Southampton Natural History Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2006

SOUTHAMPTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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cover photograph
Great Crested Newt *Triturus cristatus*

Photography Peter Burford, Andy Collins. Design Mike Creighton.

LOTTERY FUNDED

President's Comments

As a child and teenager the suburbs of Southampton were my rambling ground. Of course, as soon as I was allowed to go further than the end of the road on my bike, I was off. In those days Allington Lane, which runs from Townhill Park to Fair Oak, was the route to a young naturalist's paradise. It led to all sorts of birds nests, to Grass snakes, Fox earths and Badger setts. It led to rainy days, cold rides home, to the disappointment of not finding or seeing something. It led in simple terms to the reality of being a naturalist, the all-important formative experiences which still get me up long before dawn or keep me going long into the night. It taught me the truths of my trade and I fell in love with them.

But when did you last see a youngster cycling along Allington Lane with his or her binoculars bashing against the handlebars? When did you last catch a gang of nippers birds nesting? When did your kids or grandkids last come home smelling of Grass snake? We are in trouble: we naturalists are seriously endangered, we are heading for extinction. Oh yes. Of course, our universities produce qualified biologists, but they are beginning to graduate from generations who have trained in the library not in the field. Because 'the field' has become a big bad place for kids to be and we lock our loved ones up in front of sterile computers and never let them get muddy, or scratched, or bitten, or stung or slimed . We are in real danger of hiding their hearts from the thing we love most. Most good naturalists are hooked by the time they are nine years old—fact.

So where do our kids see wildlife? On television. And then they grow up to expect instant bio-action. They don't know how wet, cold rides, or the failure to see something is actually so often the fuel that keeps us going! And it's so easy to sit back and let people like me do all the work for them. Just turn on and watch whatever being born, eating, breeding and dying in a neat half hour. And then start thinking that it all happens so far away, that it's so difficult to see, that only film crews could ever see this or that.

But it doesn't, it isn't. It still happens along Allington lane, all day, everyday. Can I beg something of you all? Please! Can you this year find time and a way to introduce a child, just one, to a tadpole, or a ladybird, or pull back some brambles and allow them to peer in at a nest full of Hedge Sparrow eggs. Put a lizard in their hands, or a moth on their nose, or a Hedgehog in their lap. Put the spark that sees the beauty of life in a young heart.

Thanks
Chris Packham

Chairman's Comments

A major feature of 2006 was the amount of recording effort put into fauna, especially insects. Hence there is a shortage of space in this year's Annual Report, so I will keep these comments as brief as possible. Some of the major developments of 2006 include the official appointment of Chris Packham as President, Peter Burford becoming Treasurer and some other changes to the society rules and committee. Our membership jumped another 15% to reach 151 individuals by early December, surely the clearest indication of our current success.

2006 was an active year for recording. In particular, we carried out considerably more work on the shieldbug project and discovered several 'new' species in the process. We completed the draft for the shieldbug book by early December. We have plans for new projects in 2007 with longhorn beetles and marine fauna receiving particular interest. It was a very interesting year for the colonisation of new species thanks to the continuing trend towards milder winters and hotter and sunnier summers. Unfortunately, we have had to exclude lichens and bryophytes from the Flora Report due to lack of space.

It was also an interesting year for publicity. Another successful Awards For All application enabled us to purchase a society digital camera and digital projector, a new set of display boards and to run a Family Day at the Testwood Centre on 8th July. We would also like to thank John Poland and Jan Kidd for arranging an academic workshop at Testwood Centre on 1st April. In addition, we attracted about six new members at the first BBC Springwatch Event on Southampton Common on 4th June. More work on improving our display material is planned for 2007.

Phil Budd

The Society Website

Our society website was set up by the Recording Officer, Andy Collins, in 2002, under the Hampshire Communigate 'umbrella'. Despite its many limitations it has been popular and effective. We think that it has been an important contributory factor in the rapid increase in our membership in recent years. Kathy Emmott and myself with the help of others, especially Peter Burford with his excellent pictures, have maintained the site. In September 2006 we invited a new member, Paul Winter, to our committee meeting and he generously offered to set up a new and more flexible website for us. Most of the original features were successfully transferred to the new site. We now have both sites running side by side with the recent report updates being added fresh to the new site (at www.sotonnhs.org).

I thought that it would be interesting and timely to review the extent to which the Communigate website has been utilised. This has been determined by installing

'hit counters' at the bottom of the pages, to measure the total number of visits to both the whole site and also separately to various pages within it. The results are as follows:

Total hits up to 11th December 2006:

Total website = 7,685 (5 to 6 'hits' per day over four years)
Fauna Reports Page = 5,915 (4 'hits' per day)
Flora Reports Page = 1,381 (one 'hit' per day)
Events Page = 565 (about 2 'hits' per day since it started)
Keys to Trees = 1,194 (3 'hits' per day)
Pictures of Dragonflies = 6,223 (an enormous 20 'hits' per day)
Pictures of Orchids = 2,645 (8 'hits' per day)
Pictures of Ladybirds = 841 (2.5 'hits' per day)
Pictures of Alien Flora = 768 (about 2 'hits' per day)
Pictures of Shieldbugs = 603 (over 1.5 'hits' per day)
Pictures of Seashore Life = 479 (under 1.5 'hits' per day)

I declare 'Pictures of Dragonflies' to be the most popular item!

Southampton Wildlife Link

The Southampton Wildlife Link continued to meet at the Sholing Valley Study Centre courtesy of the Sholing Valley Study Centre Association,but it was not a good year for nature conservation in Southampton. The Link met on six occasions: 9th January, 6th March, 8th May, 26th June, 4th September and 13th 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 (represented by Nick Smith and Phil Budd), Sholing Environmental Group (represented by Liz Bushnell and Mary Carnegie) and the Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society (represented by Mary Smith and Jean Velecky). Yvone Curtiss represents the SVSCA and provides the key to the door. There were no guest attendees in 2006. The City Council continued to be represented by Ian Barker (the City Ecologist) until he left the Council at the end of October. At the time of writing (10th December) there is no replacement for Ian as City Ecologist but somebody should be appointed in the New Year. John Poland (Conservation Officer) and Jan Schubert (Secretary) represent the SNHS on The Link. In May I was voted as Chairman of The Link for another year.

The Link continued to be involved in a various projects. The butterfly transect on Peartree Green continued for a fourth year, with the monitoring again shared between Peter Burford and Phil Budd. John Vetterlein and Phil Budd set up a new butterfly transect in Southampton Old Cemetery and John walked this through the whole spring and summer season. There were no other active link projects in 2006 and the toad survey was postponed to 2007.

With the Biodiversity Action Plan consultation completed in 2005 we waited to see the Open Spaces Strategy in 2006. It should have been presented to representative groups of the Link, but we waited all year and nothing happened! There was nothing else, of significance, to comment on and so our meetings were mainly concerned with whatever planning developments we could keep track of and the activities of representative groups. We did forge a useful contact with EBRA (the East Bassett Residents Association), a group concerned with the Bassett Wood/Daisy Dip Valley and we got them interested in the now very overgrown Broadlands Valley. EBRA joined the society and were invited to our meetings.

The Link continued to monitor planning applications, and other issues, which affect the greenways and open spaces of the city. We are heavily dependent on the City Ecologist in this regard and we hope that the new ecologist will attend Link meetings. Most of the planning developments were of minor importance for nature conservation and concerned the need to find more housing for the increasing population in Southampton. It was a bad year for the more major developments. Following the loss of the Mousetail site at Mayflower Park the second site at Test Lane is under threat, because the Council wants to sell land currently being used as parking for the boat show. There is also still a threat hanging over the field at Eastpoint, Hightown where the Pale Flax grows.

The biggest disaster, though, was the Thornhill Primary School Playing Field fiasco. Following planning approval work started in spring on the new Springwell School for children with special needs. Such a school is very much needed and we thought that careful siting of the development and a footpath across the site had missed most of the 3,000-strong Autumn Ladies Tresses colonies here. However, in August I Budd discovered that the whole site had been destroyed by the complete removal of topsoil. Later the ground was rolled and re-seeded. Of course all of the orchids were destroyed. This is surely the most tragic and pointless loss of ecologically rich grassland that I have ever witnessed. We thought that everybody concerned was fully informed about it and so far we have yet to find out what went wrong.

We can only pray for a more positive year in 2007.

Phil Budd, Chair of the Southampton Wildlife Link

Membership Secretary's Report

I am delighted to report that we have had 59 new members and one Associate group join us this year. This is far more than in any year since I started as Membership Secretary, and makes a total of 150 individuals and 6 other societies. We welcome the following people to the society: Peter Aslett, Jennifer Bashford,Graham and Christine Blake, John Bleaden, Helen Boulter x2, Carole Brely, Richard Carpenter, Anne Cartwright, Julia

Casson, Cornelia Chapman, Barbara Coaker, Peter Courtney, Simon Currie, East Bassett Residents Association (Corporate Member), Mark Edmunds, Jo Elswood, Willamina Forbes, Sue Goldsmith, Audley Gosling, Lindsay-Anne Heathershaw, Carmel Herrigan, Alan and Audrey Hold, Theresa Holden, Dr David Hubble, Mary Iles, Carole Jones, Dr Simon Josey, Neil Kelly, Denise Long, James Mansfield, Professor Norman Maclean, Glen Morris, Ken Oliver, Ruth Paley, David Roberts, Jenie Robinson, Dr Peter and Mrs Brenda Street, Christine Tumman, David Wall-Clarke, Louise and Tony Weeks, Michael and Madeleine Wentworth, Paul Winter, Sarah Wood, Simon Woolley.

Barbara Thomas

Field Meetings

Twenty six Field Meetings were successfully held during the course of 2006. The Field Meetings continued to be advertised on our website and on the traditional coloured cards as well as more widely. One meeting, at Woodmill and Mansbridge on 25th March, was cancelled due to heavy rain.

We held a wide variety of events: four flora (concentrating on flowering plants), three tree identifications, one fern foray, one moss foray, six insect forays (including some specifically looking at shieldbugs or glow-worms), one seashore event, one pond life event, one mollusc (snail) foray, one looking at reptiles, three bird watches and five general interest wildlife events.

Most of our Field Meetings were Southampton Natural History Society only events. We held joint meetings with the Friends of Chilworth Gardens, Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery (3), Hawthorns Wildlife Association (3), Waterside Natural History Society and the Winchester Group of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust (2). One meeting was a joint public event with the Southampton City Council.

Event leaders in 2006 included Andy Barker, Phil Budd (13), Peter Burford (2), June Chatfield, Andy Collins (2), Jan Kidd, Chris Oliver (2), John Poland (workshop), Martin Rand, John Vetterlein (3) and Gerry Wilding. We also thank Forest Enterprise (Micheldever), John Horne (Old Bursledon Nature Haven), the Hampshire Wildlife Trust, the Hawthorns Wildlife Association committee, Mary Parker (Winchester Group of HWT) and the Southampton City Council for their co-operation with the meetings.

Attendances (of SNHS members only) at our Field Meetings averaged eleven and ranged from four (Tree ID at Thornhill on 18th July) to twenty two (at Old Bursledon Nature Haven on 28th July). However, the largest crowd of year was fifty at the Micheldever Wood fungus foray on 22nd October. On this occasion, seven SNHS

members were lost in the crowd and some careful negotiations with the forestry ranger were called for after he noticed the full car park!

We were blessed with bright sunshine for 13 of our Field Meetings in 2006. It was bright with hazy sunshine on two other occasions. Overcast, but dry conditions, occurred on seven occasions. There was continuous drizzle on one meeting and there was some more substantial rain to finish up with on two others. The one late evening meeting saw dry and clear conditions. It was very cold for the moss foray on 12th March and remarkably hot for the evening meeting at Thornhill on 18th July.

In total, there were seven all-day events, nine morning excursions, six afternoon events and four evening meetings, one of the latter continuing after dark.

As regards our destinations, thirteen of our Field Meetings took place in the Southampton area. Also there were seven meetings in the New Forest, two elsewhere in south Hampshire, one in west Hampshire, two in north Hampshire (Broughton Down and Micheldever Wood) and one in Dorset (Bournemouth coast).

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: Hayling Island, 21st: Our first Field Meeting of the year was a bird watch led by Andy Collins and the conditions were sunny and cool. Five members saw thirty bird species and a Red Admiral. **Southampton Old Cemetery, 28th:** John Vetterlein invited us to another of his last Sunday of the month wild flower walks and there were 9 SNHS members amongst the group of twenty two. Four species of fungi were seen as were seven flowers in bloom, including Winter Heliotrope.

February: Blackwater Arboretum, 12th: Thirteen members attended, despite persistent light rain. Identification keys were used to try to identify a variety of coniferous trees. We saw thirty three species of conifer including four *Abies* (firs), two *Cedrus* (cedars), two *Larix* (larches), seven *Picea* (spruces) and six *Pinus* (pines). **Peartree Green, 25th:** We held another specialist Field Meeting, this time a snail foray. The conditions were cold and dry and ten members attended. June Chatfield kindly stood in for Graham Long. We found nineteen species, including three indicative of chalk: *Candidula intersecta* (Wrinkled Snail), *Monacha cantiana* (Kentish Snail) and *Vallonia excentrica*. Three species of ladybird—7-spot, 24-spot and Orange—were active.

March: Buskett's Inclosure, 12th: Phil Budd stood in for Rod Stern on this moss and liverwort foray and twelve members attended. However, the dull and bitterly cold conditions dampened our enthusiasm somewhat. We identified twenty eight species of moss and eight species of liverwort. Also an interesting lichen that Phil

calls the 'blue oyster lichen' *Normandina pulchella* was seen on Beech in Buskett's Inclosure. **Woodmill and Mansbridge, 25th** was attended by five members, but was called off due to heavy rain. We shall try again next year.

April: Southbourne and Boscombe, 8th: Sixteen members were lured to the Bournemouth cliffs on a cool and bright day by the promise of rare lizards (colour page 1). We were shown a splendid male Green Lizard at the base of the cliffs west of Portman Ravine. Common and Wall Lizards plus larvae of Cream-spot Tiger were also seen as well as some interesting flora. **Chilworth Manor Gardens, 30th** was an insect event attended by fourteen members of the society and twelve Friends of Chilworth Gardens. Despite cool and dull weather we saw eight species of ladybird, five species of shieldbug and ten species of spider, mainly collected from the conifers. We also saw 'flore pleno' or double-flowered Ladies Smock *Cardamine pratensis.*

May: Southampton Common, 7th: This was another search for early-brood shieldbugs and ladybirds. Thirteen members of the SNHS and Hawthorns Wildlife Association attended and the weather was warm and partly sunny. Four species of shieldbug were found as well as eight species of ladybird, including two species of micro-ladybird *Rhizobius litura* and *Scymnus suturalis*. **Matley Wood and Bog, 13th** was another insect trip led by Andy Collins and Phil Budd and attended by twelve members in warm, bright weather conditions. Despite being distracted by a small smouldering fire in the woods, we saw a number of interesting insects and summer birds. The highlights were the Heather Shieldbug *Rhacognathus punctatus* and a female Emperor Moth (colour page 1) found, at rest, by Anthea Jones. **Southampton Old Cemetery 28th** was a wild flower walk led by John Vetterlein and attended by thirty eight people, including thirteen members of the SNHS. Four new flower species for the cemetery were found and six species of shieldbugs discovered included a specialist of Heath Bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, the Heath Shieldbug *Legnotus picipes*.

June: Testwood Lakes, 7th: Jan Kidd and Chris Oliver led our first evening walk of the summer. This was a general interest walk around the little lake and the main lake, attended by seven members in bright, muggy and quite hot weather conditions. Twenty seven species of birds, a wide range of insects including Crucifer Shieldbugs and eighteen species of flowering plants recorded, including Cut-leaved elder *Sambucus nigra ssp.laciniatus*. **Martin Down, 21st** was the first of two all day chalk insect and flower meetings led by Peter Burford. Despite it being a weekday, six members turned up and the weather was fair but windy. Fourteen species of flowers and butterflies were identified and highlights included a late Grizzled Skipper butterfly, Scarlet Tiger moth and a female Adder. **Shirley Pond area, 29th** was an evening walk between Shirley Ice House Pond and Dale

Valley Road and back. It was a general interest walk attended by twelve members in warm and dry conditions. At one point we were entertained by the cycle racing near the Old Thatched House pub. A number of interesting plants and insects seen and these are mentioned in the flora and fauna notes.

July: Thornhill Park Woods, 18th: This was our third evening walk at a local venue but was only attended by four members probably due to the very hot weather. The purpose of the meeting was to identify trees in summer and twenty nine species of mostly deciduous trees were studied. **Old Bursledon Nature Haven, 28th** was much more popular thanks to the lure of glow-worms. The weather was warm, dry and clear and twenty two members attended. Despite the late date there were still three female glow-worms on display and we were shown both tadpoles and adults of Smooth and Crested Newts by the landowner John Horne. Other wildlife seen on this memorable night included two Serotine Bats, a Barn Owl and a variety of creatures found by pond dipping the lakes. We also found the white-flowered variety of Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*.

