Southampton Natural History Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2005

SOUTHAMPTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Cover: Great Millet
Photograph: Peter Burford
Design: Mike Creighton

Chairman's Comments

2005 was another very productive year for the Southampton Natural History Society. A particular highlight was the production of our first survey report (apart from Annual Reports) for over twenty years. This was the booklet entitled "The Ladybirds of Southampton". A booklet on the shieldbugs of Southampton is planned. Eventually our ambition is to compile a complete natural history of the Southampton area.

Despite some losses (due to non-payment) in the summer, our membership was hovering around the 130 mark by the end of 2005. This was due to a particularly large surge in new members this year. We were greatly saddened when our former Chairman and President David Goodall passed away (in March). However, we were delighted when Chris Packham (television personality and former junior member) took up our offer to be the new President (in June). Our committee remained stable through the year, but there are likely to be some changes in 2006. The Southampton Wildlife Link continued to function at the Sholing Valley Study Centre and with myself as the Chair.

For a third consecutive year we produced our new-style Annual Report with colour illustrations in the middle and on the cover. However, our traditional recording of flora and fauna continues as before and we concentrated on various insect groups, but particularly the shieldbugs and the related squash bugs. We hope to complete the shieldbug project and produce a report by the end of 2006. In 2005 we discovered several species of shieldbug and squash bug that have probably never been recorded in the Southampton area previously. We collected more ladybird records too and witnessed the arrival of the Harlequin Ladybird in the autumn. However, we were very disappointed by the virtual lack of response (at least by the time of writing) to the ladybird survey for children's groups organised by Chris Oliver.

We continued to develop the Communigate web site and there were about 5000 recorded 'hits' by the end of the year (about six per day through the year). However, it would be wonderful if somebody were able and willing to come forward and either do much more with the web site or set up a new one for us. We need our own 'web master'.

We held another successful 'academic' workshop at Testwood in February and are planning another in Spring 2006. We are also planning a family-orientated public event in summer 2006 and we are hoping that this might increase awareness of the society and attract more children and younger people generally. In 2005 we continued with our traditional events including seven Indoor Meetings and twenty-five Field Meetings.

As regards issues relating to wildlife I could almost repeat the comments in the 2005 report. A much colder winter is forecast, but at the time of writing (16th December 2005) there isn't much sign of it. This, if it were to happen, could reverse some of the recent trends. 2005 was also a very dry year and I get the impression that it was a quite sunny one too. Most aspects of flora and fauna seem to be flourishing under these conditions, except the Lepidoptera (butterflies and moths) for some reason. There are still considerable pressures on the environment locally, nationally and worldwide. Possibly some of our flora and fauna can cope with this better than others.

Phil Budd

Southampton Wildlife Link

The Southampton Wildlife Link continued to meet at the Sholing Valley Study Centre courtesy of the Sholing Valley Study Centre Association. The Link met here on six occasions during 2005—17th January, 7th March, 25th April, 20th June, 5th September and 7th November. The other organisations which currently send representatives to the SWL meetings are the Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery (represented by John Vetterlein), Hawthorns Wildlife Association, Sholing Environmental Group and the Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society. On 25th April Hilary Bell (British Trust for Conservation Volunteers) was a guest. The City Council continued to be represented by Ian Barker (the City Ecologist). John Poland (Conservation Officer) and Jan Schubert (Secretary) represent the SNHS on The Link. Phil Budd was voted as Chairman of The Link for another year.

The Link continued to be involved in a number of projects. The butterfly transect on Peartree Green continued for a third year, with the monitoring again equally shared between Peter Burford and Phil Budd. There are, at present, no other active butterfly transects within the city of Southampton. A final draft of the allotment survey was prepared in the autumn and issued to all representative groups plus the City Ecologist. The Link still has access to the allotments and future survey work is possible in 2006 but none was carried out in 2005. The botanical survey of cemeteries and churchyards in Southampton was completed in 2005, but it was decided that we would not produce a final report since the City Council seem to have a good awareness of ecological importance of the better sites. Concerns were raised about the possibility that toads may be extinct in the Southampton area and a survey is planned for early 2006 to establish whether this is true or not.

The Link continues 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 demolition of much of the Vosper's site at Woolston; the improvements at Weston Shore; plans for improvements at Daisy Dip (Bassett); the development of the Sholing Village Green at South East Road (work finally got underway in the autumn); the creation of a new access footpath at the eastern end of Weston Common; the development of the Target site at Hightown; the plans for the Itchen Navigation and numerous minor developments. The latter mainly involve the creation of new homes on brown-field sites.

The Link also commented, in detail, on the draft Biodiversity Action Plan, produced by the City Council in the summer. Our Conservation Officer, John Poland. also made additional comments on this document on behalf of the Southampton Natural History Society. Also we commented on the City Council's Streetscape Report, although much of this was irrelevant to us.

Phil Budd, Chair of the Southampton Wildlife Link

Membership Secretary's Report

I am delighted to be able to report that our membership is still increasing fast, and we now have 127 members and six affiliated groups. We welcome the following new members: Debbie Allan, Maurie Askell, P Beaville, Robert and Steph Carr, Jason Claxton, Ginnie Copsey, Matthew Coumbe, Gillian Fawcett, Patrick Fleet, Susan Forester, Colin Franklin, Elaine Gilmore, Kathryn Hart, Dr Jenny Hughes, Jean Jupe, William Kavanagh, Amanda and Graham Kesby, Rev. Graham Long, Diane Mountford, Josephine Oliver, Corinne Nesbet, John Norton, Chris Packham, Richard Painter, Jennifer Preston, Martin Rand, John Rawlingson, Barrie Roberts, Pamela Sudlow, Chris Sykes, Marjorie Taylor-Hutchins, David Thelwell, Ann Van Dyck.

Barbara Thomas

Field Meetings

Twenty-five Field Meetings were held during the course of 2005. The Field Meetings continued to be advertised on our web site and the traditional coloured cards as well as more widely.

We held a wide variety of events: five bird watches, six botanical forays (including specific meetings looking at vegetative flora and trees in winter), five insect 'forays' (including a specific meeting to look at shieldbugs and another for dragonflies), one seashore event, one pond life event, one deer foray, one reptile foray, three fungus forays, one Bryophyte foray and two general wildlife events.

Most of our Field Meetings were Southampton Natural History Society only events. We held joint meetings with the Butterfly Conservation, Flora Group of Hants Wildlife Trust, Friends of Southampton Cemetery, Hawthorns Wildlife Association (two) and the Winchester Group of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. One meeting was a joint public event with Fareham Borough Council.

We did well for leaders in 2005. These included Andy Barker, Phil Budd (11), Peter Burford, Andy Collins (2), Barbara Hillier, Jan Kidd, Chris Oliver (3), John Poland, Rod Stern (of the British Bryological Society), John Vetterlein, Andrew Walmsley and Gerry Wilding. We also thank John Horne (Old Bursledon Nature Haven), the Hawthorns Wildlife Association committee, Loraine Martin (Winchester Group of HWT) and the Fareham Council for their cooperation with the meetings.

Attendances (of SNHS members only) at our Field Meetings averaged about ten and ranged from three (plus three members of the public) at the Warsash Common moth lamp to eighteen at both Redlynch in April and the seashore meeting at Royal Victoria Country Park in August. However, the overall attendance at the Southampton Old Cemetery meeting in January was forty. This was the largest crowd of the year.

2005 was a dry year and the weather on our Field Meetings was generally favourable. We enjoyed mostly or entirely sunny conditions on sixteen meetings. Overcast, but dry conditions, occurred on five other occasions. It was damp with drizzle on one occasion and there was some more substantial rain for two meetings (Ramalley Copse in April and the Southampton Common fungus foray). We didn't have any snow or particularly strong winds to contend with.

In total there were four all-day events, six morning excursions, tweve afternoon events and three evening/night meetings. We didn't get anyone out of bed too early in 2005!

Where did we go? Eight of our Field Meetings took place in the Southampton area, with another twelve elsewhere in southern Hampshire (including three in the New Forest). Also there were two in central/north Hampshire (Magdalen Hill Down and Noar Hill), one in Wiltshire (Redlynch) and one in Dorset (Boscombe and Southbourne).

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: Testwood Lakes, 16th: This was the first of two meetings at this site in 2005. Chris Oliver showed nine members forty-six species of birds, including a surprise Barnacle Goose from the hide. Also two Roe Deer seen and both Mistle Thrush and Song Thrush singing in the mild conditions. **Southampton Old**

Cemetery, 30th: John Vetterlein invited us to one of his last Sunday of the month wild flower walks and twelve members took up the invitation. Fifteen flowers in bloom, including Greater Snowdrop and Spring Crocus, also late Wood Blewit fungi.

February: Telegraph Hill, 12th: Eight members joined Andy Collins on a walk that unavoidably clashed with our workshop at Testwood. They saw Fallow Deer, Buzzards, a Hen Harrier and a Dartford Warbler in excellent weather conditions.

March: Southampton Common—North, 19th: Spring sunshine brought out twelve members. Rod Stern, of the British Bryological Society, showed us fourteen species of liverwort and moss. We saw some early butterflies, including Brimstone and Comma and also Orange Underwing Moth.

April: Redlynch and Barford Down in Wiltshire, 2nd: More warm spring sunshine and the lure of Wild Tulip and Asarabacca (see colour plate 2) in bloom brought out eighteen members from far and wide for this one. Thirty-five flowers in bloom, an early Swallow seen and insect life included a Holly Blue butterfly. **Browndown near Gosport, 10th:** Sunshine but a cold wind greeted fourten members on another spring botanical trip. Although Phil Budd was the leader, Eric Clement and Debbie Allan were on hand to show us around their local patch. The highlight was the recently discovered Early Medick at its only known British site. **Ramalley Copse and Flexford, 23rd:** Poor weather greeted five members and Barbara Hillier at this new venue for the society. Nevertheless, we saw thirty six flowering plants, including Golden Saxifrage and Solomon's Seal, and a Nuthatch at its nest in an Alder tree.

May: Noar Hill, 7th: Peter Burford showed eight members around this classic wildlife site well known to Gilbert White. It was a sunny morning, but the coldness restricted the butterflies; nevertheless we saw three Dingy Skippers and five Duke of Burgundy. Also the Early Purple Orchids were still in flower and a Stoat seen. **Warsash Common, 14th:** A small crowd went on a short evening walk with Phil Budd around this former landfill site. We carried out some sweeping for insects and then ran a couple of moth lamps. The cold, clear conditions restricted the moths, but we did see Least Black Arches, Orange Footman and a scarce micro-moth associated with White Bryony called *Phtheochroa rugosana*. **Boscombe and Southbourne, 25th:** This meeting took place on a Wednesday morning, but despite this six people turned up. After the coastal mist had cleared, warm sunshine enabled us to appreciate the interest at these sites. We saw three species of lizard, including Wall Lizard (see colour page 1) and two Green Lizards, also Rose Chafer, Crucifer Shieldbug and a long list of native and naturalised flora.

June: Ashley Walk area, 5th: Eleven members joined Gerry Wilding on a visit to this site in the north-west of the New Forest. The dull weather limited the insects.

We saw a Cuckoo being mobbed by a Meadow Pipit, a singing Dartford Warbler and some interesting flora, including Heath Spotted Orchid and Pale Dog Violet, Glandular Eyebright and Small Cudweed. **Freemantle Railway Footpath, 23rd:** This was an evening walk led by Phil Budd and attended by eleven members. Warm, muggy conditions prevailed on this walk at an unfamiliar urban site. Naturalised flora included Bay Laurel and Walnut whilst native species included White Melilot. Some insect recording was also carried out and a colony of Tawny Cockroach were seen near Millbrook Railway Station.

July: Southampton Common, 3rd: Damp, dull, cool weather didn't help on this insect meeting. The fourteen people who turned up didn't see any dragonflies or damselflies but did see some Marbled White butterflies and a late Cockchafer. **Weston Common, 12th:** A fine, warm evening, but the prospect of visiting Sholing wasn't particularly inviting as only five members turned up. The floral highlight was the naturalised French Cranesbill. Insect life included four species of ladybird, Lesser Stag Beetle and seven Purple Hairstreaks around oak trees at the eastern end of the common. **Old Bursledon Nature Haven, 23rd:** This was our annual visit to John Horne's land and it took place on a hot and sunny afternoon. Eight members watched the dragonflies and carried out some pond dipping. We discovered Great Crested Newt tadpples and a noisy Screech (or Squeak) Beetle. An early Wasp Spider seen and a curious infestation of galls on a luckless Elm tree proved to be caused by the gall mite *Aceria ulmicola*.

August: Lord's Wood, 6th: A total of ten SHNS members and a further nine from the Hampshire Branch of Butterfly Conservation joined Phil Budd. Cloudy conditions gave way to late sunshine and nine species of butterfly included Silver-washed Fritillary. Southern Hawker Dragonflies were 'everywhere' and a scarce hoverfly *Volucella inflata* seen on Bramble blossom. Flora included Betony, Lesser Skullcap and Goldenrod. **Royal Victoria Country Park, 14th:** A large crowd of eighteen turned up for this seashore foray on a bright and breezy Sunday morning. Phil Budd identified specimens whilst Andy Barker carried out a transect survey. A few species new to this site were identified—see Systematic Fauna Records. **Netley Common, 28th:** Nine members enjoyed a warm and sunny morning, just right for insect life. Andy Collins and Phil Budd used the society sweep nets and beating trays. Eleven species of shieldbug and squash bug were recorded, including Bronze Shield Bug and the scarce *Rhopalus parumpunctatus*.

September: Warsash to Hook Shore, 3rd: Chris Oliver led only four members on a warm, sunny morning walk. Those who didn't turn up missed out on forty-four species of birds, including two Wheatear, a Hobby and at least ten Little Egrets. They also missed four species of dragonfly, including a late Emperor Dragonfly. Of flora the Slender Hare's-ear is still flourishing at its known site and a rare alien

Blue Eryngo *Eryngium planum* (see colour page 3) found at the public car park. **Brinken Wood area in the New Forest, 24th:** This was Andrew Walmsley's first walk for us and fifteen members enjoyed the warm and sunny conditions. Birds included Hobby and Woodlark. There were late butterflies, such as Comma and Speckled Wood. Also the Giant Ichneumon Fly, an abundance of Lemon-scented Fern and some dehydrated fungi seen.

