*Southampton Natural History Society*

# ANNUAL REPORT 2007

**SOUTHAMPTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY**

**ANNUAL REPORT 2007**

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## Chairman's Comments

In October the society reached its Centenary and to celebrate we have produced a new logo and we are in the process of compiling a book about the history of the society, including a lot of information about the early years and some fascinating weather data. We are also planning a major publicity event to celebrate the 100th anniversary and this will probably take place in late summer (we are in the early stages of planning this at the time of writing).

We are very pleased to announce that our membership topped 170, and several new people began to be involved in society activities in 2007. However, 2007 was much quieter year than 2006 with regard to major developments. Most of the committee continued in their roles, although we were delighted to gain Darren Naish as an ordinary member of the committee. Sadly, however, we decided to dissolve the Southampton Wildlife Link (see the separate report).

2007 was a very important year with regard to information technology. A new website was successfully run by Paul Winter, and there is little doubt that this contributed greatly to our publicity. We also started to digitise of our records database in earnest and are well on our way to achieving an exchange of records data with the Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre, currently temporarily based at Eastleigh. We actually have about 50,000 society records on the database at the time of writing. Increasingly PowerPoint presentations are being used for our talks, although there were also some excellent traditional slide presentations. In the summer committee member Kathy Emmott suggested that we compile a contact list of members' e-mails so as to remind members of upcoming events and activities. Darren Naish implemented this idea in November.

Our society publicised itself at several events during the course of the year, including the Annual General Meeting of the Hampshire Ornithological Society in March, the 2nd Springwatch Event on Southampton Common in June, the Hobbies Event at Royal Victoria Country Park in August and the Go Green Fair at the Avenue Church in November. Our display boards and Darren's bone collections proved to be a draw at these events (colour page 1).

We also produced our second book "The Shieldbugs of Southampton" in the spring and there are copies of both this, and the Ladybird Book, residing at the Entomological Department of the Natural History Museum in London! A survey of Longhorn Beetles was carried out, as was more Hemiptera recording and a monitoring of the Harlequin Ladybird. Although the spring was glorious weather-wise, the appalling mid-summer caused the insect life to collapse rather spectacularly. It did turn out to be a good year for spiders and two-winged flies (Diptera) though but very poor for moths.

All of our traditional events continued as before, with a wide range of Field Meetings and Indoor Meetings and the production of our sixth Annual Report in colour in April. However, the weather was less kind to us than in previous years and some meetings were called off due to the fact that heavy rains tended to fall mostly at the weekends, especially in May!

Phil Budd

**Southampton Wildlife Link**

A decision was made in the summer to discontinue the Southampton Wildlife Link after nineteen years of business. At the final meeting on 23rd July at the Hawthorns Urban Wildlife Centre, a quorum of members voted to dissolve the link. The basis of this decision was that the aims of The Link, as revised in 2002, were either unachievable or else were being ably covered by the activities of the main society anyway. Furthermore, it was felt that The Link was not promoting the cause of nature conservation around the city in any significant respect. Those members of the main society committee serving on The Link (Jan Schubert, John Poland and myself) had already decided to withdraw main society support for The Link even if the other members had wished to continue. The reasons for this were similar to those quoted above, except that the main society committee had also expressed concern that some of the groups represented by The Link were too biased towards amenity issues as opposed to the interests of nature conservation. Therefore, this will be the final report on the Southampton Wildlife Link.

Prior to the final meeting The Link met on three further occasions: 29th January, 26th March and 4th June. The first of these was held at the Sholing Valley Study Centre, whilst the March and June meetings were held at Hawthorn Urban Wildlife Centre due refurbishment work at Sholing. The new City Ecologist, Lindsay McCulloch attended each of these meetings and Hilary Bradley, from the Hawthorns Urban Wildlife Centre, was also present at the January meeting. Other organisations continuing to send representatives to the SWL meetings were the Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery (represented by John Vetterlein), Hawthorns Wildlife Association (represented entirely by myself this year), Sholing Environmental Group (represented by Liz Bushnell and Mary Carnegie), Sholing Valley Study Centre (represented by Yvone Curtiss) and the Southampton Commons and Parks Protection Society (represented by Jean Velecky alone after the sad passing of Mary Smith in February). Jean Wawman, of East Bassett Residents Association, also expressed an interest in involvement, but was unable to attend any meetings.

The Link continued to try to monitor planning applications (and other issues) that might have affected the greenways and open spaces of the city. However, we were

mainly restricted to expressing our views to The City Ecologist. Not much other useful business was achieved, although The Link continued to be a useful outlet for representative groups to advertise their activities. Following dissolution, there was some continued contact with Lindsay McCulloch: in particular, I was able to supply her with information on about 100 sites of wildlife significance in the city using our Mapmate records database and the local knowledge of several members. Hopefully, this information will be useful in influencing future developments in Southampton.

In addition, our butterfly transects at both Peartree Green (Peter Burford and myself) and Southampton Old Cemetery (John Vetterlein) continue, but another transect at Lord's Wood, begun by Jason Claxton, had to be aborted due to problems caused by the local youths there.

We were also grateful that all of the representative groups formerly serving on The Link, wish to maintain their Corporate Membership of the society.

Phil Budd, Former Chair of the Southampton Wildlife Link

## Membership Secretary's Report

I am pleased to mention the following 36 members to the society and hope they will enjoy our meetings:
David Allen, Margaret and Ken Amy, Kathleen Askew, Graham and Christine Blake, Martin Chalke, Benjamin Driver, Dr Matt Doggett, Barbara Driver, Mike and Barbara Duffy, Ashley Ross Field, Lynda Howard, David Hurst, Elaine Jeffery, John Jones, Ian Julian, Jonathan and Mrs Lewington, Christine Maclean, Mr and Mrs R. J. Mearns, Jean Nicklin, Barbara Otto, Annette Parsons, Mike and Chris Pawling, Martha Reed, Victoria Russell, Jane Shearsmith, Jim Stollery, Jean Velecky, Polly Whyte, Liz Wieneke, Dorothy Wright.

Barbara Thomas

## Field Meetings Report

Twenty-nine Field Meetings were planned for 2007, but unfortunately the worst of the weather hit the weekends very badly and three meetings were cancelled plus a further two severely curtailed. May 2007 was probably the unluckiest month in society history for Field Events. Two Sundays of wind and heavy rain doomed the **Southbourne cliffs** meeting on **13th May** and the **Blashford Lakes** meeting on **27th May**. Following these washouts, the conditions were okay for the evening meeting at **Jurd's Lake** on **31st May**, but nobody turned up for it**.** Earlier in the year a **snail foray** at **Old Bursledon** on **4th March** was lost to heavy morning rain, but the leader Graham Long carried out a successful survey in April.

On **18th November** yet more pouring rain fell for the **fungus foray** at **St Ann's Cemetery, Gosport**. However, one person joined co-leader John Norton and in a soaking half hour they found five species of *Hygrocybe* (wax-cap), including the pink Pixie Cap *Hygrocybe calyptraeformis*.

The Field Meetings continued to be advertised on our website and on the traditional coloured cards as well as more widely. Hopefully, the use of the e-mail contact list to remind members of events will encourage more people to come along, as there were very few attendees at some events this year.

Of the remaining twenty-four events there was one fungus foray, four flora meetings (including one specialising on the identification of Brambles), one coniferous tree identification meeting, one Bryophyte foray, one lichen foray, three insect 'forays', one seashore event, one reptile search, one deer watch, four bird watches and six general interest events.

Most of our Field Meetings were Southampton Natural History Society only events and we didn't run so many joint events as normal in 2007. However, there were joint events with the Friends of Southampton Old Cemetery, the Hampshire Ornithological Society, the Hampshire Flora Group and the Romsey Group of the Hampshire Wildlife Trust.

Event leaders in 2007 included David Allen (1), Andy Barker (1), Phil Budd (7—other than as a joint leader), Peter Burford (1), Jason Claxton (3), Andy Collins (2), Dr Tony Gent (of Herpetological Conservation Trust—1), Chris Oliver (2), Gary Oscroft (Southampton Central Parks Ranger—1), John Poland (1 plus a workshop), Martin Rand (1), Rod Stern (1), John Vetterlein (1), Andrew Walmsley (1) and Gerry Wilding (1). On several occasions a different leader stood in at events and many events were jointly led by two persons. We also thanked the Forestry Commission at Lyndhurst, John Horne (Old Bursledon Nature Haven), the Herpetological Conservation Trust, Colin Matthews (Romsey Group of HWT), Southampton City Council and the West Wood rangers for their co-operation with the meetings.

Attendances at the twenty-four successful Field Meetings (excluding designated leaders) averaged only seven. The attendances ranged from two (at Pignal Inclosure on 22nd April) to 14 (at Town Common, Christchurch on 15th April). This represents a sharp down-turn, despite our increase in membership!

As already stated, heavy rain messed up three meetings and badly affected another. Of the twenty-four successful meetings, all were totally dry and there was continuously bright sunshine on sixteen occasions. Otherwise, it was partly sunny for four meetings and totally overcast on three more occasions. The one

night event was mild, dry and overcast. One of the meetings (Blackwell Common and Calshot) corresponded with the hottest day of the year. In summary, we either had it very dry and sunny or very wet in 2007 with nothing much in between.

Of the twenty-four meetings that took place there were six all-day events, eight morning excursions, seven afternoon events and three evening meetings, one of the latter continuing after dark. As regards our destinations, ten of our Field Meetings took place in the Southampton area, seven in the New Forest, four elsewhere in south Hampshire, one in Wiltshire (Redlynch area) and one in east Dorset (Town Common north of Christchurch).

Detailed records from all of our meetings were made and full lists are available from the Recording Officer or myself. Some highlights of the Field Meetings appear on the website. Some of the more interesting records are highlighted in the systematic records or appear in the list of events below:

**January:** The Field Programme started with a lichen identification meeting along the bare Blackthorn hedgerows of Iley Lane and Lower Pennington Lane at **Keyhaven** on **14th January**. Four members attended the event and the weather was sunny and mild. Twenty-eight species of lichens were seen on the blackthorns and on several other species of tree, including ash. Seven-spot Ladybirds were active and Cetti's Warblers singing. On **27th January** Andy Collins led six members on a bird watch at **Hayling Island**. Again the weather was both sunny and mild and this encouraged a Red Admiral butterfly into flight. Eighteen species of birds were seen, including Black-necked Grebe (24), Goldeneye (5), Pintail (2) and Mediterranean Gull (1).

**February:** There were two Field Meetings in February. On the afternoon of **4th February** Andrew Walmsley led another of his popular **New Forest** walks. He led twelve members on a sunny but cold walk through Poundhill Inclosure, Ober Heath and finally, Blackwater Arboretum. We saw a three-year-old stag plus a hind Red Deer at the expected location and a total of twenty-seven species of birds. The latter included a Teal (in Queens Meadow), three Crossbills (Poundhill Inclosure) and Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, five Brambling and sixteen Hawfinch in Blackwater Arboretum. Two Red Admrial butterflies, active Red wood Ants and several species of lichen also identified. Four members convened at a dull and chilly **Hollybrook Cemetery** for conifer tree identification with Phil Budd on **17th February**. Identification keys were used to determine eleven species of coniferous trees, mainly members of the cypress family, present in the cemetery. In addition, some seven species of lichen identified on the ash and maple trees along Lordswood Road and a Buzzard passed over being mobbed by crows.