August: Bramshaw Wood, 5th: Ferns were subject of this walk led by Martin Rand and covering Canada Common and Bramshaw Church as well as Bramshaw Wood. The weather was warm and dry with sunny spells and thirteen members attended the meeting. Fourteen species of ferns were recorded (see flora records), as well as eleven species of fungi and sixteen species of flowering plant. **Broughton Down, 12th** This was Peter Burford's second insect and flower walk. The weather was rather cloudy and windy, but it was the weekend this time and twelve members turned up. Thirteen species of butterfly seen included Adonis Blue and Silver-spotted Skipper. **Millyford Bridge and Holidays Hill Inclosure, 19th** in the New Forest was visited by a group of thirteen members led by Gerry Wilding. The weather was warm and fairly sunny and there was a lot to see. We recorded eleven species of fungi, eighteen species of flowering plant, a basking Adder and some interesting insects on the blooms of Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre.* The latter included three of the scarlet and black Rhopalid bug *Corizus hyoscyami* and two Spiked Shieldbugs.

September: Shatterford, New Forest, 3rd: Chris Oliver led seven members on a bird walk at a popular venue. The weather was dry and warm with sun later and twenty two species of birds seen including a Hobby. There was a plethora of early fungi and other flora and wildlife on show, including a large toad wedged in a crevice at the base of a beech tree. **Lepe Country Park, 16th** was our annual seashore foray and Andy Barker led it. Twelve members attended on a dry and warm but rather cloudy and misty day. Although there was less here than expected, several interesting species seen are highlighted in the fauna reports. Also seen was the interesting Sea Potato *Leathesia difformis*, actually a floating seaweed, and one species of fish—the Blenny *Lipophrys pholis*.

October: Southampton Common, 8th: This was the 16th annual foray joint with the Hawthorns Wildlife Association. It was attended a crowd of forty two, including eleven SNHS members. Despite the warm and dry weather there had been enough recent rain to find twenty six species of fungi. Eleven of these species were new to the central part of Southampton Common. We also saw a Smooth Newt at the base of an oak tree and the 'dreaded' Harlequin Ladybird on nettle. **Matley Wood, 15th** was a joint fungus foray with the Waterside Natural History Society and twenty three attended, including ten SNHS members. The weather was warm and dry on the day but recent rains brought forth fifty four species of fungi. **Micheldever Wood, 22nd** was a fungus foray conducted in a hurry, before the heavens opened. It was a joint event in which fifty people turned up, including seven members of the SNHS. Fifty three fungi species included many of interest. There was a large flock of Chaffinches avidly feeding on crushed beech mast in the car park.

November: Mayfield Park, 11th: This was our 4th fungus foray and the only November Field Meeting this year. This event was advertised by the city council and was attended by thirteen people, including ten SNHS members. It was sunny and cold, but forty eight species of fungi were seen despite recent frosts. The highlight was Panther Cap *Amanita pantherina*, not recorded by Phil Budd actually within Southampton before.

December: Southampton Common, 9th: Dry, cold and sunny weather greeted a group of twenty six, including sixteen public/HWA members and ten SNHS members. We looked at various broadleaf evergreens and deciduous trees in the south of The Common and made use of identification keys. **31st:** The final Field Meeting in out 2006 programme was another of John Vetterlein's last Sunday of the month wild flower walks. We were surprised to find fourteen species in bloom, including Yarrow, Wild Strawberry, Herb Robert, Wood Avens, Hogweed and Common Dandelion. There were also eight species of fungi identified, including the scarce *Lepiota josserandi* under cypresses. However, advancing heavy rain caused us to scurry back to our cars early.

April Workshop

On Saturday **1st April** we held the third of our recent series of identification workshops at the Testwood Centre, Totton. We were grateful to the Hampshire Wildlife Trust for allowing us to use this venue once again. John Poland and Jan Kidd organised the event and the aim was to spread the message about our shieldbug survey and to look at spring flora. About twenty delegates attended and the majority were members. Phil Budd ran shieldbug workshops upstairs in the morning and again in the afternoon. Martin Rand ran a flora workshop on spring 'ephemerals' downstairs and this was followed by John Poland's workshop on the identification of vegetative flora. Martin Rand is the BSBI botanical recorder for south Hampshire.

We thank Ron and Barbara Thomas and their daughters for running the tea room. The weather was good enough at the right time to go outside and collect ladybird and shieldbug records. Of particular interest were Box Bug, Shoulder-stripe Moth and Brimstone Butterfly

Family Day at Testwood Centre on 8th July

We held our first ever Family Day at the Testwood Centre, Totton. This event was organised by Jan Kidd and the main purpose was to attract families with children to the world of natural history.

The main events were the morning talk by our President Chris Packham followed by Graham Cornick of the Hydestile Wildlife Hospital in the afternoon. Chris shared with us some of his collection of animal skeletons including his proudest possession—a skeleton of an anglerfish—as well as a variety of unfamiliar bones from seals. Chris began collecting his specimens, which include remains of a variety of birds and mammals, in his schooldays and we heard the story behind each find. In the afternoon Graham Cornick was assisted by several animal and bird friends including a blind Tawny Owl, an Eagle Owl, a Barn Owl, a Rabbit, two friendly Rats, a Ferret and a Hedgehog. This was a very entertaining presentation.

The rest of the entertainment included a ball-pit, badge making, face painting, pond-dipping, a seashell display and the manufacture of models of various shapes and sizes, including dragonflies made from willow twigs. The Hampshire Wildlife Trust had a display stand and the day provided the first opportunity for us to show the new SNHS display. Light refreshments were also available.

We were very lucky with the weather as this was about the only July day that was sunny but not too hot. There were some gusty breezes for the outdoor marques though! All in all a very successful day and a special thank you to all those involved including about twenty members of the society who volunteered in various ways. Around fifty people attended and the society made a profit of about £60.

Finally, I would like to thank all leaders, landowners and people involved in the workshop and the family day for making the 2006 programme such a success.

Phil Budd

Indoor Meetings

We held the usual seven Indoor Meetings in 2006. All were held at the Edmund Kell Hall at Asylum Road. Attendances were encouraging, varying from fourteen to thirty one, for the talk presented by Graham Roberts on 7th November, and averaged twenty two (the same as last year). We held raffles at most of the meetings and these were organised by John Poland when he was present. Ron and Barbara Thomas continued to organise the tea, coffee and biscuits.

For the first time at Edmund Kell Hall I was unable to attend a meeting due to illness. I was grateful that Andy Collins was able to chair the meeting on **3rd January**, a talk presented by Julie Watson about her holiday in northern Spain in 2005. Darren Naish organised the raffle and Darren, Andy and Ron, between them, grappled with the security arrangements and managed to work out how to get into the hall! On **7th February** we were treated to a talk about the history of 'big cat' sightings in Britain by one of our own members, Darren Naish. It appears that there is good evidence of big cats in some parts of the country and we learnt that a new cat species, the Keller's Cat, has recently been found in Scotland. We had some problems with the equipment and the old projector stand fell to bits. On **7th March** there was an outside speaker on a very unusual subject for us, the conservation of freshwater fish stocks, presented by Andy Thomas, a fisheries officer for the Environment Agency. All of our first three meetings saw about average attendances.

Our **AGM** took place on **4th April**, attended by eighteen members Two committee members gave their apologies and our new President, Chris Packham, was unable to attend. Jan Kidd and Chris Oliver left the committee, and we thanked them for their work for the society over many years and Jan offered to continue as auditor of the accounts. We officially elected Chris Packham as President, Peter Burford as Treasurer and Anthea and Vernon Jones as new general members of the committee. We also voted to amend Rule 8 of our constitution, concerning a quorum at business meetings. After the business part of the meeting there was a raffle and Peter Burford organised a quiz.

There was a disappointing start to our new Winter Programme on **3rd October**. Unlike last October only fourteen turned out for this one. However, one of the absentees was the speaker (who had apologised a couple of days before) so I gave an emergency presentation on my holiday on the Isles of Scilly in May 2002. The intended talk was one on marine life entitled "Blennies from Heaven" and we might arrange it on a future date. On the **7th November** thirty one people, including three non-members saw Graham Robert's outstanding talk. This is a new record attendance for a meeting at Edmund Kell Hall**.** Graham updated us on the mostly positive situation regarding otters and water voles on Hampshire Rivers. We finished off the year on **5th December** with a talk presented by a new speaker to us, Simon Curson, an ecologist from Christchurch. The subject was the "Magic of Moths" with numerous examples of winter and summer species found in southern England as well as many of their larvae. 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

The Western Green Lizard: A New Breeding Species for Britain

Darren Naish

Britain's native reptile fauna is arguably unimpressive and disappointing, with but six confirmed species. Archaeological samples show us that several additional species, including the European Pond Terrapin *Emys orbicularis* and Aesculapian Snake *Elaphe longissima*, lived here in the recent geological past (Gleed-Owen, 1999), and the possibility remains that certain species found today in the northern parts of continental Europe not only inhabited prehistoric Britain, but might also have survived here beyond the flooding of the English Channel 7,000 years ago. Indeed, recent discoveries have shown that several frog species, absent from Britain today, were present here as recently as 1,000 years ago (Gleed-Owen, 2000). It has also recently been shown that the Pool Frogs *Rana lessonae* of Norfolk and Cambridgeshire were natives rather than continental introductions as conventionally thought, and a serious case arguing that the European Tree Frog *Hyla arborea* colonies of the New Forest were also natives has been made within recent years.

Britain has long been home to populations of reptiles usually assumed to be continental introductions, including pond terrapins, Wall Lizards *Podarcis muralis* (colour page 1) and Dice Snakes *Natrix tessellata*. However, the new data from the amphibians implies that we should at least consider the possibility of native status for some of these reptiles: might some 'long-established aliens' actually be genuine natives? In 2003 a major debate on this issue was to erupt within the national press thanks to the discovery of a breeding colony of Western Green Lizards *Lacerta bilineata* at Southbourne and Boscombe Cliffs, Bournemouth.

Western Green Lizards: discovered alive in Dorset

The Western Green Lizard *Lacerta bilineata* (colour page 1) is a large lacertid (c. 130 mm snout-to-vent, and c. 300 mm in total length) that inhabits Spain, France and Italy. *L. bilineata* was until recently included in *L. viridis*, but a 1997 revision separated the two (Amann *et al*., 1997). This complicates matters, meaning that pre-1997 authors are not referring to our modern concept of *L. viridis* when they used this name. The name *L. viridis* is now restricted to the Eastern Green Lizard, a species predominantly restricted to South East Europe and Asia Minor, though it also occurs in the Czech Republic and eastern Germany. Western Green Lizards are vivid green and decorated with fine dark stippling, and with a yellowish throat that turns blue in breeding males. Females and juveniles possess two or four narrow light stripes that extend for the length of the neck and body. They prefer to live in sunny places where there is bushy vegetation, and even climb quite high in bushes and shrubs to forage or bask.

The Bournemouth cliff green lizards were discovered by herpetologist Chris Gleed-Owen of the Herpetological Conservation Trust when he was on his way to work in July 2002. He immediately phoned around to inquire whether any colleagues were aware of green lizards in the area and none were. By April 2003 the number of lizards had increased, juveniles were present, and the lizards were now distributed along at least 3 km of cliff edge. Perhaps embarrassingly, the original discovery site is located just a few hundred metres away from Gleed-Owen's office (Gleed-Owen, 2004). Data from John McGowan of the Bournemouth Natural Science Society later showed that green lizards had been seen at the cliffs as early as 1999, with a reliable sighting dating to 1994.

Green lizards in Devon and elsewhere?

While green lizards are not regarded as British natives, they are apparently native to Jersey where they inhabit south-facing coastal heaths and dunes. They also occur on Guernsey, but here they have been introduced from Jersey (Beebee & Griffiths, 2000). Green lizards are so attractive and charismatic that it comes as no surprise to learn that there have been numerous attempts to introduce them to Britain. Lever (1977) discussed introduction attempts that took place in Wales, Ireland, and Devon, the Isle of Wight, Surrey and Gloucestershire in England, with the earliest taking place in 1872. Some of these introduction attempts involved hundreds of animals, and must have been expensive undertakings. Presumably they were of Western Green Lizards, and not of any of the other similar species. Numerous other releases are known to have occurred, but, because there has never been any good indication of breeding occurring, Beebee & Griffiths (2000) noted that "on current evidence the species is not established in this country" (p. 208). Even so, lizards introduced to St Lawrence on the Isle of Wight in 1899 were apparently still there in 1936, so some introduced colonies have persisted for quite a while.

However, there are also a number of historical accounts that document green lizards in places where, so far as we know, deliberate releases have not occurred. As early as 1769, Gilbert White wrote of seeing 'Guernsey' lizards. It is generally thought that he had misidentified Sand Lizards *L. agilis*: this is a stocky, short-limbed species which, although often green, is easy to distinguish from *L. bilineata*. It occurs as a native in Surrey, Dorset and Merseyside. Elsewhere, supposed green lizards were reported during the 1860s and 1870s at Sidmouth and elsewhere in Devon, and during the 1900s in Dorset. One of the Devon records was made by John Wolley from Guernsey. He was quite confident that the lizards he saw in Devon were exactly the same as the green lizards of Guernsey.

All of these reports were later dismissed as further misidentifications of Sand Lizards, and while this might have been the case for some of them, in others the lizards described do not match this species. Some of the Dorset records noted

that the lizards were nearly 300 mm long, for example, which is far too large for *L. agilis*. On the basis of these historical records, Downes (1994) proposed that viable feral colonies of green lizards existed in Devon and Dorset, and that they were probably introduced from either France or the Channel Islands. He was disappointed that his idea was "ignored by the zoological establishment" and that "two famous zoologists (who shall remain nameless) told us that the theory was arrant nonsense. The paper was returned with a brusque letter from several zoological magazines and after a while we just gave up" (Downes, 2003, p. 13). Given that, as noted above, relatively long-lived colonies had been reported earlier from the Isle of Wight, it would seem likely that Downes was right.

The presence of what appears to be a viable breeding colony at Bournemouth led Downes (2003) to write an article titled "Told u so" [sic]. However, because there is no evidence that the Bournemouth colony has anything to do with the historical Devon and Dorset records discussed by Downes, it is not entirely satisfactory to claim that his contention has been vindicated. Then again, the fact that the Bournemouth colony is apparently viable and spreading suggests that other colonies in southern England may well have been capable of this too.

How did they get here?

What are Western Green Lizards doing in modern Bournemouth? Gleed-Owen has suggested that they are dumped pets that have since bred. Could they have been introduced accidentally from the Channel Islands, or the continent, as Downes suggested for the other possible colonies? Or could they be late-surviving, hitherto-overlooked natives, like the British Pool Frogs? Gleed-Owen regards the possibility of native status for the Bournemouth lizards as "unlikely, but not impossible".

Presently, native status for the Bournemouth green lizards seems unlikely for two reasons. Firstly, the discovery site is well known to naturalists and is regularly well explored. If the lizards occurred there long prior to 2003, it is unlikely that they would have been overlooked for so long. Secondly, all of Britain's native amphibians and reptiles have European ranges that extend far to the north-east, usually incorporating Scandinavia. They are therefore relatively cold-tolerant, and this explains why they were able to colonise post-glacial Pleistocene Britain before the English Channel severed the continental connection. Western Green Lizards are not animals of the north-east, suggesting that they would not have been able to colonise post-glacial Britain during that brief critical phase, as our definite natives did. Despite all this, the exciting possibility that they *are* natives cannot be totally dismissed and should be tested further.

Most people know that Britain already has, or has had, a lot of alien species (including wallabies, Coypu, Edible and Garden Dormouse, Midwife Toads,

American Bullfrog, and Ring-necked Parakeets). Given the climatic changes that are occurring, it is likely that our fauna will change dramatically in future decades as old natives find life increasingly difficult, and new aliens find survival here easier.

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Longhorn Beetles (Coleoptera: Cerambycidae): A Review

Andy Collins and Phil Budd

There are only about 60 British species of this group of spectacular beetles. A great many are distinctly rare and a high number have their strongholds in our area (especially if we include the New Forest). Most species, as adult beetles, are active in warm weather and found on the flowers of herbaceous plants such as umbellifers and hawthorn. As well as direct searching, sweeping and beating can be productive. A small number of species are attracted to light. The adult beetles rarely occur in large numbers and are distinctly seasonal and therefore quite hard to find and overlooked. All records of this group are of great interest to the Society. Listed below are species reported as recorded from southern Hampshire by Twinn and Harding (1999) along with supporting notes and information on UK distribution from that booklet. We have also reviewed annual reports of the Society and list known records and have added records from surveys by D. Appleton, R. Dickson and C. Else. Please make a special effort to search for and record these beetles in 2007 to increase our limited knowledge of this group.

Abbreviations
Illustrated in (1) Chinery (1986); (2) Harde (2000); (3) Hickin (1987); (4) Linssen (1959).
SH: South Hampshire distribution. **UK**: UK status. **SNHS**: Society records

Prionus coriarius **(Tanner or Sawyer Beetle)** (1,2,3,4)
UK: Notable. **SH:** Mostly New Forest. **Notes:** Associated with broad-leaf trees, especially oak, beech and birch. Mid-July–late September. Nocturnal. **SNHS:** Bassett garden 9/9/67, UV light at Durley 3/8/90, Southampton Common 8/7/92, Roydon New Forest 20/7/98, Chandler's Ford 7/8/04, Sholing at MV 11/7/05.

Arhopalus rusticus **(Dusky Longhorn)** (2) See colour page 4.
SH: Widespread. **Notes:** Associated with living or dead conifers. May–September. Nocturnal and found at MV light. **SNHS:** Botley Wood 1975, West Walk 26/7/75, Sholing at moth trap 17/7/06 (ARC).