October: Roydon Woods, 2nd: John Poland showed ten members of the SNHS plus eleven Hampshire Wildlife Trust Flora Group members examples of how to identify the flora of heathland, bog and woodland using vegetative characters alone. Also we saw a late Golden-ringed Dragonfly and fungi including the scarce *Rhizina undulata* on burnt ground and Cauliflower Fungus at the base of a Monterey Pine. **Testwood Lakes, 22nd:** Chris Oliver and Jan Kidd jointly led two walks in the Testwood Lakes area in mostly sunny conditions. In total, thirteen members attended these. Thirty-six bird species included some early winter arrivals, such as Redwing and Siskin. Also there were butterflies such as Red Admiral and Clouded Yellow.

November: Southampton Common, 6th: This was the fifteenth annual foray joint with the Hawthorns Wildlife Association and six members were amongst the group of fifteen. Early rain fortunately cleared and the forty two species were seen including eight new ones to the south of Southampton Common. **Ramalley Copse at Chandler's Ford, 19th:** Six members came along to this late fungus foray in dry, sunny and frosty weather conditions. It was too dry and frosty for fungi, but nineteen species were seen, including a spectacular display of Sulphur Tuft and an unusual variety of the Shaggy Parasol Mushroom.

December: Magdalen Hill Down, 4th: Nine SNHS members and a further thirteen members of the Winchester Group of HWT joined Phil Budd for this one. It was a dry and sunny afternoon. Nineteen trees and shrubs favouring chalky soils were identified using keys recently devised by Phil. A very late Peacock butterfly was seen before the start of the walk. A similar tree identification walk took place on Southampton Common on 11th December and the key had to be radically altered as a result!

February Workshop

On Saturday **12th February** the second of two identification workshops organised by John Poland took place at the Testwood Centre. We were grateful to the Hampshire Wildlife Trust for allowing us to use this venue once again. Thirty-five delegates attended and many of these are these were professionally involved wildlife and conservation. Phil Budd ran micro-fungi workshops in the morning and again in the afternoon. Micro-fungi considered included Myxomycetes (slime moulds) and Discomycetes (disc fungi). Also in the morning Fred Rumsey of the British

Bryological Society led a workshop covering Bryophytes (mosses and liverworts). In the afternoon a workshop on Mollusc identification, was run by Graham Long of the British Conchological Society. Jan Kidd plus Keith and Heather Watson arranged the catering.

Finally I would like to thank all leaders, landowners and people involved in the February workshop for making the 2005 Field Meetings programme such a success.

Phil Budd

Indoor Meetings

We held seven Indoor Meetings in 2005. All were held at the Edmund Kell Hall at Asylum Road. Attendances were encouraging; they varied from seventeen to twenty-nine and averaged twenty-two. The highest turn out was twenty-nine for the meeting on 1st November. According to the fire book, fifty different people (40% of our current membership) attended at least one Indoor Meeting. We held raffles at some meetings and these were organised by Jan Kidd, Barbara Thomas or John Poland. Ted and Shirley Wills stepped down from preparing the tea, and we were grateful that Ron and Barbara Thomas were able to take over this duty.

Our Indoor programme kicked of with a well-attended talk on **4th January**. Gordon Small, of the Southampton and District Bird Group, gave a lecture about the birds of the Shetlands. It was interesting to see birds, that we know of as winter visitors, in their breeding habitats, these included Red-throated Diver and Grey Phalarope. On **1st February** we were treated to a talk on a very different subject by one of our own members, Darren Naish. The subject of this talk was "The Edge of Extinction: Terror Skinks, Owlet Nightjars and Giant Killer Eagles". A range of creatures from the tropical islands of the Indian Ocean, both extinct and just hanging on, were covered and this included the Dodo. On **1st March** Wildlife Crime Officer Geoff Culbertson was the speaker on "Wildlife Crime in Hampshire"—it was a great pity that only seventeen turned up for this talk as it was certainly the most important subject matter of the year.

Our **AGM** took place on **5th April**. All committee members were re-elected, but two of them gave their apologies for absence. The death of former Chairman and President David Goodall was announced. Five potential future Presidents were suggested by the floor, as was the idea of a possible name change. A team quiz was held after the business was completed.

Our new winter programme began on the **4th October**. There was a large turn-out for this one. Peter Burford's subject was "Close Up To Nature" and various wildlife themes were covered, both from home and abroad.

A small number of Butterfly Conservation members, one from as far away as Basingstoke, joined regular members on the meeting of **1st November**. The speaker was Brian Fletcher on the subject of "Butterflies of the Swiss Alps", covering butterflies (and a few other insects) at all elevations.

On **6th December** our last lecture of the year, was presented by Loraine Martin, of the Winchester group of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. The subject covered was the flora, scenery and architecture, of Uzbekistan—a country that none of us had ever visited.

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

Phil Budd

Deer on the Doorstep

Chris Boulton died on 17th May 2004 at the age of 86 after a long illness. His obituary appeared in the Autumn 2004 newsletter. In his memory we here re-print another of one of his articles that first appeared in the 1995 Annual Report.

Back in the fifties Roe Deer started to colonize Hampshire. At that time, Marwell Zoo were getting enquiries telling of escaped deer being seen. Obviously people thought they must have come from that source. The story of these incomers, however, is quite interesting because, instead of being escapes, these were truly wild-bred creatures from either Sussex or Dorset.

Roe Deer and the much larger Red Deer were natives of these islands from thousands of years ago. Roe Deer became nearly or quite extinct long before records were kept, but the larger Red Deer remained in varying, but mostly good, numbers. Antlers of Roe Deer found by archaeologists dated at five thousand years or more show that these small deer have not changed much in all that time, whereas the larger Red Deer were massive beasts, much bigger than those we see today.

As mentioned previously, Roe Deer were extinct in England but still survived in the Highlands of Scotland. In about 1800, however, three estate owners in Dorset and at least one in Sussex procured will Roe Deer from possibly Germany. Some of these were impounded in parks and later released into the wild, whilst those were given their freedom forthwith. These small deer soon settled into their

new surroundings, bred rapidly and spread in various directions. The increasing populations took almost one hundred and fifty years to reach Hampshire in good numbers, some spreading from the west and others colonizing from the east.

At first there was a variation in the antlers of the Roe Deer in Hampshire. Those of Sussex stock had narrow tips to the antlers whilst those from Dorset were wider and slightly heavier. Today, with all the interbreeding, there is very little difference except that deer from rich and calcareous soil districts have more elegant 'heads' than those living in areas of poor and acid soils. The former are preferred by stalkers looking for a trophy whilst the latter, such as those in the New Forest, not only have poorer heads but tend to be rather thin on the ground.

These small deer can be found in most Hampshire woodlands and a rather interesting change in their habits has developed over the years. Firstly, Roe Deer seemed to prefer dense woodland and then took a preference for more open and scrubby habitats. Recently, however, it has become common to see them lying down and chewing the cud out in the middle of large cornfields. On the continent, a name is given to this form of open field living: this name is 'field Roe'. I have once seen and once heard of large gatherings of Roe in open fields. In the first case, thirty-five were seen and in the latter case there were thirty deer of mixed age and sex. In both cases, the deer were lying a long way from cover and were observed several times over a number of weeks.

In April and May, Roe take up breeding territories within areas of woodland and scrub. At this time the yearlings are driven out by the adults. The former wander like lost souls and become (as the heading to this article says) "Deer on the Doorstep". One reads of young, bewildered creatures coming into gardens, visiting allotments and even swimming across estuaries in an attempt to find their own territories. Sadly, quite a number are killed by traffic on busy roads.

These deer are very destructive where new trees are being planted and also they love roses, runner beans and other vegetables. Numbers have to be controlled by forestry rangers and trained stalkers for these reasons. In spite of this legal culling and the large numbers killed by the traffic and poachers, the population seems fairly stable. The female Roe, known as a doe, breeds once a year and has an average of one and a half young, known as kids, reared to maturity. Kids are born in May and are almost full-grown by the following December. Some does are barren but triplets are not unknown in others: hence the one and a half average. The does start breeding in their first year and the kids are dropped in open, rough grassland. An interesting feature of the Roe kids is that they are said to give no scent.

In Britain there are strict laws regarding the control of all deer species and these cover seasons, timings, weapons and the disposal of venison.

Weather Records 2005

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

Introduction

2005 was a little sunnier and warmer than average, but the main feature was its dryness. The rainfall was just 70% of the long-term average. Comparisons for the seven years from 1998 to 2005 are as follows:

1. 2005 was the year with the highest average atmospheric pressure. The average was 1017.6 millibars. The usual average figure is 1015.0 millibars.
2. Sunshine was 115% up on average and 2005 was the second sunniest year. Also 2005 contained the sunniest day in the eight-year period (22nd June).
3. The average wind speed was the lowest of the eight years. No gales were recorded at Chandler's Ford.
4. 2005 was a remarkably average year for temperatures. It was only slightly warmer than average but there were slightly more air frosts than normal.
5. 2005 was the driest year from 1998 to 2005 with just 652.4 mm rain (or 25.7 inches) of rain. However, there were no particularly long dry spells.

January was very mild, fairly dry and rather dull. This typically tedious January was only relieved by some severe south-west gales on the night of 7th/8th. The only coldish weather occurred during a spell of northerly winds from 22nd to 27th.

February was the driest month of the year (unusual), but was dismally dull and slightly colder than normal. The month was mild up to 19th but then north-east winds brought a spell of cold weather with light snow, culminating in a minimum of –6°C (21°F) on 28th. The 24th was the coldest day of the year at 3°C (37°F). The winter of 2004/5 was the driest in England for forty-two years (since 1962/3).

March was particularly mild and mostly dry, but not particularly sunny. However, persistent north winds gave a cold first week with some sleet and temperatures as low as –5°C (23°F) on the 4th. In contrast, the temperature of 21°C (70°F) on 19th was the highest in eight years for March. An inch of rain fell on the miserable 29th.

April was an average month in most respects, with quite a lot of April showers, but not much heavy rain. The last night frost occurred on the 9th and it took until the 30th for the temperatures to finally reach 21°C (70°F).

May was normal in terms of temperature, but rather dry and sunny. Apart from the miserable spell from the 18th to the 21st, there was very little rain. Hot south-east winds brought a temperature of 27.5°C (81°F) on the 27th, the hottest day of the month. Also there were no particularly cold days: the coldest was 13°C (55°F) on the 4th.

Month	Mean maximum temperature		Mean minimum temperature		No of air frosts	Total sun hours	No of wet days	Total rainfall	
	ºC	ºF	ºC	ºF				mm	in
January	9.5	49	4.2	40	4	64	11	48	1.9
February	7.8	46	2.1	36	10	66	6	14	05
March	12.0	54	4.4	40	7	99	6	53	2.1
April	14.6	58	5.6	42	2	130	9	44	1.7
May	17.6	64	7.8	46	0	184	8	44	1.7
June	21.7	71	12.1	54	0	196	8	47	1.9
July	22.7	73	13.3	56	0	179	9	61	2.4
August	22.9	73	12.0	54	0	213	8	47	1.9
September	20.7	69	11.3	52	0	147	8	32	1.3
October	17.0	63	10.7	51	0	87	16	123	4.8
November	10.1	50	3.2	38	9	91	7	68	2.7
December	7.8	46	1.3	34	14	81	7	71	2.8
Means/Totals	**15.4**	**60**	**7.3**	**45**	**46**	**1537**	**103**	**652**	**25.7**

Note: A 'wet day' is one on which more than 1mm rain fell.

June was also largely in keeping with the long-term averages in most respects. However, it was a month of two halves. The first half was disappointingly chilly, but largely dry. The second half was very warm to hot and humid, with some heavy rain, with thunder on 24th and on the evening of 28th. The warmest night of the year was 18th/19th June at 18°C (64°F). On 22nd there was 14.68 hours of sun, the sunniest day in eight years.

July was warm, but cloudier than normal. It was also the wettest month of the year to date. The hottest day of the year was the 10th when temperatures reached 30.3°C (87°F). More than an inch of rain fell on 24th/25th.

August was warm, dry and very sunny—a good summer month. There were 26 days when the temperatures exceeded 20°C and there was some sunshine recorded every single day. There was a more unsettled period, with some heavy rain with thunder and cooler temperatures from 19th to 24th.

September was warm, dry and reasonably sunny. It was the second-driest month of 2005. The start of the month was particularly summery, with temperatures as high as 27°C (81°F) on the 4th. There was very little rain until after 23rd. Even then the most noticeable difference was the drop in temperatures to normal autumnal values.

October was the wettest month of the year by far and the only one to see over 3 inches (75 mm) rain. The 24th/25th saw 55 mm rain in about 36 hours, but the first 18 days of the month were largely dry. It was a mild month with 20.5°C recorded on two days and no minimum temperature below 4.5°C. The first autumn gales occurred on 21st.

November was mild and dryer than normal, with most of the rain occurring in the first three days. There were also some severe coastal gales on 3rd. The first frost occurred on 17th, but there were no particularly cold nights in Southampton.

December was relatively cold and dry, but the main feature was that it was notably sunny. With 81 hours of sun it was the sunniest December of the eight years. Severe frosts occurred on 18th and 29th, the –7°C (19°F) minimum on the latter was the coldest of the year. The other outstanding feature was the highest atmospheric pressure (1041 millibars) on 10th, following eight days after the lowest (977 millibars) on 2nd.

(Unfortunately, Keith has now moved from his address at Thorold Road and will be unable to maintain his weather station. We would like to thank him for all the interesting information he has provided in the past. If anybody else keeps weather records, we would very much like to hear from them—Phil Budd.)