**March:** There were two Field Meetings in March. Five members enjoyed another mild and sunny day when they joined Rod Stern at **Lords Wood** on the morning of **11th March**. The purpose was to identify typical mosses and lichens of heathland, woodland on acidic soil and wet woodland/alder carr. The most interesting mosses found were *Brachythecium rivulare* and *Rhynchostegium riparioides* in the alder carr and growing with them was the alder cup fungus *Ciboria amentacea*. There was also a lot of early insect activity including Minotaur Beetle *Typhaeus typhoeus* and Brimstone, Peacock and Comma butterflies. On **25th March** we carried out the spring flora walk at **Woodmill, Mansbridge** and **Marlhill Copse** that was postponed from last year. The weather was cool but with sunny spells. The eleven members present saw some thirty-three flowering plants in bloom. It was an opportunity to show the botanists amongst the society the specialists of the area including Ostrich Fern and Skunk Cabbage at Marlhill Copse, the Purple Toothwort along the Monks Brook. At nearby Mansbridge Marsh an extremely early Welted Thistle was in flower.

**April:** Although there were no successful Field Meetings in May we managed to squeeze four into April. Firstly we crossed the border in Wiltshire on a warm and sunny **7th April** for another opportunity to see the Wild Tulips in bloom at **Redlynch**. Seven members joined Phil Budd on this meeting and we also saw the Asarabacca at its traditional site and Spotted Dead-nettle by Barford Farm. There was abundant insect activity and Holly Blue plus Tortoiseshell butterflies and both Crucifer Shieldbug (on Garlic Mustard) and Pied Shieldbug were of particular interest. A very unusual meeting took place at **Town Common, Christchurch**, on **15th April**. Fourteen members attended the event led by Dr Tony Gent of the Herpetological Conservation Trust and hoped to see Smooth Snakes basking. Unfortunately, the weather was actually too hot and sunny, but we did see a cast Adder skin, and three Sand Lizards amongst several Common Lizards. There were plenty of insects identified too, including the interesting Lygaeid bug *Aphanus rolandri*, the Erratic Ant *Leptothorax acervorum*, plentiful Striped Ladybirds and a Longhorn Beetle associated with Pines (*Asemum striatum*). Gerry Wilding and Phil Budd guided just two other members around a warm but muggy **Pignal Inclosure** and **Standing Hat** on the afternoon of **22nd April**. It was a pity that more people didn't turn up because we found a single, but unmistakable spike of Green-winged Orchid *Orchis morio* amongst the thirty or so flowering Early Purple Orchids in Standing Hat marl pit. There were also Willow Warblers in song and some interesting insects, such as Orange Longhorn Moths and, on Crab Apple blossom, an Eyed Longhorn Beetle *Rhagium mordax*. Fine, warm and sunny weather held out for Chris Oliver's walk at **Shatterford** and **Denny Wood** on **28th April**. Six members joined Chris and they saw twenty-five species of birds, including two Hobbies and two Redstarts. Five species of

butterfly and two species of Odonata, including Broad-bodied Chaser Dragonfly *Libellula depressa*, were recorded, but flowering Bluebells were very tiny due to the drought-like conditions.

**June:** The first successful Field Meeting since **28th April** took place at **Matley** and **Pigbush** in the east of the New Forest on **17th June.** Peter Burford and Jason Claxton kindly stood in for Andy Collins on this four-hour excursion looking at insects. The weather was rather cool but mostly sunny, so the leaders plus seven other members were able to find several interesting insects, including Gold-ringed Dragonfly, Silver-studded Blues, Clouded Buff Moths and the interesting Welsh Chafer Beetle *Hoplia philanthus*. Birds on show included the Dartford Warbler. On the evening of **28th June** Central Parks Ranger Gary Oscroft invited the society to a joint public walk around **Watts, Andrews** and **Palmerston Parks**. The weather was cool and cloudy, and only four members of the society and two other members of the public attended. Gary explained the history and management of the parks and showed us the very attractive herbaceous borders of Andrew's Park. Wildlife was limited, but Greenfinches and Goldfinches were observed going to roost and the blotch mines of Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner Moth *Cameraria ohridella* were identified.

**July:** Despite the notoriously bad weather in July 2007, we managed to run four Field Meetings successfully. First up was a trip to Southampton Common with Dave Allen and the Hampshire Flora Group on **1st July**. The weather started cool and cloudy but brightened later and managed to stay dry. Six society members plus two other Flora Group members attended and Dave Allen showed us thirty-two species of Bramble *Rubus fruticosus agg.* and how to identify them from hairiness, stem and spines features plus growth and leaf shape. Dave explained how a combination of climate, geology, habitat types and geographical location conspire to make Southampton Common the best site for Brambles in the UK with nearly sixty micro-species. We stayed on The Common all day and didn't go to West Wood as originally advertised. Our regular evening glow-worm meeting took place in warm but cloudy conditions at **Old Bursledon Nature Haven** on **10th July**. Phil Budd and John Horne led a small group of six members around the private site. This time John had a surprise up his sleeve in the form of two Lesser Glow-worm *Phosphaena hemiptera* larvae under a tile—this species was first identified on the site only a month previously and represent the first British records since 1995. We also saw thirty Common Glow-worms, a Stag Beetle and two Noctule Bats. Our third July meeting was a general interest walk led by Chris Oliver and Jason Claxton on their local patch at **Rownhams** and including the 'private' reserve of **Horns Drove Wood**. The weather was miraculously warm and sunny on **15th July** and eight other members attended. The focus was mainly

on insects and six species of Orthoptera, eight species of Hemiptera and eight species of butterfly were seen. In addition, three species of Longhorn Beetle were recorded feeding on Hogweed and Bramble blossoms. On the morning recce a Grass Snake was seen in Horns Drove Wood. Our final evening meeting of the summer followed on a warm and bright **31st July**. Phil Budd led a general interest walk at an inner-city location unfamiliar to most of the large turnout of thirteen and this included **Windy Bay** and the Northam and St Denys areas. Most of the interest centred on flora and seashore life. Flora of interest included Narrow-leaved Ragwort, Bastard Cabbage and Wormwood as well a small Walnut tree by the railway. Of seashore life Common Winkle, Estuarine Ragworm, Shore Crab and a crustacean called *Lekanosphaera rugicauda* survive in the brackish conditions here. Also, a tortrix moth *Dicrorampha petiverella* was seen on Tansy.

**August:** There were two Field Meetings during the course of August. The first took place on the hottest day of the year, **5th August**, and was led by botanist Martin Rand. Seven members joined Martin at **Blackwell Common**, where the critical differences between several yellow species of Asteraceae were explained and a curious ornamental crab apple was found with abundant fruit. In the afternoon four of the group (colour page 4) continued to the **Calshot** area for heatwave botanising. Here we were shown the specialities along the beach, such as the Great Lettuce, Marsh Sow-thistle (discovered by John Poland in 2006), Rough Clover and the Polypody Fern *Polypodium interjectum*. On the way down we were shown a large colony of Yellow Bartsia. On **18th August** we enjoyed fine, warm weather for the insect walk at the **Grange Fields, Netley** before the rain arrived in the afternoon. However, a bad weather forecast may have deterred the membership, as only two West Wood Rangers plus one member joined Andy Collins and Phil Budd for this one. We established that Roesel's Bush Cricket has arrived at this site, the carrotfeeding micro-moth *Sitochroa palealis* was of interest and a shieldbug nymph proved to be Small Grass Shieldbug—also new to the site.

**September:** Two successful Field Meetings took place in warm and sunny conditions this month. The first was a study of seashore life at **Calshot** on the afternoon low tide on **8th September** led by Andy Barker and Phil Budd. Six members attended, and a seashore transect survey was carried out. The most unexpected discovery was the finding of two species of Bubble Shell on the muddy landward shore of the spit: these were identified as *Haminoea navicula* and *Akera bullata* (colour page 4). Highlights on the outer side of the spit included Purse Sponge *Scypha compressa*, Daisy Anemone *Cereus pedunculatus*, Squat Lobster *Galathea squamifera*, Long-clawed Porcelain Crab *Pisidia longicornis*, Hairy Crab *Pilumnus hirtellus*, the Coat-of-mail shell *Lepidochitona cinerea*, the

sea slug *Aeolidiella glauca* and the Korean Leathery Sea Squirt *Styela clava*. On **15th September** Phil Budd stood in for Peter Burford on a bird watch at **Farlington Marshes**. Seven members attended the meeting, although there were a lot of other birdwatchers there from other groups. Thirty species of birds recorded including a very early arrival—a Wigeon. Also there was a Hobby, a Spotted Redshank and a Curlew Sandpiper. In addition, four species of butterfly were seen, including the Small Heath.

**October:** There was only one Field Meeting in October; this took place at **Lord's Wood** on the **13th**. Jason Claxton led this meeting to look at autumn wildlife on his home patch. Seven members joined him there and the weather was rather cloudy but dry and mild. The fungi were limited by recent dry weather, but there was a fair amount on insect life, including Speckled Wood butterflies and the target of the excursion: the Scarce 7-spot Ladybird still active. Also five Crossbills were seen during the course of the walk.

**November:** Apart from the washout at St Ann's Cemetery, Gosport there were two Field Meetings in November. The first was a joint fungus foray with the Romsey Group of the Wildlife Trust at **Deerleap** in the New Forest on **4th November**. John Poland stood in as I was recovering from a minor accident at a bonfire night party in Reading. Initially forty people arrived, but only ten remained for the foray in dry and very mild weather conditions. Sixteen species were identified and a list was kindly supplied by Vicky Russell. The most interesting species were *Boletus luridus* and *Russula sanguinea*. Our second meeting of the month was a joint bird watch with the Hampshire Ornithological Society in the **Corhampton Forest** area on **25th November**. Phil Budd led a group of eleven, including four society members on a five-mile circuit including Corhampton Golf Course, Littleton Copse and St Clair's Farm in sunny conditions but with a chilly north-west breeze. At the lunch site near St Clairs Farm we were surprised to see a Common Darter Dragonfly *Sympetrum striolatum*. Thirty-six species of birds were recorded, including at least six Buzzards, sixteen Golden Plover east of Hackett's Lane and two Ravens flying over the golf course.

**December:** There was only one Field Meeting in December and this was the regular joint walk with the Friends of **Southampton Old Cemetery**. This took place in cloudy but dry and fairly mild conditions on **30th December**. The Southampton Old Cemetery 'Wild Flower Walk' was led by John Vetterlein and attended by twent-four people, including eight society members. Nine species were noted in bloom, including Winter Heliotrope, Hedge Bedstraw and Lesser Periwinkle. Fungi seen included a spectacular display of Oyster Mushroom *Pleurotus ostreatus*. A hibernating 22-spot Ladybird was found amongst the

Periwinkle. John showed us old Aphid galls *Eriosoma lanuginosum* on some elms and helped us to identify the conifers.

**September 29th Workshop**
On Saturday 29th September we held the fourth 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 and we made a donation to the trust for the use of the centre .We also thanked John Poland for organising the event at relatively short notice.