Arhopalus tristis (= Criocephalus ferus) (3)
SH: Mostly New Forest. **Notes:** Associated with living or dead conifers. July–early November. Mainly nocturnal. **SNHS:** UV light at Chandler's Ford 15/6/04.

Asemum striatum (2,4)
SH: New Forest area. **Notes:** Associated with newly cut or dead conifers. Adults late May–September. Mainly crepuscular. Uncommon but perhaps spreading. **SNHS:** None

Tetropium gabrieli **(Larch Longhorn Beetle)** (3)
SH: Few post-1970 records, mostly south New Forest. **Notes:** Associated with larch. Adults through the summer, especially August. **SNHS:** None.

Rhagium bifasciatum **(Two-banded Longhorn)** (2,4)
SH: Widespread. **Notes:** Polyphagous, but most common on Scots Pine. Adults emerge from over-wintering sites in April. **SNHS:** Knightwood Inclosure in rotting pine 1966, Whitley Wood 1966, Harewood Forest 74–75, Botley Wood and West Walk 1975, Crab Wood in fallen log 05/6/82, Southampton Common in oak 30/12/82, Botley Wood 30/5/84, Eyeworth Wood 1/5/92, Holmsley Passage 7/6/96, Matley Bog area 13/5/06 (field meeting), Exbury Gardens 23/9/06 (DN), seen on hawthorn, in Rownhams Plantation 2006 (JC).

Rhagium mordax **(Eyed Longhorn)** (1,2,4)
SH: Widespread. **Notes:** Wooded areas with oak. Adults active during warmer months. **SNHS:** Stubbs Wood under birch and oak bark 6/2/60, 20+ in rotten logs, Whitley Wood near Lyndhurst 1966, Harewood Forest 1974–75, Botley Wood and West Walk 1975, Matley Bog 15/6/86, Curbridge Nature Reserve 1974 under oak bark and 19/6/93.

***Stenocorus meridianus* (Variable Longhorn)** (2,3,4)
SH: Widespread. **Notes:** Larvae in tree stumps. Adults May–August, attracted to umbellifers. **SNHS:** Flying in sunshine at Beaulieu River near Blackhill 13/6/59, on elder flowers at Whitley Wood 11/6/66, Lordswood 20/7/67, Ramnor Inclosure 12/6/68, Harewood Forest 1974–75, Botley Wood 30/7/75, 20/7/82.

Grammoptera ruficornis (2)
SH: Widespread. **Notes:** Larvae in small dead twigs of deciduous trees. Adults April–September. **SNHS:** Oxenbourne Down 3/6/72, Curbridge 1974, Harewood Forest 1974–75, Portsdown Hill 1975, Botley Wood and West Walk and Wickham Common 1975, Common at Cherque and Wild Grounds, Gosport 1976.

Grammoptera ustulata
UK: RDB3. **SH:** New Forest. **Notes:** Ancient broad-leaved and pasture woodland. Adults April–August. **SNHS:** Matley Wood on hawthorn blossom 27/5/70, Pamber Forest on hawthorn blossom 31/5/74.

Grammoptera abdominalis (=G. variegata)
UK: Notable A. **SH:** Only one 10 km square pre-1970, New Forest. **Notes:** Broad-leaved woodland with oak. Adults April–June, sometimes August. **SNHS:** Pamber Forest 4 swept and seen 21/5–3/6/74.

Alosterna tabacicolor (2)
SH: Widespread. **Notes:** Larvae in dead twigs of several trees. Adults April–August. **SNHS:** Harewood Forest 1974–75, Botley Wood and West Walk 1975, Peartree Green on wild carrot 30/6/98.

Paracorymbia fulva (=Anoplodera fulva, Leptura fulva) See colour page 4.
UK: RDB3. **SH:** Mostly Southampton area. **Notes:** Associated with broad-leaved woodland. Adults on flowers June–August. Looks similar to *P. livida* but with the very tips of the elytra black and with longer and blacker legs. **SNHS:** South Wonston on carrot 1973, female and 2 males on umbellifers Botley Wood 27/8/74, recorded from South Wonston, Westwood Winchester 1980. One, possible, more closely resembling this species than *livida*, was found on thrift at the Southbourne Cliffs, Dorset on 10/6/06 (ARC).

Pseudovadonia livida (=Anoplodera livida, Leptura livida) (2,4)
SH: Quite widespread. **Notes:** Larvae in deciduous and coniferous trees. Adults May–August. **SNHS:** Brownwich and Sinah on flowers on golf course. 1972, Gilkicker Point 1976.

Anoplodera scutellata (=Leptura scutellata) (2,4)
UK: Notable A. **SH:** New Forest. **Notes:** Inhabits broad-leaved and pasture woodland with beech. Adults March–August. **SNHS:** Whitley Wood 1966.

Anoplodera sexguttata (=Leptura 6-guttata) (1,2)
UK: RDB3. **SH:** New Forest. **Notes:** Something of a New Forest speciality. Associated with broad-leaved trees. Adults on flowers June–July. **SNHS:** Lyndhurst area inclosure on grass in ride 2/7/66, Roydon New Forest 4/6/98.

Judolia cerambyciformis (2)
SH: Mostly East of Southampton. **Notes:** Polyphagous species. Adults found on flowers in wooded areas. **SNHS:** On wood spurge and guelder rose (about 10) West Walk 6/6/71, Harewood Forest 7/6/75, on carrot Portsdown Hill 15/7/98, Noar Hill on hogweed 16/7/98, Great Down Park, Bursledon 13/7/03 (5).

Leptura aurulenta (=Strangalia aurulenta)
UK: Notable A. **SH:** Apparently widespread but very restricted UK distribution. **Notes:** Found in broad-leaved and pasture woodland with oak. Adults emerge June and found until September. **SNHS:** Oxenbourne 5 on wooden post 7/7/73, near Ashurst a large female on birch 9/8/79, Monkwood on beech stump 4/7/93.

Leptura maculata **(Harlequin Beetle, Spotted Longhorn**)
(=Strangalia maculata**)** (1,2,3,4)
SH: Very widespread. **Notes:** Adults attracted to flowers May–August. **SNHS:** Bitterne on flowers on waste ground 29/8/66, Mallard Wood on flowers 10/6/67, Marchwood 9/7/67, Curbridge 16/7/72, Oxenbourne Down 16/7/73, West Walk 1975, Harewood Forest 1974–75, Botley Wood 1975, Browndown North and Cherque 1976, Bitterne Common 2/7/82, Stoke Park Wood 21/6/84, Shirley Warren on hogweed 28/7/92,Otterbourne—in garden tool handle 18/4/93. [Still quite easy to find around Southampton.]

Leptura melanura (=Strangalia melanura) (2,3,4)
SH: Very widespread. **Notes:** Larvae in rotten oak branches and broom roots. Adults attracted to flowers May– September. **SNHS:** Hawkhill Inclosure 27/6/59, Whitley Wood 1966, West Walk on umbellifer 19/8/67, Oxenbourne Down 1975 (common), Harewood Forest 1974–75, Botley Wood and West Walk 1975, Crawley Forest 14/7/84. [Still quite easy to find around Southampton.]

Leptura nigra (=Strangalia nigra) (2,4)
UK: Notable A. **SH:** New Forest/Southampton area. Very local. **Notes:** Probably associated with broad-leaved trees. Adults May–July. **SNHS:** Botley Wood on broom flowers 29/5/66.

Leptura quadrifasciata (=Strangalia quadrifasciata) (2)
SH: Quite widespread. **Notes:** Larvae in dead trees. Adults May–July. **SNHS:** Botley Wood on birch early July 1966, West Walk 21/6/70, Botley Wood and West Walk 1975, Lower Test Reserve on hogweed 1/8/05.

Gracilia minuta (2,3,4)
UK: RDB2. **SH:** Very local, east of Southampton. **Notes:** Declining, but associated with woodland and scrub. Adults May–August. **SNHS:** None.

Obrium brunneum (2)
UK: Notable A? **SH:** Very Local. **Notes:** Adults May–July. **SNHS**:Hazel Holt on crosswort 15/6/74, 'Second Hants. record'.

Molorchus minor (1,2,3)
SH: Very local. **Notes:** Associated with trees, especially dead spruce. Adults appear May–June. **SNHS:** Ashurst Wood two off hawthorn blossom 19/5/74, Pamber Forest on umbellifer 1976.

Molorchus umbellatarum
UK: Notable A. **SH:** Very local, New Forest. **Notes:** Associated with trees and shrubs. Adult on umbellifers May–July. **SNHS:** Greywell, on umbellifers 1976, Botley Wood 2 in 1976.

Aromia moschata **(Musk Beetle)** (1,2,3,4)
UK: Notable B. **SH:** Southampton area and eastern New Forest. **Notes:** Associated with willows along river margins and wetlands. Adults May–September. **SNHS:** River Itchen near Brambridge 1 swept near old willows 5/8/71, Botley Wood 7/7/84, Monk Wood Ropley 4/7/93.

Callidium violaceum (2,3,4)
UK: RDB3? **SH:** Very local. No post-1970 records. **Notes:** Adults April–July. **SNHS:** None.

Phymatodes alni (2)
UK: RDB3. **SH:** Quite widespread, but mostly old records. **Notes:** Associated with trees, especially oak and alder. Adults April–August. **SNHS:** West Walk on bracken 30/5/66, West Walk 6/6/69, Botley Wood 25/5/70, Telegraph Woods 11/5/99.

Phymatodes testaceus **(Tanbark Beetle)** (1,2,3,4)
SH: Quite widespread. **Notes:** Oak is preferred tree. Nocturnal. Adults May–July. **SNHS:** Matley Wood, very common under oak bark May/June 1970, Tournerbury Wood Hayling Island pupae under oak bark May 1975, Roydon New Forest 20/6/98.

Clytus arietis **(Wasp Beetle)** (1,2,3,4) See colour page 4.
SH: Widespread. **Notes:** Polyphagous. Adults May–July. **SNHS:** Nursling GP on umbellifers 20/6/65, Bitterne 19/6/66, Botley Oxenbourne Down 7/7/73, Harewood Forest 1974–75, Wood and West Walk 1975, Browndown North 1976, Otterbourne 1976–90 (26/5–30/8), Malwood 31/95/92. [Still quite easy to find around Southampton.]

Anaglyptus mysticus (1,2,3,4)
UK: Notable B. **SH:** New Forest. **Notes:** Polyphagous. Adults visiting flowers April–July. **SNHS:** Whitley Wood Lyndhurst in logs 5/1/67.

Mesosa nebulosa (1,2,3)
UK: RDB3. **SH:** Local, New Forest. **Notes:** Broad-leaved and pasture woodland with oak. Adults March–August. **SNHS:** Mallard Wood one on oak 16/3/74, 1 beaten 18/5/74.

Pogonocherus fasciculatus (1,2)
UK: Notable B. **SH:** Only one 10 km square, north of City. **Notes:** Found in coniferous woodland with Scots Pine. Adults April–September. **SNHS:** None.

Pogonocherus hispidulus (1,2,3,4)
SH: Mostly New Forest. **Notes:** Polyphagous. Adults March–late October. **SNHS:**West Walk beaten from holly 14/9/69, Harewod Forest 15/6/74, Bitterne Manor 21/8/04.

Pogonocherus hispidus (2,3,4)
SH: Quite widespread. **Notes:** Larvae in a range of trees. Adults April–September. **SNHS:** Wild Grounds Gosport 1976.

Leiopus nebulosus (1,2)
SH: Widespread. **Notes:** Found in dead branches of deciduous trees. Adults April–August. **SNHS:** Lyndhurst June 1967, Curbridge 25/6/72, Harewood Forest 1974–75, Botley Wood and West Walk 1974–75, Bishop's Dyke on oak 11/6/83, Marwell Zoo at MV 21/7/95.

Saperda populnea (2,3,4)
SH: Local, mostly old records. **Notes:** Associated with poplars and willows. Adults May–July. **SNHS:** Botley Wood 12/6/66 on aspen, West Walk 21/5/72 on sallow, Wickham Common on aspen 14/6/70.

Stenostola dubia (=Stenostola ferrea) **(Lime beetle)** (2)
UK: Notable B. **SH:** Southampton area, local. **Notes:** Found in broad-leaved woodland with limes. Adults May–July. **SNHS:** Crab Wood on dogwood 1976, Botley Wood 6/6/64, 30/5/75, on sallow 3/7/79.

Phytoecia cylindrica
UK: Notable B. **SH:** Only one 10 km square. **Notes:** Hedgerows and field margins. Larvae in umbellifers. Adults on flowers March–July. **SNHS:** Greywell on reeds 1976.

***Tetrops praeustus* (Plum Beetle)** (2,4)
SH: Widespread. **Notes:** Larvae are polyphagous. Adults on a range of trees April–October. **SNHS:** Curbridge 1974, Cherque 1976, Harewood Forest 1974–75, Botley Wood and West Walk 1975.

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Weather Records 2006
Records made at Caerleon Avenue Bitterne (SU461127) Up to 25/9 And at 488 Bitterne Road East (SU454129) From 26/9

Phil Budd

Introduction

Unfortunately, Keith Plumridge was unable to do weather records in 2006 and it appears that nobody else in the society observes the weather in detail so I returned to my former role as weather recorder. I moved house on 25th September, but the new garden was suitable for weather recording and was only half a mile from the previous recording site. Therefore reasonable accuracy was maintained.

2006 was a very warm year and slightly drier than average. Prior to October the rainfall was only 75% average. The average annual temperature worked out at 11.7°C. This is at least a degree above average—a very significant fact. Given that most places in the world with a Mediterranean climate (south Europe, California, south Africa, south-east Australia and most of New Zealand) have an average annual temperature in the range 12.5°C to 18°C, then another degree rise for southern England should lead to even more profound changes.

January was very dry with average mild temperatures. A boring first half of the month was followed by the mildest day before mid-March: 13°C (56°F) on the 18th. On the 21st the longest totally dry period of the year began—18 days to 7th February. Also there were 15 consecutive nights of air frost from 22nd January to 5th February.

February was colder than normal and fairly dry. The temperatures stayed below freezing from the afternoon of the 1st to the morning of the 4th, with the foggy 3rd being the coldest day of the year (maximum –1.2°C). The first laying snow occurred on early evening of the 23rd and was followed by snow and hail together on the 28th.

March wasn't very nice—it was both cold and wet. Ten consecutive nights of air frost from 26th February to 7th March peaked on the coldest night of the year (–4.6°C on 2nd March). The last snowfall was on the 17th and there were south westerly gales on the 27th. On the morning of the 29th mild sunshine allowed viewing of the eclipse of the sun, but the heaviest rain of the month followed in the evening.

April was drier than normal but, with average temperatures, the spring was still 'backward'. The month began cold and unsettled with hail showers recorded on 2nd, 7th and 9th and the final frost on the 6th. Northerly winds brought only 7 mm rain after the 10th but the temperatures rose no higher than 18.5°C on the 21st.

May was very wet, thanks to the dreadful third week, and temperatures were about normal overall. The month began warm and dry with temperatures as high as 25.1°C on the 11th. However on the 16th the winds turned to the south west and there were then ten consecutive wet days with 95 mm rain in total. There were severe gales, torrential rain, hail and thunder on 20th and 21st as the atmospheric pressure fell to 986 mb.

June was excellent—very warm and sunny, it was the driest month of the year. Dryness ruled June; from 25th May to 25th June there was only 4 mm rain with just 1 mm recorded (in a thunderstorm on evening of 4th) from 30th May to 19th June. The maximum temperatures exceeded 80°F on eight days from 9th to 18th. The miserable 26th was the only cold and wet day.

July was very hot and much drier than normal. The night temperatures never fell below 10°C (50°F) from 24th June to 18th August. The day maxima were even more impressive as there were 17 days reaching over 80°F and four days exceeding 90°F on 2nd and from 17th to the 19th. The hottest day of the year was the 19th, when temperatures reached 34.4°C. At Wisley, Surrey, temperatures reached 36.5°C—a British record for July. Most of the rain fell in thunderstorms on the 5th and the 22nd.

August was slightly warmer than normal, very dry but short on sunshine. It was warm to start with a run of 33 days of temperatures over 70°F extending to the 12th. There were 4 days from 5th to 8th with temperatures exceeding 80°F. A very dry spell of 18 days with just 4 mm rain began on the 27th continuing to 13th September.

September was warm, dry (except for one day) and fairly sunny. A very high maximum temperature of 28.6°C was recorded on the 5th, one of four days over 80°F between then and the 11th. Even on the coldest day of the month, the rainy 22nd, temperatures reached almost 18°C.The main drama though, occurred on the 14th. Morning thunderstorms dumped 17 mm rain in two hours and with 31 mm rain in total, this was the wettest day of the year.

October was the wettest month of the year. It was a particularly warm October, especially at night. The first half was particularly warm as maximum temperatures reached 21.3°C on the 9th and didn't drop below 15°C until the 22nd. The worst weather came early with gales on 1st and 6th and a deluge of almost an inch of rain between 10am and 2pm on the 2nd.