MEMBERS' RECORDS FOR 2005
Compiled by Phil Budd (Flora) and Andy Collins (Fauna)

Contributors

MA	Mauri Askell	ALB	Dr Andy and Linda Barker
PB	Phil Budd	PRB	Peter Burford
JC	Jason Claxton	ARC	Prof. Andy Collins
RC	Ron Cooke	CC	Cathy Corney
KE	Kathy Emmott	GHW	Graham Harrison-Watts
NH	Neale Hider	JN	John Norton
CO	Chris Oliver	KJP	Keith Plumridge
JP	John Poland	JS	Dr Jan Schubert
RS	Rod Ship	TS	Toni Slaven
MS	Mary Smith	NS	Nick Smith
BT	Barbara Thomas	JV	John Vetterlein
JW	Julie Watson	GW	Gerry Wilding
PW	Paul Winter		

fm	field meeting	mo	many observers
RVCP	Royal Victoria Country Park	ICVP	Itchen Valley Country Park

MYCOTA

FUNGI

2005 was a very dry year, so it wasn't very good for fungi on the whole. There was a short but productive autumn season starting from early October. However, it was rapidly killed off by the frosts in mid-November.

In the autumn several members looked for fungi in the area from Branksome Dene Chine, Poole to Southbourne, including the Boscombe area. The fungi were found to be less spectacular than the vascular flora, insects and reptiles of this area. Nevertheless, some species were found in greater quantity than would normally be expected elsewhere in Hampshire/Dorset. The most productive habitats were the woodlands and parks where there are pines, mainly Maritime Pine *Pinus pinaster*, or Evergreen Oak *Quercus ilex*. Typical fungi at **Boscombe Chine** included ***Xerocomus badius*** **(Bay Bolete)**, the Bolete ***Gyroporus castaneus***, ***Russula laurocerasi***, the milk cap ***Lactarius pubescens***, ***Agaricus silvaticus*** **(Pine Wood Mushroom)**, ***Tricholoma sulphureum***, ***Hebeloma crustuliniforme*** **(Poison Pie = Fairy Cakes)**, ***Stropharia aurantiaca*** and the ***Otidea onotica*** **(Hare's Ear Fungus)**. It is also likely that the scarce ***Amanita gemmata*** occurs in this area as this species was found further west at **Branksome Dene Chine** and **Alum Chine**.

On our Field Meeting in the **Brinken Wood** area on 24/9 the dry conditions restricted the fungi but nineteen species were seen, mainly polypores such as ***Inonotus cuticularis***, **Beef Steak** ***Fistulina hepatica***, ***Polyporus leptocephalus*** and **Oyster Mushroom** ***Pleurotus ostreatus***.

Records for **Roydon Woods** on 2/10 have already been noted under the Field Meeting Report and the only species noted at **Testwood Lakes** on 22/10 was **Meadow Buffcap** ***Cuphophyllus pratensis***. Of the forty-two species recorded on the foray at **Southampton Common** on 6/11 some eight species were new to the southern half of the common, namely ***Clavulinopsis luteoalba***, ***Clitocybe geotropa*** **(Trooping Funnelcap)**, ***Clitopilus prunulus*** **(The Miller)**, ***Hygrocybe punicea*** **(Crimson Waxcap)**, ***Lactarius blennius*** **(Slimy Milk cap)**, ***Meruliopsis corium***, ***Mucilago crustacea*** (a slime mould) and ***Tricholoma pseudoalbum***. At Ramalley Copse on 19/11 a total of nineteen species were identified, including ***Macrolepiota rhacodes var. hortensis***, ***Mycena leucogala*** and ***Mycena pelianthina***.

There were reports of large numbers of fungi at the **Haslar Royal Naval Cemetery** at Clayhall Road, Gosport in late October. These included several species of ***Hygrocybe sp.*** and the Bolete ***Suillus granulatus***. Also ***Hygrocybe calyptraeformis*** **(Pink Pixie Cap)** appeared at a regular site at **Ann's Hill Cemetery** (JN).

Other records of interest were as follows (all records by PB):

Agaricus cupreobrunneus Round Hill camp site, New Forest—in grazed grassland 26/10. (See colour page 1.)

Agaricus xanthodermus **(Yellow Stainer)** c100 in a garden at Westridge Court, Portswood 10/11.

Ciboria amentacea **(Alder Catkin Cup)** abundant under Alders north of Testwood Centre 12/2. Also at Chilworth Common 19/3.

Clitocybe squamulosa under Cypresses at Southampton Old Cemetery 25/12.

Helvella queletii **(a False Morel)** Kite's Croft, Titchfield Common 28/3. (See colour page 1.)

Lactarius hemicyaneus Round Hill camp site, New Forest—under Pines 26/10. (This species exudes a bright blue milky juice from the cap when it is cut.) (See colour page 1.)

Lentinellus cochleatus Chilworth Manor Gardens—on a birch log 29/10.

Lepista saeva **(Field Blewit)** Dundridge Reserve 13/11

Leucocoprinus brebissonii a 'new' species at Itchen Valley Country Park 5/11.

Lycoperdon echinatum **(Spiny Puffball)** east of Beaulieu Motor Museum 16/11.

Marasmius cohaerens a 'new' species at IVCP 5/11.

Marasmius wynnei woods west of Testwood Centre 10/10. (This species is unusual in woodlands off the chalk.)

Microglossum olivaceum **(an Earth Tongue)** plentiful on a lawn at Tennyson Rd, Eastleigh 5/11. (A Biodiversity Action Plan species.)

Micromphale foetidum woods east of Dundridge Reserve 13/11.

Mutinus caninus **(Dog Stinkhorn)** a 'new' species at IVCP 5/11.

Neottiella rutilans **(a disc fungus)** Peewit Hill 9/2 and Clayland's Reserve 18/2.

Omphalotus illudens **(Jack'o'lantern)** grounds of IBM, Hursley 13/8. (This fungus, which apparently glows in the dark, is rare in Britain but common in the USA.)

Sparassis crispa **(Cauliflower Fungus)** growing at the base of an Atlas Cedar (unusual) at Chilworth Manor Gardens 19/10.

Trichodiscus virescentulus **(**an uncommon **disc fungus)** found on dead Sallow leaves near North Pond, Bishop's Waltham 9/2.

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 identification of commoner Discomycetes (Disc Fungi) and Myxomycetes (Slime Moulds)—see article in 2003 Annual Report.

LICHENS

There were also a few interesting lichen records in 2005:

Cladonia furcata and ***Cladonia humilis*** both seen on the shore at Redbridge Wharf Park 3/4.

Dimerella pineti on Alder bark at Chilworth Common 19/3.

Peltigera didactyla on bark chippings by Bitterne Bypass (Maybray King Way) 6/3.

FLORA

ALGAE (Seaweeds)

During the Field Meeting at **RVCP** on 14/8 three new species to the site were recorded. These were the brown seaweed (Class *Phaeophyceae*) ***Dictyota dichotoma*** and the red seaweeds (Class *Rhodophycceae*) ***Catenella caespitosa*** and ***Chondria dasyphylla***. Two alien brown seaweeds, already recorded at RVCP, were found at **Hamble Shore** on 25/5. These were **Jap Weed *Sargassum muticum*** and **Japanese Kelp *Undaria pinnatifida.*** (All PB).

BRYOPHYTES

The surveying of Bryophytes (liverworts and mosses) in the Southampton area continued with recording in the **Marchwood** area on 3/2, including Marchwood Church, Magazine Lane and the Bury Marsh area (mo). There were also two surveys at **Hillier's Gardens** (mo) on 3/4 and 18/12. On the former date the surveying included the Brentry woodland. Most of the species seen at Hillier's Gardens are either common ones in acid habitats or have yet (at the time of writing) to be determined. We also held a Field Meeting, on 19/3 and led by Rod Stern, to look at Bryophytes on **Southampton Common**.There was some excitement when a strange *Dicranella* found north of the Ornamental Lake was tentatively determined as *D.subulata*, unfortunately the specimen collected proved to be an aberrant *Dicranella heteromalla*. (PB).

Records of particular interest in 2005 (all PB unless otherwise stated):

Liverworts

Leiocolea turbinata found on exposed chalk banks at Dundridge 30/4. (Probably the closest site to Southampton for this common liverwort of bare, damp chalk.)

Lophocolea bidentata on the bark of a palm tree at Marlhill Copse 5/4.

Lophocolea bispinosa abundant on peaty banks in Hillier's Gardens 3/4 and 18/12 (This species is a native of New Zealand and has almost certainly been introduced with plants from the southern Hemisphere. It has been previously recorded on the Isles of Scilly and Colonsay (Scotland).)

Lophocolea heterophylla (unusually with abundant gemmae) Magazine Lane, Marchwood 3/02.
Riccia sorocarpa Bury Shore (unusual habitat) 3/2.

Mosses

Barbula recurvirostra March wood Church 3/2.
Barbula tophacea on shingle shore near Cracknore Hard, Marchwood 3/2.
Bartramia pomiformis **(Apple Moss)** Watton's Ford Common 9/3.
Brachythecium rivulare damp Alder woodland in south of Chilworth Common 19/3.
Cryphaea heteromalla on old Elders at Hillier's Gardens 18/12.
Epipterygium (= Webera) tozeri on bank under a Blackthorn, Magazine Lane, Marchwood 3/02. (This is a rare species in Hampshire.)
Orthotrichum lyelli on logs at Hillier's Gardens 18/12
Physcomitrium pyriforme **(Pear Moss)** in grassland east of Miller's Pond, Sholing 6/3.
Plagiothecium curvifolium on dead stump at Bury Copse, Marchwood 3/2.
Plagiothecium succulentum damp Alder woodland in south of Chilworth Common 19/3.
Racomitrium canescens locally plentiful in grazed acid grassland at Setley 16/4. (This northern species is not particularly common in the New Forest.)
Rhyncostegiella pumila Marchwood Church 3/2.
Tortella flavovirens abundant on brackish mud by ditch at Magazine Lane, Marchwood 3/2. (This is an uncommon species, but occurs in similar habitat at Hamble Spit, Warsash.)
Tortula marginata along damp base of north side wall of Marchwood Church 3/2.

VASCULAR FLORA

A lot has been said in previous annual reports about the flora of the sandy cliffs between **Southbourne** and **Bournemouth**. In 2005 there was a Field Meeting in this area on 25/5 and most of the vascular flora recorded were species that had been found here before but there were two aliens of interest. These were ***Iris germanica*** **(Bearded Iris)** at **Southbourne** and ***Zantedeschia aethiopica*** **(Altar Lily)** at **Boscombe**. Perhaps the most significant find was of ***Persicaria nepalensis*** **(Nepalese Knotweed)** growing abundantly as a weed in the gardens and by a stream at the lower end of **Boscombe Chine** on 30/10 (found by PB and K. Hart). E.J. Clement later confirmed the identification of this plant and it might be the first establishment of this plant out of doors in Britain. It is likely that this plant had only appeared recently as local botanist Robin Walls had not recorded it. Further west, at **Branksome Dene Chine**, more interesting flora records were made on the cliffs, including a strong colony of ***Erica lusitanica*** **(Portuguese Heath)**. This area lies within the original boundary of Dorset.

There were a few more discoveries in the Gosport area in 2005. E.J. Clement and others reported ***Anthemis tinctoria*** **(Yellow Chamomile—**see colour page 2) near to **Haslar Lake** and ***Reseda alba*** **(White Mignonette—**see colour page 3) on the earth banks along the entrance to the **Gilkicker Common** public car park. Both were recorded in early July. Another find (after the Field Meeting on 10/4) was the hybrid couch grass ***Elytrigia repens x atherica*** **(= *Elytrigia x oliveri*)** along the coast road at Alverstoke. This was seen by JP and PB. Confirmed by E.J. Clement.

Botanical survey work continued in the more interesting churchyards and cemeteries in Southampton during August and September 2005 (PB and JV). Some interesting records appear in the systematic list below. At **Hollybrook Cemetery** a 'mint with lavender purple flowers' found growing on some introduced soil in the southwest corner of the site proved to be the Japanese labiate ***Agastache rugosa***. This would have been the fourth British record if accepted as naturalised but was probably planted here. Other unusual plants, mainly grasses, sedges and other labiates, were growing here as well also presumably planted.

Elsewhere in Southampton both the ***Lathyrus aphaca*** **(Yellow Vetchling)** at **St Mary's** and the ***Vicia bithynica*** **(Bithynian Vetch)** at **Peartree Green** appeared again. On the down side it was discovered that the **Mayflower Park** former railway site had been destroyed by the landowner. Soil had been dumped on to the site some time between 3rd April and 26th April. Therefore the only known Southampton site for ***Legousia hybrida*** **(Venus's Looking Glass)** was destroyed. ***Myosurus minimus*** **(Mouse-tail)** was also lost from this site but is still present at **Test Lane, Redbridge**.

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

Native Species

A***nacamptis pyramidalis*** **(Pyramidal Orchid)** first record for RVCP 16/6 (NH).

Cakile maritima **(Sea Rocket)** on coastal defensive wall at Redbridge Wharf Park 30/4.

Carex x subgracilis **(*Carex acuta x Carex acutiformis*)** one large colony (probably one plant) under a pylon by the A33 at Millbrook 16/5. (Confirmed by JP and E.J. Clement.)

Draba muralis **(Wall Whitlow Grass—not native to Hants)** in the walls of the alpine garden, near to Jermyn's House, Hillier's Gardens, Ampfield 3/4.

Epipactis purpurata **(Violet Helleborine)** two plants on shady grass verge outside a garden at Hart Hill, Hythe 30/8. (First found in 2004 by Mr and Mrs Rackham.)

Erodium moschatum **(Musk Stork's-bill)** in mown grassland at Lydgate Green, Hightown 10/4. (Also known to occur elsewhere in Thornhill.)

***Filipendula vulgaris* (Dropwort)** in grassland at Bitterne Church of England 9/9. (Probably the only site in or around Southampton.) (See colour page 3.)

***Geranium rotundifolium* (Round-leaved Crane's-bill)** very abundant in gravel on edge of the railway line east of Millbrook Station 16/5.

***Illecebrum verticillatum* (Coral Necklace)** plentiful in dried up pond basin at Forest Front Reserve, Dibden Purlieu 11/4.

***Listera ovata* (= *Neottia*) *ovata* (Twayblade)** three in Zionshill Copse, Chandler's Ford 30/5 (JC).

***Myosotis secunda* (Creeping Water Forget-me-not)** numerous plants found in a damp ditch east of Abbot's Well car park near Frogham 26/7.

***Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid)** ten rosettes at a site in Bitterne 6/3 (flowered in June).

***Orchis mascula* (Early Purple Orchid)** six plants at Zion's Hill Copse, Chandler's Ford 17/5 (JC).

***Ornithogalum umbellatum* (=*O.angustifolium*) (Common Star of Bethlehem)** 50 plants in grassland north of Cromarty Pond, Lord's Hill (present since at least 2002) 7/6 (JC).

***Poa infirma* (Early Meadow Grass)** on mown grassland at Eynham Ave, Bitterne 31/1. Also at Angel Crescent, central Bitterne and near the pier at Victoria Rd, Woolston 6/3.

***Ranunculus parviflorus* (Small-flowered Buttercup)** abundant in grassland north of the A33 near to Southampton Central Station 16/5. (The only known site in Southampton.) (See colour page 2.)

***Ranunculus sardous* (Hairy Buttercup)** both sides of road at Bramshaw 26/7.

***Saxifraga tridactylites* (Rue leaved Saxifrage)** in large quantity by railway line west of Redbridge Railway Station 3/4. Also found to be plentiful by railway east of Millbrook Station 16/5.

***Sedum forsterianum* (Rock Stonecrop—not native to Hants)** established in grassland on east side of Southampton Old Cemetery 19/6 (JV). Also in similar habitat at Bitterne Church of England 9/9 and.St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing 16/9. (See colour page 2.)

***Spiranthes spiralis* (Autumn Lady's Tressses)** thousands of plants at Buck Hill, New Forest 5/9 (JC).

***Stellaria pallida* (Lesser Chickweed)** in grassland at Victoria Rd, Woolston 6/3.

Escapes and Naturalisations

Abies alba **(Silver Fir)** small self-sown plant on edge of Clumber Inclosure, Burley 26/7.

Ailanthus altissima **(Tree of Heaven)** three self-sown plants at Paynes Rd, Shirley 28/10.

Allium roseum **(Rosy Garlic)** several plants found under the sword sculpture, Bevois Valley 18/5. (See colour page 3.)

Allium subhirsutum **(Hairy Garlic)** naturalised at Farringford Rd, Thornhill Estate 27/4. Also two plants on shady grassy slope by railway footpath at Freemantle 16/5.

Amaranthus retroflexus **(Common Amaranth)** roadside near to Spencer's Cottage, Nursling Street 8/9 (JC).

Barbarea verna **(American Winter Cress)** Grove Place, Weston Park and Hazel Rd, Woolston 9/5

Berberis verruculosa **(Warty Barberry)** bird-sown bush on south-west edge of Crooked Hays Copse, Marchwood 11/4. (First for Hampshire.)

Buddleia globosa **(Orange Ball Tree)** amongst scrub at Magpie Gardens, Sholing 12/7 (fm).

Buddleia x weyeriana one bush on south edge of wood east of Miller's Pond, Sholing 27/8.

Chamaecyparis nootkatensis **(Nootka Cypress)** self-sown in north-west of Lord's Wood 6/8.

Crocus tommasinianus **(Early Crocus)** north-west corner of Southampton Common 19/3 (fm).

Digitaria sanguinalis **(Hairy Finger Grass)** Lydgate Green, Hightown 17/8.

Duchesnea indica **(Yellow-flowered Strawberry)**—naturalised at Gypsy Grove, Shirley 16/5.

Erigeron glaucus **(Seaside Daisy)** naturalised along a wall at Solent Ave, Thornhill 7/2.

Eryngium planum **(Blue Eryngo)** one plant half on kerbside at Warsash public car park 3/9 (fm). (See colour page 3.)

Galanthus elwesii **(Greater Snowdrop)** three plants in south-west of Southampton Old Cemetery 3/3. (See colour page 3.)

Lavandula angustifolia **(Lavender)** one plant on kerb-side of public car park, Warsash 3/9.

Mytilus communis **(Myrtle)** a small self-sown plant by a wall at Oaktree Rd, Bitterne Park 4/10.

Photinia davidiana two self-sown bushes in Lord's Wood 19/3.

Pilosella flagellaris ssp' flagellaris—abundant around a garden at Lydgate Rd, Hightown 14/5. (The possible source of the colony at Hannay Rise.) Also at Copse View, Thornhill 2/6.

***Potentilla recta* (Sulphur Cinquefoil—pale flowered variant)** Doncaster Rd, Eastleigh 30/9.

***Sedum spurium* (Caucasian Stonecrop)** naturalised in grassland at Bitterne Church of England 9/9. (See colour page 3.)

***Sedum stoloniferum* (Lesser Caucasian Stonecrop)** abundant and established in shady grassland in South Stoneham Churchyard 1/9.

***Sisyrinchium striatum* (Pale Yellow-eyed Grass)** several plants by north side of M27 west of Rownhams Service Station 23/6.

***Sorghum halepense* (Great Millet)** single plant by car park, Constable Close, Sholing 24/10. Also found at Creighton Rd, Millbrook 13/11 and Panwell Rd, Bitterne 21/11.

***Tulipa saxatilis* (Rock Tulip = Cretan Tulip)** established garden throw-out at Peartree Green 5/4. (See colour page 2.)

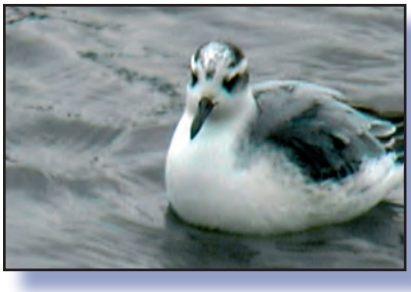
***Verbena bonariensis* (Argentinian Vervain)** one plant on disused railway east of Hamble. (See colour page 3.)

FAUNA

The completion of our ladybird booklet was one of the year's highlights and, inevitably, was followed by some very interesting records which came too late to be published. Most pleasing was the finding of Scarce 7-Spot Ladybird, a rare species which has a strong association with the Wood Ant, at Lord's Wood Plantation. The only other location in our area, Telegraph Woods, has been searched without success recently, but this new location proves that the species is still close to the City. A second interesting, if much less pleasing, find was of the Harlequin Ladybird, an introduced Asian species which is likely to create a minor ecological disaster as it sweeps across the country and predates upon our native ladybird species. Our booklet was timely, being the very last opportunity to record ladybirds in the 'pre-Harlequin' era.

Other more subtle changes to our fauna include the apparent arrival of Roesel's Bush-cricket in our area, after being largely confined to the coast previously. This species is well worth looking out for in areas with long grass around the City. The Small Red-eyed Damselfly, which arrived in 2004, appeared to have slightly consolidated its colonisation of our area, although numbers were quite low. It was an extremely poor year for migrant insects although there were a few surprising moth arrivals, including Red-necked Footman, but this may have arrived from the New Forest where it was reported as unusually common.

Our survey of shieldbugs and related species got off to a tremendous start and we already know vastly more about the range of species in our area and their distribution than we did a year ago. The finding of Box Bug in our area, which



Grey Phalarope (p42)

Wall Lizard (pp 6, 41)

Laughing Gull (p42)

Agaricus cupreobrunneus (p16)

Lactarius hemicyaneus (p16): lower picture shows blue staining

Helvella queletii (p16)

Cretan Tulip (p22)

Wild Tulip (p6)

Rock Stonecrop (p20)

Small-flowered Buttercup (p20)

Yellow Chamomile (p19)

Asarabacca (p6)

Dropwort (p20)

Rosy Garlic (p21)

Argentinian Vervain (p22)

White Mignonette (p19)

Caucasian Stonecrop (p22)

Greater Snowdrop (p21)

Blue Eryngo (pp 8, 21)

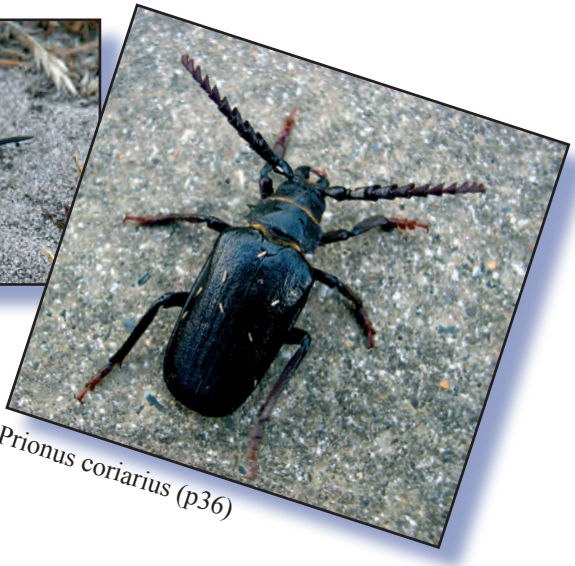
Clouded Yellow *Helice* (p37)

Red-necked Footman (p34)

Beautiful China-mark (p33)

Delicate (p35)

Bee-killer (p37)



Prionus coriarius (p36)

Photographs:
Peter Burford, Andy Collins,
Mike Creighton
Layout: Mike Creighton

was until a few years ago an extremely rare species confined to Box Hill in Surrey, was quite a surprise. It has evidently adapted to feed on Hawthorn and is therefore well placed to spread extensively. There were many other surprises amongst the bug records and the potential to make original discoveries is high. The striking red-and-black shieldbug reported last year from Boscombe was re-identified as *Eurydema ornatum*, and is a new colonist to Britain. Careful searching of more localities by more observers in 2006 is sure to reveal more surprises.

MISCELLANEOUS INVERTEBRATES

Haliclona oculata (a sponge—Phylum Porifera) RVCP 14/8 (new to site) (PB).
Anemonia viridis (Snake's-locks Anemone) Hamble Shore 25/5 (PB).
Sagartia elegans (a sea anemone) Hamble Shore 25/5 (PB).
Gattyana cirrhosa (a Scale Worm—Family *Aphroditidae*) RVCP 31/5 (new to site) (PB).
Glossiphonia complanata (a leech) Old Bursledon Nature Haven 23/7 (fm).
Cancer pagurus (Edible Crab) live, young specimen at Hamble Shore 25/5 (PB).
Signal Crayfish (*Pacifastacus leniusculus*) captured by workmen on a section of Avon Water near Holmsley 21/9 (identified by JP).
Janira maculosa (an Isopod Crustacean) Hamble Shore 25/5 (PB).
Endeis spinosa (a Sea Spider or Pycnonid) RVCP 31/5 (new to site) (PB).
Ascidiella scabra (a Sea Squirt or Ascidian) RVCP 31/5 (new to site) (PB).
Botryllus schlosseri (a Sea Squirt or Ascidian) RVCP 14/8 (new to site) (PB).
Distomus variolosus (a Sea Squirt or Ascidian) RVCP 14/8 (new to site) (PB).

MOLLUSCS

Marine species

Leptochitona cinerea (a Coat-of-Mail Shell) Hamble Shore 25/5 (PB).

Terrestrial species

Limax flavus (Yellow Slug). Priddy's Hard, Gosport 23/5 (PB). Also found feeding on fungus *Laetiporus sulphureus* on Southampton Common 19/9 (PB). (An increasing species).

ARACHNIDS

Wasp Spider (*Argiope bruennichi*) four at Peartree Green 23/8, two Westwood 24/8, recorded Cromarty area 20/8 (5), 30/8 and 3/9 (3) (CO).
Aceria ulmicola (a gall mite) galls on Elm *Ulmus procera,* Old Bursledon Nature Haven 23/7 (fm).
Agalenatea redii var. delta (spider) plentiful at Monk's Brook Greenway 6/9 (PB).
Alopecosa accentuata (spider) Browndown, Gosport 10/4 (fm).
Araneus marmoreus var. pyramidatus (spider) by River Itchen, Shawford 9/10 (KJP).

Euophrys frontalis (spider) under reptile mats at Priddy's Hard, Gosport 5/5 (PB).
Nemastoma bimaculatum (a harvestman or Opilion) Dundridge Reserve 15/11 (PB).
Scytodes thoracica recorded by GHW in the kitchen at Bitterne Manor 27/1.
Zora spinimana (spider) Frequent under reptile mats at Priddy's Hard, Gosport 18/4 (PB).

INSECTS

ODONATA (Dragonflies and Damselflies)

Beautiful Demoiselle two at Tanner's Brook near Shirley Pond on 9/6 (ARC). A new locality. Two at Nursling Substation 3/7 (PW) and one reported from Shoreburs Greenway 14/7 (TS).

Azure Damselfly 200+ at Valley Garden, University (Highfield) on 27/6 (PW).

Common Blue Damselfly recorded at Fernyhurst Pond 25/6–3/9 (CO), c40 at Southampton Common boating lake on 22/7.

Small Red-eyed Damselfly four Southampton Common boating lake 12/7 (PW) and two/three there 22/7 (ARC), five Testwood Lakes area 2/8 and two 3/9 (JC).

Downy Emerald the second record from Chandler's Ford (garden) was 9/6 (KJP).

Black-tailed Skimmer recorded at Fernyhurst Pond 17/7 (CO), four at Southampton Common boating lake on 12/7 (PW).

Emperor Dragonfly seen at Highfield 24/6–6/7 (PW), recorded at Fernyhurst Pond 25/6–3/9 (CO).

Golden-ringed Dragonfly three at Lord's Wood Greenway 18/6, four Rownhams Wood 22/6 and one Hut Wood 9/7 (JC). Seen at Highfield 13/7 (PW) and three reported from Shoreburs Greenway 14/7 (TS). Second garden record at Chandler's Ford 27/9 (KJP).

Ruddy Darter one male 3/9 Lower Test 3/9 (JC), Bitterne Manor 9/10 (GHW).

ORTHOPTERA (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

Oak Bush-cricket Central Bitterne 14/10 (late date) (PB).

Short-winged Conehead two at West Cliff, Hythe 30/3 (PB).

Great Green Bush-cricket one at Portsdown Hill 23/6.

Bog Bush-cricket one at Netley Common 20/8.