About thirty delegates attended and six of them joined the society on the day. Most of the others were already society members. We were particularly grateful that Darren Naish could give his time to run two workshops examining mammal bones and their identification. Phil Budd ran a Longhorn Beetle identification workshop in the morning and Chris Palmer, of the County Museum Service, carried out an identification workshop on Thick-headed Flies in the afternoon. These two latter groups of insects are seriously under-recorded but relatively easy to find and identify.

Finally I would like to thank all leaders, landowners and people involved in the workshop for making the 2007 Field Meetings programme such a success.

Phil Budd

## Indoor Meetings

We held the usual seven Indoor Meetings in 2007. All were held at the Edmund Kell Hall in Bellevue Road. Attendances were encouraging:, varying from fifteen to twenty-six, and averaged twenty (somewhat down on previous years). The highest turn-out was twenty-six for the talk on bats presented by Mr and Mrs Pawling on 2nd October. The downturn in attendances is disappointing, but seems to be due to the parking problems that are caused when the talks clash with football matches at St Mary's Stadium—we might have to consider meeting on another weekday evening in the future. On the plus side we continued to produce posters to advertise our Indoor Meetings and the implementation of 'reminder of events' e-mail list was known to have encouraged some new people for the December talk on spiders.

We held raffles at most of the meetings and several members assisted with this. Anthea and Vernon Jones kindly took on the task of organising the tea, coffee and biscuits for the autumn talks, after Ron and Barbara stepped down at the AGM.

Our first lecture took place on **2nd January**, but since this was only one day after New Years Day members were thin on the ground. Julie Watson shared with

us pictures from a recent holiday around Mount Olympus in northern Greece. As well as flora, the slides featured green lizards, tortoises, various butterflies, exotic Hemiptera bugs and weird dung beetles. On **6th February** Maurice Pugh presented a talk entitled "Close Up To Nature", featuring among other items, the Goat Moth, Marsh Fritillary and a whole host of British fungi, flowers and other butterflies. There were some problems with the equipment and Maurice persuaded us that we needed a new screen—this was duly purchased. Also there was a low attendance probably due to the cold weather and very sadly we later learnt that Mary Smith had passed away the same evening. On **6th March** there was a good attendance despite the heavy hail showers. Due to a change of keys, there was a delay in gaining access to the hall. The speaker was home-grown—our own Andy Collins, who talked about an unforgettable trip to northeast Hungary last July. The PowerPoint presentation featured reptiles, amphibians, birds and insects.

Twenty-two members, including all of the committee, attended our AGM and this took place on **4th April.** Darren Naish was voted on to the committee following the vacancy sadly left by Mary Smith and there were no other changes. There was some quite lengthy discussion on both the Venning Memorial Fund and the matter of the forthcoming centenary of the society. After meeting, Jim Earwood presented a slide talk reminiscing on past visits to the New Forest. The Chairman had organised a quiz, but this didn't take place due to insufficient available time.

On **2nd October** there was a very well attended talk presented by Chris and Mike Pawling on their work with bats over many years. In scenes reminiscent of David and Madge Goodall with Nellie, the Pawlings brought along two live Pipistrelles for us to admire. We also welcomed Chris and Mike as new members of the society. On the **6th November** there was another good attendance despite the inevitable problems caused by the football match at St Mary's—the score was a 0–0 draw. Peter Burford reminded us of warmer climates with a PowerPoint presentation on the "Wildlife of Gambia" and this mainly featured bird life, especially in the grounds of one of the hotels there. Finally on 4th **December** we met a new speaker, Jonathan McGowan of the Bournemouth Natural Science Society. The slide talk presentation covered representatives of the richest spider fauna in Britain, that of Hampshire and Dorset, including the amazing Ladybird Spider and some recent new colonists. Again there was a football match at St Mary's in which the supporters 'enjoyed' another 0–0 draw!

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

## Obituary

### Mary Smith

This year I am sad to report the death of our oldest member—not just in years at 92, but in the number of years she had been a member of the society. Mary Smith was still attending both Indoor and, when suitable, Field Meetings right up to her being taken ill, last Christmas. Her knowledge of the flora of the area was unbelievable. I remember Mary and Madge Goodall's in-depth discussions about plants. Mary's memory was superb. She believed passionately in the protection of our open spaces. She knew where to find rare flowers and was always eager to pass on the information. Mary had lived in the New Forest as a child and I was always interested in her memories of those days. She was a committee member for many years. She loved going to meetings at the Oceanography Centre. We miss her very much.

Barbara Thomas

Mary was born in London on 8th October 1914 and brought up in Barnet, north London and then she moved to Brockenhurst. Some of her relatives are buried at Brockenhurst Church. She trained to be a teacher and spent some of her early years living in India. She achieved an Honours Degree in History and for many years she taught at Itchen College (then a Grammar School). She married Reginald in April 1945 and they enjoyed a long and happy marriage until he passed away in 2005. Living in Sholing and then at Bitterne Way, she raised her two children Peter and Felicity and had several grandchildren and great grandchildren. Apart from her interests in wildlife and conservation, Mary was an expert cook, needlewoman and singer. She was President of the Southampton Common Parks and Gardens Protection Society and had served on the Southampton Wildlife Link since its formation in 1988.

Mary joined the Southampton Natural History Society in 1957 and had therefore been a member for half a century! Mary Smith joined the SNHS committee in April 1997 and served as a General Member under the old three-year rule until 2000. In April 2001 she returned to the committee and then, following the change in the rules, she continued to serve on the committee, attending her final meeting on 5th September 2006. For many, many years Mary was an active recorder, a leader of botanical Field Meetings, a faithful attendant of Indoor Meetings and a regular contributor to the Annual Reports. Her main interests were flora, including fungi, but she was also interested in mammals and insects. Mary was awarded Honorary Membership of the society in 2001 in recognition of her contributions to the society over more than four decades of service.

## Is the Common Tree Frog Native to Britain?

**Darren Naish**

If you like amphibians and reptiles, Britain is hardly the best place in the world: we have just three native lizard species, three snakes, three newts, two toads and two frogs. But do we have a few more: are various 'neglected natives' lurking in our midst? In a previous article on the presence within Britain of the Western Green Lizard *Lacerta bilineata* (Naish, 2006), I mentioned in passing the fact that the European Tree Frog *Hyla arborea* has recently been suggested to be a 'neglected native'. Here, we look at this case in more detail.

Britain's depauperate modern herpetofauna mostly results from the fact that, during the Pleistocene, Britain was glaciated for most of the time that it was connected to the European mainland. By the time conditions were more equable, there was a window of just a few thousand years before (at about 7000 years ago) the English Channel formed. As a result of all this the only reptiles and amphibians we have are those cold-tolerant ones that already inhabited northern Europe prior to the formation of the English Channel.

**Britain: land of aliens and overlooked natives**

Within recent years it's been discovered that more species than conventionally thought successfully colonized Britain before the formation of the English Channel. Two frogs, the Agile Frog *Rana dalmatina* and Moor Frog *R. arvalis*, are now known to have inhabited England until as recently as the 1st century AD, later becoming extinct thanks to anthropogenic habitat change (Gleed-Owen, 2000). A colony of Pool Frogs *Pelophylax lessonae* from Norfolk—traditionally dismissed as an introduction from Italy—are now generally accepted as having been native (Beebee & Griffiths, 2000; Buckley & Foster, 2005; Snell *et al*., 2005), though this was only appreciated in 1999, the year in which the last individual in the colony died. Archaeological samples show that several additional species, including the European Pond Terrapin *Emys orbicularis* and Aesculapian Snake *Elaphe longissima*, also lived in Britain during the recent geological past (Gleed-Owen, 1999).

Britain is full of aliens. We have, or have had, deer from China, ducks from the Americas and elsewhere, rodents from South America, wallabies from Australia, and all manner of other bizarre introductions. And among reptiles and amphibians, we have a pretty impressive list: Marsh Frog *P. ridibundus* (and its hybridogenic hybrid with the Pool Frog, the Edible Frog *P. kl. esculentus*), Midwife Toad *Alytes obstetricans*, African Clawed Toad *Xenopus laevis*, Alpine Newt *Mesotriton alpestris*, Italian Crested Newt *Triturus carnifex* and Wall Lizard *Podarcis muralis*

are all well established and apparently here to stay (Beebee & Griffiths, 2000). Multiple other species are also present but less well established.

Given what happened with the Norfolk Pool Frog colony, it is now worth asking, however, whether all of these aliens really are aliens. Might *some* of them actually be overlooked natives? European Pond Terrapins and Aesculapian Snakes both live wild in Britain today and are regarded as aliens, but given the fact that they once occurred here naturally it's worth considering that they might really be neglected natives. In July 2002 herpetologist Chris Gleed-Owen of the Herpetological Conservation Trust was on his way to work when he accidentally discovered a colony of Western Green Lizards *Lacerta bilineata* at Southbourne and Boscombe Cliffs, Bournemouth (Gleed-Owen 2004). These animals, which are breeding and expanding their range along the coastline, are most likely introductions, but their presence has resulted in widespread speculation about the possibility of native status.

Britain also has the Common Tree Frog *Hyla arborea* and, like the Pool Frogs, these have generally been regarded as introduced aliens. We know without doubt that some colonies, such as those in Devon, London and the Isle of Wight, really were introduced, but this is not so certain for a breeding colony that existed at Beaulieu in the New Forest. No record exists of when and how this colony was introduced[1], if indeed it was, and in fact a remarkably good case has recently been made for native status for these frogs.

**The case for native status of the tree frog**

The main champion of the possible native status of the Common Tree Frog is Charles Snell, a freelance naturalist/photographer and researcher based at Greenwich University. Note that he was one of the first researchers to suggest that the Norfolk Pool Frogs were neglected natives (Snell, 1994), a contention since supported by morphological, genetic and archaeological evidence (Beebee & Griffiths, 2000; Buckley & Foster, 2005; Snell *et al*., 2005). Several British reptile and amphibian species were only recognized as members of the British fauna comparatively recently. The Sand Lizard *Lacerta agilis* wasn't officially noted until 1804, the Natterjack Toad *Bufo calamita* not until 1835 and the Smooth Snake *Coronella austriaca* not until 1859. In view of this, it's remarkable that Common Tree Frogs were recorded as part of the British fauna as early as 1646. Sir Thomas Browne (1605–1682), who wrote about British tree frogs in his 1646 text, implied that tree frogs were familiar and common-place, and other

1 There is a FOAF tale (= Friend Of A Friend) 'explaining' how a Mr Turner Turner, a rich casino gambler, brought the frogs back from either Africa or Monte Carlo (Snell, 2006). Of course, Common Tree Frogs don't occur in either Africa or Monte Carlo.

17th century writers described the tree frog as a native British animal (Snell, 2006). We also know from fossils that tree frogs were present in England during the Pleistocene (Gleed-Owen, 1999).

Snell (2006) also noted that, like definite British natives, Common Tree Frogs occur as far north as southern Sweden, and—as a rough rule of thumb—those amphibian species that occur in Scandinavia also occur in Britain. Surprisingly perhaps, it turns out that Common Tree Frogs are extremely cold-tolerant and can withstand freezing temperatures down to -10°C (the frogs actually survive being frozen solid). They are also highly resistant to dehydration.