Month	Mean maximum temperature		Mean minimum temperature		Max temp	Min temp	No of air frosts	No of wet days	Total rainfall	
	ºC	ºF	ºC	ºF	°C	°C			mm	in
Jan	7.5	45.5	1.6	34.9	12.8	-4.4	**15**	8	28.5	1.1
Feb	**6.4**	43.5	**1.0**	33.8	**11.8**	-2.8	12	8	47.5	1.9
Mar	9.2	48.6	2.0	35.6	13.8	**-4.6**	12	10	78.0	3.1
Apr	14.2	57.6	5.4	41.7	18.5	-1.3	2	8	32.5	1.3
May	17.5	63.5	9.0	48.2	25.1	4.8	0	**15**	115.0	4.5
Jun	24.2	75.6	11.8	53.2	29.7	7.8	0	**1**	**14.0**	**0.6**
Jul*	**27.5**	**81.5**	**14.8**	**58.6**	**34.4**	**10.0**	0	4	23.0	0.9
Aug	23.4	74.1	13.0	55.4	29.7	8.1	0	7	25.0	1.0
Sep	22.6	72.7	13.3	55.9	28.6	8.0	0	7	61.5	2.4
Oct	17.2	63.0	9.9	49.8	21.3	2.9	0	14	**116.5**	**4.6**
Nov	11.8	53.2	4.4	39.9	16.7	-2.2	5	11	114.5	4.5
Dec	8.7	47.7	3.9	39.0	12.7	-3.4	8	12	99.5	3.9
Means/ Totals	**15.9**	**60.6**	**7.5**	**45.5**	**34.4**	**-4.6**	**54**	**105**	**755.5**	**29.7**

* A mean monthly temperature (average of mean maximum and mean mimimum) in July was 21.2°C, a quite exceptional figure for any month anywhere in Britain.
Note: A 'wet day' is one on which more than 1mm rain fell.

November was mild, wet and rather stormy at times. The first week of November was dry, calm and chilly with the first air frost of the winter recorded on the 2nd. The second week was very mild (16.7°C reached on the 13th). The latter half of the month was mild, stormy and wet. Nearly an inch of rain and south-easterly gales in the afternoon of the 17th was followed by severe gales on the 19th/20th and a deep thundery depression on the 25th.

December saw average overall temperatures but was a little wetter than normal. There were three distinct periods weather wise. Prior to the very mild 14th the weather was wet, mild and often stormy with Force 11 severe gales on the night of the 2nd/3rd and more storms on the 7th (accompanied by a tornado in London). Wet, very mild and windy weather returned on the 28th but over Christmas the weather was chilly and dry with some serious fog at times. Freezing fog all day on the 21st restricted temperatures to a maximum of –0.6°C, the third coldest day of the year.

MEMBERS' RECORDS FOR 2006
Compiled by Phil Budd (Flora) and Andy Collins (Fauna)

Contributors

DA	Debbie Allan	JA	John Anderson
MAR	Muriel Arnold	MA	Mauri Askell
ALB	Andy and Linda Barker	PB	Phil Budd
PRB	Peter Burford	RJC	Richard Carpenter
JC	Jason Claxton	ARC	Andy Collins
RC	Ron Cooke	GC	Ginnie Copsey
CC	Cathy Corney	SC	Simon Currie
YC	Yvone Curtiss	JD	Jane Davies
JE	Jim Earwood	VAJ	Vernon and Anthea Jones
KE	Kathy Emmott	GE	Glynne Evans
GHW	Graham Harrison-Watts	MJH	Mike and Joan Harrison
NH	Neale Hider	JH	John Horne
DN	Darren Naish	JN	John Norton
CO	Chris Oliver	GP	Gary Palmer
CP	Chris Piatkiewicz	KJP	Keith Plumridge
JP	John Poland	BR	Barrie Roberts
JS	Jan Schubert	RS	Rod Ship
RST	Rod Stern	MS	Mary Smith
NS	Nick Smith	BT	Barbara Thomas
JV	John Vetterlein	JW	Julie Watson
IW	Ian Watts	GW	Gerry Wilding
PW	Paul Winter	SW	Simon Woolley

Abbreviations

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

MYCOTA
FUNGI

2006 may have been the most productive year for fungi since at least 1979! However, the season was short, with most of it happening in the latter half of September and in October. The New Forest was particularly good and early-season *Boletes*, *Amanitas* and *Russulas* 'rubbed shoulders' with the expected range of mid-season fungi. The rest of the year was rather dry, but there was some damper weather at the right time in spring. Also the very hot summer weather was probably a contributory factor in the great explosion of fungi in October.

We held four fungi foray Field Meetings. A huge crowd attended the first foray at **Southampton Common on 8/10** but the fungi were surprisingly scarce and often affected by 'human impact'. Eight 'new' species were seen, including the scarce and distinctive Zoned Polypore *Podoscypha multizonata* and *Inocybe griseolilacina.* 54 species of fungi were recorded on the joint foray with the Waterside Natural History Society at **Matley Wood on 15/10**. No rarities were found, but there were some interesting species, such as Cauliflower Fungus *Sparassis crispa*, the Bitter Bolete *Tylopilus felleus* and the very spicy Peppery Bolete *Chalciporus piperatus*. Another huge crowd descended at **Micheldever Wood on 22/10** and another 54 species were recorded. There were many interesting species, including the eath star *Geastrum fimbriatum.* A wide range of other unusual species included *Calocybe ionides*, *Cortinarius croceocaeruleus*, *Lactarius volemus*, *Lepiota hystrix*, *Lepiota pseudohelveola*, the Rotten Cabbage Toadstool *Micromphale brassicolens* and *Mycena crocata*. By the time of the meeting at **Mayfield Park on 11/11** frosts had greatly reduced the amount of fungi. Nevertheless, we found Panther Cap *Amanita pantherina* for the first time within the Southampton city boundary. There were also a few other interesting species, such as *Armillaria cepistipes*, *Tricholoma columbetta* and the mothball-scented *Tricholoma sulphureum*. There were also 'record' numbers of Panther Cap *Amanita pantherina* in the New Forest this year.

All Field Meeting records, including fungus lists, are available on request.

There was also a good crop of records from the Gosport area. There were less *Hygrocybe* (Wax cap or wax gill) species at **Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport** than there were last year but the Pink Pixie Caps *H.calyptriformis* finally appeared in the east of the cemetery in mid-November. On 24/10 *Hygrocybe quieta* was recorded in both parts of the cemetery and *H. ceracea* was present in the eastern part. *Hygrocybe glutinipes* including *var rubra* was present at **Clayhall Naval Cemetery** on 16/10. (All identified JN.) A comprehensive survey at **Clayhall Cemetery, Haslar on 16/10** also revealed Death Cap *Amanita phalloides*, *Boletus luridus*, *Boletus queletii*, *Chroogomphus rutilans* and rare grassland species such

as *Leucoagaricus macrorhizus and Leucopaxillus paradoxus*. Another survey was carried out in both parts of Ann's Hill Cemetery on 24/11 and species found included *Agaricus purpurellus*, *Agaricus subperonatus* (initially identified as *A. lanipes* on our web-site) and Scarlet Caterpillar Club *Cordyceps militaris* in the older eastern part of the cemetery. Interesting species in the western part included *Entoloma porphyrophaeum* (already found there by DA), *Hebeloma sacchariolens* and the rare pale-coloured *Melanoleuca strictipes*. (DA, PB & JN).

Other records of particular interest were as follows (all records by PB unless otherwise stated):

Agaricus langei Sailor's Lane, Corhampton 12/12 (RJC)

Amanita franchetii Round Coppice, Whiteley 5/11

***Amanita pantherina* (Panther Cap)** Round Coppice, Whiteley 5/11

Amanita solitaria Stockbridge Down 23/8 (Reported to PB)

Armillaria tabescens Denny Wood 3/9 (fm)

Aureoboletus gentilis Found at two locations on the Beaulieu Estate east of Motor Museum 12/10

Boletus appendiculatus Plentiful at Holiday's Hill Inclosure 19/8 (fm)

Boletus junquilleus About 10 specimens north of Millyford Bridge 14/10

Boletus luridus Upperford Copse, Forest of Bere 7/10 (RJC)

Boletus pseudoregius Single specimens of this rare species found at Hilltop Wood, Beaulieu 5/10 and at Norley Copse, East End 26/10

Boletus queletii Under birch by Freemantle Baptist Church car park 24/10 (Also 2 records in Beaulieu area and 1 at Gosport—normally a scarce species)

***Calvatia gigantea* (Giant Puffball)** In a field north of Chickenhall Sewage Farm, Eastleigh 9/10

***Cantharellus cibarius* (Chanterelle)** 1 very late record at Sowley Brooms 23/12

Collybia inodora On bark mulch at West Quay 3/10 & Palmerston Park 29/10

***Coprinus picaceus* (Magpie Ink-cap)** Sailor's Lane, Corhampton 14/10–12/12 (RJC)

Cortinarius trivialis In a dried out pond at Norley Copse, East End 26/10 & Mark Ash Wood 26/10

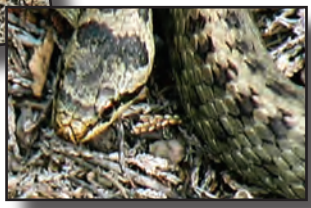
Cortinarius violaceus About 20 specimens under beech and holly at Mark Ash Wood 31/10 (SW & PB) (Colour page 2)

***Crucibulum leave* (a bird's nest fungus)** On bark mulch at West Quay 3/10 (Colour page 2)

***Exobasidion camelliae* (Camellia Gall-apple)** On Camellia at Caerleon Avenue, Bitterne 23/6

***Fomes fomentarius* (Tinder Fungus)** On birch at Kendall's Wood, Thornhill (first record here) 1/10

Geastrum coronatum* (an earth-star)** Under cypresses at Eastleigh Cemetery 15/9. Many more seen here later in the year together with ***Geastrum striatum



Smooth Snake
(p48)

Male (top) and female
Western Green Lizard
(pp 7, 12, 48)

Silver-washed Fritillary (p40)

Saturnia pavonia
Emperor Moth (pp7, 41)

Hyles gallii
Bedstraw Hawkmoth (p43)

Hyles livornica
Striped Hawkmoth (p43)

Crucibulum leave
Bird's Nest Fungus (p26)

Cortinarius violaceus
(p26)

Lonicera maackii
(a honeysuckle) (p32)

Lonicera tatarica
Tatarian Honeysuckle (p32)

Gyromitra esculenta
False Morel (p27)

Nyctalis parasitica
Pick-a-back Toadstool (p27)

Euphorbia corallioides
Coral Spurge (p31)

Vasates quadripedes Mite gall
on Sugar Maple (p36)

Ludwigia palustris
Hampshire Purslane (p29)

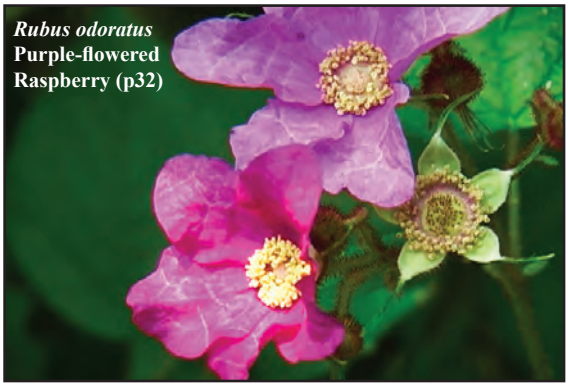
Physalis philadelphica
(p32)

Sinapis alba
White Mustard (p33)

Sonchus palustris
Marsh Sow-thistle (p30)

Inula helenium
Elecampane (p31)

Trifolium glomeratum
Clustered Clover (p30)



Crocus speciosus
Berbenstein's Crocus (p31)

Albino Grey Squirrel
(p52)

Arhopalus rusticus
Dusky Longhorn (p16)

Paracorymbia fulva (p17)

Clytus arietis
Wasp Beetle (p19)

Rhinocyllus conicus
(a weevil) (p48)

Platystomos albinus
(a weevil) (p47)

Typhaeus typhoeus
Minotaur Beetle (p48)

Lampides boeticus
Long-tailed Blue (p40)

Larva of *Harmonia axyridis*
Harlequin Ladybird (p46)

Onthophagus joannae
(a dung beetle) (p47)

Nigma puella
Bleeding Heart Spider (p36)

Malachius aeneus
Scarlet Malachite Beetle (p47)

Platycleis albopunctata
Grey Bush-cricket (p38)

Stenobothrus lineatus (p38)
Stripe-winged Grasshopper

***Geastrum floriforme* (Daisy Earthstar)** 1 under cypresses at Eastleigh Cemetery 12/12 (mo)

***Gyromitra esculenta* (False Morel)** 100 specimens reported from a site at Wellow 16/4 (mo) (Colour page 2)

Hapalopilus nidulans Growing on a birch at Kite's Croft 12/11

Hebeloma truncatum Great Goswell Copse, Beaulieu Estate 12/10

Hygrophorus dichrous Norley Copse, East End 26/10

***Hypnum repandum* (Wood Hedgehog)** Whiteley/Botley Wood 5/11 (RJC)

Hypocrea pulvinata Parasitic on Razor Strop *Piptoporus betulinus* at Kendall's Wood, Thornhill 14/1

Lactarius lacunarum In a dried-out pond at Norley Copse, East End 26/10

Lactarius pyrogalus Sailor's Lane, Corhampton 7/11 (RJC)

Leccinum aurantiacum Beaulieu Motor Museum Car park 26/10

Lepiota josserandii Eastleigh Cemetery 20/10; Southampton Old Cemetery 31/12

Leucoagaricus cinerascens In shrubberies at West Quay, Southampton 3/10

Marasmius torquescens On bark mulch, Andrew's (East) Park, Southampton 29/10

***Morchella elata* (a morel)** 1 on bark mulch at Caerleon Drive, Bitterne 3/4

***Morchella esculenta* (Common Morel)** 4 appeared at Peartree Green 24/4

Mycena acicula Chickenhall Lane, Bishopstoke 9/10 (Also occurs at nearby Stoke Park Wood)

***Nyctalis parasitica* (Pick-a-back Toadstool)** on rotten *Russula nigricans* at Round Coppice, Whiteley 5/11 and also on *Russula densifolia* north of Millyford Bridge 31/10 (Colour page 2)

***Otidea onotica* (Hare's Ear Fungus)** North of Millyford Bridge 14/10 (PB) & Western side of Lord's Wood 15/10 (JC) and Kite's Croft 17/10 (RJC).

Paxillus atrotomentosus Plentiful by railway south of Shatterford Car Park 3/9 (fm)

Peziza vesiculosa Newtown Road, Weston Park garden 18/4 (CC)

***Pholiota flammans* (Flaming Scaly-cap)** IVCP 5/11 (probably the third Hampshire record—this species is mainly found in the Scottish Highlands)

Pseudocraterellus sinuosus Great Goswell Copse, Beaulieu Estate 12/10

***Pseudohydnum gelatinosum* (Jelly Tooth)** IVCP 5/11

***Puccinea adoxae* (Moschatel Rust)** On leaves of Moschatel *Adoxa*, Dundridge 16/4

***Russula claroflava* (Clear Yellow Russula)** Whiteley/Botley Wood 15/10 (RJC)

Russula violeipes Great Goswell Copse, Beaulieu Estate 12/10; Stubbs Wood 19/10

***Sarcoscypha austriaca* (Scarlet Elf Cup)** Titchfield Haven 5/3 (CC) (Not the first record for here)

Sowerbyella radiculata A rare yellowish 'cup-fungus' under cypress at Eastleigh Cemetery 12/12

Stropharia inuncta Swanwick Reserve 21/10 (uncommon off the chalk)

Tephrocybe rancida IVCP 5/11

Thelephora penicillata Great Goswell Copse, Beaulieu Estate 12/10
Tricholoma cingulatum Whiteley/Botley Wood 5/11 (RJC)
Tricholoma sejunctum Round Coppice, Whiteley 5/11 (Also widespread in the New Forest this year)
Tricholoma vaccinum Beaulieu Motor Museum Carpark 12/10
Xerocomus parasiticus **(Parasitic Bolete)** Kendall's Wood, Thornhill 7/9 & Kite's Croft, Titchfield 12/11 (First at both of these sites)
Xerocomus pulverulentus Under Hornbeam at Palmerston Park 29/10

FLORA

VASCULAR FLORA

PTERIDOPHYTA (Ferns)

Our society held a Field Meeting, specifically to look at ferns, led by Martin Rand on 5th August. Five common species were widespread in the **Bramshaw area**: ***Athyrium filix-femina*** **(Lady Fern)**, ***Blechnum spicant*** **(Hard Fern)**, ***Dryopteris dilatata*** **(Broad Buckler Fern)**, ***D. filix-mas*** **(Male Fern)** and ***Pteridium aquilinum*** **(Bracken)**. At **Canada Common** we were shown ***Dryopteris carthusiana*** **(Narrow Buckler Fern)** with the very variable hybrid ***Dryopteris x deweveri (= D. carthusiana x D. dilatata)*** in some damp sallow woodland. We also diverted to **Bramshaw Church** to see the abundant ***Asplenium adiantum-nigrum*** **(Black Spleenwort)**. The main interest, however, was the rich fern flora of **Bramshaw Wood**. Here we identified ***Dryopteris affinis ssp. affinis*** **(Golden-scaled Male Fern)** as well as ***Dryopteris affinis 'senso lato***, ***Oreopteris limbosperma*** **(Lemon-scented Fern = Mountain Fern)**; both ***Polypodium vulgare*** **(Common Polypody)** and ***P. interjectum*** **(Western Polypody)** and the delicate gametophyte generation of ***Blechnum spicant*** **(Hard Fern)** by a ditch. A puzzling 'sport' was seen here too, probably ***Athyrium filix-femina 'Cristata'***. A few members then went on to observe the ***Phegopteris connectilis*** **(Beech Fern)** in alder woodland **at Woodcrates—**its only Hampshire site.