Roesel's Bush-cricket two males of long-winged form *diluta* Lower Test 17/7, up to two males also form *diluta* near Cromarty Pond 15/8–30/8 (JC), and one at Portsdown Hill on 29/8 (ARC). The former are possibly the first Southampton area records. Formerly restricted to sites such as Lepe on the Hampshire coast, this species appears to be now spreading more widely. The cricket sings from long grass and can be located with experience from the distinctive penetrating, high-pitched, continuous stridulation. This has been likened to the sound of an electrical discharge emitted by pylon cables in damp weather!

Wood Cricket heard at Hart Hill, Hythe 30/8 (PB).
Lesser Marsh Grasshopper Peartree Green 23/8 (mo), 10 at Warsash 25/8.
Large Marsh Grasshopper three at Matley Bog 8/9.
Field Grasshopper Wodehouse Rd, Woolston 27/10 (late date) (PB).
Slender Groundhopper Hardmoor Copse 23/3 (mo), Telegraph Wood 5/5 (PB) and Hound Corner, Netley 14/9 (PB).

DERMAPTERA (Earwigs)

Lesne's Earwig beaten off Hawthorn at West Cliff, Hythe 30/8 and Hound Bunny 14/9 (PB).

DICTYOPTERA (Cockroaches)

Dusky Cockroach Windy Bay, Northam 31/8 (PB).
Tawny Cockroach near Millbrook Railway Station 23/6 (fm).
Lesser Cockroach nymphs seen at Hamble Common 5/4 (PB).

HETEROPTERAN BUGS

Chlamydatus evanescens (a Mirid bug) examples of this species were found by bug experts Bernard Nau and Sheila Brook at Southbourne (above Gordon's Steps) in mid-September. ARC found a single in the same location on 24/9. The bug is tiny (1.5–2mm) and lives under Stonecrop (*Sedum* sp.) growing on the sandy edges of paths down to the beach. The bug is black with striking dark red eyes. Previous British records and localities are few: Colwyn Bay 1890, Conway 1924, Dovedale 1930 and 1936, and North Wales two sites and the Peak District in 2001 and 2003. This new locality in southern England is therefore most unexpected. It is possible that this is another bug that is a recent colonist from the Continent.

Coranus subapterus **(Heath Assassin Bug)** seen at Silchester Common 18/9 (PB).
Empicoris vagabundus off Ivy at Netley Common 28/8 (fm).
Gastrodes grossipes **(Pine Cone Bug)** seen at Dibden Bay 30/8 and Forest Front Reserve Hythe on 11/4 (PB).
Himacerus apterus **(Tree Damsel Bug)** Priors Hill Copse 14/9 (PB).
Himacerus mirmicoides**—**Macropterous form **(Ant Damselbug)** Priors Hill Copse 14/9 (PB).
Hoplomachus thunbergi swept at Southampton Old Cemetery 19/6 (PB).
Hydrometra stagnalis **(Water Measurer)** pond at Caerleon Ave, Bitterne 3/9 (PB). (First record, probably introduced with water plants or naturally colonised.)
Ilyocoris cimicoides **(Saucer Bug)** Old Bursledon Nature Haven 23/7 (fm).
Ischnodemus sabuleti **(European Chinch-bug)** abundant at Hythe Spartins Marsh 11/4 (PB).

Megacoelum infusum (a Mirid bug) beaten off oak west of Cromarty Pond, Lord's Hill 30/8 (PB).

Peritrechus lundi swept at Southampton Old Cemetery 19/6 (PB).

Stalia major three seen under reptile mats at Priddy's Hard, Gosport 10/8 (PB).

Trapezonotus arenarius (a ground bug) Netley Common 28/8 (fm).

Velia caprai **(Water Cricket)** stream at Luzborough Plantation, North Baddesley 18/3 (PB).

Shieldbugs and related groups

Hawthorn shieldbug (*Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*) recorded at Bitterne Manor 18/3 (GHW), in the moth trap at Sholing 25/6 (2) and 12/7, Rownhams 6/7 (CO), five Peartree Green 23/8 (PB, PRB, ARC), 15 off Hawthorn, Westwood Grange Fields 24/8, one Netley Common 28/8 (ARC), seen at Testwood Lakes and Greywell Ave 30/8 (PB, ARC), Lakeside 17/9 (ALB), at Bitterne Manor 21/9 and 18/10 (GHW). This species can be found on a broad range of trees, as found by JC on Hawthorn, Privet, Field Maple, Goat Willow, Hazel, Oak, Beech, Scot's Pine, Lime, Hornbeam, Cherry Laurel and Gorse records were between 16/9 and 8/11 at Nursling substation, Home Covert, Dairy Lane, Nursling, Lord's Wood Plantation Chilworth Common, Cromarty Pond and Hut Wood.

Juniper Shieldbug (*Cyphostethus tristriatus*) recorded at Eling Cemetery 11/4, Townhill Park 5/4, Marlhill Copse 5/4, Mountbatten Park 18/3 and Noar Hill 7/5 (PB). These records were from Lawson's Cypress, Western Red Cedar and Nootka Cypress except for the last which was actually on Juniper!

Birch shieldbug (*Elasmostethus interstinctus*) in the moth trap at Sholing there were 20 in June–early July from 17/6 followed by, from August to 14/9, a total of 85 more, including 14 on 18/8. Also seen Peewit Hill on 5/5 (4), Telegraph Woods (8) the same day (ARC, PB, PRB) and at Netley Common 28/8 (ARC). There were 10 at Chandler's Ford 3/9 (KJP), recorded from Testwood Lakes 18/9 and Chandler's Ford 9/9–2/10 (ALB). Later in the autumn an excellent series of records from JC revealed the range of trees utilised by this species. It was found on Turkey Oak (Lord's Wood Plantation 5/10), Hazel (Lord's Wood Plantation 13/10 and 4/11 and Home Covert, 12/11), Douglas Fir (Lord's Wood Plantation 13/10 and 4/11) on dead Honeysuckle and Birch (Home Covert, 15/10), Oak (Home Covert, 15/10, Chilworth Common 20/10 and Lord's Wood Plantation 4/11), Beech (Lord's Wood Plantation 20/10 and 4/11), Hawthorn (Chilworth Common, 20/10), Holly (Cromarty Pond, 26/10), Bramble (Cromarty Pond, 26/10), Gorse (Hut Wood, 27/10), Ash (Lord's Wood Plantation, 4/11), Western Red Cedar (Hut Wood, 8/11).

Parent shieldbug (*Elasmucha grisea*) off Birch at Redbridge Wharf Park 3/4 (PB), ten at Telegraph Woods on 5/5 (PB, PRB, ARC). In the autumn JC found this species on Birch, Hazel and Oak (Lord's Wood Plantation 5/10–13/10 and Chilworth Common 20/10), dead Honeysuckle and Holly (Home Covert, 15/10), Hornbeam and Bramble (Cromarty Pond 26/10) and Yew and Goat Willow (Lord's Wood Plantation 4/11).

Tortoise shieldbug (*Eurygaster testudinaria*) three in grass at Cromarty Pond 24/6, one on Bramble there 4/7 and on Common Knapweed 23/8 (JC), up to 30 Wootton Bridge, New Forest 10/7 and 18/8 (ARC), one at Botley Wood, 31/7 (ARC), one Portsdown Hill 5/8 (ARC), 20 Peartree Green 23/8 (PB,PRB,ARC), two Westwood 24/8 and 27/8, four Old Winchester Hill 26/8, eight Netley Common 28/8, Cromarty Pond 30/8 (PB,ARC), on Knapweed, Lord's Wood Plantation and Lord's Hill 18/9 (JC), on Bramble, Cromarty Pond 5/10–7/11 (JC).

Bordered shieldbug (*Legnotus limbosus*) found PB at Priddy's Hard, Gosport 5/5.

Pied shieldbug (*Tritomegas bicolor*) adult at Hambledon 30/5 (PB), two nymphs off White Dead Nettle 12/6, Portsdown Hill (ARC).

Scarab shieldbug (=Negro Bug, *Thyreocoris scarabaeoides*) PB recorded this species from Magdalen Hill Down on 20/8.

Knobbed shieldbug (=Turtle Bug, *Podops inuncta*) one swept at Westwood Grange Fields on 2/5 confirms this species is present in the Southampton area (ARC). Also seen Magdalen Hill extension 9/8 and Priddy's Hard on 18/4 and 5/5 under reptile mats (PB).

Bishop's mitre shieldbug (*Aelia acuminata*) 10–20 at Peartree Green 5/5 and 23/8 (PB,PRB,ARC), 10 at Westwood Grange Fields on 8/6 and three on 24/8, one/two Cromarty Pond 24/6 and 28/6 (JC), one at Calshot 20/8 (ARC), one Warsash 25/8 (ARC), one Netley Common 28/8 (ARC), recorded at Testwood Lakes and Greywell Ave 30/8 (PB, ARC), seen on Wild Carrot at Lord's Hill 16/9 (JC), on Hard Rush near Home Covert and Nursling substation 16/9, and grass Cromarty Pond 18/9 (JC).

Woundwort shieldbug (*Eysarcoris fabricii*) recorded at Broadlands Valley on Hedge Woundwort *Stachys sylvatica* on 30/4, in Hambledon on 30/5, Peartree Green 23/8, Monks Brook 6/9 (PB) and Hocombe Mead on Hedge Woundwort on 11/9 (ALB).

New Forest shieldbug (*Eysarcoris aeneus*) a rare bug, swept from Heather at Matley Bog on 8/9 (ARC).

Green shieldbug (*Palomena prasina*) active in Sholing from 16/1 on Buddleia, six by 18/2, and one in light trap 8/3. Recorded at Titchfield 30/4, 10 Westwood Grange Fields 2/5, six Telegraph Woods 5/5 (PB, PRB, ARC), seen Portsdown Hill 7/5 and 6/8 (ARC), three Swanwick Reserve 31/7 (ARC), on Bramble at

Cromarty Pond 4/7 (JC), one–three Netley Common 20/8 and 28/8 (ARC), 12 Peartree Green 23/8 (PB, PRB, ARC), eight Old Winchester Hill 26/8 (ARC), Matley Bog 8/9, found on Hazel at Bitterne Manor 7/9 (GHW), recorded at Hocombe Mead, Lepe and Chandler's Ford, 11/9–14/10 (ALB). JC noted this species on a range of plants in the autumn: Hedge Bindweed (Swaythling, 12/9), Knapweed (Cromarty Pond, 18/9), Nettle (Home Covert, 21/9), Field Maple (Dairy Lane, Nursling, 21/9), Bramble (Cromarty Pond and Lord's Wood, 26/9), Oak (Cromarty Pond, 11/10), Ivy and Juneberry (Home Covert, 15/10), Hazel (Home Covert, 15/10), Turkey Oak (Lord's Wood Plantation, 20/10), Birch and Scot's Pine (Chilworth Common, 20/10). In the later year about 10 were sunning on Buddleia and Redcurrant in Sholing on 19/11.

Hairy shieldbug (=Sloe Bug, *Dolycoris baccarum*) there were 10 at Westwood Grange Fields on 2/5, five there 24/8, 10 on 27/8 (ARC), five at Peartree Green 5/5 and 20 there 23/8 (PB, PRB, ARC), two at Warsash Common 14/5 (PB,ARC), on Foxglove at Lord's Wood Plantation 18/6 and Heather there 22/6 (JC), on grass, Common Fleabane and Meadow Buttercup at Cromarty Pond 24/6–27/6 (JC), one Botley Wood 31/7, one Portsdown Hill 5/8, two Warsash 25/8, 10 Old Winchester Hill 26/8, eight Netley Common 28/8 (ARC). Later in the autumn found by JC on Hawthorn (Cromarty Pond, 16/9), and also there on the same day one was found concealed within the clustered fruits of a Wild Carrot plant. This was almost certainly a hibernation site (JC). Hawkins (2003) in the *Shieldbugs of Surrey* suggests that the hibernation sites are amongst the ground litter but has no records, so this is an interesting observation. Also found by JC on Common Knapweed, Gorse, Birch, Beech and Douglas Fir (Lord's Wood Plantation, 18/9–11/10), dead Honeysuckle (Home Covert, 15/10), Scot's Pine (Chilworth Common, 20/10), Bramble (Cromarty Pond, 26/10), Oak (Hut Wood, 27/10), Hazel (Lord's Wood Plantation, 4/11).

Black-shouldered shieldbug (*Carpocoris purpureipennis*) one was found by ARC on a beach hut at Portland Bill (Dorset) on 15/10 (Collins and Nau, 2006). Although this is well outside our area, this bug is a potential colonist and worth looking for in Hampshire. The only previous British record since the 1920s was a specimen found in Bristol in 1995.

Gorse shieldbug (*Piezodorus lituratus*) recorded on Broom Priddy's Hard, Gosport 4/5 (ARC, PRB), seen at Netley Common 20/8 (ARC), nine off Gorse at Lord's Wood Plantation 15/10 (JC) and off Hawthorn near Gorse there and the latest record was also there on 3/11 (JC).

Red-legged shieldbug (=Forest Bug, *Pentatoma rufipes*) one off Hawthorn, Matley Bog 25/8 (ARC), one Netley Common 28/8 (ARC), one at Home Covert

2/9 (JC), one at Chandler's Ford 3/9 (KJP), one inside the house at Cromarty Rd 15/9 (JC), one Botley Wood 17/9 (ARC), recorded at Lakeside, Lepe and Chandler's Ford 17/9–30/9, with records from an actinic moth trap at the latter site. Finally, one flying near an Oak in Lord's Hill on 10/10 (JC) and one on Hemp Agrimony near Winchester 10/10 (GHW).

Crucifer shieldbug (=Brassica Bug, *Eurydema oleracea*) the earliest was at Boscombe on 3/4 (ARC). PB recorded the first for the Southampton area at Peartree Green on 5/5 near Horse Radish and there were 15 nymphs there on Horse Radish on 23/8 (PB, PRB, ARC), eight at Testwood Lakes, Greywell Ave, and Cromarty Pond 30/8 on Horse Radish (PB, ARC). Seen amongst Holly leaf litter at Sandy Balls on 13/9 and at Sea Rd Woolston on 23/9 (PB).

