dundridge Hanger 23/1

Cryphaea heteromalla on Sycamore at Frog's Copse 24/11 and on Oak at Home Covert 14/12

Ephemerum serratum Church of Ascension, Bitterne Park 24/11

Fissidens incurvus by Tanner's Brook, Lordswood Greenway 14/12

Fissidens viridulus var. *tenuifolius* on chalk lumps at Dundridge Hanger 23/1

Homalia trichomanoides by Tanner's Brook, Lordswood Greenway 14/12

Hookeria lucens in Alder woodland at The Moors, Bishop's Waltham 2/4

Neckera complanata on Hazel at Home Covert 14/12
Orthotrichum lyellii Coxford Copse 11/3
Pleurozium acuminatum Hollybrook Cemetery 11/3
Polytrichum piliferum Hollybrook Cemetery 11/3
Rhynchostegium megapolitanum on grassy bank at Church of Ascension, Bitterne Park 24/11
Scleropodium cespitosum Dale Valley Allotment 11/3 and Cobden Ave 24/11
Scorpidium scorpioides Boundway Hill, Tiptoe 26/6 (fm)
Tortula latifolia Dunkirk Road, Lord's Hill 11/3 and Cobden Ave 24/11
Zygodon conoideus on old fruit tree, Church of Ascension, Bitterne Park 24/11

VASCULAR FLORA

2004 was the year that I became fully aware of the importance of St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing as an orchid site. I counted a total of 791 spikes of **Green-winged Orchid** (*Orchis morio*) (colour page 4) in the central parts of this cemetery and towards the south-west corner of it. In roughly the same areas over 1,000 spikes of **Autumn Lady's Tresses** (*Spiranthes spiralis*) were counted on 6/9. A new colony of **Early Purple Orchid** (*Orchis mascula*) discovered at Home Covert on 18/4 fm—this remains the closest known site to the centre of the city. **Bee Orchid** (*Ophrys apifera*) appeared at The Grange Fields, Netley for the second season. There was a count of sixteen by the West Wood rangers on 6/6. Some botanical survey work took place in the more interesting churchyards and cemeteries in Southampton during 2004. Much of this took place in the spring (April/May) and some of the more interesting records appear in the systematic list (below).

Further away from Southampton there were many interesting discoveries in two areas. The sandy coastal cliffs between Southbourne and Bournemouth are featured in a separate article in this report.

Travelling in the opposite direction, and slightly closer, to home are the remarkable recent finds by D. Allen, E.J. Clement and others in the Gosport peninsula. Both of these areas are due to be visited in Field Meetings planned for summer 2005. On 25th May I was shown at least twenty recently discovered plants of **Early Medick** (*Medicago praecox*) (colour page 1) on shingle at the southern end of Lee-on-Solent shore. This species is a first for Britain other than as a casual and was mostly in fruit. The plants were growing with **Spotted Medick** (*Medicago arabica*) and **Toothed Medick** (*Medicago polymorpha*) and were less than 200 yards from the site of the Starry Clover (*Trifolium stellatum*). Other flora of great interest discovered in Gosport in 2004 (or recently) include the **Mediterranean Hair Grass** (*Rostraria cristata*) in central Gosport, **Italian Catchfly** (*Silene italica*)

near Haslar Lake and **Smaller Tree Mallow** (*Lavatera cretica*) (colour page 4) in the Forton area. These three species occur nowhere else in Hampshire and the first is a new arrival that is not known elsewhere in Britain. In addition, a record of **Field Garlic** (*Allium oleraceum*), discovered by myself, at Woodcote Lane, Peel Common on 23/8/03 has since been re-determined as *Allium paniculatum*. There were still two plants here in 2004 and the owner of the nearest garden claims that they were not planted. This species, which is native to France south of Loire valley, is also a first for Britain!

Other records of interest (PB unless otherwise stated) are:

Native Species

Anagallis arvensis ssp. *foemina* (**Blue Pimpernel**) Near Green Close, Fair Oak 5/8 (colour page 4)

Bromus racemosus (**Smooth Brome**) Netley Grange Fields 3/6

Campanula glomerata (**Clustered Bellflower**) Gladstone Rd, Sholing—
not planted 2/11

Ceterach officinarum (**Rustyback Fern**) on wall at St James Church, Shirley 15/5

Chenopodium glaucum (**Oak-leaved Goosefoot**) East of Gull Coppice, Whiteley 5/8

Erica tetralix (**Cross-leaved Heath**) surviving at St Mary's Churchyard,
Sholing 27/4

Erodium moschatum (**Musk Storksbill**) North East Rd, Sholing 18/2

Geranium rotundifolium (**Round-leaved Crane's-bill**) Western Esplanade and
Southern Rd 20/7 (colour page 4)

Lamium amplexicaule (**Henbit Dead Nettle**) West Quay Rd 13/4

Linum catharticum (**Fairy Flax**) Hollybrook Cemetery 15/5

Lotus glaber (**Narrow-leaved Bird's-foot Trefoil**) Claylands Reserve 11/7

Lychnis flos-cuculi (**Ragged Robin**) Hollybrook Cemetery 15/5

Narcissus pseudonarcissus (**Wild Daffodil**) in woodland at Brownlow Ave,
Bitterne 11/2

Oenanthe pimpinelloides (**Corky-fruited Water Dropwort**) on garden lawn at
Thorold Rd, Chandler's Ford 28/7 Linda Barker (confirmed PB)

Plantago media (**Hoary Plantain**) South Stoneham Church 5/5

Potentilla argentea (**Hoary Cinquefoil**) growing as a weed amongst Heather plants
in a garden at St Helena Gardens, Townhill Park 9/7

Potentilla x mixta Holy Trinity Church, Millbrook 15/5

Ranunculus sardous (**Hairy Buttercup**) damp grassland behind Weston
Shore 28/5

Scleranthus annuus (**Annual Knawel**) Holcroft Rd, Thornhill 22/6

Senecio vulgaris var. *hibernicus* (**Grounsel-rayed form**) Western Esplanade 13/4