Other fern records for 2006 (all PB):
Blechnum spicant **(Hard Fern)** Kendall's Wood, Thornhill 14/1 (not seen here before)
Osmunda regalis **(Royal Fern)** In a damp hedgerow north of Green Lane, Old Netley 10/9
Thelypteris palustris **(Marsh Fern)** A huge 50m x 40m patch in wet woodland at Longdown 5/8

ANGIOSPERMS (Flowering Plants)

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

Native Species

***Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid)** 3 at the Meridian Studio site, Northam 25/6

***Anemone nemorosa* (Wood Anemone)** Surviving at Old Shamblehurst Lane, Hedge End 10/4 and at West End Copse 11/5

***Butomus umbellatus* (Flowering Rush)** South end of Meon Canal Path, Titchfield 26/6 (RJC)

***Carex echinata* (Star Sedge)** South end of Meon Canal Path, Titchfield 10/6 (RJC)

***Carex laevigata* (Smooth-stalked Sedge)** Wildern Nature Park, Hedge End 12/6

***Carpinus lupulus* (Hornbeam)** Mature tree by road at Brockishill Green 16/4 (Unusual in New Forest)

***Cladium mariscus* (Saw Sedge)** Surviving at The Moors, Bishop's Waltham 10/5 (RJC)

***Daphne laureola* (Spurge Laurel)** Small bush near Tanglewood Pond, Rownhams 22/11

***Erodium moschatum* (Musk Storksbill)** New site, Fairfax Court, Thornhill 4/1

***Filago vulgaris* (Common Cudweed)** Widespread at Casbrook Common, Michelmersh 8/8 and also locally common on flat disturbed ground south of Trott's Copse, Marchwood 30/7

***Filipendula vulgaris* (Dropwort)** New site, St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing 25/6

***Hyacinthoides non-scripta* (Wild Bluebell)** Still surviving at West End Copse 11/5

Hypericum x desetangsii (H. perforatum x H. maculatum) Southampton Old Cemetery 18/8 (JV)

***Kickxia spuria* (Round-leaved Fluellen)** Southern part of Casbrook Common, Michelmersh 8/8

***Ludwigia palustris* (Hampshire Purslane)** Probably introduced by water birds to the Amphibian pond on Southampton Common 13/8 (confirmed by Eric Clement as the native species) (Colour page 2)

***Matricaria recutita* (Scented Mayweed)** Southampton Old Cemetery 18/8 (JV—new to the site)

***Moehringia trinervia* (Three-veined Sandwort)** Southampton Old Cemetery 28/5 (JV—new to the site)

***Moenchia erecta* (Upright Chickweed)** Abundant in grassland south of Peartree Church 29/4

***Narcissus pseudonarcissus* (Wild Daffodil)** Upperford Copse, Forest of Bere 28/3 (RJC)

***Orchis morio* (Green-winged Orchid)** Netley Grange Fields 30/5 (ARC)

***Orobanche minor* (Common Broomrape)** Parasitic on shrub *Olearia macrodonta* at the old Meridian Studios site, Northam 25/6 (Also at nearby Quayside Road, Bitterne Manor on the same shrub)

***Poa humilis* (Spreading Meadow-grass)** In meadow east of Marlhill Copse 12/6

***Platanthera chlorantha* (Greater Butterfly Orchid)** 2 at Sailor's Lane, Corhampton 5/6 (RJC)

Quercus x rosacea (Q. robur x Q. patraea) A hybrid oak seen at Holiday Hills Inclosure 19/8 (fm)

***Rubus caesius* (Dewberry)** New site in SE of Bassett Wood 3/8

***Salix fragilis var. furcata* (Crack Willow)** By footpath west of Lord's Wood, Rownhams 4/5

***Salix triandra* (Almond-leaved Willow)** Casbrook Common, Michelmersh 8/8

***Saxifraga tridactylites* (Rue-leaved Saxifrage)** On kerbside at Wilmington Close, Townhill 24/4

Scutellaria x hybrida In west of Lord's Wood Greenway (west of Tanner's Brook) 4/5

***Sonchus palustris* (Marsh Sow-thistle)** New site at Calshot discovered by JP and dead plants seen on 28/12 (Colour page 3)

***Spiranthes spiralis* (Autumn Ladies Tresses)** New site at Archery Road, Weston 6/9 (An excellent year in most places, but the massive Thornhill Primary School field colony has been lost to the Springwell School development)

***Trifolium glomeratum* (Clustered Clover)** First colony found in Southampton on a grass bank north of A33 at Millbrook with ***T. striatum* (Knotted Clover**) and ***T. subterraneum* (Burrowing Clover)** (Colour page 3)

***Veronica officinalis* (Heath Speedwell)** Found for the first time on a garden lawn at Coates Road, Sholing 12/6 (GW).

***Vicia lathyroides* (Spring Vetch)** Still at Hook Shore—closest site to Southampton 4/6 (RJC)

Escapes and Naturalisations

***Aesculus indica* (Indian Horse Chestnut)** Small sapling near Cutbush Hidden Pond, Townhill 24/4

***Aesculus parviflora* (Bottlebrush Buckeye)** Eight-foot high tree on grave, Southampton Old Cemetery 28/5

***Allium subhirsutum* (Hairy Garlic)** New colonies at Mayfield Park 11/3 & Silverdale Road 12/2

***Amaranthus retroflexus* (Common Amaranth)** Lee Park Farm 20/9 & Hoe Lane, Ashfield 25/9 (JC)

***Ambrosia artemisiifolia* (Ragweed)** Garden weed, Seymour Rd, Upper Shirley 15/11

***Aster x versicolor* (Late Michaelmas Daisy)** Still in bloom by railway at Freemantle 27/12 (PB)

[*Atropa belladonna* (Deadly Nightshade) Gone from near Bishopstoke Sewage Farm—Oct 06**]**

***Bergenia sp.* (probably *B. schmidtii*)** Garden escape at Donkey Common, Bitterne 26/12 (PB)

***Chaenorhinum origanifolium* (Malling Toadflax)** A weed in flowerpots at St Catherine's Road, Bitterne Park 20/7

***Cotoneaster frigidus* (Tree Cotoneaster)** Bird-sown at Shirley Warren 29/6 (fm) & Mayfield Park 11/11

***Cotoneaster lacteus* (Late Cotoneaster)** Bird-sown at Kendall's Wood, Thornhill 18/7 & Hum Hole, Bitterne 4/12

***Cotoneaster pannosus* (Silverleaf Cotoneaster) & *Cotoneaster amoenus* (Beautiful Cotoneaster)** 10 plants and 1 plant, respectively, in a chalk pit above Portchester 6/7 (PB, confirmed by referee)

***Cotoneaster rehderi* (Bullate Cotoneaster)** Fruiting bird-sown bush in NE of Southampton Common 10/9

***Cotoneaster x watereri* (Watereri's Cotoneaster)** Large bush by Northam Bridge 25/6

***Crocus speciosus* (Berbenstein's Crocus)** Naturalised by Chestnut Avenue, Eastleigh 17/10 (Colour page 3)

***Cynara cardunculus var. scolymus* (Globe Artichoke)** One plant naturalised on edge of tip in Alver Valley, Gosport 6/7 (PB & Eric Clement).

***Datura stramonium* (Thorn Apple)** Dairy Lane, Nursling 18/9 (JC)

***Dittrichia graveolens* (Stink Aster)** Abundant by M27 at Cadnam junction and spreading east along motorway 8/10 and also at junction 9, Whiteley 5/11(mo). Also reported elsewhere on M27

***Duchesnea indica* (Yellow-flowered Strawberry)** New site at Bunny Hill, Sholing 11/11

***Euphorbia corallioides* (Coral Spurge)** East edge of West End Copse 11/11 (conf. Eric Clement) (Colour page 2)

***Euphorbia maculata* (Spotted Spurge)** In flowerbed, East Park, Southampton 29/10

***Ficus carica* (Fig)** Naturalised at Station Road, Nursling 3/8 (JC)

***Galium odoratum* (Woodruff)** Naturalised at St Mary's Wood, Netley 5/5

***Geranium endressii* (French Crane's-bill)** Naturalised on north edge of West End Copse 11/5

***Geranium macrorhizum* (Rock Crane's-bill)** Naturalised at Donkey Common, Bitterne 14/4

***Hypericum calycinum* (Rose of Sharon)** Naturalised on waste ground behind Jewson's, Thornhill 28/5

***Ilex x altaclarensis* (Highclere Holly)** Probably bird-sown at Kendall's Wood, Thornhill 14/12/06

***Impatiens capensis* (Orange Balsam)** Hamble Cliff 21/8 & by River Hamble, Swanwick 10/9 (CC)

***Inula helenium* (Elecampane)** Large plant at Dairy Lane, Nursling 14/7 (JC—confirmed by PB) (Colour page 3)

***Lathraea clandestina* (Purple Toothwort)** Abundant in woods by Cutbush Hidden Pond 26/4

***Lathyrus latifolius* (Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea)** Brownwich 28/6 (RJC)

***Laurus nobilis* (Bay)** This species is rapidly naturalising by bird sowing. Recorded at Wildern Wild Park, Hedge End 28/3; Deep Dene, Bitterne Park 9/4 & Rollesbrook Greenway 5/9

Lonicera maackii A deciduous honeysuckle at Magdalen Hill Down formerly named as *L. xylosteum* (Fly Honeysuckle) and another at the Portchester Chalk Pit 8/7 (both determined by Eric Clement) (Colour page 2)

***Lonicera tatarica* (Tatarian Honeysuckle)** A flowering bush north of Miller's Pond, Sholing 29/4 (Colour page 2)

***Philadelphus coronarius* (Mock Orange)** Naturalised at Southampton Old Cemetery 28/5 (JV & PB)

Physalis philadelphica By car park of Beaulieu Motor Museum 26/10 (confirmed by Eric Clement) (Colour page 3)

***Phytolacca acinosa* (Poke-weed)** By fence at College Road, Winchester 17/10

Pilosella flagellaris ssp flagellaris Plentiful east of Jewson's and Hannay Rise, Thornhill 28/5 (first found in Thornhill in 2005)

***Pinus contorta* (Lodgepole Pine)** About 100 small trees at Sleepy Hollow, Marchwood 9/5

***Polypogon monspeliensis* (Annual Beard-grass)** Edge of tip east of Trott's Copse, Marchwood 30/7

***Prunus lusitanica* (Portugal Laurel)** this is another species that is currently naturalising readily. Found at Cutbush Lane 24/4, near Ornamental Lake, Southampton Common 13/8 & Hum Hole, Bitterne 4/12

***Prunus serotina* (Rum Cherry = Black Cherry)** A large number bird-sown at the eastern end of Weston Common 29/4 & a few at Westfield Common, Hamble Cliff 5/5

Rosa multiflora Probably naturalised in a hedgerow near Holy Cross Church, Durley 26/5

***Rubus odoratus* (Purple-flowered Raspberry)** Probably bird-sown amongst *Sorbaria* near to the entrance of the Hawthorns Centre 25/6 (Colour page 3)

***Rubus tricolor* (Chinese Bramble)** Established in wood behind Chalybeate Hospital, Shirley 29/6 (fm)

***Sedum sexangulare* (Tasteless Stonecrop)** On a grave at St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing 25/6. There is also a little ***Sedum spurium* (Caucasian Stonecrop)** nearby.

***Senecio inaequidens* (Narrow-leaved Ragwort)** Reappeared at western end of Northam Bridge 25/6

***Sinapis alba* (White Mustard)** Two strong colonies on banks of Tanner's Brook, Millbrook 15/5 (Colour page 3)

***Solidago gigantea* (Early Goldenrod)** Along Tanner's Brook, Millbrook 8/6. Still at Peartree Green.

***Spartium junceum* (Spanish Broom)** Amongst Gorse by A326 near Forest Front, Dibden Purleiu 24/6

***Tolmiea menziesii* (Pick-a-back Plant)** Naturalised at Donkey Common, Bitterne 14/4

***Trientalis borealis* (Star-flower)** A naturalised Canadian flower still at Brentry Wood, Ampfield 10/5

***Verbascum blattaria* (Moth Mullein)** One plant on mown lawn, A3024/A334 junction, Bitterne 13/10

***Veronica longifolia* (Garden Spiked Speedwell)** Naturalised in tall grassland near A326, Totton 7/6

***Veronica peregrina* (American Speedwell)** On bare ground north of Jermyn's House, Ampfield 10/5

FAUNA

Records from Sholing, Westwood (Grange Fields) and Weston Shore are from ARC unless otherwise stated.

Although the spring was cool, the year 2006 was remarkable for having the warmest summer on record, followed by an exceptionally mild autumn and early winter. The most obvious outcomes were extremely late sightings of butterflies such as Red Admiral, dragonflies such as Common Darter and the newly arrived Harlequin Ladybird which could be readily found well into the early winter. The colonisation of the area by the Harlequin from mid-July onwards was truly astonishing. By the end of September it was present in remarkable numbers giving the impression that it was already the most common ladybird species in Southampton! Throughout the early part of the winter large numbers remained active, taking advantage of the mild weather. This was in marked contrast to our native ladybirds which had largely disappeared into hibernation. It is easy to imagine that this species will have increasingly obvious impacts on the human world in future years as its numbers build dramatically with little to keep them in check. Will there become a time when swarms of Harlequin Ladybirds enter our homes every autumn with the onset of cooler weather? Other hyper-invasive species, assisted by global warming, are out there and starting to have an impact—a less attractive one is the Horse Chestnut leaf mining moth which is rapidly spreading and driving the destruction of Horse Chestnut trees. Others pose an even more serious threat. The defoliating Oak Processionary moth was found breeding in London in 2006 and

"presents an extremely serious threat to both the British landscape and to human health" (Colin Plant, 2006, Entomologists Record 118, page 193).

There is little doubt that 2006 was the best insect migration year ever. The numbers and diversity of moth migrants defied all expectations and formerly rare species, such as Scarce-bordered Straw, now appear to be on the verge of colonising. Unfortunately it is a major pest where it is resident. Other species, such as Clancy's Rustic, are so new to the British fauna as to be virtually unknown, but also colonising rapidly. Other insects which appear to be colonising include real surprises, such as the Sickle-bearing Bush-cricket, a number of dragonfly species and various heteropteran bugs, including some shieldbugs. Our ongoing survey of shieldbugs and related species produced a series of remarkable records during 2006 fully demonstrating the tremendous diversity of these species in our recording area. These were the main focus of our recording in 2006 and the many exciting records contribute to our separate shieldbug booklet but are not repeated here.

Finally, another predicted outcome of global warming is increasingly stormy autumn and winter weather. Storms in early December displaced remarkable numbers of Leach's Petrels from the Atlantic and individuals were even seen off Town Quay and Weston Shore in Southampton. Numbers of Great Northern and Red-throated Divers were also driven into Southampton Water following these storms and they contributed to better than average local birdwatching for a time. Looking ahead it is difficult to predict exactly what the year 2007 will bring but, following the trend of recent years, it can hardly fail to be interesting, even if the pace and nature of change are alarming.

MARINE INVERTEBRATES

Acanthochitona fascicularis **(a coat-of-mail shell)** Mayflower Park 3/10 (PB & JC). Not a very common species

Actinia equina **(Beadlet Anemone)** Lepe Country Park 16/6 (fm)

Actinia fragacea **(Strawberry Anemone)** Mayflower Park 3/10 (PB & JC)

Amphipholis squamata **(a feather-star)** First record at RVCP 21/8 (PB)

Bugula turbinata **(a Bryozoan)** First record at RVCP 21/8 (PB)

Eulalia viridis **(an Annelid worm)** First record at RVCP 21/8 (PB)

Halichondria panicea **(Breadcrumb Sponge)** Plentiful at Mayflower Park 3/10 (PB & JC)

Hydrallmania falcata **(The Sea Fan)** Lepe Country Park 16/6 (fm)

Lepidochitona cinerea **(a coat-of-mail shell)** Mayflower Park 3/10 (PB & JC) and Lepe Country Park 16/6 (fm)

Ligia oceanica **(Sea-slater)** Lepe Country Park 16/6 (fm)

Liocarcinus arcuatus **(a crab)** Mayflower Park 3/10 (PB & JC) and Lepe Country Park 16/6 (fm)

***Pilumnus hirtellus* (Hairy Crab)** Lepe Country Park 16/6 (fm)
***Pisidia longicornis* (Long-clawed Porcelain Crab)** Mayflower Park 3/10 (PB & JC) & Lepe Country Park 16/9 (fm)
***Porcellana platycheles* (Broad-clawed Porcelain Crab)** Mayflower Park 3/10 (PB & JC)
***Sphaeroma serratum* (a crustacean)** Lepe Country Park 16/6 (fm)
***Styela clava* (Leathery Sea-squirt)** Living specimens at Mayflower Park 3/10 (PB & JC)
***Timoclea ovata* (Oval Venus)** Shells found on beach at Boscombe 8/4 (fm)

MOLLUSCS

Selected reports from Peartree Green field meeting 25/2:
***Aegopinella nitidula* (Waxy Glass Snail)**
***Candidula intersecta* (Wrinkled Snail)—**indicator of chalk
***Deroceras caruanae* (= *D.panormitanum*) (Caruana's Slug)**
***Monacha cantiana* (Kentish Snail)—**indicator of chalk
***Oxychilus dreparnaudi* (Dreparnaud's Glass Snail)**
***Vallonia excentrica* (Eccentric Grass Snail)**

ARACHNIDS

An interesting feature of 2006 was the increase in reports of the spiders known as 'False Black Widows' *Steatoda sp.* on account of their shiny rotund abdomens and the relatively large size of some females. One quite small species is ***Steatoda bipunctata***. This species is quite commonly seen making webs on the dark corners of sheds and other outbuildings. A much larger species ***Steatoda nobilis*** has become established on south coastal towns in recent years. Already common in Portsmouth, especially around Southsea, this spider has now appeared in Southampton with records at Caerleon Avenue 6/8 and in central Bitterne 26/8 (both single females) (PB). In addition to this a long-legged and strikingly marked Mediterranean species ***Steatoda paykulliana*** is worth looking out for and a specimen was seen in a bunch of bananas at Sainsbury's, Christchurch 20/6 and reported to JP.