The case for possible native status for the Common Tree Frogs is therefore pretty good; the species was present in England during the Pleistocene, was apparently present during the 1600s at least, is cold-tolerant and has a continental distribution similar to that of other definite British natives, and—in the case of the New Forest colony at least—lacks a definite 'trail of introduction'. Like the Common Tree Frogs of France and Sweden, the New Forest tree frogs did not inhabit closed-canopy woodland, but were instead denizens of open scrub dominated by bramble and gorse. In fact, the Common Tree Frogs of northern Europe seem not to be woodland animals (Snell, 2006).

**British tree frogs: where are they now?**

If the Common Tree Frogs *was* native to Britain—and thus able to survive in the British climate—why have those colonies known, without doubt, to have been introduced not persisted and bred as did the New Forest colony? Snell (2006) made several suggestions. Firstly, some introduced tree frog populations seemed not to consist of the cold-tolerant Common Tree Frog, but instead of the closely related, yet highly cold-sensitive Italian Tree Frogs *H. intermedia* and/or Stripeless Tree Frogs *H. meridionalis*. Secondly, some introduced colonies may have consisted only of males, as these are far easier to find and catch than females because of their loud calling. It's not exactly surprising that these colonies failed to persist. Thirdly, introductions of continental Common Tree Frogs to England may have failed as the animals were released into woodland environments, and not into the scrublands that the species in fact seems to favour.

At present Snell's idea for native status is a hypothesis and requires confirmation. Part of the reason for concluding that the Norfolk Pool Frog colony was native came from DNA work showing that the Norfolk animals were not like the pool frogs of southern Europe, but instead closely related to Swedish populations. A similar result for English tree frogs would also help confirm their native status but, unfortunately, work like this cannot be carried out as there are no soft tissue specimens.

The end to this story is a sad one. Assumed to be introduced, the New Forest tree frogs have never been awarded any sort of protection, and both habitat degradation caused by an introduced plant from New Zealand, and capture of the frogs by interested individuals, resulted in their decline. Tadpoles were last seen at the site in 1975 and adults were still being seen and/or heard in 1986, with one adult reported away from the main site in 1988. I visited the pond twice, once in the late 1980s and again in the mid-1990s, but never saw any frogs there, and Snell (2006) reports that no frogs have been seen in the area since 1988. It therefore appears that the colony has become extinct. Given that children and amateur naturalists were in the habit of capturing these frogs (and presumably keeping them in captivity), the remote chance remains that individuals survive somewhere in captivity. History has repeated itself, as native status for the animals was never taken seriously until it was too late, exactly as occurred with the Norfolk Pool Frogs. For a country with such a low diversity of amphibian species, this potential loss is a big deal.

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**Weather Records 2007**
**Records made at 488 Bitterne Road East (SU454129)**
**Phil Budd**

**Introduction**
2007 was an even warmer year than 2006 and was probably the warmest year for a century, with an average daily temperature of 12.35°C. Rainfall totals were very close to average, but it was a year of great contrasts. When it was good (spring and autumn) it was very, very good but when it was bad (summer) it was very, very bad!

**January** was very mild with the expected quantity of rainfall, but there was some very stormy weather too. Although there were storm force 10 winds on the 11th the worst weather occurred at lunchtime on the 18th—winds reached 99mph on the Isle of Wight and 78mph at Heathrow Airport. A container ship was holed in the English Channel and thirteen fatalities were reported across southern England. The temperature reached a balmy 15°C the following day, though.

**February** was both milder and wetter than normal with only one brief cold spell. This was not an interesting month with prevailing westerly winds. As for winter weather—this was confined to six relatively moderate frosts prior to 23rd March, some sleet on 7th February and some snow (in eastern Hampshire) on 24th January.

**March** was another mild month and after a wet and stormy start everything settled down very nicely. The main blip occurred on the 5th/6th when torrential downpours affected Hampshire worse than any other county and there were storm force 10 winds and hail up to 10mm across (at 10pm on 6th). The rest of the month was very benign, except for thunder and hail that turned to snow, on the evening of the 19th.

**April** was really quite exceptional—the warmest for over 100 years, abundant sunshine and virtually no rain. Some places to the east of Southampton recorded no rain at all—not even the light fall on the night of 23rd/24th. Temperatures first reached 70°F on the 6th and approached 80°F on the 16th. Only a handful of days were not very sunny—this was our summer in 2007. Furthermore, from 21st March to 6th May there was the total rainfall was only 5mm.

**May** was rather wet, with temperatures about normal thanks to two nasty 'rogue' depressions. These two 'storms' wiped out two Field Meetings because they struck on Sundays. Firstly on the 13th there was some particularly heavy thundery morning rain accompanied by coastal souh-east gales. An even worse system tracked across south-east England on 27th/28th and dumped 40mm rain in

24 hours and the temperature was confined to 11°C—a warning of what was to come perhaps.

**June** started well, but turned nasty after the summer solstice. The temperatures and rainfall were average overall. The hottest day—the 10th —was also the day of the Springwatch event on Southampton Common. This was part of a dry spell lasting from 2nd to 13th. Things went awry after the severe late afternoon thunderstorm of the 23rd. This was followed by a major flooding event on 25th. Most of the rain fell in Shropshire, the north Midlands and South Yorkshire—hundreds of people still hadn't returned to their homes by Christmas. Southampton got off lightly, with only 13mm rain that day.

**July** was absolutely dreadful—simply the worst July for 100 years and possibly the worst since at least the early 19th century! The month was extremely wet and dull, but not as cold as other recent bad July's such as 1980 and 1988. However, the warmest temperature (recorded on the 19th) was only 24.1°C, and so July 2007 was the first since 1980 to fail to record 80°F. Immediately following this came a tremendous rain event (described below). The rest of the month was unrelenting cloud and rain borne on an indestructible and sodden Atlantic flow. Good riddance to July 2007!

**20th July** deserves special mention. 44.5mm rain fell in my garden from 5pm on 19th to 5pm on the 20th: nearly two inches of rain. However, total rain at Pershore, Worcestershire was 135mm, followed by 118mm at Brize Norton and 98mm at Maidenhead. The south-west Midlands and the Thames Valley were extensively flooded and my own brother was flooded out of his work place in Newbury and only narrowly escaped the same fate at his Caversham home. The weather on this day was caused by a mass of thundery rain coming up from France and then stalling over southern England—a truly freak situation.

**August** seemed wonderful after July and it was quite sunny, but the temperatures and rainfall were close to normal averages. A very sunny start culminated in the hottest day of the year— the 5th at 28.4°C. Just when we thought summer had arrived the weather turned cool and unsettled in the 3rd week, with 22.5mm rain on the thoroughly miserable 14th. Northerly winds in later August brought the dry and sunny conditions back.

**September** was better than any month since April. This was a warm, dry and sunny month, especially before the equinox. It was particularly dry, with no rain from 24th August to 23rd September. Temperatures almost reached 80°F on the particularly sunny 7th. A powerful cold front swept across southern England in the early morning of the 24th and it bore twelve tornadoes,

| 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 | 10.1 | 50.2 | 5.9 | 42.6 | 15.2 | -2.4 | 3 | 11 | 82.0 | 3.23 |
| Feb | 10.8 | 51.4 | 4.7 | 40.5 | 13.7 | -3.1 | 2 | 15 | 84.5 | 3.33 |
| Mar | 12.9 | 55.2 | 4.7 | 40.5 | 17.5 | -2.3 | 1 | 8 | 62.5 | 2.46 |
| Apr | 19.6 | 67.3 | 8.0 | 46.4 | 26.1 | 2.3 | 0 | 1 | 2.0 | 0.08 |
| May | 18.0 | 64.4 | 10.1 | 50.2 | 25.6 | 2.6 | 0 | 10 | 80.5 | 3.17 |
| Jun | 21.2 | 70.2 | 13.4 | 56.1 | 26.7 | 9.4 | 0 | 9 | 71.0 | 2.80 |
| Jul | 20.2 | 68.4 | 13.4 | 56.1 | 24.1 | 10.1 | 0 | 18 | 139.5 | 5.49 |
| Aug | 22.4 | 72.3 | 12.9 | 55.2 | 28.4 | 10.1 | 0 | 7 | 67.0 | 2.64 |
| Sep | 19.8 | 67.6 | 11.6 | 52.9 | 26.0 | 6.2 | 0 | 4 | 18.0 | 0.71 |
| Oct | 15.6 | 60.1 | 9.2 | 48.6 | 21.7 | 2.8 | 0 | 6 | 36.5 | 1.44 |
| Nov | 12.5 | 54.5 | 5.6 | 42.1 | 17.6 | -1.5 | 2 | 10 | 101.0 | 3.98 |
| Dec | 9.3 | 48.7 | 5.3 | 41.5 | 16.2 | -1.4 | 3 | 8 | 50.0 | 1.97 |
| **Means/ Totals** | **16.0** | **60.8** | **8.7** | **47.7** | **28.4** | **-3.1** | **11** | **107** | **794.5** | **31.28** |

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

including a damaging one at Farnborough. This heralded a short chilly, unsettled spell.

**October** was very dry and mild with no frost. The dryness was a nuisance for the fungi hunters, though, and twenty-three days saw no rain whatsoever. There were also no frosts and no gale force winds this month. Temperatures reached 21.7°C on the 3rd and the rest of month was very mild, except for a spell of chilly easterlies from 18th to 25th.

**November** was a little milder than usual and there were no gale-force winds. Also November was rather dry, apart from the very wet spell in the third week. November got off to a warm, calm start with no wind of any consequence until the 6th. Gradually the month became cooler and more unsettled, especially after the temperature plunge from 15°C to 5°C in the early afternoon of the 11th. The first frost was recorded on the 16th, closely followed by two major rainfall events. The first was a total of 50mm rain in 26 hours on 18th/19th, including 32mm in the eight hours from 8am to 4pm on the 18th. Following this, almost another inch (24.5mm) of thundery rain fell on the 21st/22nd.

**December** began very mild and wet, with a westerly Atlantic flow, and then there was a cold, dry spell with several white frosts in the middle of the month, until westerly winds returned later. Severe gales on the 2nd were followed by a very mild maximum of 16.2°C on the 4th. A day of freezing fog on the 21st preceded a rapid temperature rise from 1°C to 10°C in the morning of the 22nd. Although the weather remained mild through Christmas December turned out to be the coldest month of 2007.

## MEMBERS' RECORDS FOR 2007
### Compiled by Phil Budd (Flora) and Andy Collins (Fauana)

2007 was certainly a year of two halves! It is easy to forget that a remarkable warm and dry spring and early summer preceded the dreadful second half of the summer. One of the most memorable aspects of this period was the exceptionally early appearance of many dragonfly and damselfly species, with quite a number appearing ahead of the 'earliest ever' dates listed in *The Dragonflies of Hampshire* In addition, at least two other dragonfly species may be in the early stages of colonization (Red-veined Darter and Lesser Emperor). The former was certainly breeding in the Gosport area during the year (colour page 3). It was also fortunate that many longhorn beetles appeared early, so our initial survey was rather successful, as can be seen from the records of 25 species in this report. On the downside, 2007 was certainly the worst year for moths in living memory and moth migration virtually ground to a halt—a remarkable contrast to the previous year! Certain butterfly populations have also been badly affected, but we will need to wait until the summer of 2008 before we see the full picture. In the report that follows it is remarkable how many interesting observations and records were made, in spite of the weather. Thanks to Chris Palmer at the HCC County Museum, Chilcomb for identifying some of the insect specimens, including Longhorn Beetles.