Senecio x subnebrodensis (= *S.squalidus x S.viscosus*) shore by BP Terminal, Hamble 8/8
Ulmus glabra (Wych Elm) Barnes Rd, Bitterne—small (15 foot tall) tree 9/6
Valerianella carinata (Keeled-fruited Cornsalad) Bitterne Church of England 27/4
Vicia bithynica (Bithynian Vetch) Peartree Green 20/5 (MO) (first for Hants since 1915) (colour page 4)
Viola reichenbachiana (Early Dog Violet) Bitterne Church of England 27/4

Escapes and Naturalisations

Allium neapolitanum (Neapolitan Garlic) Donkey Common, Bitterne 1/5
Ambrosia artemisiifolia (Ragweed) Gladstone Rd, Sholing 2/11
Arbutus unedo (Strawberry Tree) Netley Common—one bird-sown tree 1/2
Asarina procumbens (Trailing Snapdragon) rampant weed Bitterne Gardens 2/4
Calystegia pulchra (Hairy Bindweed) Claylands Reserve 11/7
Conyza bilbaoana (Bilbao Fleabane) Thorold Rd, Chandler's Ford 18/9
Corydalis cheilanthifolia (Fern-leaved Corydalis) on walls, Bursledon/Ruby Rd 6/4
Cotoneaster bullatus (Hollyberry Cotoneaster) bird-sown at Peewit Hill, Bursledon 11/10
Cuminum cyminum (Cumin) 40 plants at Blackberry Drive, Fair Oak 6/6 (confirmed by E.J. Clement)
Cyperus eragrostis (Pale Galingale) rampant weed at Caerleon Ave 20/8
Doronicum pardalianches (Leopard's-bane) Hollybrook Cemetery 15/5 and RVCP dump 25/6
Duchesnea indica (Yellow-flowered Strawberry) Weston Common 23/8
Geranium x magnificum (Purple Crane's-bill) established at Hill Top, Hedge End 25/6 (colour page 4)
Laurus nobilis (Bay Laurel) two small trees at Deep Dene, Bitterne Park 19/11
Lilium x hollandicum (Hybrid Orange Lily) well naturalised in Southampton Old Cemetery 21/6 (reported by J. Vetterlein and confirmed by PB)
Lonicera japonica (Japanese Honeysuckle) established in hedge at Shop Lane, Old Netley 27/9
Oxalis incarnata (Pale Pink-sorrel) by walls at Bursledon/Ruby Rd, Bitterne 6/4
Parthenocissus quinquefolia (Virginia Creeper) Chickenhall, Eastleigh 2/9
Persicaria amplexicaulis (Red Bistort) North of Fishing Lake, Southampton Common 6/9 (reported by J. Velecky and confirmed by PB)
Phacelia tanacetifolia Weston Shore Lorry Park 28/5
Phalaris paradoxa (Awned Canary Grass) Blackberry Drive, Fair Oak 21/6
Photinia davidiana (Stransvaesia) self-sown bushes at Chilworth Common 15/9

***Picea sitchensis* (Sitka Spruce)** 1 self-sown tree at Woodfidely Passage 10/1 (fm)
Pilosella flagellaris* ssp. *flagellaris Hannay Rise, Hightown—20 plants found
9/6 (later confirmed by E.J. Clement, then at least one other colony found at
nearby Warburton Rd 29/8)
***Polygogon viridis* (Water Bent)** Kent Rd, Portswood 19/8 and Fair Green, Sholing
23/8. A rapidly spreading species.
***Prunus lusitanica* (Portugal Laurel)** bird-sown at Thornhill Park Wood 3/2
***Pseudotsuga menziesii* (Douglas Fir)** 20 self-sown small trees at Woodfidely
Passage 10/1 (fm)
***Scilla bifolia* (Alpine Squill = Twin-leaf Squill)** Southampton Old Cemetery
29/2 (colour page 4)
Sorbaria sorbifolia naturalised in Lambert's Copse, Titchfield Common 22/3
***Tsuga heterophylla* (Western Hemlock)** self-sown trees at Woodfidely Passage
10/1 (fm) and Chilworth Common 15/9
***Verbascum blattaria* (Moth Mullein)** 2 plants by Shop Lane, Old
Netley 27/9 (colour page 4)

FAUNA

The SNHS ladybird survey generated a good deal of interest and many new records. These included Striped ladybird (colour page 3) which had been seen no closer to Southampton than the New Forest previously. Both 7-spot and 2-spot ladybirds were very widely reported, along with good numbers of 14-spot, Orange and 22-spot ladybirds. The other species were far less frequently seen. A brief summary of records is presented here and a full account will be written during 2005.

Although the early year looked promising, numbers of insects declined rapidly during the poor summer weather which reduced ladybird numbers and particularly butterflies and resident moths. It was also a poor year for migrant moth and butterfly species, although there was an unprecedented winter moth influx and a few exciting records during the summer, including a Bedstraw Hawk-moth (colour page 3). There was a remarkable count of Small Heath butterfly from Eastleigh, after apparently disappearing from most of our area for a number of years.

The Small Red-eyed Damselfly (colour page 3) was added to the Hampshire list when found in Burseldon in August 2004. This was arguably the highlight of the year amongst the fauna and its subsequent appearance at several nearby sites, including Southampton Common, further demonstrates how rapidly changes can take place in our fauna. It seems likely to spread to other sites within our area during 2005.

VARIOUS MARINE INVERTEBRATES

Amphisbetia operculata (a hydroid) Calshot 16/1 (PB)

Snakelocks Anemone (*Anemonia viridis*) Calshot 16/1 (PB) (colour page 1)

Sagartia elegans (a Sea-anemone) RVCP 13/4 (new for the site) (PB)

Leathery Sea-squirt (*Styela clava*) Calshot 16/1 (PB)

MOLLUSCS

Marine species

Acanthochitona crinitus (a Coat-of-Mail shell) Calshot 16/1 (PB) (colour page 1)

Chinaman's Hat (*Calyptraea chinensis*) 1 shell Calshot 16/1 (PB)

Freshwater species

Keeled Ramshorn Snail (*Planorbis carinatus*) Quob Pond 6/6 (PB)

Land species

Pellucid Glass Snail (*Vitrina pellucida*) Claylands Reserve 27/11 (PB)

Budapest Slug (*Tandonia budapestensis*) Priddy's Hard, Gosport 28/9 (PB)

Sowerby's Slug (*Tandonia sowerbyi*) 4 Priddy's Hard, Gosport 28/9 (PB)