Other records of interest are as follows:
***Aceria varia* A mite (*Acari*) gall** on Aspen *Populus tremula* at Hillier's Gardens 7/6 (PB)
***Aelurilius v-insignitus* (spider)** Burton Common, Bransgore 31/5 (PB)
***Agalenatea redii var. delta* (spider)** Recorded at a new site, Peartree Green 11/9 (PB)
***Homalenotus quadridentatus* (a harvestman)** Found at Hordle Cliff 20/9 (PB)
***Larinioides sclopetarius* (spider)** In centre of Lord's Wood (unusual away from water) 4/5 (PB)

***Nigma puella* (Bleeding Heart Spider) T**his mainly Mediterranean spider is spreading. Recorded at Quob Lane. West End 12/6 (PB) and at Shirley Warren 29/6 (fm) (Colour page 4)

Scytodes thoracica recorded Bitterne Manor Openspace 13/5 (GHW)

Vasates quadripedes A mite **(*Acari*)** gall on Sugar Maple *Acer saccharum* leaves. This species was recorded at Liss 18/5 and at Hillier's Gardens 7/6 (PB) and is a new colonist of Britain (Colour page 2)

***Zora spinimana* (spider)** Peewit Hill, Bursledon 27/4 (PB)

ODONATA

***Aeshna juncea* (Common Hawker)** Knightwood Inclosure 19/8 (fm)

***Anax imperator* (Emperor Dragonfly)** early male at Fernyhurst Lake 8/5 (CO)

***Brachytron pratense* (Hairy Dragonfly)** Whiteley/Botley Wood—28/5 (RJC)

***Calopteryx virgo* (Beautiful Demoiselle)** 1 male at Tanglewood Pond 17/6 (CO). Up to 2 at Southampton University, Highfield in July and August (PW)

***Coenagrion puella* (Azure Damselfly)** Early records from Fernyhurst Lake 8/5 (CO) and near Sholing Valley Study Centre 14/5 (PB)

***Cordulegaster boltonii* (Golden-ringed Dragonfly)** Chilworth Manor 23/6 (JC**),** Hardmoor Copse 3/8 (PB). 1 on several dates at Southampton University, Highfield in July and August (PW)

***Cordulia aenea* (Downy Emerald)** 1 at Testwood Lakes 15/6 (JC), male recorded at Cromarty Pond 17/6 (first record for area) (CO). 3/6 (max. 10) to 8/7 Whiteley/Botley Wood (RJC)

***Enallagma cyathigerum* (Common Blue Damselfly)** early record Fernyhurst Lake 8/5 (CO)

***Erythromma najas* (Red-eyed Damselfly)** c.10, Swanwick Reserve 2/7 (ARC).

***Erythromma viridulum* (Small Red-eyed Damselfly)** 12 Testwood Lakes 3/9 (JC)

***Ischnura pumilio* (Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly)** 2 (male and female) at the known site on Hamble Common 26/7 (PB)

***Lestes sponsa* (Emerald Damselfly)** Whiteley/Botley Wood—recorded from 25/6 to 9/09 with a maximum of 10 on 16/7 (RJC)

***Libellula depressa* (Broad-bodied Chaser)** early record Fernyhurst Lake 8/5 (CO)

***Libellula fulva* (Scarce Chaser)**, 1 female on the 'Old Canal', Lower Test Reserve 12/6 and 2 males on the boardwalk there 16/6 (JC). These exciting records coincide with an article by McSwan (2006) reporting sightings on the lower reaches of the River Test close to old Nursling Fish Farm. A thriving colony was found in June 2006 following the chance discovery of a larva there in May 2005. Collectively these are the first Test Valley records of this RDB3 (rare) category species which appears to be expanding its range.

***Libellula quadrimaculata* (Four-spotted Chaser)** 4 at Chilworth Manor 23/6 (JC), 1 at the Swanwick Reserve 2/7 (ARC)

***Orthetrum cancellatum* (Black-tailed Skimmer)** recorded at Fernyhurst Lake 17/7, 29/7 (CO)

***Orthetrum coerulescens* (Keeled Skimmer)** 1 female at Southampton University, Highfield on 11/7 and 1 at Lower Test 15/7 (first for reserve) (PW). There are very few known records from the Southampton area

***Platycnemis pennipes* (White-legged Damselfly)** Whiteley/Botley Wood—1 recorded 2/7—a new species in this area (RJC)

***Pyrrhosoma nymphula* (Large Red Damselfly)** First of the year at Peewit Hill, Bursledon 27/4 (PB)

***Sympetrum danae* (Black Darter)** 1 at Lower Test 17/9 (PW). There are very few records from the Southampton area

***Sympetrum sanguineum* (Ruddy Darter)** 10 Hook/Warsash 3/7 (RJC). East of Veal's Farm, Marchwood 30/7 (PB). Singles at Southampton University, Highfield in July and August (PW)

***Sympetrum striolatum* (Common Darter)** The mild autumn and early winter resulted in a very late showing. There were about 10 at Shirley Pond 9/11, several still in tandem, 1 there 28/11 (ARC). A dragonfly that was probably this species reported at Fletcher's Moor in the New Forest 5/12 (JE)

ORTHOPTERA (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

***Chorthippus albomarginatus* (Lesser Marsh Grasshopper)** singles at Bury Marsh Eling 4/9 and Lower Test 4/9 (JC)

***Chorthippus brunneus* (Field Grasshopper)** Colony in a small central Bitterne garden 26/9 and also a strong colony at Western Esplanade 3/10 (PB)

***Chorthippus vagans* (Heath Grasshopper)** Two seen at Town Common, Christchurch 22/8 (PB)

***Conocephalus discolor* (Long-winged Cone-head)** 1 in the moth trap at Sholing 19/7 (ARC)

***Metrioptera roeselii* (Roesel's Bush Cricket)** This species is spreading north of Southampton with records at Home Covert (form *diluta*) 14/7, Mill Lane Nursling 14/7 (JC), West Wellow 26/7; Eastleigh Cemetery 11/8; Sports Centre 13/8 (JC) and 5 at North Baddesley 24/8 (BR)

***Myrmeleotettix maculatus* (Mottled Grasshopper)** 1 in the garden at Sholing on 25/7 (first record for garden) (ARC)

***Omocestus rufipes* (Woodland Grasshopper)** Bramshaw Wood 16/8 (PB), including the form with a green dorsal surface, Knightwood Inclosure 19/8 (fm)

***Phaneroptera falcata* (Sickle-bearing Bush-cricket)** Found on bamboo in a small garden at New Milton 12/9 (GP, confirmed by Brian Pinchen). This is the first Hampshire record of a species that has already colonised Hastings Country Park in East Sussex

***Pholidoptera griseoaptera* (Dark Bush Cricket)** Heard very late at Swaythling 14/12 (JP)

***Platycleis albopunctata* (Grey Bush-cricket)** Hordle Cliff and Beckton Bunny 20/9 (PB & JC) (Colour page 4)

***Stenobothrus lineatus* (Stripe-winged Grasshopper)** Single specimens in a garden at Hillhead 26/7 and also at Brownwich 7/8 (RJC). 1 west of Hordle Cliff 20/9 (PB) (Colour page 4)

***Tetrix subulata* (Slender Groundhopper)** Recorded at Testwood Lakes on 1/ 4 (fm), Rownhams Wood 21/4, Lord's Hill recreation ground 29/7, Lower Test 8/9 (JC). Strong colony at Hordle Cliff including 3 greenish individuals that were probably ***Tetrix ceperoi* (Cepero's Groundhopper)** 20/9 (PB & JC)

DICTYOPTERA AND DERMAPTERA (Cockroaches and Earwigs)

***Ectobius lapponicus* (Dusky Cockroach)** 4 in Cromarty Road area 28/7 (JC)

***Forficula lesnei* (Lesne's Earwig)** recorded on Ash and Oak at Westwood 16/10 and Hawthorn at Lord's Hill recreation ground 13/6 (JC)

HETEROPTERA (Except Shield bugs/Squash bugs /Rhopalidae)

***Calocoris sexguttatus* (a Mirid bug)** Found on nettles at Hall Lands Farm, Fair Oak 8/6 (PB)

Gampsocoris punctipes (Berytinidae) Plentiful on Restharrow *Ononis repens* at Hordle Cliff 20/9 (PB). There was also small Mirid bug *Dicyphus annulatus* in the same habitat. (PB)

Henestaris laticeps A Lygaeid bug with stalked eyes. On sea Plantain *Plantago maritima* at Gilkicker common, Gosport 13/9 and on Buck's-horn Plantain *P.coronopus* at Beckton Bunny 20/9 (PB)

***Ischnodemus sabuleti* (European Chinchbug)** A new site at Peewit Hill, Bursledon 27/4 (PB)

Liocoris tripustulatus on *Fuschsia* Mill Pond Road, Gosport, 11/8 (DA)

Megacoelum beckeri An unusual Mirid bug off pine at Freemantle Common, Bitterne 11/9 (PB). (There were numerous records of the related Mirid bug ***M.infusum*** beaten off of oak *Quercus robur*)

Orsillus depressus A Lygaeid bug beaten off Hornbeam (but normally found on cypresses) Palmerston Park 29/10 (JC, confirmed by Bernard Nau). As far as we know the first Hampshire record

Orthops rubricatus A Mirid bug off a pine at the Sports Centre 3/8 (PB & JC)

Pantilius tunicatus An autumnal Mirid bug off birch in NE of So'ton Common 10/9 (PB & JC)

Pilophorus cinnamopterus A Mirid bug off planted pines by Mountbatten Way, Millbrook 25/8 (PB)

Pilophorus perplexus An unusual Mirid bug off oak *Quercus robur* at Knowle Hill, Fair Oak 7/8 and at Casbrook Common, Michelmersh 8/8 (PB)

***Saldula saltatoria* (Shore Bug)** Colony on north shore of Hatchet Pond 9/5 (PB)

Scolopostethus affinis Records of this Lygaeid bug in a Mill Pond Road, Gosport garden between 13/6-13/11 (DA)

***Stalia major* (Grey Damselbug)** Two under a metal sheet at Hardmoor Copse 3/8 and also at the base of *Holcus* and *Agrostis* grass tussocks at Casbrook Common, Michelmersh 8/8 (PB & JC)

HOMOPTERA

***Centrotus cornutus* (Horned Leaf-hopper)** 2 Magdalen Hill Down 25/5 (PB)

***Ledra aurita* (Eared Leaf-hopper)** Cocklydown Copse, Hounsdown 5/9 (PB, JC)

***Leptosaphes ulmi* (Mussel Scale Insect)** Abundant on sallow bark, Buskett's Inclosure 12/3 (fm)

Parthenolecanium corni (a Scale Insect) recorded Vespasian Road 17/5 (GHW)

LEPIDOPTERA

Butterflies

On the RVCP transect 2006 was recognised as a good year for butterflies with the second highest index in 7 years (NH). It was considered to be a poor year for Large White and a disastrous one for Small Tortoiseshell (no sightings) and Peacock (2 records only). Conversely Comma had the best year ever. There were a number of unusual migrant or dispersive related records (listed below) and Marbled White continues to increase, Small Heath was becoming more evident and Common Blue numbers were also higher in numbers than in recent years.

Dingy Skipper Still surviving at Botley Wood where 2 were seen on 3/6 (RJC)

Grizzled Skipper Seen in the west of Ampfield Wood 4/6 (ALB)

Clouded Yellow Early report from Testwood Lakes 5/6 (CO), 2 at Westwood 23/9 included 1 *helice* (ARC), Northam Railway Junction 3/10 (GHW), and late records at Westwood 27/10 (ARC), Great Down Park, Bursledon 1/11 (PRB) and at Holfleet, Sopley 13/11 (PB). 19 records from Warsash Common 24/7 to Titchfield Haven NNR 27/10 (RJC).

Brimstone Reported at Sirdar Road, Portswood 1/4 (KE). Late record from Marlpit Oak, New Forest 2/12 (SC)

Large White recorded at Sirdar Road, Portswood 10/5 (KE)

Green-veined White recorded at Sirdar Road, Portswood 10/5 (KE)

Orange Tip recorded at Sirdar Road, Portswood 12/5 (KE)

Chalkhill Blue (off the chalk) 1 at Whiteley/Botley Wood 20/8 (RJC)

Red Admiral Out early with several January reports including Caerleon Drive, Bitterne 2/1 (PB); Southampton General Hospital 18/1 (ARC), near Bitterne Brewery 20/1 (PRB); Sholing 21/1 (PB) and at Southampton University 24/1

(JW). Given the extremely mild autumn it was quite easy to find very late in the year. There were December records from Marlpit Oak, New Forest and from Bassett 2/12 (mo), Magdalen Hill Down 6/12 (PB), Southampton General Hospital 6/12 (ARC), and Holmhill Inclosure 9/12 (SC)

Small Tortoiseshell 1 at Titchfield Haven 14/7 and in a Hillhead garden 26/8 (RJC)—not many late summer records in 2006

Painted Lady Early sighting at Tatwin Close, Thornhill 7/4 (PB), Lord's Hill recreation ground 28/5 (JC), Cromarty Pond from 8/6 (CO) and Sholing from 13/6 (ARC)

Comma 3 seen in the Sholing area 3 /4 (PB and CC)—the first of the year.

White Admiral Chilworth Manor Gardens 23/6 (JC), 1 at Hook Valley & Lake 3/7 (RJC) and Townhill Park 25/7 (JA)

Silver-washed Fritillary A very good year. Seen at Chilworth Manor Gardens 23/6 (JC); Hillhead 11/7 (RJC); Hall Lands Copse 21/7 (GC); Southampton University, Highfield 24/7 (PW); Warsash Common 24/7 (RJC); Veal's Farm and Trott's Copse, Marchwood 30/7 (PB & JC); on *Buddleia* at RVCP 2/8 (NH), Nightingale Wood 7/8 (JC) and Casbrook Common 8/8 (PB) (Colour page 1)

Dark Green Fritillary Rarely recorded in our area: seen at Sirdar Road Portswood 12/7 (KE), singles at Whiteley/Botley Wood 23/7 & 24/7 (RJC) and on *Buddleia* at RVCP 2/8 (NH) .

Speckled Wood Reported at Sirdar Road, Portswood 4/ 4 (KE), a late record from Lordsdale Greenway 1/11 (ARC)

Green Hairstreak Sea Road, Woolston 5/5; 2 around Gorse Thornhill Estate 28/5 (PB)

Small Copper First record at Jurd's Lake 10/5 (CP), close to Thomas Lewis Way, Porstwood on 14/7 (KE), and at an inner city site at Osborne Road, Portswood 26/7 (PB)

Brown Argus 3 nectaring on Bell Heather at So'ton Old Cemetery 23/7 to 6/8 (JV), 1 in the garden at Sholing (ARC), and 10 seen at Luzborough Fields, North Baddesley 9/6 (PB & JC)

Silver-studded Blue 4 males at Forest Front, Dibden Purlieu 24/6 (PB & JC)

Long-tailed Blue (*Lampides boeticus*) A female specimen in poor condition at Claylands Reserve, Bishop's Waltham 27/7 (PB). Present since at least 23/7 and the 21st Hampshire record (Colour page 4)

Holly Blue A very early record at Regent's Park 28/3 (RC)

Marbled White recorded Cromarty Pond area 8/7 (CO).

Ringlet First ever record at RVCP, Netley 19/7 (NH)

Plain Tiger (*Danaus chrysippus*) 1 at Old Bursledon 26/7 (JH). Interestingly, another was reported on Jersey on 6/8 (Long 2006). The origins of both are uncertain and escapes or deliberate release is possible, but immigration is also possible as this is a highly migratory species. A request for any further records

(old or recent) on the ukbutterflies email list identified no other UK sightings suggesting it is most unusual for 2 to have been seen within a few days of each other and consistent with immigration.

Moths

Goat Moth (*Cossus cossus*) 1 attracted to light at Holmsley, New Forest (moth event) 1/7 (mo). This was a particularly good year for this scarce and elusive species with a number of other records in Hampshire in the summer.