**Contributors**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| DA | Debbie Allan | CA | Chris Allen |
| MAR | Muriel Arnold | MB | Mike Baker |
| AJB | Andy Barker | PB | Phil Budd |
| PRB | Peter Burford | RC | Richard Carpenter |
| JC | Jason Claxton | EJC | Eric Clement |
| ARC | Andy Collins | GC | Ginnie Copsey |
| CC | Cathy Corney | SC | Simon Currie |
| VAJ | Vernon and Anthea Jones | KG | Keith Godfrey |
| GHW | Graham Harrison-Watts | JH | John Horne |
| DH | David Hubble | HK | Henry Kemm |
| GL | Graham Long | DN | Darren Naish |

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| CO | Chris Oliver | GP | Gary Palmer |
| AP | Alison Parsons | JP | John Poland |
| BR | Barrie Roberts | JS | Jan Schubert |
| MS | Michael Skelton | JV | John Vetterlein |
| PJW | Pat and John Walker | JW | Julie Watson |
| IW | Ian Watts | BW | Bernard Webster |
| PW | Paul Winter | SW | Sarah Wood |

**Abbreviations**

| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| RVCP | Royal Victoria Country Park | | |
| MO | Many observers | fm | Field meeting |

## MYCOTA

### FUNGI

2007 was a much poorer year for fungi than was 2006. This was probably due to the combination of a cool, wet summer and a warm, dry autumn. However, there was a reasonable flush of fungi in October and small numbers of fungi continued up to Christmas. There were almost no vernal fungi due to the very dry spring, but there were some out-of-season specimens to be seen earlier in the year due to the mild, wet winter.

The society fungus forays were not particularly successful in 2007 for a number of reasons (interesting records appear in Field Meeting reports). However, Phil Budd led fungus forays for other groups every weekend from late September to November and these are now extremely popular. Such forays are a very useful publicity tool for the society. In addition, it is pleasing to note that a few new members have begun to learn about fungi this year.

Records of particular interest, some of them extracted from the Flora Reports on the society website, were as follows (all records by PB unless otherwise stated):

***Abortiporus biennis*** Liddel Way, Chandler's Ford 6/11
***Agaricus augustus* (The Prince)** Bolderwood area, New Forest 26/8 (SC)
***Agaricus macrosporus*** Beaulieu Heath at Hill Top—by road 14/10
***Agrocybe aegerita*** Lower Brook, Test Valley—on Sycamore wood (unusual) 27/7 (RC)
***Amanita pantherina* (Panther Cap)** Whiteley/Botley Wood 22/7 (RC)
***Amanita phalloides var. alba* (Death Cap—white variety)** Zionshill Copse 12/10 (DH) (A rarely seen variant)
***Amanita porphyria*** south of Culverley Car Park, Pigbush area 14/10
***Boletus luridus*** Foundry Lane School, Shirley 5/7
***Boletus luridus*** Badger's Copse, Valley Park 1/10 (DH) (colour page 3)

***Calvatia gigantea*(Giant Puffball)** old fruit bodies in a field north of Longdown Car Park 1/12
***Cantharellus tubaeformis* (Winter Chanterelle)** Blackwater car park 23/12
***Clavulinopsis fusiformis* (Golden Spindles)** Little Honeyhill Wood, Pigbush 14/10
***Cordyceps militaris* (Scarlet Caterpillar Club)** Blackwater Car Park 23/12
***Cortinarius paleaceus*** Little Honeyhill Wood, Pigbush 14/10
***Cortinarius purpurascens*** Pine Drive, Thornhill—first record for here 22/8
***Cortinarius uliginosus*** Warsash Common 15/10
***Cudoniella acicularis*** Zionshill Copse 12/10 (DH)
***Entoloma rhodopolium*** a Hill Head garden (common in woods but unusual in gardens) 24/6 (RC)
***Ganoderma applanatum* (Artist's Fungus)** Small Profits, Valley Park 5/10 (DH)
***Geastrum triplex* (Giant Earth-star)** Sailor's Lane, Corhampton 2/1, 16/1 & 3/2 (RC)
***Gloeophyllum sepiarium* (Conifer Maze-gill)** RVCP 26/9 (colour page 3)
***Gymnopus erythropus*** Zionshill Copse 12/10 (DH)
***Gyroporus castaneus*** Southampton Common—surprisingly the first record for here 7/10
***Hygrocybe coccinea* (Scarlet Waxcap)** Whiteley/Botley Wood 7/7 (RC) (An early date)
***Hygrocybe russocoriacea* (Cedar Waxcap)** Priestwood Close, Thornhill Park—first site record 28/10
***Hypholoma elongatum*** Little Honeyhill Wood, Pigbush 14/10
***Hypholoma fasciculare var. pusillum*** Tantany Wood, Pigbush 14/10
***Hypocrea pulvinata*** parasitic on Razor Strop Fungus *Piptoporus* at Culverley, Pigbush area 14/10
***Hypocrea rufa*** Freemantle Common, Bitterne 2/3
***Inocybe cookei*** Netley Common 6/11
***Inocybe napipes*** Tantany Wood, Pigbush 14/10
***Inocybe rimosa var. argentata*** Swanwick Reserve 21/10
***Inocybe umbrina*** Southampton Common 7/10 & Great Goswell Copse, Beaulieu 10/10
***Inonotus radiatus*** on birch stump at Netley Common (unusual—normally on alder wood) 6/11
***Lactarius pyrogalus*** Small Profits, Valley Park 6/11
***Leccinum brunneogriseolum*** Tantany Wood, Pigbush 14/10
***Leucopaxillus giganteus*** Little Honeyhill Wood, Pigbush 14/10
***Marasmius androsaceus* (Horse-hair Fungus)** Sailor's lane, Corhampton 26/6 (RC)
***Marasmius cohaerens*** Great Goswell Copse, Beaulieu 13/10

***Melanoleuca cognata* (Spring Cavalier)** 2 specimens by Cemetery Road, Southampton Common—an uncommon species 30/1
***Mutinus caninus* (Dog Stinkhorn)** Tantany Wood, Pigbush 14/10
***Peziza repanda*** Netley Common—first record for here 6/11
***Pholiota alnicola*** Warsash Common 15/10
***Pleurotus cornucopiae*** Badger's Copse, Valley Park 1/10 (DH)
***Postia caesia*** on a lump of coniferous wood in a driveway at Ashdown Close, Chandler's Ford AJB 8/9 (confirmed PB)
***Psathyrella multipedata*** Hilltop Wood, Beaulieu 13/10
***Pseudotis apophysata*** Swanwick Reserve—an uncommon Ascomycete fungus 21/10
***Ramaria stricta*** border of Bursledon Station car park 24/2
***Ramicola haustellaris*** on a fallen Beech tree at Badger's Copse, Valley Park 6/11
***Rhodotus palmatus* (Wrinkled Peach)** on a fallen Sycamore at Blashord Lakes 17/11 (colour page 3)
***Russula gracillima*** Priestwood Close, Thornhill Park—first site record 28/10
***Russula luteotacta*** Great Goswell Copse, Beaulieu 13/10
***Scizophyllum commune* (Split-gill)** on a fallen Beech tree at Badger's Copse, Valley Park 6/11
***Suillus grevillei* (Larch Bolete)** Mayfield Park, Southampton—first record here 16/10
***Suillus variegatus*** Netley common—first record for here 6/11
***Tephrocybe rancida*** Great Goswell Copse, Beaulieu 13/10
***Thelephora penicillata*** Zionshill Copse 12/10 (DH)
***Trichoglossum walteri*** Netley Grange Fields 18/8
***Tricholoma cingulatum*** Netley common—first record for here 6/11
***Xerocomus rubellus*** Foundry Lane School, Shirley—growing with *Boletus luridus* 5/7

## LICHENS

2007 was a busy year for lichen recording, as there were surveys of several sites in and around Southampton, including the Central Parks, Riverside Park, Peartree Green, Rownhams Church and several other churchyards (noteworthy records listed below). We held a Field Meeting to look at the lichens on the ash trees and blackthorn hedges at **Keyhaven** on **14th January**. Species recorded on the day were ***Cladonia fimbriata***, ***Evernis prunastri***, ***Parmelia (= Flavoparmelia) caperata***, ***Hypogymnia physodes***, ***H. tubulosa***, ***Parmelia (= Hypotrachina) revoluta***, ***Lecanora chlarotera***, ***Lecidella elaechroma***, ***Parmelia (= Melanelia) glabratula***, ***Parmelia sulcata***, ***Physcia adscendens***, ***P. tenella***, ***Parmelia (= Punctelia) borreri***, ***P. subreducta***, ***Ramalina farinacea***, ***R. fastigiata***, ***Usnea***

Children looking at Darren Naish's bone collection at the Go Green Fair (p2)

*Metrioptera roeselii* (Roesel's Bush Cricket) (p33)

Adder (p45)

*Omocestus rufipes* (Woodland Grasshopper) (p34)

Black-veined White female (p36)

*Gymnosoma rotundatum* (a parasitic fly) (p39)

*Reseda alba*
White Mignonette (p31)

*Dorycnium hirsutum*
Canary Clover (p30)

*Andricus lucidus f. agamic*
(Hedgehog Gall) (p40)

*Tragopogon porrifolius*
Salsify (p31)

*Cynara cardunculus*
(Globe Artichoke) (p30)

*Fritillaria meleagris*
(Snake's-head Fritillary) (p28)

*Rutpela maculata*
(Harlequin Beetle) (p41)

*Aromia moschata*
(Musk Beetle) (p42)

*Pseudovadonia livida*
(Fairy-ring Longhorn) (p41)

*Stenocorus meridianus*
(Variable Longhorn) (p41)

*Rhagium bifasciatum*
(Two-banded Longhorn) (p40)

*Leptura aurulenta* (Golden-haired Longhorn) (p41)

*Chrysolina oricalcia*
(a leaf beetle) (p43)

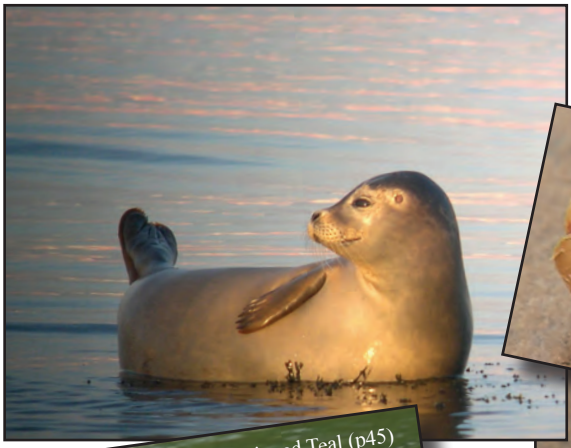
Red-veined Darter (p21)