Yellow Slug (*Limax flavus*) Sirdar Rd 27/7 (PB)

ARACHNIDS

Aranae: Spiders

Atypus affinis nursery webs found in Heather Dur Hill Down 12/4 (PB)

Cyclosa conica Claylands reserve 29/10 (PB)

Scytodes thoracica Bitterne Manor in the house on 2/7 (GHW)

Wasp Spider (*Argiope bruennichi*) Hamble Airfield 8/8 (PB)

INSECTS

ODONATA (Dragonflies and Damselflies)

Banded Demoiselle a male at Cromarty Pond 6/6 (CO)

Azure Damselfly 25 the maximum garden count at Chandler's Ford (KJP)

Large Red Damselfly 2 at Exbury Gardens 24/4 (ARC) and 1 at Bitterne Manor 25/4 (GHW)

Red-eyed Damselfly Cromarty Pond 22/5 and 6/6 (CO) and 3 at the Swanwick reserve 31/5 (ARC)

Small Red-eyed Damselfly the first record for Hampshire at Old Burseldon Nature Reserve 4/8, when 10 were seen, was perhaps the recording highlight of the year (JH, PB). This species has been colonising from south-east England since the first British record in 1999. After the Burseldon record it was found at a small number of other sites, most notably at Southampton Common Boating Lake (MO): 10+ resting on weed mats there 26/8 and about 15 on 8/9 (ARC). (colour page 3)

Golden-ringed Dragonfly first garden records at Chandler's Ford 5/9 and 9/9 (KJP)
Emperor Dragonfly 2 at Westwood 29/5 (ARC) and recorded at Fernyhurst and Cromarty Ponds from 6/6 (CO)
Southern Hawker a late record in the garden at Chandler's Ford 31/10 (KJP)
Black-tailed Skimmer 1 Fernyhurst Pond 17/7 (CO)
Ruddy Darter 1 male at Hamble Common pond 8/8 (PB)

ORTHOPTERA (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

Speckled Bush-cricket a nymph on privet at Bitterne Manor 13/5 (GHW)
Dark Bush-cricket 1 nymph at Warsash 1/5 (ARC)
Grey Bush-cricket Priddy's Hard, Gosport 14/9 (PB), the closest known location to Southampton
House Cricket outdoor colony calling after dark at High Rd, Swaythling 28/7 (JP)
Common Groundhopper 1 at Telegraph woods 3/6 (ARC)
Slender Groundhopper Wyvern College Pond 26/5 (PB)

DICTYOPTERA (Cockroaches)

Tawny Cockroach (*Ectobius pallidus*) 3 nymphs Netley Common 3/4 and 5 on 1/5 (ARC)
Cuban Cockroach (*Panchlora nivea*) 1 found in a bunch of bananas by GHW at Bitterne Manor 26/3. This is a delicate pale green species which has been recorded previously in the UK as an accidental introduction

HETEROPTERAN BUGS

*Note that the records of Shield bugs and some related families are listed in an accompanying article.

Calocoris roseomaculatus Peartree Green 7/8 (PB)
Pine Cone Bug (*Gastrodes grossipes*) Southampton Old Cemetery 9/5 (PB)
Scoloposthetus decoratus Wyvern College Pond 26/5 (PB)
Pilophorus cinnamopterus uncommon bug found at Chilworth Common 15/9 (PB)

HOMOPTERAN BUGS

Ledra aurita Bitterne Manor 15/7 and 12/12 (GHW)
Ulopa reticulata (a leaf hopper) Netley Common 22/8 (PB)

LEPIDOPTERA

Butterflies

Clouded Yellow rather few were recorded in 2004. Noted at Lakeside Park, Eastleigh 4/8 (ALB), 1 (Helice) at Chandler's Ford in the garden 17/8 (KJP), 1 (Helice) at Warsash Common 21/8 (reported to PB) and 1 at Browndown, Gosport 24/9 (ARC). A total of 8 recorded on the Peartree Green butterfly transect (PB, PRB).

Painted Lady singles at Shirley Pond 4/2 (ARC) and at Rans Wood, New Forest 8/2 (PB) demonstrate that this species is now able to over-winter in our area. KJP recorded only 1 in the garden at Chandler's Ford 9/6. CO recorded 1 in the garden at Rownhams 19/8. Only 2 were recorded during the year on the Peartree Green butterfly transect (PB, PRB).

Small Tortoiseshell the first of the year was at Ibsley 11/1 (PRB) and recorded at Shirley Pond (Lordsdale Greenway) 4/2. There was a remarkable early showing at the latter site, with increasingly high counts into March and early April, peaking at 60 on 2/4 (ARC). At least 7 were flying around inside St Mary's church, Sholing 21/3 (ARC) and 20+ at Weston Shore 31/3 (CP). There were 20 at Lower Test marshes 25/6 (ARC).

Red Admiral 1 at Shirley Pond 2/3 (ARC), and at Chandler's Ford 13/3 (KJP). A late record at Stoneham Cemetery 13/11 (PB) and late records were 23/12 at Kite's Croft, Titchfield (PB) and Regent's Park, Southampton 31/12 (RC). Only 4 were seen on the Peartree Green transect (PB, PRB).

Peacock 4 in the Shirley Pond area 16/3 (ARC)

Comma 3 at Lordsdale Greenway 16/3 (ARC)

Brimstone the earliest record of the year was 3/2 at Townhill Park (PB) followed by 1 on 4/2 at Shirley Pond and 10 there 16/3 (ARC). The last was at Chandler's Ford 4/11 (KJP).

Purple Hairstreak 1 Hollybrook Cemetery, Shirley 19/7 (ARC) and 1 Fernyhurst Pond area 24/7 (CO)

Green Hairstreak the first of the year was at RVCP 18/5 (PB)

Small Copper Barry Road, Bitterne 20/5, Donkey Common 28/5 (PB) and 6 Swanwick reserve 31/5 (ARC). There was the highest ever number at Chandler's Ford (garden) with 17 records 9/5–19/8 (KJP). A late record Thornhill 4/10 (PB).

Holly Blue the first report of the year was at Caerleon Ave, Bitterne 2/4 (PB). Seen near West Quay, Southampton 20/7 (PB). The latest was 7/9 Chandler's Ford (KJP).