Festoon (*Apoda limacodes*) 1 at Sholing 2/7 was new to the garden

Indian Meal Moth *(Plodia interpunctella*) following the first at Sholing in 2005 there were 5 more records between 26/4 and 26/10 (4 indoors, 1 outdoors). Also 1 at Southampton General Hospital in December (ARC)

Monops obviella Hillhead garden 9/6 & 10/6 (RJC)

Currant Clearwing (*Synanthedon tipuliformis*) new to the garden at Sholing. A colony found on currants from 17/6, a maximum of about 8 seen with up to 3 pairs mating. Several exuviae found. Last insect seen 24/6, following poor weather. Recorded at Mill Pond Road, Gosport 15/6-23/6 (DA)

Red-belted Clearwing (*Synanthedon myopaeformis*) at Sholing 1 on 17/6 to pheromone

Six-belted Clearwing (*Bembecia ichneumoniformis*) 50 at the Swanwick Reserve 2/7 (ARC), 13 swept at Magdalen Hill Down 13/8 (JC)

Yponomeuta sedella Hillhead garden 13/7 (RJC)

Horse Chestnut Leaf-miner (*Camereria ohridella*) This leaf-mining micro-moth infests the leaves of Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum* and its numbers exploded in London in 2006. It also arrived in Southampton in large numbers with records from Sholing Common 21/7; Silverdale Road 22/7; Southampton Old Cemetery 18/8; Rollesbrook Greenway 6/9 and from Hoglands to East Park 29/10 (PB).

Batia lambdella Hillhead garden 17/7 (RJC)

Aristotelia ericinella Hillhead garden 6/8 (RJC)

Meal Moth (***Pyralis farinalis***) Hillhead garden 30/6 (RJC)

Pempelia genistella Hillhead garden 11/7 (RJC)

Emperor Moth (*Saturnia pavonia*) 1 female at Matley Heath, New Forest 13/5 (fm) (Colour page 1)

Orange Underwing (*Archiearis parthenias*) Moorgreen Meadows, West End 28/3 and Hum Hole, Bitterne 9/4 (PB)

Small Grass Emerald (*Clorissa viridata*) Hamble Common 26/7 (PB)

The Mallow (*Larentia clavaria*) Hillhead garden 17/10 (RJC)

Cypress Carpet (*Thera cupressata*) at Sholing there were 36 in the spring/summer brood (from 9/6) and 31 in the autumn 30/8–13/11

Beautiful Carpet 1 at Sholing on 5/9, the first garden record

Barred Rivulet (*Perizoma bifasciata*) 1 at Sholing on 5/9

Broad bordered Bee Hawkmoth (*Hemaris fuciformis*) Hawkhill Inclosure 10/5 (CP)

Lime Hawkmoth (*Mimas tiliae*) 10 at Sholing from 12/5

Scarlet Tiger (*Callimorpha dominula*) an unusual series of records at Sholing—2 on 2/7 and 1 on 4/7

Kent Black Arches (*Meganola albula*) at Sholing singles on 7/7 and 19/7

The Campion (*Hadena rivularis*) Hillhead garden 6/7 (RJC) Sholing singles on 10/6 and 1/9

White-point (*Mythimna albipuncta*) at Sholing the summer brood comprised 5 from 5/6 and the autumn brood was 70 from 19/8

White L Wainscot (*Mythimna l-album*) 1 Sholing 21/6. In autumn 29 from 6/9

Chamomile Shark (*Cucullia chamomillae*) 1 at Sholing on 12/5

Currant Pug (*Eupithecia assimilata*) Hillhead garden 8/6 (RJC)

Channel Islands Pug (*Eupithecia ultimaria*) Hillhead garden 12/6–28/6 (RJC)

Horse Chestnut (*Pachycnemia hippocastanaria*) Hillhead garden 29/6 (RJC)

Dusky Thorn (*Ennomos fuscantaria*) 10 records in a Hillhead garden 6/8 to 27/9 (RJC). One of the fastest declining British moths.

Sprawler (*Brachionycha sphinx*) 1 at Sholing on 15/11, the first garden record

Merveille du Jour (*Dichonia aprilina*) Hillhead garden 12/11 (RJC)

Alder Moth (*Acronicta alni*) 1 at Sholing on 13/6. The first seen in Southampton by ARC for many years

Tree-lichen Beauty (*Cryphia algae*) Hillhead garden 27/7 (RJC). A rare species that may be established locally

Marbled Green (*Cryphia muralis*) Hillhead garden 28/7 (RJC)

Small Clouded Brindle (*Apamea unanimis*) Hillhead garden 11/6 (RJC)

Brown-veined Wainscot (*Archanara dissoluta*) Hillhead garden 18/7 (RJC)

Large Wainscot (*Rhizedra lutosa*) At UV lamp, Magdalen Hill Down 23/9 (mo), 4 at Sholing from 8/10. Hillhead garden 26/10 (RJC)

Small Rufous (*Coenobia rufa*)1 at Sholing 20/7

Dark Spectacle (*Abrostola triplasia*) 1 at Sholing on 26/9, the first garden record. This is a very uncommon species in Hampshire

Dark Crimson Underwing (*Catocala sponsa*) Flying around an oak tree at about 3pm at Penerley Wood near to Beaulieu 26/7 (PB)

Buttoned Snout (*Hypena rostralis*) 3 at Sholing 13/5–10/6

Pinion-streaked Snout (*Schrankia costaestrigalis*) 2 at Sholing, 30/6 and 5/9

Migrant Moths

Diamond-backed Moth (*Plutella xylostella*) at Sholing 147 from 4/5 with the peak of 17 on 3/7. There were 20 here in 2005.

Rusty Dot Pearl (*Udea ferrugalis*) Sholing 31 from 19/8. Only 3 here in 2005

Rush Veneer (*Nomophila noctuella*) at Sholing 97 recorded from 4/7. There were no records here in 2005

Palpita vitrealis 1 at Sholing on 2/9

Blair's Mocha (*Cyclophora puppillaria*) a single at Sholing on 29/10 was the first garden record. A scarce immigrant in Hampshire

The Vestal (*Rhodometra sacraria*) at Sholing a total of 14 recorded from 24/7. The highest annual total ever recorded by ARC in Southampton. At UV lamp, Magdalen Hill Down 23/9 (mo)

Gem (*Orthonama obstipata*) singles at Sholing on 16/10 and 29/10

Hummingbird Hawkmoth (*Macroglossum stellatarum*) Another very good year. Early record of 1 nectaring at *Daphne* at Caerleon Avenue, Bitterne 6/4; at Rownhams on Sweet Peas on 4/7 (CO), Stockbridge Down 30/7 (MJH); 1 Woolston 12/9 (ARC), at Mottisfont 7/10 (KE) and a late record, nectaring at yellow *Jasminium* at Michelmersh 21/11 (PB), 13 records at Buddleia recorded at Sholing from 21/8. Up to 2 Lord's Hill 15/8-27/8 (JC). Recorded at Silverdale road on Buddleia 17/9 (JW), at Mottisfont Abbey on 7/10 (KE), and on 5 dates at Mill Pond Road Gosport 12/8–3/10 (DA). Several records at RVCP 4/9-18/9 (NH)

Bedstraw Hawkmoth (*Hyles gallii*) 1 at Sholing on 10/9. The first garden record of this rare immigrant from the east. A number of larvae were found in Totton in 2005, suggesting that this species might be established locally. However this individual arrived on a night with a moderate easterly wind suggesting migration, perhaps from the continent. (Colour page 1)

Striped Hawkmoth (*Hyles livornica*) 1 at Sholing 30/8, second garden record. (Colour page 1)

Convolvulus Hawkmoth (*Agrius convolvuli*) At UV lamp, Magdalen Hill Down 23/9 (mo)

Four-spotted Footman (*Lithosia quadra*) males at Sholing on 25/9 and 26/9. The second and third garden records

Dark Sword-grass (*Agrotis ipsilon*) at Sholing 1 on 18/10

Pearly Underwing (*Periodrom saucia*) at Sholing 11 records from 10/6

Small Mottled Willow (*Spodoptera exigua*) singles at Sholing on 12/6, 25/9 and 28/9. Hillhead garden 13/7 to 28/7 (RJC)

Clancy's Rustic (*Platyperigea kadenii*) 1 at Sholing on 16/10. The first British record was in Kent in 2002. This species appears to be now established in the Hayling area and is spreading rapidly along the coast.

White Speck (*Mythimna unipuncta*) 1 at Sholing on 22/10. The first record for the garden and only the second seen by ARC in Southampton.

Delicate (*Mythimna vitellina*) At UV lamp, Magdalen Hill Down 23/9 (mo)

Scarce Bordered Straw (*Helicoverpa armigera*) at Sholing a remarkable total of 28

from 19/8 with a peak of 3 on 14/9.Only a few individuals of this species have ever been recorded in Southampton previously by ARC. This species may well now be colonising. Also seen at UV lamp, Magdalen Hill Down 23/9 (mo)

Bordered Straw (*Heliothis peltigera*) a total of 12 seen at Sholing from 19/8 was a very high total for this species

Silver Y (*Autographa gamma*) the first at Sholing on 5/5, the peak was 23 on 20/7. A total of 196 records through the year to 15/11

DIPTERA (Flies)

2006 was quite a good year for early flying species but not a particularly good year for Diptera on the whole. ***Eristalis tenax*** **(Drone Fly)** was already out at Thornhill 10/1 (PB). Records of particular interest were as follows:

Meliscaeva auricollis **(a hoverfly)** One in a garden at Hillhead 23/11 (RJC)

Sericomyia silentis **(a hoverfly)** One at Whiteley/Botley Wood 9/9 (RJC)

Tachina fera **(a Tachinid Fly)** recorded 21/9–1/11, Mill Pond Road, Gosport (DA)

Trixia caerulescens A female of this unusual looking species at Burton Common, Bransgore 31/5 (PB)

Xanthandrus comtus A scarce migrant hoverfly seen on ivy blossom at Ann's Hill Cemetery, Gosport 19/11 (DA)

Volucella inanis (**a hoverfly)** Meon Canal Path—south, Titchfield 2/8 & 8/8 (RJC)

Xanthogramma pedissequm **(a Hoverfly)** Vespasian Road 19/6 (GHW)

HYMENOPTERA (Wasps and Allies)

Andricus lucidus **(Hedgehog Gall)** Seen on a small alien species of oak *Quercus* in Hillier's Gardens 23/9 (PB). This species is new to the Southampton area but is already established in London.

Bombus hypnorum This newly colonising bumblebee was seen at Talbot Drive, New Milton 3 /4 (GP)

Dolichovespula media **(Median Wasp)** Large numbers nectaring on snowberry blossom *Symphoricarpus* at Casbrook Common 8/8 and also at Palmerston Park 29/10 (PB)

Myrmosa melanocephala **(Black-headed Velvet Ant)** A female seen running on bare ground in the south of Casbrook Common, Michelmersh 8/8 (PB)

Philanthus triangulum **(Bee Killer)** Plentiful at Longdown 5/8 and at Casbrook Common 8/8 (PB)

Priocnemis fuscus **(Dark Priocnemis)** A spider-hunting wasp, Boscombe 8/4 (fm)

Vespa crabro **(Hornet)** recorded at Northam Bridge 4/10 (GHW)

COLEOPTERA (Beetles including Ladybirds, excluding Longhorn Beetles)

Adalia bipunctata **(2-spot Ladybird)** 4 in the moth trap at Sholing from 2/7 (ARC) ***Adalia 10-punctata*** **(10-spot Ladybird)** 4 in the moth trap at Sholing from 2/7 (ARC)

***Adonia variegata* (Adonis Ladybird)** Several records including Casbrook Common—3 colonies 8/8 (PB & JC); Lord's Wood—west 10/8 (JC), Lord's Wood Greenway up to 12 seen on 25/8 (JC) and bare ground at Rumbridge, Totton 5/9 (PB & JC)

Ampedus cinnabarinus A click beetle, Dummer's Copse, West End 11/5 (PB)

Ampedus sanguinolentus An attractive click beetle seen at Sleepy Hollow, Marchwood 9/5 (PB) and clustered on young pine trees at Matley Bog (fm)

***Anatis ocellata* (Eyed Ladybird)** Southampton Common 6/4 (JC), Toot Hill—off Larch 15/4 (JC); Thornhill Park—off Holly 18/7 (PB); Sports Centre—off Cedar 3/8 (JC) and Mill Pond Road, Gosport—in spiders web 23/9 (DA)

***Anthrenus fuscus* (a wild carpet beetle)** at Testwood Lakes 7/6 (fm)

***Aphidecta obliterata* (Larch Ladybird)** Plentiful in Stoke Park Wood 28/3 (PB) and Chilworth Manor—off Douglas Fir 30/4 (fm). 1 in the moth trap at Sholing on 4/7 (ARC), new to the garden. There are still no records actually off Larch!

***Calvia 14-guttata* (Cream-spot Ladybird)** found at Vespasian road 22/4 (GHW), 1 in the moth trap at Sholing on 3/7

***Chilocorus 2-pustulatus* (Heather Ladybird)** Rownhams Churchyard 21/4 off Lawson's Cypress 21/4 and off Heather in Lord's Wood Plantation 9/6 (JC)

***Chilocorus renipustulatus* (Kidney-spot Ladybird)** Hibernating adult in Dogwood stem at Vespasian Road 15/1 (GHW) and Mill Pond Rd, Gosport on *Forsythia* 28/8 (DA)

Chrysolina banksii Very late record of this leaf beetle at Kite's Croft 12/11 (PB)

***Cicindela campestris* (Green Tiger Beetle)** Lord's Wood 4/5 (PB & JC)

***Coccidula rufa* (a micro-ladybird)** Swept from *Juncus* rushes at Forest Front Reserve 24/6 (PB)

***Coccinella magnifica* (Scarce 7-spot Ladybird)** Lord's Wood Plantation 6/3, 2 within 1–2m of Wood Ant nests at heights of 0.5–1m (JC)

***Coccinella 7-punctata* (7-spot Ladybird)** found in leaf litter at Vespasian Road 19/1 (GHW), a maximum of 30 at Lordsdale Greenway 26/4 (ARC)

***Coccinella undecimpunctata* (11-spot Ladybird)** Casbrook Common 8/8 (PB & JC) and Netley Grange Fields 16/10, beaten from Oak sapling (JC)

***Dorcas parallelipipedus* (Lesser Stag Beetle)** Bitterne Manor 4/5 (GHW)

***Dytiscus marginalis* (Great Diving Beetle)** at Shatterford,New Forest 3/9 (fm)

***Exochomus 4-pustulatus* (Pine Ladybird)** On Elder stem at Vespasian Road 19/1 (GHW) Hibernating in leaf litter under a *Yucca*, Holly Hill Park 31/12 (CC)

Gastrophysa polygoni A leaf beetle abundant on *Polygonum* on semi-bare ground east of Rumbridge, Totton 5/9 (PB & JC)

***Halyzia 16-guttata* (Orange Ladybird)** Recorded in the light trap at Sholing from 4/6, with a total of 38 throughout the year

***Harmonia axyridis* (Harlequin Ladybird)** The much anticipated 'big year' got off to a very slow start but the warm summer contributed to a massive and rapid colonisation. A hibernating beetle was found under ivy on the ground in a Bevois Valley garden, 8/4 (JS). Recorded in the light trap at Sholing between 17/7 (first garden record) and 22/9, a total of 10 individuals, there were 3 on 25/7 (ARC). Other UV light records were 1 at Caerleon Avenue, Bitterne 20/7 and 2 at Magdalen Hill Down 23/9 (PB). 1 to house lights at Lord's Hill 27/7 (JC). There were a number of 'first' records from southern coastal sites in late July (Portland Bill, Dungeness) and it seems likely that waves of colonists were arriving from the south at the same time as many migrant moths. Subsequent breeding and colonisation was exceptionally rapid with insects initially favouring urban woodland, often with Sycamore and Bramble, but other plants were also frequented. The first pupae were found by PB at Southampton Old Cemetery on Rosebay on 18/8 (2) and at Polygon on 25/8. The first substantial colony was found by PB at Rollesbrook Greenway on 6/9 (50+ adults, pupae and larvae), followed by 100+ on Sycamores at Montgomery Road Bitterne on 11/9. Later they were found more widely and a curious association with two-dimensional habitats, such as gravestones and fence posts, was noted! Quite unlike our native Ladybirds it is normal to find larvae, pupae and adults all together with little evidence that broods are separated in time (continuously brooded?). By the end of September this species gave every impression of being already the most common Ladybird in the City! Furthermore this species was very active until at least the end of November/ early December. At the Quays, Southampton 1 adult was found eating a squashed adult of the same species, giving an indication of the extent of dietary preferences! Some records from mid-September as follows: Suffolk Avenue, Shirley 1 on 17/9 (JD). Recorded on Ox-eye Daisy and nettles at West Wood, Netley 27/9 and also a maximum of 5 in a garden at Newtown Road 29/9. Other records in the same garden from 15/9 to 30/9 (CC). Silverdale Road Southampton recorded on 14/10 and 29/10 (JW), Clayhall Cemetery Gosport 4 on 16/10 (PB), Newtown Road Weston on 17/10 (CC), 50+ at Station Road Sholing on 29/10 (YC), 100 at Hoglands Park Southampton on 29/10 (PB). The peak count at Lordsdale Greenway, Shirley was 33 adults, 6 larvae and 6 pupae 12/10, with 19 of different stages as late as 28/11 (many on fences/ posts) (ARC). St Marys Church,Sholing maximum of 40 pupae, 25 adults, 15 larvae 24/9,mostly on gravestones (ARC), City Centre, Southampton (Quays area) a peak of 30 adults, 2 pupae on posts 20/11, 2 adults still 2/12 (ARC). Manor Farm CP 6 larvae, 4 pupae on gravestones in old church and 2 found similarly in Hollybrook Cemetery 10/10 (ARC). Weston Shore 17 adults, 2 pupae on Bramble under Sycamores 21/10 (ARC). Recorded on 12/11 at

Southampton Parkway (KE). 3 recorded at Rownhams 3/10-2/12 (PW). Also recorded Chilbolton 9/11 and 3/12 (GE) and Tom's Wood Andover on 27/11 on Norway Maple (JC). The latest was at St Denys 27/12 (PB). (Colour page 4)

***Harmonia quadripunctata* (Cream-streaked Ladybird)** Vespasian Road, Bitterne Manor 12/6 (GHW), Chilworth Manor 23/6 (JC), singles in the moth trap at Sholing 2/7 and 25/7 (ARC), Hill Head garden 4/8 & 6/8 (RJC) and Hoglands Park 29/10 (PB & JC)

Hylobius abietus A weevil off Corsican Pine *Pinus nigra,* Lord's Wood 4/5 (PB, JC)

***Lampyris noctiluca* (Glow-worm)**—eggs and at least 3 adult females at Old Bursledon Nature Haven 28/7 (fm)

***Lucanus cervus* (Stag Beetle)** First record of the year at Caerleon Avenue, Bitterne on 11/5 (PB) and seen for the first time at Blackberry Terrace, Bevois Valley 8/6 (JS), Cromarty Road 17/6 and 13/7 (JC).A female in the moth trap at Sholing 3/7 (ARC). Females at Mill Pond Road, Gosport on 7/7 and 12/7 (DA).