Eurydema ornatum two examples of a striking red and black shieldbug (incorrectly identified as *Eurydema dominulus*) reported by ARC in the 2004 SNHS report were re-identified following a record of *ornatum* in May 2005 from Portland Dorset (Slade et al, 2005). Subsequently a specimen from Weymouth in 1997, reported by Ian Cross, also incorrectly identified originally, was found to be this species (per Bernard Nau). ARC found another example on Sea Radish above Portman Ravine, Boscombe on 7/6. It seems likely that this species is now established in small numbers on the Dorset coast. Previously it was only known as an accidental introduction, but it also breeds on the Channel Islands. Clearly it is worth searching for in coastal parts of Hampshire.

Spiked shieldbug (*Picromerus bidens*) one swept from Heather at Netley Common 20/8 (ARC). There was an interesting series of records from JC at Cromarty Pond who found this species on Bramble. There were singles on 9/10 and 13/10. On 21/10 four were seen and two of these were both feeding on the same Common Earwig. One had its rostrum inserted in the earwig's head and the other in the ventral side of the abdomen. Typically this species feeds on much slower moving larvae of Lepidoptera and Sawflies and it seems likely that, since the earwig is a fast-moving species, this example may have been already dead before the bugs started feeding. Hawkins (2003) gives no evidence of feeding on dead prey so this is a potentially new observation, as well as being an unusual prey item. Further observations here of one–three bugs between 26/10 and 21/11 included a mating pair on 26/10.

Bronze shieldbug (=Lurid shieldbug, *Troilus luridus*) seen at Hardmoor Copse and Luzborough Plantation 23/3 (PB), at Sholing one on a wall on 11/6, one nymph and one adult off Hawthorn at Matley Bog, 25/8 (ARC), two Netley Common 28/8 (PB, ARC), Monks Brook 6/9 (PB). Later in the autumn JC found this bug on Hazel (Chilworth Common, 20/10), Hornbeam (Cromarty Pond, 26/10), Oak (Hut Wood, 27/10), Hazel (Lord's Wood Plantation, 4/11), with the latest record at Hut Wood on 8/11 (JC).

Heather shieldbug (*Rhacognathus punctatus*) one found on heather at Matley Bog, New Forest on 6/7 and one adult and one nymph here on 8/7 and a further adult on 8/9 (ARC). Seen at Town Common Christchurch 23/6 (PB).

Blue shieldbug (*Zicrona caerulea*) one found by ALB at Testwood Lakes in long grass on 18/9.

Box bug (*Gonocerus acuteangulatus*) an exciting find by PB in Petersfield (on Holly and Lovage near clipped Box hedge) of one example of this species (29/4) was followed by the even more surprising finding that Box bug is already established in the Southampton area. This species was formerly confined to Box Hill in Surrey, but is now spreading. Two nymphs were beaten from Hawthorn at Peartree Green on 23/8 (PRB, PB, ARC), one adult off Hawthorn at Westwood Grange Fields on 24/8 (ARC). Also seen at Monks Brook Greenway on Elder *Sambucus nigra* 6/9 (PB).

Dock bug (*Coreus marginantus*) the first were at Lordsdale Greenway on 11/4 (2) (ARC). There were 10 at Titchfield 30/4 (ARC), 10 at Westwood Grange Fields on 14/5 and one 24/8. Recorded at Warsash Common 14/5 (PB, ARC), 15 at Lordsdale Greenway 27/6, 20 Netley Common 28/8, 10 at Hamble Common 11/9. Reported from Hocombe Mead and Lepe 11/9–18/9 (ALB). JC recorded this species on the following plants in the aututmn: Bramble, grass, Hawthorn, Fleabane, Common Knapweed, Horse-Radish, Dock, Dogwood, Nettle, Creeping Thistle, Bracken, Common Sorrel, Black Nightshade, Gorse, Willowherb, Ivy. The many records from 15/9 were from Broadlands Dip, Swaythling , Cromarty Pond, Lord's Hill recreation ground, near Home Covert, Dairy Lane Nursling, Testwood Lakes, Chilworth Common. High counts were 53 at Cromarty Pond on 5/10, and 58 there on 27/10. The last record from JC was two nymphs on at Cromarty Pond 21/11. Another late record was two at Lordsdale Greenway on 21/11 (ARC).

Rhombic leatherbug (*Syromastes rhombeus*) recorded by PB at Priddy's Hard, Gosport 30/5.

Slender-horned leatherbug (*Ceraleptus lividus*) one swept from grassy area with Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*, Peartree Green 23/8 (ARC, PRB, PB), one swept Westwood 27/8 (ARC).

Denticulate leatherbug (=Toothbug, *Coriomeris denticulatus*) one at Peartree Green 5/5 (ARC, PB, PRB), Portsdown Hill 12/6 and 23/6 (2) (ARC), one nymph at the Swanwick Reserve 31/7 (ARC).

Alydus calcaratus reported from Boscombe by Bernard Nau and Sheila Brook in mid-September.

Stictopleurus abutilon formerly extinct in the UK, now re-colonising, one swept at Old Winchester Hill on 26/8 (ARC).

Rhopalus parumpunctatus recorded by ARC at Netley Common on 14/8—two swept from heather with a further two there on 20/8 and six on 28/8.

Rhopalus subrufus recorded from Priddy's Hard, Gosport and Telegraph Woods on 5/5 (PB, ARC, PRB), Westwood Grange Fields 14/5 and 8/6, Caerleon Ave 15/5 (PB), five at Peartree Green 23/8 (PB, PRB, ARC), two Old Winchester Hill 26/8 (ARC), one Netley Common 28/8, Cromarty Pond, Greywell Ave and Dibden Bay 30/8 (PB), Mansbridge Marsh 6/9 (PB).

Myrmus miriformis three at Wootton Bridge, New Forest 18/8 (ARC), two Peartree Green 23/8 (PB, PRB, ARC), one Westwood 24/8, three Old Winchester Hill 26/8 (ARC), seen at Forest Front Reserve 30/8 (PB).

Chorosoma schillingi a slender, coastal grassland bug reported from Calshot on 20/8 (8) (ARC) and one at Warsash (Hook Spit) 25/8 (ARC).

Corizus hyoscyami a striking pinkish coastal bug not yet reported in our area but worth looking for. Seen by ARC on the Isle of Wight at Chine Farm 7/8 and Compton Chine 10/8.

HOMOPTERAN BUGS

Eriosoma lanuginosum (an aphid) galls on Elm *Ulmus,* Old Bursledon Nature Haven 23/7 (fm).

Trioza alacris (an alien Psyllid gall) galls on Bay Tee *Laurus nobilis* leaves at Caerleon Ave, Bitterne 15/10 (PB).

LEPIDOPTERA

Butterflies

There were no records of migrants, such as Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow, at RVCP this year, but there were record numbers of Marbled Whites and also a record for Wall Brown (see below) (NH).

Clouded Yellow an exceptionally early record at Portman Ravine, Boscombe on 15/2 was most likely to have been an early emerging individual from the over-wintering colony there (Collins, 2005). Seen at Magdalen Hill 8/8 (JC), singles var. *Helice*, at Swanwick in July (ARC) and Peartree Green 24/9 (PB). One at Testwood Lakes 22/10 (a late date) (fm). (See colour page 4.)

Orange Tip recorded 18/4–30/5 at Chandler's Ford (KJP) and seen 22/4 at Rownhams (CO) and 8/5 at Sirdar Rd, Broadlands Valley (KE).

Large White Silverdale Rd 19/3 (first) (JW), Knighton Rd, Itchen 27/10 (last) (PB).

Small White seen at Chandler's Ford 2/4–16/9 (KJP), Testwood Lakes 10/10 (last) (PB).

Green-veined White three at Chandler's Ford 6/5–29/7 (KJP).

Silver-washed Fritillary 10 Rownhams Wood 8/7, four Zionshill Copse 9/7, 17 Rownhams Plantation 23/7 and three Hut Wood 18/8 (JC). Two males reported on Buddleia at Southampton Common Old Cemetery on 12/8 (JV).

Painted Lady a very poor year overall. One at Cromarty Rd 3/8 (JC), at Sholing the first was on 16/8 followed by only two others. One at Cromarty Rd Pond 4/11 (JC).

Small Tortoiseshell seen at Chandler's Ford from 18/3 (KJP), 14 were at Lordsdale Greenway 23/3 (ARC).

Purple Emperor a remarkable record of one in a garden at Rownhams 11/7 (PW).

White Admiral one at Hut Wood 2/7, four Rownhams Wood 8/7, one Great Covert 8/7, two Lord's Wood Greenway 15/7 and seven Rownham's Plantation 23/7 (JC). An excellent record of one basking in the garden at Sirdar Rd, Broadlands Valley on 8/8 (KE).

Red Admiral Silverdale Rd 18/3 (first) (JW), seen at Chandler's Ford 28/8–19/11 (KJP), one at Titchfield on 19/6, eight 29/8 at Sholing and four at Lordsdale Greenway on 9/11 and 14/11 (ARC). Finally at Boldrewood Campus, Southampton University 19/12 (NS).

Peacock seen Chandler's Ford 19/3-9/8 (KJP), Magdalen Hill Down 4/12 (very late) (fm).

Comma Thornhill 16/3 (first) (PB), seen at Chandler's Ford 19/3–25/9 (KJP), two Lordsdale Greenway 23/3 (ARC), one Sirdar Rd 14/7 (KE) and seen at Belmont Rd, Portswood 1/11 (last).

Brimstone recorded at Chandler's Ford 16/3–27/10 (KJP), two at Warsash 20/3 (ARC).

Holly Blue seen at Chandler's Ford 28/3–23/8 (KJP), at Sirdar Rd 24/4 (KE).

Common Blue at Chandler's Ford on 16/8 and 1/9 (KJP).

Silver-studded Blue a male seen on clover blossom at Broadwater Rd, Townhill Park 15/7 (PB).

Brown Argus one at Westwood on 19/6.

Purple Hairstreak four Cromarty Rd 12/7 (JC).

Small Copper one at Chandler's Ford 28/7 (KJP).

Speckled Wood at Sirdar Rd 17/4 (KE), recorded from 5/5–21/9 Chandler's Ford (KJP), Midanbury 23/10 (PB), late record 9/11 Lordsdale Greenway (ARC).

Marbled White eight at Westwood on 19/6, 16 Dairy Lane Nursling 25/6, 19 Nursling Substation 25/6, eight Lord's Hill Rec. Ground 30/6 (JC).

Meadow Brown recorded at Chandler's Ford 22/6–9/9 (KJP) and at Sirdar Rd 12/7 (KE).

Gatekeeper recorded at Chandler's Ford 8/7–23/8 (KJP), in the Rownhams area 19/7–20/8 (CO), 20 at Westwood on 24/7.

Ringlet first record for a garden at Thorold Rd, Chandler's Ford (3/7) (KJP). There were 11 at Hut Wood 2/7, one Lord's Wood Plantation 4/7, seven Rownhams Plantation 8/7, 17 Hocombe Mead and 15 Zionshill Copse 9/7 (JC).

Wall Brown a report from RVCP 23/5 (NH).

Grayling two at Forest Front Reserve, Dibden Purlieu 30/8 (PB). There were no reports from Hamble Common this year.

Large Skipper three at Chandler's Ford 7/7–16/7 (KJP).

Moths

Narycia monilifera (Psychidae) cased larva found at Sholing on 26/11.

Bucculatrix frangulella (a leaf miner moth) mines on Alder Buckthorn, Lord's Wood 6/8 (fm).

Nemophora degeerella (a 'fairy moth') Sirdar Rd, Portswood 18/6 (KE).

Cochylimorpha straminea (a Cochylid moth) Peartree Green 23/8 (mo—identified by PB).

Phtheochroa rugosana (a Cochylid moth) one at Warsash Common (UV light) on 14/5 (PB).

Acleris logiana (a tortrix moth) one at Sholing 11/11 was the first record here. This species is spreading after first being recorded in Hampshire in 1992.

Cydia amplana (a tortrix moth) one at Sholing on 17/8. This species is a presumed rare immigrant which appeared in unprecedented numbers in 2004. It was also recorded in the New Forest in August 2005 and may have bred (Clancy, 2005).

Calamotropha paludella at Sholing one on 12/7.

Beautiful China-mark (*Nymphula stagnata*) a single was new to Sholing on 29/6. A scarce species. (See colour page 4.)

Large Tabby (*Aglossa pinguinalis*) in a flat at Lydgate Close, Hightown 17/6 (PB).

Sitochroa palealis one at Westwood Grange Fields on 24/7, one Botley Wood, near Whiteley shopping centre on 31/7 and one at Calshot 20/8 (ARC).

European Corn-borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*) singles at Sholing on 26/7, 30/7, 5/9 and 8/10, the latter being particularly late.

Cryptoblabes bistriga one at Sholing on 6/8.

Conobathra repandana one at Sholing on 11/7.

Elegia similella singles at Sholing on 28/6 and 14/7.

Dioryctria abietella at Sholing singles on 9/7, 12/7 and 16/7.

Indian Meal Moth (*Plodia interpunctella*) one inside a house at Sholing on 15/10 was the first recorded there.

Yellow-legged Clearwing (*Synanthedon vespiformis*) one at Sholing at 4.00 pm on 23/7.

Red-belted Clearwing (*Synanthedon myopaeformis*) at Sholing one on 19/6 to pheromone at 9.40 am.

Red-tipped Clearwing (*Synanthedon formicaeformis*) two at Lower Test Marshes 9/7 (Tim Norriss and ARC), one at Sholing at 5.00 pm on 23/7.

Six-belted Clearwing (*Bembecia ichneumoniformis*) one to lure at Portsdown Hill on 23/6 and 15 at the Swanwick Reserve 9/7 (ARC).

Emperor Moth (*Saturnia pavonia*) one larva at Wootton Bridge, New Forest 10/7 (ARC).

Orange Underwing (*Archiearis parthenias*) two at Southampton Common 19/3 (fm), one at Peewit Hill, Bursledon 2/4 (PB).

Large Emerald (*Geometra papilionaria*) singles on 11/7 and 14/7 at Sholing.

Blotched Emerald (*Comibaena bajularia*) at Sholing singles on 21/6 and 23/6.

Small Emerald (*Hemistola chrysoprasaria*) one Sholing 20/7.

Purple-bordered Gold (*Idaea muricata*) one at Matley Bog on 26/6 (ARC).