*Volucella inanis*
(a hoverfly) (p39)



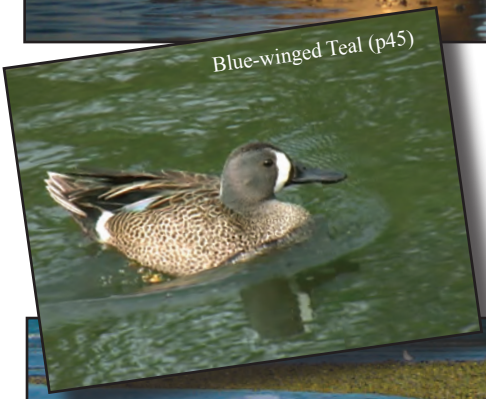

*Boletus luridus*
(p22)

*Gloeophyllum sepiarium*
(Conifer Maze-gill) (p23)



‘Flipper’, the Common Seal at Weston Shore (p48)

Bubble shells: top: *Akera bullata*, bottom: *Haminoea navicula* (p9)



Society members at Calshot (p9)

***subfloridana*** and ***Xanthoria parietina***. Ten further species had been recorded on a recce on 28th December 2006. On **23rd March** there was a lichen survey at **Hillier Arboretum** led by Neil Sanderson and also attended by Linda Barker, Allen Coumbes and myself. About sixty species were identified, mainly on trees but also a few on rockery stones. Species of particular interest were ***Anisomeridium biforme***, ***Candelaria concolor***, ***Candelariella xanthostigma***, ***Dimerella pineti***, ***Parmelia (= Flavoparmelia) soredians, Parmelia (= Melanelia) elegantula, Scoliosporum chlorococcum*** and ***S. pruinosum***. Two very successful Field Meetings were run by the newly formed Wessex Lichen Group (WLG). The first took place at **Buskett's Wood** on **14th April** in extraordinary weather conditions (blazing sunshine and 75°F temperatures). A group of twenty-five saw many rare species in the richest known site for corticolous lichens in the New Forest. Scarce species found included ***Catillaria laureri*** (a Red Data Book species confined to the New Forest in Britain), ***Porina (= Zamenhofia) hibernica***, ***Enterographa elaborata*** (covering a decaying a Beech trunk and its only known British site), ***E. hutchinsiae***, ***Parmelia (=Parmotrema) horrescens*** and ***Parmelia (= Parmeliopsis) miniarum*** (New Forest Lichen—another Red Data Book species). The second of the meetings of the WLG took place at **Blashford Lakes** on **23rd September**. Sixteen lichen enthusiasts turned up for this one and the priority was to study the exceptionally rich lichen heath communities on the gravel east of the entrance car park. Twenty-three species of ***Cladonia*** lichens have been recorded here, including ***C. caespiticia*** (a species seldom growing on the ground) and the pioneer species ***C. cariosa***. A rarity here is ***Leptogium corniculata*** in good quantity and the *Cladonia* parasite ***Diploschistes muscorum*** was also discovered

Other records of interest (all recorded by PB):

***Caloplaca cerinella*** on walnut bark at Windy Bay, Northam 10/2

***Caloplaca decipiens*** on limestone tombstones at Rownhams Churchyard 262

***Caloplaca saxicola*** on limestone tombstones at Rownhams Churchyard 26/2

***Candelariella medians f.medians*** on limestone tombstones at Rownhams Churchyard 26/2

***Cladonia cervicornis ssp. verticillata*** abundant on peaty banks at Haseley Hole, New Forest 12/1

***Cladonia ramulosa*** a new site record at Peewit Hill, Bursledon 23/2

***Hyperphyscia adglutinata*** abundant on elders and willows at Riverside Park 10/2. This species is also abundant on the flaking bark of London Plane trees in Southampton city centre.

***Lecanactis lyncea & L. premnea*** both on Beech bark in a wet area of Stubbs Wood, New Forest 19/1

***Lecanora polytropa*** on acidic tombstones at Rownhams Churchyard 26/2

***Lecanora pulicaris*** on lime tree bark at Riverside Park 10/2

***Mycoglaena myricae*** a specialist on stems of Bog Myrtle *Myrica gale*— found at Longdown 22/9

***Parmelia crinita (= Parmotrema crinitum)*** on south side of an old oak tree at Tantany Wood, New Forest 19/1

***Parmelia (=Melanelia) glabratula ssp. fuliginosa*** on a granite tombstone at Exbury Church 2/4 and on the stonework of an old railway footbridge at Mallards Moor, Hamble 8/5.

***Parmelia (= Parmelina) tiliacea*** at least 30 plants on the trunk of an ash tree near the Hawthorns Centre, Southampton Common 7/1 (a rarity in Hampshire).

***Parmeliopsis ambigua*** on walnut bark at Windy Bay, Northam 10/02. This species was also found at Andrew's Park and Watt's Park in the city centre on 31/1 and at Hoglands Park on 27/12.

***Phaeophyscia nigricans*** on a Maple trunk at Peartree Green 2/3. This species used to occur on a group of Lombardy Poplars at Weston Shore that have now been felled.

***Physcia tribacia*** a small quantity of this species on a horizontal oak branch at Peartree Green 2/3.

***Physconia distorta*** Andrew's Park and Watt's Park in the city centre on 31/1 & Peartree Green 2/3.

***Pseudovernia furfuracea*** on a horizontal oak branch at Ashley Cross Wood, New Forest 12/1. There are only three New Forest records for this western species in Flora of Hants 1996.

***Ramalina fraxinea*** on oak trees by the Inchmery Shore, near Exbury 2/9

***Rinodina roboris var. roboris*** on oak trees at Freemantle Common, Bitterne 2/3

***Trapeliopsis flexuosa*** found on the top bar of an old wooden gate at Calshot village 5/8

***Xanthoria calcicola*** on rocks used as wave breakers at Dibden Bay, Hythe 14/1

***Xanthoria candelaria*** a delicate, yellow lichen that is increasing on trees in urban areas. Found at Peartree Green 2/3; Riverside Park 25/3 and at Hoglands Park 27/12.

## FLORA

### BRYOPHYTES

Bryophyte records were in short supply in 2007. However, some recording took place, especially early in the year. All records were by PB.

#### Liverworts

Two new species of liverwort of were discovered in the acid mire that still survives on the edge of **Dumbleton's Copse, Thornhill**. These were ***Cephalozia***

***bicuspidata*** and ***Cephalozia connivens*** and they were recorded on 6/2. Nearby at **Peewit Hill** on 23/2 the **Whiskered Veilwort** ***Metzgeria temperata*** was another new site record. Two new sites for the delicate **Hampe's Threadwort** ***Cephaloziells hampeana*** were discovered—these were on a damp, sandy bank in the west of **Lord's Wood Plantation** on 26/2 and on the gigantic Sweet Chestnut tree in the south of **Telegraph Woods, West End** on 1/3. A final record of interest was a great abundance of the liverwort known as **St Winifred's Moss** ***Chiloscyphus polyanthos*** smothering a damp log in **Little Honeyhill Wood, Pigbush** on 19/10.

**Mosses**

There were three interesting new site records of mosses in the east of Southampton: **Bog Groove-moss** ***Aulacomnium palustre*** was found at **Dumbleton's Copse** acid mire on 6/2; the distinctive moss ***Cryphaea heteromalla*** was found on an old Elder *Sambucus nigra* at **Peewit Hill** on 23/2 and **Aloe Haircap** ***Pogonatum aloides*** found on a root-plate in the south of **Telegraph Woods** on 1/3. Other records of interest included **Taper-leaved Earth-moss** ***Pleuridium acuminatum*** on a bank at **Old Bursledon Nature Haven** on 24/2 and **Small Hairy Screw-moss** ***Syntrichia laevipila*** on trees at **Andrew's Park** and **Queen's Park** in **Southampton** on 31/1 and 27/12, respectively.

**ANGIOSPERMS (Flowering Plants)**

Once again we missed out on winter so flowering plants were out early and there a further increase of established and casual aliens. We missed out on a proper summer too but that's another story (see Weather Records). The records of interest are listed below (PB unless otherwise stated):

**Native Species**

***Aconitum napellus*** **(Monk's Hood)** Durley Mill—an old site where it persists 12/6 (RC)

***Anacamptis pyramidalis*** **(Pyramidal Orchid)** north side of M27 near Junction 5 (Eastleigh) 22/7

***Briza media*** **(Common Quaking Grass)** Titchfield Haven NNR 4/6 (RC)

***Cardamine amara*** **(Large Bittercress)** Titchfield Haven NNR 21/6 & Brownwich 20/4 (RC)

***Carex acuta*** **(Slender Tufted Sedge)** Botley Wood/Whiteley 22/4 (RC)

***Carex hostiana*** **(Tawny Sedge)** Botley Wood/Whiteley 10/6 (RC)

***Carex laevigata*** **(Smooth-stalked Sedge)** Home Wood, Stoneham 17/4 & Mallards Moor, Hamble 8/5

***Ceratcapnos claviculata*** **(Climbing Corydalis)** Meon Canal path—south 15/6 (RC)

***Chrysanthemum segetum*** **(Corn Marigold)** south of West Quay Shopping Centre 5/9

***Convallaria majalis* (Lily-of-the-Valley)** Tregould's Copse, Valley Park 4/8
***Epilobium palustre* (Marsh Willowherb)** Titchfield Haven NNR 29/6 (RC)
***Erodium moschatum* (Musk Storksbill)** still a rapidly increasing species. Records for Hythe Marina 14/1; Bellevue Road, Southampton 4/9 & around Fareham Council offices 15/10
***Filipendula vulgaris* (Dropwort)** Rownhams Churchyard 25/7 (JC)
***Fritillaria meleagris* (Snake's-head Fritillary)** 1 plant amongst natural vegetation (damp grassland) at Lakeside Park, Eastleigh 6/4 (found by BW and confirmed by PB) (colour page 2)
***Juncus foliosus* (Leafy Rush)** a large colony along a small stream north of West Wellow Common car park 23/8 and a small quantity at Cadnam Common west of Newbridge 9/9
***Kickxia elatine* (Sharp-leaved Fluellen)** Many along the base of a wall at Coates Road, Sholing 23/10
***Lamium hybridum* (Cut-leaved Dead-nettle)** Brookwood Cemetery, Eastleigh 2/4
***Linaria x sepium* (= *Linaria repens x L. vulgaris*)** on disused railway line at Longparish and both parents were growing with it 17/7
***Moenchia erecta* (Upright Chickweed)** Mayfield Park on lawn near Weston Lane entrance 22/4
***Myosoton aquaticum* (Water Chickweed)** Meon Canal path—south 15/6 (RC)
***Nepeta cataria* (Wild Cat-mint)** 2 small plants found at Stockbridge Down 29/7 (These were the only plants discovered in a survey of all known sites in Hampshire, although a large colony discovered near Alresford was reported in the Autumn 2007 HWT Flora Group—Flora News)
***Oenanthe lachenalii* (Parsley Water-dropwort)** Titchfield Haven NNR 27/6 (RC)
***Ophrys apifera* (Bee Orchid)** along the link road south of Junction 5 (Eastleigh) of the M27 10/6
***Orobanche elatior* (Knapweed Broomrape)** Kilmeston Down 26/6 (RC)
***Phleum bertelonii* (Smaller Cat's-tail)** Meon Canal path—south 25/6 (RC)
***Polygonatum multiflorum* (Solomon's Seal)** Tregould's Copse, Valley Park 4/8
***Senecio erucifolius* (Hoary Ragwort)** Windy Bay, Northam—next to the railway line 31/7
***Sparganium emersum* (Unbranched Bur-reed)** Meon Canal path—south 5/8 (RC)
***Stachys officinalis* (Betony)** Peartree Green—a new species here 3/7
***Trifolium fragiferum* (Strawberry Clover)** on grassland at junction of A3024/A344, Bitterne 31/7
***Trifolium subterraneum* (Burrowing Clover)** St James Park, Shirley—on grassy banks 5/9
***Ulex minor* (Dwarf Gorse)** Home Wood, Stoneham 22/4 & near Raglan Close, Valley Park 16/4