***Malachius aeneus* (Scarlet Malachite Beetle)** An exciting record of about 20 found at South Gorley 3/6 (mo). (This was during a survey for Buglife at one of very few confirmed extant British sites for this beetle) (Colour page 4)

***Myrrha octodecimguttata* (18-spot Ladybird)** 5 in the moth trap at Sholing between 4/7 and 22/7 (ARC), Sports Centre 3/8; NE of Southampton Common 10/9 and Freemantle Common, Bitterne 11/9 (PB & JC)

Oncomera femorata An autumnal Oedemerid beetle on Ivy at Magdalen Hill Down 23/9 (PB)

Onthophagus joannae A dung beetle at Yew Hill, Oliver's Battery 25/5 (PB) (Colour page 4)

Onthophagus vacca A dung beetle in unusual habitat in a Mill Pond Rd, Gosport garden 7/5–26/9 (DA)

***Pyrochroa coccinea* (Black-headed Cardinal Beetle)** at Southampton Old Cemetery 28/5 (fm)

Platystomos (= Anthribus) albinus Male specimens of this large weevil which resembles a bird dropping were seen at Lord's Wood 4/5 and Luzborough Plantation, North Baddesley 9/6 (PB & JC) (Colour page 4)

***Ptilinus pectinicornis* (Fan-bearing Wood-borer)** In garden near Hall Lands Farm, Fair Oak 8/6 (PB)

***Pyrrhalta viburni* (Viburnum Beetle)** A pest on *Viburnum* at Newtown Road, Weston 9/8 (PB)

Rhynchites aequatus (a weevil on hawthorn) at Southampton Common 7/5 (fm)

Rhinocyllus conicus A scarce weevil but recorded on Creeping Thistle *Cirsium vulgare* at Knowle Hill, Fair Oak 26/5 and on Ox-eye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare* at Thornhill 28/5 (PB) (Colour page 4)

***Scymnus frontalis* (a micro-ladybird)** Behind the Jewson's site at Thornhill 28/5 and at Browndown Ranges 13/9 (PB)

Scymnus suturalis Southampton Common—off Ivy 6/4 (JC)

***Timarcha tenebricosa* (Bloody-nosed Beetle)** Seen at Chancellor Lane, Durley 26/5 (PB) (Uncommon in areas of clay soil such as this)

***Typhaeus typhoeus* (Minotaur Beetle)** Hut Wood, Eastleigh 17/3 (JC) (Colour page 4)

***Tytthaspis 16-punctata* (16-spot Ladybird)** a maximum of 250+ swept at Mill Lane Nursling 22/5 (JC)

AMPHIBIANS

Common Toad Declined in Southampton but still present and breeding at a pond at Bitterne C of E School 26/6. Cromarty Pond 1 on 5/6 (JC). (Several non-specific reports from the east Bassett area as well) (PB)

Common Frog First frogspawn in a Caerleon Avenue pond on rather late date 8/3 and also frogspawn at Mayfield Park 11/3 (PB)

Common Newt female in pond at Vespasian Road, Bitterne 27/4 (GHW)

Palmate Newt 2 in stream south of Cadnam Cricket Ground 2/4 & 1 at 488 Bitterne Rd East 29/9 (PB)

Great Crested Newt 1 adult, 4 tadpoles, Old Bursledon Nature Haven 28/7 (fm)

REPTILES

Red-eared Terrapin a large example still at Shirley Pond (12/5, 15/9) (ARC)

Western Green Lizard 1 at Boscombe 8/4 (fm), female above Portman Ravine, Boscombe 30/5 (ARC) (Colour page 1)

Wall Lizard 3 at Boscombe 8/4 (fm) (Colour page 1)

Adder 1 at Netley Common 29/4 (ARC)

Grass Snake Lord's Wood Plantation 25/4 (JC), west of Rowbarrow Pond, East Denny Bog 8/9 (JP)

Smooth Snake 1 at Dibden Bottom, New Forest 30/5 (ARC), 2 seen in widely separate locations at Town Common, Christchurch 22/8 (PB) (Colour page 1)

BIRDS

Garden bird records

PB's garden records (the last from 6 Caerleon Avenue**):** There were unusual records of a pair of **Mallards** low over garden on 13/4 followed by 1 landing on the flat roof of a nearby house on 16/5. 2 **Herons** were seen on a tree near garden on 22/3, there was 1 bird on several other occasions this spring. There were few **Lesser Black-backs** over garden in 2006 but 1 was recorded over on 7/2. The first **Swift** over was recorded on 3/5 and the first **Swallow** on 8/4. The only **Blackcap** record was a male seen on 22/1. An unusual dusk gathering of (max) 37 **Carrion Crows** on beech trees on 14/1.

CO reported 30 species from her garden at Rownhams. Highlights were **Blackcap** in January and February including a female eating peanuts and bread spread with fat; **Bramblings** 14/1–22/4 including 2 males and 1 female at 1 time eating sunflower seeds; **Grey Wagtail** drinking from bird bath on 25/10 and a maximum of 12 **Siskin** in January. ARC reported 1 **Tree Pipit** over the garden at Sholing 21/8. RC Recorded **Red Kite** over his Regents Park garden on 12/5 (moving north at 16.15). Also at Regents Park it was another good year for **Sparrowhawk** with a monthly peak of 11 in August. In common with the last few years remarkable numbers of **Buzzard** were recorded, including a total of 16, 12/4–22/4, most traveling W-NW. Other records from Regents Park included **Swift—**a pair nested in a box after Starlings deserted, 1 bird probably fledged and **Lesser Whitethroat—**1 on 25/8. Other records elsewhere included a **Grey Wagtail** at Banister Road 3/10 (MAR). There were up to 2 male and 1 female **Blackcap**s at Rownhams in both winter periods (PW), also up to 26 **Siskin** and 1 **Brambling** recorded there.

Other records from Southampton and area

Black Brant (*ssp. nigricans* of Brent Goose) HMS Sultan Playing Field, Gosport 24/10 (PB)

Mandarin Wild male on Cemetery Lake, Southampton Common 8/1 (PB)

Pintail 4 at Redbridge Wharf Park 28/1 (PW)

Garganey 1 female/immature at Warsash on 9/9 (ARC)

Common Eider Off Hillhead—102 on 3/1 and 106 on 23/10 (RJC)

Common Scoter at Weston Shore 3 on 7/1 and a single 28/1–4/2 (ARC)

Goldeneye Weston Shore a male 7/1, 3 birds 29/1 and a single 18/3 (ARC)

Red-breasted Merganser male at Redbridge Wharf Park 11/11 (PW)

Goosander 20 at Eyeworth Pond 13/2 (RJC), 2 males to south at Weston Shore 12/3 (ARC), 2 redheads at Testwood Lakes 14/11 (RC)

Quail Heard northeast of Yew Hill, Oliver's Battery 25/5 (PB)

Red-throated Diver 1 from Northam Bridge/Chessel Bay 6/1–14/1 at least (IW, RC, PW and others), a slightly oiled bird on Testwood Lake (unusual off the sea) 26/2 6/3 at least (PB and others). In the autumn birds arrived at the same time as the Great Northern Divers: singles at Weston Shore on 9/12–16/12, 3 there 17/12 and 2 there 28/12 (ARC).

Great Northern Diver 2 to East at Hill Head 7.45 am on 4/5 (ARC). Unusual numbers were displaced from the Atlantic by storms in early December. There was a single bird off Netley 29/11–30/11, followed by 4 off Weston Shore 9/12, 5 there 10/12 and up to 3 there 16/12–27/12, with at least 2 remaining until the end of the year (ARC).

Red-necked Grebe at Weston Shore 1 on 7/1–9/1 at least (ARC)

Leach's Storm-petrel on and around 7/12 powerful storms displaced (mostly immature) birds from the north Atlantic. 1 was off Hill Head Sailing Club at 10.45

am (several others reported at this site that day) and 1 was off Weston Shore at 12.50 am (ARC). Earlier that day IW saw 1 off Town Quay, Southampton.

Little Egret 4 at Weston Shore 18/4 (CC), maximum of 12 there 9/9 (ARC)

Spoonbill Titchfield Haven 11/4, 12/4 and 6/9 (RJC)

Grey Heron 1 over at Newtown Road, Weston Park garden 2/6 (CC)

Marsh Harrier 1 female at Titchfield Haven 26/10 at least (mo), 1 at Lower Test 13/8 (PW), 1 female or immature moving West at Testwood Lakes 7/11 (RC)

Buzzard 1 over Sirdar Road garden, Portswood 2/7 (KE)

Osprey 1 at Lower Test Marshes 23/8 (IW, PW, and others)

Hobby Over a Hillhead garden 24/5 (RJC)

Peregrine Falcon Up to 2 birds in the Vospers/Dock Head area during the early and late part of the year, often seen on cranes. A food pass noted on 1 date and birds taking Pigeons also noted here (ARC). 2 in the Mill Lane, Nursling area 4/3 (PB), reports from Redbridge Wharf Park, Lower Test and Eling during the year (PW) and Ashley Plain, New Forest 13/2 (RJC)

Merlin Flying high over a Hillhead garden 18/10 (RJC)

Avocet about 8 at Titchfield Haven 1/5 (ARC)

Little Ringed Plover 1 flew onto scrape at Titchfield Haven 23/4 (ARC)

Knot 8 at Weston Shore 29/1 (ARC)

Purple Sandpiper 1 at Hill Head 8/12 & 9/12 (RJC)

Jack Snipe recorded at Bakers Drove playing field 11/2 (PW)

Woodcock 4 flushed from centre of The Moors, Bishop's Waltham 4/2 and 1 flushed at Claylands Reserve, north of Bishop's Waltham 28/1 (PB)

Bar-tailed Godwit 1 at Weston Shore on 12/11 (ARC)

Whimbrel 1 at Weston Shore 29/4 (ARC), Redbridge Wharf Park 10/12 (PW)

Greenshank 4 at Lower Test 22/7 (PW)

Common Sandpiper 1 at Chessel Bay 13/2 (RC), 20 Lower Test 11/7 (PW)

Mediterranean Gull at Weston Shore single adults in the early year (2/1–5/2) followed by 3 birds 15/2–11/3 (ARC). In the second winter period there was a 1st winter bird on 21/10 and 1–2 adults from 28/10 (ARC). Adult Lower Test 30/8–3/9 (PW). There were 4 at Warsash 9/9 including a juvenile/1st winter accompanied by an adult bird (ARC).

Little Gull a first winter and an adult bird seen at Southampton Sailing club jetty 31/12 during stormy period of weather (ARC); 5 at Hook Links 22/11 (RJC)

Western Yellow-legged Gull maximum 120+ Redbridge Wharf Park 11/7 (PW)

Kittiwake a juv/1st winter bird at Lower Test 29/8 (PW)

Sandwich Tern 5+ at Weston Shore 23/5 (ARC)

Common Tern 120+ Weston Shore 21/5–23/5 (ARC)

Guillemot singles at Weston Shore 13/2 and11/3 (ARC)

Razorbill 1 off Hook Shore 23/10 (RJC), 1 Weston Shore 10/12–17/12 (ARC)

Woodpigeon Birds started moving in numbers end of October onwards. Total of 1520 birds to W/NW over Weston Shore 29/10 (7.30–9.30 am) (ARC).
Turtle Dove 1 'playing chicken' with traffic, Mountbatten Way, Southampton 14/5 (JS)
Short-eared Owl 1 Dibden Bay 19/2 (RC), 1 Ashley Plain, New Forest 13/2 (RJC)
Little Owl 1 disturbed in the daytime, Dibden Bay 30/7 (PB)
Hoopoe 1 Gosport, Priddy's Hard area, 15/1 at least (mo)
Lesser-spotted Woodpecker Breeding pair in moribund alder at Lord's Wood Greenway 18/4 (PB), at Lower Test 15/7 (PW)
Woodlark 1 at Moorcourt Farm 7/10 (PW). Single birds at Sailor's Lane, Corhampton 18/4 & 7/11 (RJC)
Sand Martin Breeding colony of at least 10 on sandy cliffs between Fisherman's Walk and Portman Ravine, Boscombe 8/4 (fm)
Swallow A late record at Titchfield Haven 1/11 (RJC)
Pied Wagtail 45 at Southampton Sports Centre 15/3 (RC)
Yellow Wagtail 15 at Hook Links 26/8 (RJC)
Rock Pipit 1 at Town Quay, Southampton, 16/9 (ARC)
Nightingale 1 at Westwood Grange Fields 6/5-29/5 (ARC)
Common Redstart Wendleholme and Holly Hill Park 4/9 (RJC)
Black Redstart RVCP—first record here 14/11 (NH)
Stonechat A pair (possibly breeding) at Weston Allotments 9/5 (PB)
Wheatear 4 seen on autumn migration at Mayflower Park 3/10 (PB), latest 1 at Weston Shore was on 29/10 (ARC)
Redwing 15 N over central Bitterne at 5:20 pm 26/10 (PB)
Cettis Warbler 1 singing at Riverside Park 3/5 (RC)
Sedge Warbler 1 at Westwood on 6/5 (ARC)
Reed Warbler 1 Weston Shore 14/5 (ARC)
Whitethroat 1 at Weston Allotments 9/5 9 (PB)
Lesser Whitethroat 1 at Westwood (Grange Fields) 29/4 (ARC), Knowle Hill Nature Reserve, Fair Oak 26/5 (PB), Lordshill 27/5 (PW), 1 singing at Nursling Industrial Estate in May and June (RC, PW)
Firecrest Holly Hill Park 13/3 (RJC)
Bearded Tit 2 at Hook, Warsash 23/10 (RJC)
Raven there was a failed nesting attempt in the area in 2006
Mealy Redpoll There was a substantial invasion of this species into Britain in the early part of the year. Up to 4 birds were seen with up to 8 Mealy/Lesser Redpoll at Westwood Grange Fields 11/3–19/3 (ARC)
Brambling 12+ at Nightingale Wood Rownhams 11/4 (PW)
Hawfinch 4 at Home Covert, Nursling 11/2 (PW); 5 along the Barge River valley at Romsey 21/3 (PB)
Snow Bunting 2 at Calshot 7/1 and 1 there 11/2 at least (mo)

MAMMALS

Pygmy Shrew 1 seen dead at Cromarty Road, Lord's Hill 24/6 (PB)

Common Shrew 1 seen dead east of Testwood Lake 4/3 (PB)

Hedgehog seen at Rownhams from 12/3–2/7 (CO)

Serotine Bat recorded at Old Bursledon Nature Haven 28/7 (fm)

Grey Squirrel (albino) A completely white male at Gatcombe Park, Portsmouth 19/1 (PB) (Several other reports, possibly involving as many as 4 albino animals in Portsmouth/Havant) (Colour page 3)

Wood Mouse Julian Road, Sholing 17/2 and Eastleigh Cemetery 28/6

Rabbit (black variant) Feeding by forest road at Deadman's Hill, New Forest 15/11 (PB)

Polecat x Ferret Living animal south of Buckholt Farm, Broughton 24/8 (JP & PB)

Stoat 1 at Station Road, Nursling 3/3 (JC). Gander Down 6/2 and Sailor's Lane, Corhampton 18/4 (RJC)

Weasel 1 seen at Hill Head 12/12 (RJC)

Common Seal 1 at Weston Shore 3.15–3.45 pm, on 16/12 was seen eating a species of flatfish (ARC). A seal species was reported to IW prior to this date from the same location indicating it had been present for several days. The same seal was also seen at Weston in January 2007.

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100 Years Ago

Southampton Times and Hampshire Gazette , Saturday October 12th 1907

At the Crabniton School on Wednesday evening, a very enjoyable gathering of those interested in natural history took place. Tea was provided at 6.30 by the generosity of Mr. R. Beck. A pleasant time was afterwards spent examining the various objects of interest brought, which included some very fine cases of beetles, part of Mr. Beck's collection, also a series of lantern slides of butterflies and moths., diagrams, and drawings of microscopic and botanical objects, microscopes and slides, and stereographic photographs of natural objects. The next meeting will be eagerly anticipated, and it was felt by those present that this is but a beginning of a society that will prove of great assistance to all lovers of nature in the town and district.

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