Common Blue 8 at Westwood 30/5 and 20 at Swanwick 31/5 (ARC). Recorded at Cromarty Pond 8/8 (CO) in Priory Ave, St Denys 19/8 (PB).

[**Small Blue** a late but highly unusual record was of 1 at Peartree Green 7/8/2003 reported by B. Dempsey.]

Brown Argus 3 at Chickenhall, Eastleigh 7/6 and 6 on 2/9 (PB), singles (first garden records) at Chandler's Ford 29/7, 12/8 and 13/8 (KJP), also 1 at Westwood 3/9 (ARC). Recorded for the first time at Jurd's Lake (CP).

Silver-washed Fritillary recorded 28/7 and 7/8 by CP in his Southampton garden. This species has been known to wander into City gardens in the past, but it is not clear from where they originate.

Speckled Wood from 29/3 in the Broadlands Valley (KE)

Large Skipper 2 Swanwick reserve 31/5 (ARC). The second record for the garden at Chandler's Ford 30/7 (KJP).

Small Skipper 1 Telegraph woods 13/6 (ARC)

Grizzled Skipper a really excellent record 1 in the garden at Chandler's Ford, photographed 6/6 (KJP)

Marbled White 10 at Southampton Common 1/7, in good numbers at Jurd's Lake (CP) and 15 at Westwood 5/7 (ARC). An impressive total of 142 was recorded on the Peartree Green transect (PB, PRB).

Small Heath this has been very difficult (or impossible) to find in the Southampton area in recent years, so it is encouraging to report that 2 were at Hamble airfield 23/5 and 4 at Lakeside Park, Eastleigh 27/5 (PB). However, there was an astonishing count of 122 at Chickenhall, Eastleigh 7/6 with 26 there 2/9 (PB)! It will be interesting to see if former haunts, such as Westwood (Grange Fields), will be re-colonised.

Ringlet 8 Swanwick reserve 3/7 (ARC)

Gatekeeper the earliest at Telegraph Woods 11/7 (ARC), recorded in the Broadlands Valley from 16/7 (KE)

Moths

Festoon (*Apoda limacodes*) garden at Chandler's Ford 26/6 (KJP)

Lobesia reliquana at light at RVCP 4/6 (PB)

Acleris logiana 1 at Chandler's Ford 20/10 was an excellent record (KJP). This species was new to Hampshire in 1992 having previously only been found in the Scottish Highlands but now appears to be spreading within Hampshire.

Eudemis profundana UV light at Silverdale Rd, Southampton 24/7 (PB)

Ancylis badiana Bottom Copse, Corhampton 2/5 (PB)

Dichrorampha gueneana Peartree Green 7/8 (PB)

Calamotropha paludella 1 male at Sholing 16/6 (ARC)

Catoptria falsella 1 Sholing 17/6 (ARC), recorded at Great Funtley farm 16/7 (PB) and at Chandler's Ford the first garden record was 7/8 (KJP)

European Corn-borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*) singles at Sholing 4/6 and 18/7 (ARC)

Ebulea crocealis Great Funtley farm 16/7 (PB)

Synapse punctalis present in unusually large numbers in the summer (eg 45 at Sholing 19/7, ARC). Unusually high numbers were reported elsewhere, eg Portland Bill.

Elegia similella 2 in the garden at Chandler's Ford 15/6 (KJP)

Nephtopterix angustella singles at Sholing 22/6 and 7/9 (ARC)

Yellow-legged Clearwing (*Synanthedon vespiformis*) 1 at 10.00 am and 1 at 6.20 pm 13/6, 3 between 6.15 and 6.25 pm 14/6 at Sholing (ARC). Only 1 previous record here. (colour page 3)

Red-belted Clearwing (*Synanthedon myopaeformis*) 7 on 13/6 at Sholing (ARC)

Red-tipped Clearwing (*Synanthedon formicaeformis*) 5 on 25/6 at Lower Test Marshes (ARC) (colour page 3)

Six-belted Clearwing (*Bembecia ichneumoniformis*) 1 on 1/7 at Southampton Old Cemetery (ARC)

Frosted Green (*Polyphloca ridens*) at UV light at Hazeldene, Burseldon 10/5 (PB)

Birch Mocha (*Cyclophora albipunctata*) 1 Sholing 1/9 (ARC)

Cypress Carpet (*Thera cypressata*) 16 between 4/6 and 13/7 at Sholing and 8 between 29/9 and 12/11 (ARC)

The V-Pug (*Chloroclystis v-ata*) singles at Sholing 5/6, 17/7 and 20/7 (ARC)

Purple Thorn (*Selenia tetralunaria*) 2 Chandler's Ford 16/4 (KJP)

Pale Oak Beauty (*Serraca punctinalis*) 1 Sholing 29/5 (ARC), 1 Chandler's Ford 5/6 (first garden record, KJP)

Bordered White (*Bupalus piniaria*) 1 Sholing 5/6: this species is not often seen within Southampton

Grey Birch (*Aethalura punctulata*) Chandler's Ford 15/6 (KJP)

Small Elephant Hawk-moth (*Deilephila porcellus*) 1 Sholing 31/5 (ARC) and 1 Chandler's Ford 15/6 (KJP)

Orange Footman (*Eilema sororcula*) singles at Sholing 29/5 and 5/6 (ARC)

Dog's Tooth (*Lacanobia suasa*) 1 Sholing on 7/6 (ARC)

Feathered Gothic (*Tholera decimalis*) 1 on 4/9 Chandler's Ford (KJP), a very good record of this scarce and declining species.

White-point (*Mythimna albipuncta*) now a well-established resident recorded in both early summer and autumn broods. One was at RVCP 3/6 and at UV light at Chickenhall, Eastleigh 30/6 (PB). There were 3 at Sholing between 1/6 and 18/6 and 8 between 24/8 and 17/9 (ARC).