***Vaccinium myrtillus* (Bilberry)** Home Wood, Stoneham—western part 22/4
***Viscum album* (Mistletoe)** on Sugar Maple *Acer saccharata* at Foundry Lane School, Shirley 17/4

**Escapes and Naturalisations**

***Abies alba* (European Silver Fir)** self-sown in Blackwater Arboretum 23/12
***Acanthus mollis* (Bear's-breeches)** Kendall's Wood, Thornhill—established garden throw-out 1/3
***Acer cappadocium* (Cappadocian Maple)** suckering and/or self-sown near entrance to Jewson's site at Thornhill, but threatened by redevelopment 3/5
***Ailanthus altissima* (Tree-of-Heaven)** by Bishopstoke Railway Bridge, Eastleigh 13/11
***Allium ampeloprasum var. babingtonii* (Babington's Leek)** established throw-out in Mayfield Park behind gardens at Archery Road 11/5
***Allium meapolitanum* (Neapolitan Garlic)** along grass verge at Osborne Close, Netley 29/3
***Allium roseum* (Rosy Garlic)** on a grassy verge at Greenhill Lane, Toot Hill, Rownhams 26/5 (JC)
***Allium triquetrum* (Three-cornered Leek)** along Old Street, Hill Head 23/3 (RC) and near Cromarty Road Pond, Lordshill (JC).
***Arbutus unedo* (Strawberry Tree)** 1 bird sown and flowering tree at Netley Common 6/11 (Two flowering trees still survive at Peewit Hill nearby)
***Arum italicum ssp. italicum* (Italian Lord's-and-Ladies)** near Test Park 23/1(JC)
***Berberis darwinii* (Darwin's Barberry)** a small bird-sown plant on a kerb by the entrance to City Industrial Park, West Quay 23/4
***Bergenia x .schmidtii (B. crassifolia x B. ciliata)*** on bank on north side of Mansbridge Marsh amongst Brambles 25/3 (Both this and a previous record at Donkey Common, Bitterne 26/12 were confirmed by EJC and another plant on a woodland bank at Thornhill may be this species.)
***Campanula portenschlagiana* (Adria Bellflower)** well established on wall at Harrison's Cut, Shirley 11/5 and now present in several locations in central and western Southampton.
***Campanula poscharskyana* (Trailing Bellflower)** on the walls of Droxford Church 7/2
***Carthamnus tinctorius* (Safflower)** casual on a grassy bank at Summer Street, Northam 2/10
***Cedrus atlantica* (Atlas Cedar)** self-sown in grounds of Rownhams House 27/7
***Clematus montana* (Himalayan Clematis)** established along railway at Southampton Road car park, Eastleigh 13/11

***Coincya monensis subsp cheiranthos* (Wallflower Cabbage)** plenty along B3055, Fawley 23/8

***Cotoneaster franchetii* (Franchet's Cotoneaster)** 1 bird sown in the west of Home Wood 17/4

***Cotoneaster horizontalis* (Wall-spray)** 1 growing 10 feet up a *Robinia* by Cemetery Road 10/11

***Cynara cardunculus var. scolymus* (Globe Artichoke)** 3 plants, 1 of which later flowered, south of the Monk's Path at Mansbridge Marsh 7/3 (colour page 2)

***Digitalis grandiflora* (Yellow Foxglove)** 2 plants appeared as 'weeds' on a steep, shady bank at the Mencap Garden, Portswood—they were amongst wild vegetation 12/7

***Dorycnium hirsutum* (Canary Clover)** 1 plant under a fence near Mount Pleasant level crossing 26/9 (This Mediterranean species appeared in several other locations in southern England in 2007.) (see colour page 2)

***Eleagnus pungens*** 5 plants bird sown on a sea wall on the south side of Hythe Marina 20/1

***Griselinia littoralis* (New Zealand Broadleaf)** 1 bird sown at Freemantle Common, Bitterne 3/10

***Guizotia abyssinica* (Niger)** casual on grassy bank at Summer Street, Northam 2/10

***Impatiens capensis* (Orange Balsam)** Windy Bay, Northam—first record for here 31/7

***Lamium maculatum* (Spotted Dead-nettle)** 2 plants at Home Covert 11/4 (JC).

***Lathyrus latifolius* (Broad-leaved Everlasting Pea)** present on the Brownwich area 11/6 (RC)

***Laurus nobilis* (Bay)** There is no stopping this trees unless we get a proper cold winter! New records in 2007 included in a hedge at Lordshill Rec 14/1(JC), Bacon Wood, West End 1/03 & Cut thorn at Southampton Common 11/5

***Lonicera nitida* (Evergreen Honeysuckle)** bird sown at Cut thorn at Southampton Common 11/5

***Lycium barbarum* (Duke of Argyll's Tea Plant)** confirmed at Dairy Lane, Nursling 26/5 (JC)

***Mahonia aquilifolium* (Oregon-grape)** 1 plant established on sea wall at Ocean Village 14/9

***Parthenocissus tricuspidata* (Boston-ivy)** naturalised by Bishopstoke Railway Bridge and along railway at Southampton Road car park, Eastleigh 13/11

***Passiflora caerulea* (Blue Passionflower)** 1 plant established on sea wall at Ocean Village 1409

***Persicaria amplexicaulis* (Red Bistort)** large colony by Bunstead Lane/Collins Lane junction at Hursley 4/8 and a plant found in Thornhill Park Wood 22/8

***Picea omorika* (Serbian Spruce)** self-sown in Blackwater Arboretum 23/12 (identification not yet confirmed)

***Pilosella flagellaris ssp flagellaris*** The main site behind the Jewson's Warehouse was destroyed by industrial development in 2007, but it is still widespread in the Hightown area.

***Prunus lusitanica* (Portugal Laurel)** bird sown in woodland by River Itchen at Brambridge 1/2 & at Cut Bush Lane, West End 10/2 (This is another rapidly increasing species).

***Pseudofumaria alba* (Pale Corydalis)** plenty of plants by the steps up to the disused railway line at St Cross, Winchester 4/6. Some **Yellow-flowered Strawberry *Duchesnea indica*** also present here.

***Pulmonaria* 'Mawson's Blue'** a 'mystery' *Pulmonaria* at Sailor's Lane, Corhampton is probably this species 3/3 (RC)

***Rapistrum rugosum* (Bastard Cabbage)** a new site by Cross House Quay, Southampton 14/9

***Reseda alba* (White Mignonette)** a 'garden weed' at Creighton Road, Regents Park 12/7 (see colour page 2)

***Salvia viridis* (Annual Clary)** casual under fence at Beech Avenue, Bitterne 29/5

***Sambucus canadensis* (American Elder)** in scrub west of Bishopstoke Recreation Ground 7/9

***Sarracenia purpurea* (Pitcherplant)** 14 flowering plants at Homesley Passage this year! 29/5

***Sutera cordata*** a South African member of the figwort family growing at the base of a wall at Asda car park in central Hythe 20/1 (Confirmed by EJC)

***Syringa vulgaris* (Lilac)** white-flowered form in hedge near Abbey Farm, Netley 5/5

***Tragopogon porrifolius* (Salsify)** 200 plants by a lane near Budd's Farm, Winsor, near Cadnam 4/5 (see colour page 2)

***Verbascum blattaria* (Moth Mullein)** at least 20 plants on south side of M27 west of Junction 7 27/6

***Virbinum tinus* (Lauristinus)** 1 plant established on sea wall at Ocean Village 14/9

## FAUNA

### FLAT WORMS (Platyhelminthes)

***Dugesia tigrina*** 1 at Cromarty Pond 27/3, an alien from North America (PB)

### MOLLUSCS

***Acanthochitona crinitus* (a Coat-of-mail Shell)**—3 seen at Royal Pier, Mayflower Park 20/3 (JC & JP)

***Aegopinella nitidula* (Waxy Glass Snail)** Old Bursledon Nature Haven 24/2 (GL)

***Ashfordia granulata* (Silky Snail)** Old Bursledon Nature Haven 21/4 (GL), this species is endemic to Britain

***Hygromia cinctella* (Girdled Snail)** 2 at Bishopstoke Road, Eastleigh 9/11 (PB), Brookwood Cemetery, Eastleigh 20/3 (PB), Sainsbury's car park, Bitterne 3/10, 2 Southampton Common 7/10 (PB), Old Bursledon Nature Haven 24/2 (GL), Cromarty Road, Lord's Hill, April (JC). Rapidly colonising urban areas—from south-west Europe originally.

***Physa fontinalis* (Bladder Snail)** Old Bursledon Nature Haven 21/4 (GL)

## CRUSTACEA

***Crangonyx pseudogracilis*** (a freshwater shrimp) Cromarty Pond 27/3, Fernyhurst Pond, Lord's Hill 27/3, Tanglewood Pond, Rownhams 27/3, an alien from North America (PB)

***Crangonyx pseudogracilis*** (PB)

***Inachus phalangium* (Leach's Spider Crab)** Royal Pier, Mayflower Park 20/3 (JC & JP)

## ARACHNIDA (Spiders)

(all records from PB unless otherwise stated)

***Amaurobius ferox*** 3, Sholing Valley Study Centre 25/2

***Araneus angulatus*** Home Wood 17/4

***Argiope bruennichi* (Wasp Spider)**, the tiny male and female together at Westwood 18/8, female seen to catch and wrap a Long-winged Conehead (ARC)

***Dysdera crocata*** Doctor's Hill, Lockerley, June, a woodlouse-eating spider

***Ero tuberculata*** 1 on house in Sholing 30/10 (ARC)

***Euophrys lanigera*** Bitterne Road, 2 on 19/4—on wall of house

***Evarcha falcata*** Peewit Hill 19/4

***Hyptiotes paradoxus*** Home Wood 17/4, female beaten from Western Hemlock—a scarce species normally found on Yew

***Myrmarachne formicaria*** Old Bursledon Nature Haven 21/4

***Neon reticulatus*** Old Bursledon Nature Haven 21/4

***Nigma puella* (Bleeding Heart Spider)** Chilworth Manor Garden 6/6

***Nigma walckenaeri*** Bishopstoke Road, Eastleigh 12/11, colonising from London, originally escaped from Kew Gardens

***Sitticus pubescens*** Bitterne Road 30/4, on wall of house

***Theridiosoma gemmosum*** Rownhams House Grounds 27/7, quite a rare species

***Trochosa ruricola*** Old Bursledon Nature Haven 21/4

## INSECTS

### ODONATA (Damselflies and Dragonflies)

***Aeshna grandis* (Brown Hawker)** Swelling Hill Pond, Ropley 31/7 (PB)

***Aeshna mixta* (Migrant Hawker)** 1 freshly emerged from reserve centre pond at Titchfield Haven 29/7 (ARC)

***Brachytron pratense* (Hairy Dragonfly)** Titchfield Haven, 2 on 26/4 an early date (PB), 2 at Exbury Gardens 20/5 (ARC), recorded at Botley Wood/ Whiteley 1 on 1/5, 2 Brownwich 30/4–4/5, and up to 4 in Titchfield Haven area 27/4–4/5 (RC)