The Phoenix (*Eulithis prunata*) at Sholing one on 16/7.

Cypress Carpet (*Thera cupressata*) a very early example at Sholing on 2/5 was followed by 36 more in the spring/summer brood (from 2/6). Seen at UV light at Silverdale Rd, Southampton 18/6 (PB). In Sholing the first example in the autumn was on 5/10 followed by six more.

Double-striped Pug (*Gymnoscelis rufifasciata*) Kinsbourne Rise, Thornhill 15/1 (very early) (PB).

Cypress Pug (*Eupithecia phoeniceata*) at Sholing 11 from 13/8.

Scorched Carpet (*Ligdia adustata*) one at Sholing on 18/6.

Scorched Wing (*Plagodis dolabraria*) at Sholing one on 19/6.

Dusky Thorn (*Ennomos fuscantaria*) one Sholing 15/9.

September Thorn (*Ennomos erosaria*) one at Sholing on 18/7.

Purple Thorn (*Selenia tetralunaria*) at Sholing one on 17/7.

Bordered White (*Bupalus piniaria*) one Sholing 29/6.

Pine Hawk-moth (*Hyloicus pinastri*) at Sholing two from 24/7.

Lime Hawk-moth (*Mimas tiliae*) one only at Sholing on 14/6.

Eyed-Hawk-moth (*Smerinthus ocellata*) two from 23/6 Sholing.

Poplar Hawk-moth (*Laothoe populi*) 13 from 27/5 at Sholing.First for garden 14/7 at Chandler's Ford (KJP).

Elephant Hawk-moth (*Deilephila elpenor*) at Sholing the first was on 15/6 followed by a further 78 records, somewhat below recent year totals. Larvae on Fuchsia at Bitterne on 22/8 (MS) and at Rownhams 6/9–10/9 (CO).

Small Elephant Hawk-moth (*Deilephila porcellus*) at Sholing there were more records than usual with five from 11/6.

Poplar Kitten (*Furcula bifida*) at Sholing one on 8/6 was new to the garden.

Red-necked Footman (*Atolmis rubricollis*) seen at UV light at Silverdale Rd, Southampton 18/6 (PB) and one at Sholing on 20/6 (new to the garden). There were several records at new localities in southern England at this time. They may have been migrants from the near continent but numbers in the New Forest were also reportedly higher than usual. (See colour page 4.)

Orange Footman (*Eilema sororcula*) singles at Sholing on 26/5, 2/6 and 10/6.

Clouded Buff (*Diacrisia sannio*) a male and female, Matley Bog New Forest on 26/6 (ARC).

Least Black Arches (*Nola confusalis*) singles on 4/5 and 1/6 Sholing.

Double Square-spot (*Xestia triangulum*) at Sholing three on 12/7.

Beautiful Yellow Underwing (*Anarta myrtilli*) one adult plus six larvae at Netley Common on 12/8 (ARC).

The Campion (*Hadena rivularis*) at Sholing one on 28/7 was new to the garden.

White-point (*Mythimna albipuncta*) at Sholing the summer brood comprised five from 17/6 and the autumn brood was 48 from 14/8. This species is now resident and evidently increasing rapidly. These records represent a huge increase compared to previous years (only 11 in total here in 2004). KJP recorded one in Chandler's Ford on 18/8.

White L Wainscot (Mythimna l-album) at Sholing one on 26/6. In the autumn 16 from 15/9.

The Mullein (*Shargacucullia verbasci*) Larvae on Water Figwort at Oakwood School, Lord's Hill 28/6 (PB).

Merveille du Jour (*Dichonia aprilina*) one on 23/10 at Sholing was the second record, the first being in 2004.

Feathered Ranunculus (*Eumichtis lichenea*) nine at Sholing from 4/10.

Marbled Green (*Cryphia muralis*) singles at Sholing 20/7 and 19/8.

Dusky Sallow (*Eremobia ochroleuca*) at Sholing three singles 20/7–22/7.

Silky Wainscot (*Chilodes maritima*) at Sholing one on 25/6 was new to the garden.

Bordered Sallow (*Pyrrhia umbra*) at Sholing four singles between 17/6 and 28/7.

Gold Spot (*Polychrysia moneta*) one at Sholing on 17/8.

Beautiful Hook-tip (*Laspeyria flexula*) at Sholing one on 29/6.

Pinion-streaked Snout (*Schrankia costaestrigalis*) singles at Sholing on 12/7 and 13/7.

Migrants

Diamond-backed Moth (*Plutella xylostella*) at Sholing only 20 records from 19/6.

Rusty Dot Pearl (*Udea ferrugalis*) at Sholing three only between 28/7 and 11/11.

Hummingbird Hawk-moth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*) a very good year for this species. At Sholing there was a single in the moth trap on 27/5 followed by (at Buddleia) two on 17/8 and six further records in the autumn. One feeding at a *Campanula* in a garden at Ampthill Rd, Shirley 28/5 (PB). One on Buddleia at Cromarty Rd 30/8 (JC). Recorded on 27/8, 21/9 and 15/10 at Chandler's Ford on Buddleia (KJP).

Dark Sword-grass (*Agrotis ipsilon*) at Sholing singles on 25/7, 28/7 and 3/8.

Delicate (*Mythimna vitellina*) one at Sholing on 24/8. (See colour page 4.)

Silver Y (*Autographa gamma*) the first at Sholing on 24/5, the peak was 16 on 28/7. A total of 105 records through the year to 12/10 was a low total.

DIPTERA (Flies)

Bombylius major **(Bee-fly)** seen at Bitterne Manor 2/4 (GHW).

Episyrphus balteatus **(Marmalade Fly)** active at Hightown 2/12 (very late) (PB).

Hippobosca equina **(New Forest Fly)** Beaulieu Countryside Education Trust HQ 25/8 (PB).

Physocephala nigra (a rare Conopid fly) on rose blossom, Ober Water east of Burley 26/7 (PB).

Scaeva pyrasti **(Swarming Hoverfly)** active at Caerleon Ave, Bitterne 6/12 (very late) (PB).

Volucella inflata (a hoverfly) northern edge of Lord's Wood 6/8 (fm).

Volucella zonaria **(Hornet Hoverfly)** JP observed an egg-laying female entering a Common Wasp nest at Swaythling on 17/8, also recorded at Bitterne Manor 10/7 and 29/7 (GHW).

HYMENOPTERA (Wasps and Allies)

Andricus aries **(Ram's-horn Gall)** a rapidly increasing new colonist of Oak and seen at Priddy's Hard, Gosport 29/4 and Hollybrook Cemetery 1/9 (PB).

Andricus grossulariae 'Currant galls' on Turkey Oak *Quercus cerris* catkins at Peartree Ave, Bitterne 11/5 and at Hinkler Parade, Thornhill 17/6 (PB).

Dolichovespula media **(Median Wasp)** at Figwort *Scrophularia* blooms, Morestead 20/8 (PB).

Mutilla rufipes **(Small Velvet-ant)** Peartree Green 23/8 (mo) (usually found on heathland).

Philanthus triangulum **(Bee-killer** = Bee-wolf) colony at Marston Rd, Thornhill 13/7 (PB), a colony just south on Lyndhurst in sandy area (23/7) (ARC). (See colour page 4.)

Rhyssa persuasoria (an Ichneumon Wasp) Brinken Wood 24/9 (fm).

Saropoda bimaculata (a solitary bee) Priddy's Hard, Gosport 12/7 (PB).

COLEOPTERA (Beetles)

Bruchus atomarius (a Bean Weevil) Warsash Common 14/5 (fm).

Cytilus sericeus **(Pill Beetle)** Peewit Hill 5/5 (PB).

Dermestes maculatus **(Hide Beetle)** at UV light, Silverdale Rd, Southampton 18/6 (PB).

Hoplia philanthus (an uncommon chafer) Tunstall Rd, Thornhill 22/6 and Holcroft Rd, Thornhill 27/6 (PB).

Hygrobia hermanni **(Squeak Beetle** = Screech Beetle) Old Bursledon Nature Haven 23/7 (fm).

Liophloeus tessulatus **('Ivy Weevil')** two off Ivy at Crooked Hays Copse, Marchwood 11/4 (PB)

***Lucanus cervus* (Stag Beetle)** six larvae in an old plum log, Dibden Purlieu 3/4 (PB), female at Bitterne Manor 5/5 and one 25/7 (GHW) and one female in the moth trap at Sholing on 18/6.

***Prionus coriarius* (known as Sawyer Beetle = Tanner Beetle)** at Sholing one in the moth trap on 11/7. (See colour page 4.)

Scaphidium quadrimaculatum (a fungus beetle) in a log at Ashley Walk, New Forest 5/06 (fm).

Strangalia quadrifasciata (a 'longhorn' beetle) on Hogweed blooms at Lower Test Reserve 1/8.

Minotaur Beetle (*Typhaeus typhoeus*) at Sholing one female in moth trap on 10/6.

Ladybirds

Our highly successful survey continued and our booklet was published during the year. Our ladybird survey for children organized by Chris Oliver promoted our survey for various groups, including the Bird Club and Wildlife Explorer groups, Scouts, Brownies and various wildlife study centres and schools. Many records from children at Manor Infant School, Holbury, were sent through by Niki Monument at the school. These included many 7-Spot Ladybird records and much smaller numbers of 2-Spot Ladybirds.

24-Spot Ladybird two in grass at Westwood 2/5, 10 Peartree Green 5/5, Cromarty Pond 30/8, one Nursling substation 16/9 and Lord's Hill Rec. 19/9 (JC). Recorded by PB at Greywell Ave, Hound Corner and Mansbridge Marsh 30/8–14/9.

Rhizobius litura (a micro-ladybird) one Townhill Park 5/4 (off Larch) (PB), one at Westwood on 14/5.

Scymnus suturalis (a micro-ladybird) seen at Forest Front Reserve 11/4 (PB), one off Hawthorn at Peartree Green on 5/5 (PRB, PB, ARC), seen at Caerleon Ave 11/5 (PB).

Scymnus haemorrhoidalis seen at Hatchet Pond 24/4 and at Millbrook Station 23/6 on Nettle (PB).

Scymnus nigrinus beaten off Scot's Pine, Town Common, Christchurch 10/5 (PB).

16-Spot Ladybird 10 Westwood 8/6, three Peartree Green 5/5, two Warsash 25/8, recorded at Cromarty Pond 30/8, seen at Dundridge Hanger (in dead leaves of Creeping Thistle on 8/4), Little Testwood Lakes, Mansbridge Marsh, Priors Hill Copse, Southampton Old Cemetery, Weston Common (PB).

Adonis' Ladybird one found on bare ground at Priddy's Hard, Gosport, on 5/5 (PB), reported from Mon Crescent on the lawn on 15/6 (BT).

Water Ladybird found on Sallow, Forest Front Reserve 11/4 and in wet grassland Hythe 30/8 (PB).

Larch Ladybird on *Picea abies* at Luzborough Plantation 18/3, one off Douglas Fir, Manor Farm Country Park on 2/4, off Norway Spruce at Marlhill Copse 5/4 (PB) and three off Scot's Pine at Telegraph Woods 1/5 with seven off Scot's Pine there on 5/5 (PB, PRB, ARC). Found on Douglas Fir at Lord's Wood Plantation 29/9 (JC). None on Larch.

2-Spot Ladybird one hibernating in an indoor windowsill Newtown Rd 14/1 (CC), one Sholing 9/4 and two there 1/5, two in light trap from 18/6. Found on Lawson's Cypress and Monterey Pine at Townhill Park 5/4 and off Gorse at Peartree Green the same day (PB). There were 15 at Westwood on 2/5 and 20 at Peartree Green 5/5. At Lord's Wood Plantation seen on Douglas Fir 11/10-4/11 (JC).

10-Spot Ladybird recorded at Bitterne Manor 16/3 (GHW), one off Scot's Pine at Telegraph Woods and one off Pine at Netley Common 24/3, several at Peewit Hill, 15 at Telegraph Woods and 20 at Peartree Green on 5/5, one on Buddleia in Sholing 14/5 and a second individual there later in the year. One at Lord's Wood Plantation 11/10 on Hazel (JC).

7-Spot Ladybird one at Sholing on 18/3 and one in light trap there on 15/7. Two swept from Heather, Telegraph Woods on 24/3, three at Lordsdale Greenway 1/4, 20 at Titchfield 30/4 and 15 at Peartree Green 5/5. Many records from CC included various locations such as Woolston, Farley Mount, Bishops Waltham and Lordswood. Late records were four at Lordsdale Greenway on 9/11 and two there on 17/11 (ARC). Found on a wide variety of plants in the autumn (JC), including: Common Fleabane, Common Knapweed, Gorse, Creeping Thistle, Stinging Nettle, Bramble, Black Nightshade, Broad-leaved Dock, Scot's Pine, Oak and Hazel. These records were between 16/9 and 21/11 from Lord's Wood, Home Covert, Lower Test, Nursling substation, Chilworth Common and Cromarty Pond.

Scarce 7-Spot Ladybird recorded at Lord's Wood plantation (JC)—an excellent find. One was found about 3m from a Wood Ant's nest on a Birch tree on 5/10, two were on a young Monterey Pine about 2m from a Wood Ant nest at a height of about 1.25m up the pine. This species could not be found, despite extensive searching in the previous known Southampton locality (Telegraph Woods), so it is very pleasing to know that it is still present in the Southampton area.

11-Spot Ladybird one from area of bare ground at Priddy's Hard, Gosport on 5/5 (PB). An excellent record was one from gorse at Lord's Wood Greenway 29/9 (JC). This confirms the species is still present in the Southampton area.

Cream-streaked Ladybird two at RVCP on 12/5 and two at the moth trap in Sholing on 20/6, new to the garden.

18-Spot Ladybird an unexpected series of light trap records (mostly in actinic trap) at Sholing: one on 19/6, four on 20/6, two on 11/7. New to the garden.

PB recorded this species at RVCP 1/6 on Corsican Pine *Pinus nigra* and Scot's Pine *Pinus sylvestris* and also seen on Monterey Pine near Hythe 11/4.