L-album Wainscot (*Mythimna l-album*) 6 singles at Sholing between 7/9 and 5/10 (ARC)

The Mullein (*Shargacucillia verbasci*) larvae found on Water Figwort 3/6 at RVCP (PB)

Pale Pinion (*Lithophane socia*) 1 on 28/2 at Sholing (ARC) and a late 1 at Chandler's Ford 15/5 (KJP)

Tawny Pinion (*Lithophane semibrunnea*) 1 at Sholing 1/4 (ARC)

Lunar-spotted Pinion (*Cosmia pyralina*) at UV light Great Funtley farm 16/7 (PB)

Slender Brindle (*Apamea scolopacina*) Broadlands Valley 27/7 at UV light (PB)

Double Lobed (*Apamea ophiogramma*) 1 at Sholing 13/7 (ARC)

Saltern Ear (*Amphipoea fucosa*) possibly previously unrecorded in the Southampton area, found at UV light at Peartree Green 7/8 (PB)

Webb's Wainscot (*Archanara sparganii*) a good record from Old Burseldon Nature Reserve 9/7 (PB)

Silky Wainscot (*Chilodes maritima*) an excellent record from UV light at Peartree Green 7/8 (PB).

Rosy Marbled (*Elaphria venustula*) 1 Chandler's Ford 15/6 (KJP)

Small Yellow Underwing (*Panemeria tenebrata*) 1 Swanwick Reserve 23/5 (PB)

Buttoned Snout (*Hypena rostralis*) singles at Sholing 12/5 and 16/6 (ARC)

Migrants

Diamond-backed Moth (*Plutella xylostella*) 1 on 6/2 at Sholing followed by relatively small numbers in the summer and autumn (ARC)

Rusty Dot Pearl (*Udea ferrugalis*) first of the year was 16/6 at Sholing followed by low numbers into the autumn with a late record 9/11 (ARC)

Rush Veneer (*Nomophila noctuella*) 2 on 6/2 and 1 on 12/2 at Sholing, 1 at Weston Shore 13/2, with fairly low numbers in the summer and autumn (ARC)

Bedstraw Hawkmoth (*Hyles gallii*) 1 trapped by PH at Bishopstoke 14/7. A very rare migrant in our area (colour page 3)

Humming-bird Hawk-moth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*) 1 Lordsdale Greenway, Shirley 16/3 (ARC), Daisy Dip, Bassett 24/4 (PB), 1 on Valerian at Chandler's Ford 5/7 (KJP) and 1 attracted to Buddleia in Sholing 19/7 at 8.30 pm (ARC)

Four-spotted Footman (*Lithosia quadra*) a superb female recorded at actinic light at Sholing 16/7 (ARC). Probably the first Southampton record. Following this record a number of other examples were recorded mostly in the south-west of the country. (colour page 3)

Dark Sword Grass (*Agrotis ipsilon*) singles 17/3 and 24/3 Sholing (ARC)

Bordered Straw (*Heliothis peltigera*) 1 on 16/2 at Chandler's Ford was the first garden record and part of the remarkable winter arrival of migrants (KJP)

Silver Y (*Autographa gamma*) the first record of the year at Sholing was 21/6 followed by lower than average numbers into the autumn with a late record of 3 on 25/11 (ARC)

DIPTERA (Flies)

Bombylius major (a bee-fly) 3 Lordsdale Greenway 2/4 (ARC) and recorded at Bitterne Manor 15/4 (GHW)

Anasimyia lineata (a hover-fly) 6/6 Quob Pond (PB)

Volucella bombylans (a hover-fly) 1 var. *plumata*, which has a white tail, at Southampton Common 1/7 (ARC)

Volucella inanis Bitterne Manor 18/7 (GHW)

Volucella zonaria Peartree Green 8/7 and Avenue Park, Eastleigh 15/9 (PB)

Helophilus hybridus (a hover-fly) Quob Pond 6/6 (PB)

Phasia hemiptera (a tachnid fly) a parasite of heteropteran bugs, found at Gilbury Hard 23/9 (PB)

HYMENOPTERA (Wasps and Allies)

- Birch Sawfly (*Cimbex femoratus*)** Bottom Copse, Corhampton 2/5 (PB)
Rhogogaster viridis a striking green sawfly, Lordsdale Greenway 16/6 (ARC)
Pine Sawfly (*Diprion pini*) larva on Scots Pine, Chilworth Common 15/9 (PB)
Andricus aries (a gall-wasp) Chickenhall 2/9 (PB)
Bee-killer (*Philanthus triangulum*) Weston Common 10/8 (PB)
Andrena haemorrhoa (a bee) Thornhill 12/4 (PB)
Halictus cylindricus (a bee) on Dandelions at Peartree Green 12/4 (PB)
Anthophora plumipes (a flower bee) regularly seen in the early spring at Sholing (ARC), nectaring at Silverdale Rd, Southampton 8/4 (PB)
Honey Bee (*Apis mellifera*) first record 9/1 at Athelston Rd allotments (PB)
Halictus nitidiusculus (a mining bee) a female on Heather at Caerleon Ave, Bitterne 22/8 (PB)
Red Mason Bee (*Osmia rufa*) Gatcombe, Netley 14/5 (PB)
Red-horned Nomad Bee (*Nomada ruficornis*) Southampton Old Cemetery 9/5 (PB)
Long-horned Bee (*Eucera longicornis*) an uncommon bee species which has extremely long antennae. Found nectaring on Bugle at Swanwick Reserve 23/5 (PB) and about 10 were here 31/5 (ARC)
Bombus hypnorum a species of bumblebee which has only recently been found in Britain with many of the records coming from the Southampton area. PB recorded 1 at the Hawthorns Centre on the Common 27/5 and it was also seen at Southampton University again this year.

COLEOPTERA (Beetles)

- Common Glowworm (*Lampyris noctiluca*)** 15 at Old Burseldon Nature Reserve 9/7 (fm)
Asparagus Beetle (*Crioceris asparagi*) Hamble Common 21/6 (PB)
Cockchafer (*Melolontha melolontha*) high count of 47 Chandler's Ford 11/5 (KJP)
Chrysolina banksii (a leaf beetle) 2 Grange Fields, Netley 3/6 (PB)
Crioceris ferox (a longhorn beetle) at UV light Chandler's Ford 15/6 (KJP)
Phaedon armoricariae (a leaf beetle) Quob Pond 6/6 (PB)
Pogonocherus hispidulus (a longhorn beetle) Bitterne Manor 21/8 (GHW)
Prionus coriarius (a longhorn beetle) new to garden at Chandler's Ford 7/8 (KJP)
Pyrochroa serraticornis (a cardinal beetle) Browndown 25/5 (PB)
Scaphidium quadrimaculatum (a shining fungus beetle), 2 under a log at Claylands Reserve 27/11 (PB)
Trox sabulosus Browndown 25/5 (PB)
Pill Beetle (*Byrrhus pilula*) Quob Pond 6/6 (PB)
Great Diving Beetle (*Dytiscus marginalis*) Quob Pond, Fair Oak 27/4 (PB)

Stag Beetle (*Lucanus cervus*) Alverstoke Church 25/5 (PB) and Bitterne Manor 7/6 (GHW)

Minotaur Beetle (*Typhaeus typhoeus*) Copythorne Common 9/11 (PB) and 1 male in actinic moth trap, Ashdown Close, Chandler's Ford 11/10 (ALB)

Notaris acridulus (a weevil) Wyvern College Pond 26/5 (PB)

Ladybirds

24-Spot Ladybird this species is possibly not very widespread, although is undoubtedly overlooked. Usually found in grassland but 1 was recorded from pine at Southampton Common on 9/5 (PB, ARC) and a further 7 were swept from grass. ARC recorded 10 in grass on the Itchen Way at Bishopstoke 15/5. A remarkable unspotted example was found by PB in the garden at Bitterne 29/10.

[Bryony Ladybird (*Henosepilachna argus*) this species arrived in Britain as a probable introduction in 1997 and has not yet been recorded in our area (or even Hampshire?). However one individual, brought in from Wisley in Surrey, was displayed at our Activity Day on 26/9. It was returned afterwards.]

16-spot Ladybird found at Green Close, Bishopstoke 5/8 (PB), Purewell Meadow 3/8 (PB) and Old Burseldon Nature Reserve 31/10 (JH). Outside of our area about 100 were found hibernating under a large log at Stanpit, Dorset 25/9 (PB, ARC).

Adonis' Ladybird well outside the Southampton area this species was recorded at Tesco, Paulsgrove 29/5 and Upper Wootton 14/8 (PB). Also reported from a Bitterne garden 15/6 (BT).

2-Spot Ladybird this is the most common ladybird in urban environments and found on a wide variety of plants including, for example: rose, apple, teasel, birch, buddleia and corncockle. The first was 31/3 at Bitterne Manor (GHW) followed by 2/4 at Portswood (NB). Singles were seen on houses at Sholing 8/4 (ARC) and at Dibden Purlieu 9/4, followed by several others there until 31/7 (RS). Recorded from Bitterne 15/4–30/6 (BT). Numbers increased markedly into mid-June when frequently seen (ARC). There were 6 at Lordsdale Greenway 16/6 (ARC), recorded at Rownhams 18/6 (CO), 18 (2 melanic forms) on a shrub with Scale Insects at Woolston 20/6 (DN), 2 at Southampton General Hospital 25/6, 'numerous' at both Lower Test Marshes 25/6 and Lordsdale Greenway by 29/6, found on Beans at Silverdale Rd 25/6 (JW), on Pear at Totton 27/6 and 4/9 (JK), at Telegraph Woods 10/7, Chandler's Ford 10/7 (ALB), Freemantle 3/7, Quobleigh Pond, Fair Oak 13/7 (PB), 2 at IVCP 5/9, 1 at Southampton Common 16/9, 4 at Testwood Lakes 26/9 and singles at Silverdale Rd 2/10 and 10/10 (JW). GHW recorded an example of the variant *sexpustulata* 23/9. Another example of this variant was recorded by JS. The last specimen

seen was an over-wintering example at Bitterne Manor on a dead Buddleia leaf 22/12 (GHW).

10-Spot Ladybird a highly variable species which was seen in a number of locations during the year, including: Southampton Common 9/5 (PB, ARC), Bitterne Manor 14/5 (GHW), Lordsdale Greenway 16/6 and 29/6 (ARC), Radcliffe Rd, Northam 27/6 (PB), on lettuce at Dibden Purlieu 28/6 (RS) and Quobleigh Pond, Fair Oak 13/7 (PB). This species was found over-wintering in leaf litter at Bitterne Manor 4/11 (GHW).

11-Spot Ladybird recorded only at Browndown (Northwest) 25/5 (PB).

7-Spot Ladybird commonly recorded everywhere, following early records at Portswood 30/3 (NB), 2/4 at Bitterne (DN) and Dibden Purlieu 9/4 (RS). Found on many plants, including Scots Pine at Netley Common 16/4, on Daffodil in Southampton 19/4 (MA), on Nettle at Sholing Valley Study Centre 9/5 (ARC) and on Sallow at Lordsdale Greenway 10/5. Numbers built up rapidly during the spring: 25 were recorded on Nettle at Titchfield 15/4, 'numerous' at both Lower Test Marshes by 25/6 and at Lordsdale Greenway by 29/6 (ARC). One was found in close proximity to a Wood Ant nest 10/7 at Telegraph Woods, but was firmly identified as this species rather than the hoped-for Scarce 7-spot (ARC). The 7-spot ladybird seems to show only a modest amount of variation compared to 2 and 10-spot ladybirds, but RS noted a remarkable 5-spotted example at Dibden Purlieu 29/6, which had chosen a dustbin as its favoured habitat! Some other sites with records in 2004 (ALB, PB, BT, JK, CC, ARC, CO, JW) were: Weston Shore, Lordshill, Bitterne, Totton, Rownhams, Netley Marsh, IVCP, Woolston, Jurd's Lake, Hollybrook Cemetery, Millbrook, Silverdale Rd in Southampton, Netley Grange, Chandler's Ford, Freemantle and Warsash.

Cream-streaked Ladybird this species is found on Scots Pine and was recorded as follows: RVCP 9/5, singles at Southampton Common 3/6 and 16/9 (ARC) and at Chilworth Common 15/9 (PB).

18-Spot Ladybird this species is most abundant in the crowns of mature Pines. However, it may sometimes be found on lower branches and is clearly tolerant of very urban environments, since 1 was found in the central reservation at Tesco, Burseldon 5/6 (ARC). Also seen at Telegraph Woods 11/7 (ARC), in a Sholing garden 9/9 (IW) and at Warsash 19/9 (ARC).