Cream-spot Ladybird found on *Arum* at Bitterne Manor 18/3 (GHW), seen at Hardmoor Copse and Luzborough Plantation 23/3, found on Hawthorn at Townhill Park 5/4 (PB), two off Larch and Scot's Pine at Telegraph Woods on 5/5 and one off Nettle at Peartree Green the same day. One at Westwood on 14/5. Recorded from Menzies Close 30/6 (MA). Recorded from Field Maple, Hazel, Honeysuckle, Beech and Birch at Home Covert, Lord's Wood, Chilworth Common and Hut Wood 24/9–7/11 (JC).

14-Spot Ladybird one off Larch at Telegraph Woods on 1/5, several at Peewit Hill and two Peartree Green 5/5, four at Westwood 14/5. Recorded at Mon Crescent on 28/6–7/7 (BT).

Striped Ladybird at Telegraph Woods one off Larch and two from Scot's Pine on 5/5.

Eyed Ladybird seen at Luzborough Plantation in dead leaves of *Lonicera* 18/3, off Yew at Marlhill Copse 5/4, seen at Peewit Hill 2/4 (PB), one off Larch at Telegraph Woods on 7/4 and two off Larch there on 5/5 (ARC). One in the moth trap on 18/6 at Sholing was new to the garden. Recorded from Hazel below Scots Pine at Hut Wood 27/10–7/11 (JC).

Orange ladybird two off Douglas Fir, Manor Farm CP on 2/4 and one off Larch at Telegraph Woods on 7/4. At Sholing in the moth trap from 17/6 with 15 more records during the summer. Found on Coast Redwood, Birch, Hazel, Hawthorn, Hornbeam, Holly, Sycamore, Oak and Cherry Laurel at Lord's Wood Plantation, Home Covert, Chilworth Common, Cromarty Pond, Lord's Wood Greenway/Plantation and Home Covert 13/10–12/11 (JC). Found on Evergreen Oak, Lawson's Cypress Douglas Fir Sallow and other trees by PB at various locations including Marlhill Copse, RVCP and Hardmoor Copse.

22-Spot Ladybird recorded at Mon Crescent 10/5–29/5 (BT), two at Portsdown Hill 12/6 (ARC), one off Hogweed, Lord's Hill Rec. 1/7 (JC), one Testwood Lakes 30/8, and one on Fuchsia, Sholing 9/11. Recorded by PB at Curdridge Church, Hillyfields, Hound Corner, Cromarty Pond, Peartree Green and Windy Bay 30/4–14/9.

Harlequin Ladybird one found by PB at Locks Heath on Buddleia on 1/11 was the first Southampton area record known to the Society. A second was found on Nettle at Lordsdale Greenway by ARC on 9/11. This introduced species is colonising Britain at an alarming rate and it is expected to be spread over the whole of mainland Britain by the end of 2008. According to Dr Majerus at Cambridge (report in *The Daily Telegraph*, 28/12/05) the native aphid-feeding ladybirds (e.g. 7-Spot, 2-Spot) will suffer very greatly and will be expelled to the ecological margins: "In ecological terms, this is a disaster." The Harlequin is here to stay and it seems likely that there will be many more records in our

area in 2006. Please record all sightings carefully, along with any details of behaviour—for example, feeding and interaction with our native species, along with host plants.

Kidney-Spot Ladybird seen at Baddesley Common 23/3, Hamble Common 5/4, Kite's Croft Titchfield 28/3, Luzborough Plantation 23/3, Peewit Hill 2/4 (PB), two at Peartree Green 23/8. Found on Hazel at Lord's Wood Plantation 4/11 (JC).

Heather Ladybird recorded on Sallow at Forest Front Reserve, Hythe 11/4 (PB), one off Hawthorn at Portsdown Hill on 29/8 (ARC). One low on an Oak at Chilworth Common 20/10 (JC).

Pine Ladybird on off Larch at Telegraph Woods on 7/4, two at Peewit Hill on 5/5, two off Sallow at Peartree Green 5/5. Found on Douglas Fir, Gorse, Hazel, Scot's Pine and Birch at Lord's Wood Plantation and Chilworth Common 26/9–7/11 (JC) and off Lawson's Cypress, Norway Spruce, Monterey Pine, Yew and Oak 5/4–17/9 at Eling Cemetery, Townhill Park, Marlhill Copse and Old Burseldon Nature Haven (PB).

AMPHIBIANS AND REPTILES

Slow-Worm six at Netley Common 24/3, seen at Mon Crescent 15/5 (BT), up to two Lord's Wood Plantation 21/6 (JC), one in garden 2/6 and in compost bin 17/7 (MS), two Peartree Green 23/8.

Common Wall Lizard up to 10 were active in chilly conditions in sheltered spots at Portman Ravine, Boscombe, on 15/2 (ARC). (See colour page 1.)

Western Green Lizard one male above Portman Ravine, Boscombe on 7/6 and two males there on 11/6.

Grass Snake up to two at Lord's Wood Plantation 18/6–23/6 (JC).

BIRDS

Garden bird records

CO reported 27 species in her garden at Rownhams. These included Blackcap males in February, March and December; three male Brambling on November 2–4 and Goldcrest feeding on peanuts in January and February. RC recorded Buzzards on a total of 21 monthly bird-days over his Regent's Park garden during the year. This species shows a continuing increase in numbers. Peaks were in March–April and September suggesting dispersal/movement. Sparrowhawk numbers over Regent's Park remained stable with 65 monthly bird-days. There were 1470 Wood Pigeon moving south-west over Regent's Park in 2 hours on 23/10.

Other bird records

Red-throated Diver one flew in at Titchfield on 4/12 (ARC).

Slavonian Grebe one Dibden Bay 11/1 (RC).

Fulmar one east Hill Head on 2/5 (ARC).

Gannet two west Hill Head 1/5 and one there on 2/5 (ARC).

Little Egret seen off Northam Bridge 25/9 (GHW), a maximum of 14 at Weston Shore 8/10, also 10 on 7/11.

Grey Goose sp. 25 E at Titchfield on 3/4 (7.45 am) most closely resembled Bean Goose (ARC).

Egyptian Goose at Titchfield Haven one from 23/1 to 1/5 at least (ARC).

Red-crested Pochard one male Titchfield 14/5 (ARC).

Gadwall 12 at Eyeworth Pond, Fritham 27/1 (PB).

Shoveler four at Weston Shore on 5/3.

Eider regularly seen at Hill Head, e.g. 50 on 26/1 and also 50 on 2/5 (ARC). Three females or immature birds were off Weston Shore on 18/9, this species is rarely seen here.

Common Scoter one female/immature Town Quay Southampton on 5/11 and five female/immature Weston Shore 20/11. There were two female/immature at Weston on 3/12 until 10/12 with three there from 17/12 until the end of the month.

Velvet Scoter one female/immature off Titchfield Haven on 4/12 and one off Weston Shore at 8.45 am on 17/12 flew off towards Town Quay, perhaps the Titchfield bird.

Goldeneye one male Weston Shore 16/1.

Goosander a first-year male and two females at Weston Shore on 17/2, was an unusual record.

Buzzard first over a Caerleon Ave, Bitterne garden since 1985, 26/1 (PB).

Peregrine one on a crane at Southampton Docks 5/3 (ARC). See also Avocet.

Avocet one Warsash 24/3, three Titchfield Haven 3/4 and two on 29/4. On 2/5 one was seen being chased by a Peregrine over the sea at Hill Head (6.50 am). After the Peregrine stooped, the Avocet landed on the sea and the Peregrine made two more attempted stoops, just missing the bird. The Peregrine then flew on and the Avocet got away! (ARC). Despite the risks from predators, Avocet bred successfully at Titchfield Haven in 2005.

Golden Plover one Weston Shore 15/1, an unusual location.

Grey Plover 110 Weston Shore on 15/1.

Knot one Weston Shore 15/1 and one there on 12/11.

Sanderling three Hill Head 1/5 (ARC).

Pectoral Sandpiper one Titchfield Haven 3/9 (mo).

Curlew Sandpiper 7 Farlington Marshes 3/9, 5 Titchfield 3/9 (ARC).

Jack Snipe one at Lower Test 9/4 (RC).
Black-tailed Godwit 80 Warsash 7/4 (ARC).
Whimbrel three to north on 15/5 at Sholing.
Spotted Redshank one 3/9 Farlington Marshes (ARC).
Common Sandpiper one Hill Head 1/5 (ARC).
Wilson's Phalarope one at Farlington Marshes from 22/8 (mo).
Grey Phalarope a first-winter bird by the jetty at Southampton Sailing Club in the afternoon of 3/11 (a day of severe storms) gave very close views (ARC).
Great Skua one west at Hill Head (7.45 am) on 1/5 (ARC). (See page 1.)
Mediterranean Gull adults at Weston Shore on 16/1, 16/2, 17/2 (2), 20/2 (2), 25/2, 26/2 (3), 4/3 (2)—one with a green ring, 15/3 (2). First winter birds there on 4/3 and 15/3. In the later winter period one Weston Shore on 9/11 (second-winter bird) and single adults on 20/11, 26/11, 3/12 and 10/12 at Itchen Bridge and Weston Shore.
Laughing Gull a first-winter bird at Gosport on 6/11 was one of a substantial influx into the UK of this rare species probably driven across the Atlantic as a result of powerful hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico/USA (mo). (See colour page 1.)
Little Gull one adult summer, Titchfield 3/4 (ARC).
Sabine's Gull one juvenile on the beach near Sandy Point, Hayling on 11/11, storm driven and exhausted and later found dead (mo).
Ring-billed Gull adult at Gosport 1/1 onwards (mo).
Iceland Gull second-winter bird at Gosport from 1/1 showed distinct dark shading on the primaries consistent with the Kumliens form or an intergrade. There were several other Kumliens-type gulls seen in the UK during the winter (mo).
Roseate Tern two at Titchfield 27/7 (ARC).
Common Tern 200 east on 2/5 at Hill Head between 6.30 and 9.00 am (ARC).
Black Tern one east Hill Head at 7.10 am on 2/5 and one near there on 27/7 (ARC).
Turtle Dove one at Lower Test on 3/6 (RC).
Barn Owl one Titchfield 3/4 (ARC).
Swift first over Coates Rd, Sholing 2/5 (GW), 150 in one loose flock south-west over Regent's Park on 30/7 (RC), one over Grange Fields, Netley 27/8 (a late date) (PB).
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker Hawthorns Garden, Southampton Common 15/8 (Hawthorns staff) (first for many years).
Yellow Wagtail two Warsash 25/9 (ARC).
White Wagtail two males at Warsash on 1/4 (ARC).
Waxwing a major highlight of the winter was Hampshire's largest ever influx of this species and the largest flocks (of several hundred) were reported Southampton in the area around the Ordnance Survey buildings (which have particularly large Cotoneaster bushes). The first birds to arrive quickly exhausted the preferred moist Rowan berries and then switched to the drier Cotoneaster berries. There

were 15 at Hedge End (Jessops Camera shop!) on 9/1 and 27 there by 15/1. There were 150 at Totton on 1/2 and 80 at Manor Farm, Nursling the same day (RC). At Millbrook there were 80 on 6/2; 20 flew over Southampton General Hospital on 7/2; 130 were at Oakland's School on 12/2; 40 at Ordnance Survey on 20/2; 40 Portswood on 10/3 and 50 flew over Southampton General Hospital on 30/3 (ARC and others). Also, a maximum of 85 at Marston Court, Lord's Hill 12/3 (PB, JW).

Grasshopper Warbler one reeling Titchfield 29/4 (ARC).

Dartford Warbler one singing at Warsash on 24/3, one there 7/4, two on 25/8 and on 25/9 (ARC).

Willow Warbler an early bird singing at Warsash on 24/3 (ARC).

Redwing six in Caerleon Ave, Bitterne 29/1 (PB) and 130 north over Regent's Park 8.00–8.20 am on 16/10 (RC).

Nightingale recorded along the railway line at RVCP from 27/4 (NH), one singing at Westwood Grange Fields on 4/5 (ARC).

Black Redstart one female at Warsash on 12/3 (ARC).

Wheatear one Warsash 1/4 (ARC).

Bearded Tit 13 at Lower Test 26/3 (RC).

Raven two at Old Winchester Hill on 26/8 (ARC), one mobbing a Sparrowhawk over Thornhill Park 17/10 (PB).

Carrion Crow gathering on oak trees at Upper Deacon Rd, Bitterne 30/1 to 18/3 and from 20/12 (maximum of 45 on 11/2) (PB), also at least 200 at the southern end of Weston Shore 23/11 (PB).

Hawfinch one Matley Wood, New Forest, on 9/4 (ARC), one male at Nursling Street 26/12 (PB), seven Testwood Lakes 29/12 mostly moving south (RC).

Crossbill two over The Grove, Weston Park 27/8 (PB), flocks at West Walk, Forest of Bere 9/11 and at Hillier's Gardens, Ampfield 18/12 (PB).

Lapland Bunting a confiding bird at Brownwich cliffs on 30/10 (mo).

MAMMALS

Grey Squirrel (black variant) Telegraph Woods, West End (reported to JP July).

Hare a total of 60 reported on the Broadlands Estate, including 18 in one field 22/3. Up to 10 Moorcourt 8/6 (JC).

Common Seal one at Hill Head on 26/1, close inshore near the harbour, was seen eating fish with several Black headed Gulls in attendance which were collecting scraps (ARC).

Grey Seal one at Keyhaven 22/11 (JC).

Weasel one at Upton Lane Nursling 17/6 (JC).

Stoat one Dairy Lane Nursling 3/7 (JC).

Polecat x Ferret dead female by A338 south of Dowton, Hants/Wilts border 15/2 (PB).

Otter one in the river at Titchfield Haven at 7.00 am on 3/4 (ARC). Swimming with head and rear of body breaking the surface. Swam across a section of river, dived, re-appeared and swam slowly into reed bed.

Roe Deer one at Warsash 1/4 (ARC), two Lord's Wood Plantation 18/6, Testwood Lakes area 30/6, Lower Test 17/7 (JC) and one at Greywell Ave, Aldermoor on 30/8, flushed out of scrubby area surrounded by houses (PB, ARC).

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Printed by Hanley Swiffen & Co Ltd, Rotherham