Cream-spot Ladybird this species is not very numerous, but is widespread. Recorded at Bishopstoke (on Thistle) 15/5 (ARC), at Woolston 20/6 on a shrub with Scale Insects (DN), at Silverdale Rd, Southampton 20/6 (JW), on Ragwort at Bitterne Manor 29/6, in leaf litter there 30/10 (GHW) and at Lordsdale Greenway 21/9 (ARC).

14-Spot Ladybird common and widespread in our area along hedgerows, and recorded at many locations including: on Birch at Bitterne Manor 25/4, a pair on Black Knapweed there 23/5 (GHW), on Gorse at Netley Common 16/4, Southampton Common 9/5, Sholing Valley Study Centre 9/5 (PB, ARC), on Nettle and Bramble at Lordsdale Greenway 10/5 and 11/5 (14 individuals), at Titchfield Haven 15/5 (ARC), 5 at Lower Test Marshes 21/5, found on Broad Beans which had Black Aphids at Bitterne 28/5 (DN), on Hosta and Lettuce at Dibden Purlieu 31/5 and 31/7 (RS), 8 at Hamble Common 2/6, at Woolston 9/6 and subsequent dates (CC), found at Silverdale Rd 25/6 (JW), Freemantle 3/7 (PB), Bitterne 7/7 (BT) and Chandler's Ford 26/7 (ALB). Although common in early to mid-summer none could be found by ARC during extensive searches in September.

Striped Ladybird 1 found on Scots Pine at Telegraph Woods 10/7 (ARC) was probably the first Southampton area record. Further records from the same Pine were 11/7 and 19/9 (ARC). (colour page 3)

Eyed Ladybird this species is found on Scots Pine and was recorded at Magdalen Hill Down 8/6 (PB), Telegraph Woods 10/7 and 4/9 (ARC) and at Chilworth Common 15/9 (PB).

Orange Ladybird commonly recorded in gardens within the City. Early to emerge from hibernation: recorded at Dundridge Hanger 23/1 (PB), at Rownhams on 10/2 (PB) and 1 at Sholing 18/2 (ARC). More regularly recorded in light traps than other species and recorded frequently at Sholing in the summer (ARC). At Chandler's Ford singles were recorded in an actinic trap 20/7 and 26/7 (ALB). Also seen at Southampton Common 9/5 and 1/7 (PB, ARC), at Telegraph Woods 6/6 and 11/7, Chandler's Ford 15/6 (KJP), Rownhams 19/6 and 3/7 (CO), Lordsdale Greenway 29/6, Silverdale Rd 24/7 (JW), Peartree Green 7/8 (PB), IVCP 8/8 (CC) and Netley Common 22/8 (PB).

22-Spot Ladybird a rather common species recorded at Portswood 16/4 and 18/5 (NB), Bitterne 10/5 and 17/5 (BT), on Brambles at Lordsdale Greenway 10/5 and 22/9, at Burseldon Rd, Bitterne 10/5 and 26/5 when on Privet (DN), 2 at Bitterne Manor 11/5 (GHW), at Muddy Bottom allotments 12/5 (PB), 5 were at Lower Test Marshes 21/5 (ARC), on Thistle at Woolston 6/6 (CC), Quobleigh Pond, Fair Oak 13/7 (PB) and on Aquilegia at Chandler's Ford 19/7.

Kidney-spot Ladybird this is not an easy species to find in our area. Recorded inside the house at Rownhams 28/7 (CO), at Netley Common 22/8 (PB) and also one found on Sallow at Holmsley 20/7 (ARC). An over-wintering example was found at Bitterne Manor 24/12 on a pruned Apple branch (GHW).

Heather Ladybird apparently an uncommon (or overlooked) species, but there were some interesting records during the year. These included 1 in the garden at Dibden Purlieu 25/4 (RS). No examples were found on Heather, but 6 were

located on Cypress trees at Exbury Gardens 24/4 with 1 on Nootka Cypress there 9/10 (ARC) and 1 was found on Larch at Telegraph Woods 5/6 (ARC). Both of these locations had Heather nearby. GHW recorded this species on Apple at Bitterne Manor 15/7.

Pine Ladybird recorded from RVCP 14/4 with 10 there 15/4 (ARC), 1 in a garden at Woolston 24/4 (CC), seen at Southampton Common 9/5, 3/6 and 1/7 with 4 there 16/9 (PB, ARC), 1 at Matley Heath 3/6 (ARC), recorded at Hut Wood, Eastleigh 15/9 (PB) and Thornhill 28/9 (PB).

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Adder singles at Netley Common 16/4 and 15/5 (ARC). An aggressive female recorded by PB at Holmesley 31/7

Common Lizard 1 Netley Common 3/4 (ARC)

Slow-worm 1 Netley Common 3/4 and 6 there 13/4 (ARC). One in the garden at Old Burseldon 15/8 was the first there for many years (PRB)

Palmate Newt 8 seen at Hum Hole, Bitterne 5/2 (PB)

Common Frog 4 at Caerleon Ave, Bitterne from 21/1 (PB). The first report of spawn was from Mayfield Park 4/2 and the first at Caerleon Ave was 6/2 (PB)

Terrapin 1 at Tanglewood Pond 24/7 (CO)

BIRDS

Garden bird records

Whitethroat on 1/5 was the first garden record for KJP at Chandler's Ford. In addition, a **Heron** actually in the garden was the first such record on 5/6. Garden records from Caerleon Ave, Bitterne (PB) included 41 species recorded a standardised way. Notable increases on the five-year average count were seen for **Duncock**, **Song Thrush**, **Long-tailed Tit**, **Great Tit**, **Coal Tit**, **Nuthatch** and **House Sparrow**, amongst others. It is interesting that one or two of these species have undergone marked declines nationally recently, so there is some hope for recovery. Species which showed a marked decline on their five-year average were **Lesser Black-backed Gull**, **Starling** and **Jay**. Other notable records here were **Peregrine** on 29/4 and **Common Sandpiper** on 4/8.

At St Evox Close in Rownhams CO recorded 27 species, including wintering **Blackcap** between January and April (up to 2 males and 2 females), **Brambling** were seen on 12/2 (ringed male), 4/3 (ringed male), a female on 8/3 and a pair with the male unringed on 15/3. There was evidence of at least two families of **Great Spotted Woodpecker** during the year. ALB also recorded 2 **Brambling** in a garden at Chandler's Ford regularly from 31/1 to 10/3. In Regent's Park, Southampton, RC recorded 84 bird-days for **Sparrowhawk**. This is one of the highest annual totals in thirty years and follows a recent lean period. **Buzzard** counts over this site

included a remarkable spring movement in April/May (10 bird-days) contributing to the highest annual total in thirty years. RC also recorded a good annual total for **Peregrine** (8 bird-days), including one bird killing a racing pigeon. This species now easily outnumbers the Kestrel in this part of the City. **Meadow Pipit** were seen heading north-west over this site on 10/4 (a total of 48 in 2 hours). RC also recorded impressive movements of both **Fieldfare** and **Redwing** in December. These included 145 and 205 Fieldfare to the west on 28/12 and 30/12 and 2,657 Redwing to the west on 30–31/12.

Other records from Southampton and area

Red-throated Diver 1 to east at Titchfield Haven 16/4 (ARC)

Slavonian Grebe 1 Titchfield 1 3/12 (ARC)

Black-necked Grebe 1 Weston Shore 13/2 (ARC). Not often seen here

Little Grebe pair plus 3 young at Southampton Common boating lake 8/9 (ARC)

Bittern 1 seen in flight over reeds at Titchfield Haven 18/1 (ARC)

Little Egret regular throughout the year along the coast — eg 8 at Weston 5/4 and 6 there 17/10 (ARC). Becoming more frequent on the Itchen between Northam and Horseshoe bridges: seen 8/6, 15/6 (2), 6/7 and 12/10 (JS). Five were in a field near Bishop's Waltham 6/12 (PB)

Canada Goose one of the *Minima* subspecies at Farlington Marshes 20/1 (PB)

Mandarin Duck 12 at Eyeworth pond 21/2 (PRB)

Gadwall female with 12 young at Warsash 25/4 (ARC)

Eider 50 off Titchfield 18/1, 25 on 15/5, 20 on 23/10 and 30 on 13/12 (ARC)

Common Scoter 1 male Weston Shore 22/3 and another there 23/10, 3 Titchfield 23/10, 16–20 there 24/10 and 13/11 (ARC)

Red-breasted Merganser none seen in the winter between Northam and Horseshoe bridges but pair was seen 2/4–14/4 (JS)

Goosander 5 females at Eyeworth pond 21/2 (PRB) and 10 there 13/3 (CO)

Goldeneye a pair at Weston Shore 13/3 (ARC)

Buzzard 1 at Southampton Common 28/1 (PB) and 3 at Netley Common 12/4 (ARC)

Marsh Harrier 1 female/immature moving east at Lower Test Marshes 29/3 (RC)

Avocet pair at Warsash 14/4 and 5 there 25/4 with 1 apparently defending nest 1/5 (ARC). Up to 3 breeding pairs with 9 young reported at Titchfield Haven during the summer (per IW).

Woodcock 1 at Roydon Woods, New Forest, 20/7, seen flying low away from a pursuing Fox. This bird was seen to be carrying a chick on its back (RC)

Black-tailed Godwit 140 at Warsash 5/4, 170 there 14/4 and 150 on 1/5 (ARC)

Bar-tailed Godwit 4 Warsash 1/5 (ARC)

Knot 14 at Weston Shore 18/12 was a high number for this site (ARC)

Common Sandpiper seen every month except May and June between Northam and Horseshoe bridge— 2 seen on 9/2, 12/3, 23/9 and 26/11 (JS)

Arctic Skua 2 east (7.30 am) at Titchfield Haven 16/4 (ARC)

Iceland Gull 1 first-summer/second-winter at Gosport 15/2 and 7/4 (MO)

Little Gull 1 first-winter at Warsash 5/4 and 1 second-winter at Titchfield 24/10 (ARC)

Mediterranean Gull 1 second-winter at Weston Shore 1/2, a first-winter 14/2 and a green-ringed (Belgian) adult there 14/12 (ARC). Also c.25 adult summer off the Ship Inn, Hayling 14/3 (ARC)

Common Tern 3 Weston Shore 16/10 and 17/10 and 2 Titchfield 24/10 (ARC)

Barn Owl 1 in the nesting box at Westwood 24/1 and 3/9, singles hunting there 29/5 and 5/7 and also 1 at Hamble Airfield 6/3 (ARC)

Short-eared Owl 2 at Hamble Airfield 6/3 (ARC)

Swift 2 over Sholing 27/4 (PB)

Alpine Swift 1 Abbots Worthy, Winchester 2/3 (MO)

Dartford Warbler 1 in song at Hamble Airfield 6/3 and 1 Warsash 25/4 (ARC)

Lesser Whitethroat a singing bird at Hamble Rail Trail 23/5 (PB)

Grasshopper Warbler 1 reeling at Titchfield 24/4 (ARC)

Reed Warbler 2 Warsash 5/4 (ARC)

Cetti's Warbler Hawthorns Centre on the Common during 2004 (per PB)

Wood Warbler a singing bird at King's Copse, Corhampton 2/5 (fm)

Black Redstart a male at Calshot 7/2 (ARC)

Wheatear 1 male Weston Shore 19/3 and a late bird there 9/10 and 16/10 (ARC).
A pair recorded on waste ground by Mount Pleasant Rd 27/4 (JS)

Raven 1 over Coates Road, Sholing 13/1 (GW)

Brambling 1 west at Weston Shore 17/10 (ARC)

Siskin 250+ seen in Alders at Testwood Lake 1/1 (PB)

Redpoll 5+ at Testwood Lake 1/1 (PB)

Yellowhammer a pair with a singing male in central Bitterne 16/3 (EWW)

Snow Bunting 2 at Hurst beach 2/1 (PRB)

MAMMALS

Field Vole 1 found dead at Peartree Green 30/7 (PB)

Brown Hare a pair boxing south of Corhampton golf course 27/3 (fm)

Roe Deer 3 at Westwood 24/1 and 119/3 (ARC)

Pipistrelle Bat (sp.) a late record 17/10 at Caerleon Avenue, Bitterne (PB)

Weasel 1 Hamble Airfield on 6/3 (ARC)

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