***Calopteryx virgo* (Beautiful Demoiselle)** 1 at Lordsdale Greenway 27/4, an early date (ARC)

***Coenagrion puella* (Azure Damselfly)** Titchfield Haven Pond 21/4 (ARC), and 26/4 (PB), early dates

***Cordulia aenea* (Downy Emerald)** 1 at Swanwick 29/4, an early date (ARC), 2 at Exbury Gardens 20/5 (ARC), Chilworth Manor Pond 6/6 (PB), up to 4 Botley Wood/Whiteley 20/5–23/6 (RC)

***Cordulegaster boltonii* (Gold-ringed Dragonfly)** 1at Whiteley Pastures, 23/6 (ARC), Hall Lands Copse, Fair Oak 25/6 (GC)

***Erythromma viridulum* (Small Red-eyed Damselfly)** Boating Lake, Southampton Common 3/8 (PW)

***Ischnura elegans* (Blue-tailed Damselfly)** 1 at Swanwick 29/4 (ARC)

***Lestes sponsa* (Emerald Damselfly)** up to 8 at Botley Wood/Whiteley 23/6–15/9 (RC)

***Libellula depressa* (Broad-bodied Chaser)** 1f emale at Lordsdale Greenway on 27/4, an early date (ARC)

***Libellula fulva* (Scarce Chaser)** River Test, Testwood 9/6 (PRB)

***Orthetrum cancellatum* (Black-tailed Skimmer)** 2 at Whiteley Pastures 23/6 (ARC)

***Platycnemis pennipes* White-legged Damselfly** Crockford Bridge 19/7 (PRB), same site 3/8 (PW)— a site recently colonised

***Pyrrhosoma nymphula* (Large Red Damselfly)** Old Bursledon Nature Haven 13/4 (JH)—first record for year, 2 Titchfield Haven 21/4 (ARC)

### ORTHOPTERA (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

***Chorthippus albomarginatus* (Lesser Marsh Grasshopper)** interesting older records from 12/8/2004 and 3/8/2005 at Southampton Common, west of the boating pond (MS), Peartree Green 28/7/2006 and Westwood 3/8/2005 (MS)

***Metrioptera roeselii* (Roesel's Bush Cricket)** A very rapid and widespread colonisation since MS studied them in 2005. The main spread started in August 2005 and appeared to have originated in the Winchester area, where it was discovered that year to be very common on calcareous grassland, where none had been seen in 2002. It has also been suggested that the

species spread from the east along the M4 and other road corridors. A colony at Southampton Common Old Cemetery comprised at least 10 on 11/7 (ARC). However, this is not a new colony as MS noted a macropterus male on the Common on 21/8/2005 and well into double figures by 28/7/2006. Other earlier records in our area comprise macropterus males from Testwood Lakes and Lower Test, Lakeside Country Park and Westwood at the end of August 2005 and 2006 records from Peartree Green (MS). Records from 2007 include: Netley Grange Fields 14/8–18/8, (ARC, PB), Wootton Coppice Inclosure, New Forest 15/7, unusual in New Forest (PB). Also seen on Stockbridge Down 28/7 (ARC). (colour page 1)

***Myrmeleotettix maculatus*** **(Mottled Grasshopper)** Southampton Old Cemetery 22/7 (PB)

***Nemobius sylvestris*** **(Wood-cricket)** a record from 3/8/2005 of several stridulating at Weston Point (MS). Possibly introduced with planted trees and shrubs.

***Omocestus rufipes*** **(Woodland Grasshopper)** Twigg Lane End 13/6, basking in the sun on a road surface (PB) (colour page 1)

***Stenobothrus lineatus*** **(Stripe-winged Grasshopper)** an interesting old record from 12/8/2004 of several in short heathy turf in the Old Cemetery, Southampton Common (MS). None were seen in 2005.

***Tetrix subulata*** **(Slender Ground-hopper)** Lordswood Greenway 14/3 (JC)

**DICTYOPTERA AND DERMAPTERA (Cockroaches and Earwigs)**

***Ectobius panzeri*** **(Lesser Cockroach)** Calshot—shore by power station 23/8 (PB)

**HEMIPTERA (Bugs – Heteroptera and Homoptera)**

***Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*** **(Hawthorn Shield Bug)** in leaf litter at Vespasian Road 16/10 (GHW), Banister Road, Southampton 6/11 (MAR)

***Centrotus cornutus*** **(Horned Tree Hopper)** Nursling Substation—beaten from sallows 17/5 (JC), Whiteley Pastures 24/5 (PB)

***Ceraleptus lividus*** **(Slender-horned Leatherbug)**, Bitterne Church of England—graveyard 2/5 (PB), Rownhams Wood 4/6 (JC), 2 South of Boscombe Chine 26/5 (PB)

***Chorosoma schillingi*** **(a Rhopalid Bug)** SE of Fawley Power Station, 8 on 23/8 (PB)

***Corizus hyoscyamii*** **(a Rhopalid Bug)** first for garden in Sholing 6/4 (ARC), south of Boscombe Chine 17/5 (PB)

***Eurydema ornatum*** 6 above Portman Ravine 14/4 (ARC), Boscombe Chine, 12 on 17/5, a new site—on Sea Radish (PB). More than 40 reported in the Boscombe area in spring (MS), indicating that the species is now well

established. However, it was not located in the Hengistbury Head area even though there is extensive Sea Radish.

***Eurygaster maura*** (a Tortoise Shieldbug) Netley Grange Fields, 2 on 18/8, determined from genitalia (PB)

***Eurygaster testudinaria*** (a Tortoise Shieldbug) Peartree Green 29/5, determined from genitalia (PB)

***Gargara genistae*** (a treehopper associated with Broom)—at Lordswood 22/6 (JC)

***Gonocerus acuteangulatus*** **(Box Bug)** Andrew's Park, Southampton 28/3 (PB), Mill Pond Road, Gosport 8/4 (DA), first record for garden**.** Creighton Road, Regents Park 12/7, Hilsea Lines, 2/10 (PB)

***Graphocephala fennahi*** **(Rhododendron Leaf Hopper)** Great Goswell Copse 10/10, a late date (PB)

***Himacerus apterus*** **(Tree Damsel Bug)** Sweatsford Water, Fordingbridge 5/9 (GL)

***Himacerus major*** (a damselbug) north edge of Fawley/Calshot Power Station 23/8 (PB)

***Holcostethus vernalis*** **(Vernal Shieldbug)** 2 south of Boscombe Chine on 26/5, on Sea Radish. Also 1 on nettle in West Sussex 16/5 (PB). A very rare visitor with few previous records, which may now be colonising (PB). In addition, 1 reportedly seen at Studland (per MS).

***Ischnodemus sabuleti*** **(European Chinch-bug)** Home Covert 10/4 (JC), unusual habitat for this species

***Neottiglossa pusilla*** **(Small Grass Shieldbug)** Netley Grange Fields 18/8, Lord's Wood 1/6 (JC)

***Orsillus depressus*** (a Lygaeid Bug) Bitterne 10 on 2/5, on Lawson's Cypress, Bitterne 3 on 2/5, on Lime/Cedar; Brookwood Cemetery, Eastleigh 2 on 27/3, on Lawson's Cypress/Western Red Cedar; Mallards Moor 8/5, a nymph on Hawthorn; St Marys Extra Cemetery, Sholing 6/5, on Western Red Cedar (PB)

***Orthotylus flavosparsus*** (a Mirid Bug) Calshot 23/8 (PB)

***Rhacognathus punctatus*** **(Heather Shieldbug)** Buckherd Bottom 19/5 (MB)

***Saldula orthochila*** (a shore bug) Lord's Hill Recreation Ground 25/8, the only dry land 'shore' bug—a scarce species (PB)

***Sehirus biguttatus*** **(Cow-wheat Shieldbug)** Lord's Wood 25/4 (JC) a new site. Lord's Wood 20/3 (JC), the old site

***Sehirus luctuosus*** **(Forget-me-not Shieldbug)** Mansbridge Reservoir 25/5 (PB)

***Spathocera dahlmanni*** **(Dahlmann's Leatherbug)** South of Boscombe Chine 26/5 (PB)

***Stictopleurus abutilon*** (a Rhopalid Bug) Whiteley Pastures 2 on 24/5 (PB)

***Syromastes rhombeus*** **(Rhombic Leatherbug)** Mill Pond Road, Gosport 7/4 (DA), first record for garden

***Tetraneura ulmi* (Fig Gall)** Peartree Green Southampton 22/6, galls infesting Small-leaved Elms (PB)

***Velia caprai* (Water Cricket)** Home Wood 17/4, new site (PB)

## LEPIDOPTERA

### Butterflies

**Clouded Yellow** 1 Titchfield Haven 25/8 (ARC), Broadmarsh, Havant 6/9 (PB), up to 6 Brownwich 14/9 (RC)

**Brimstone** 6 at Lordsdale Greenway 6/3 (ARC)

**Large White** junction of Lodge Road and Lawn Road 1 on 30/9, a late date (PB)

**Small White** Seymour Road, Southampton 11/4 (SW), Hatchet Pond area 1 on 19/10, a late date (PB)

**Black-veined White** a female on Stockbridge Down 28/7 at least (MO). A presumed introduction—there was a suspicious second butterfly reported (PB) (colour page 1)

**Orange Tip** Seymour Road, Southampton 11/4 (SW), Swanwick Reserve 29/4 (ARC)

**Red Admiral** Hazeldene Bursledon 3/1 (PRB), first of year. 1 at Southampton General Hospital 10/1 (ARC), Blackwater, Rhinefield, 2 on 4/2, Culverley car park, 19/1, Palmerston Park, 1 on 31/1 (PB), 1 in actinic moth trap 6/9 (ARC), 1 Lordsdale Greenway 23/11 (ARC)

**Painted Lady** Chilworth Manor Garden, 1 on 6/6 (PB), Botley Wood/ Whiteley 10/6 with maximum of 4 on 25/8 (RC), Grange Fields, Netley 1 on 18/8 (ARC, PB), first in Sholing garden on 25/8 (ARC), Pitt's Wood, Fordingbridge 26/8 (PB), Seymour Road, Southampton 9/8 (SW)

**Small Tortoiseshell** 1 Lordsdale Greenway 6/3 (ARC), Belmont Road, Portswood 6/3 (VAJ), Brookwood Cemetery, Eastleigh 1 on 21/3 (PB), 40 larvae on Nettle at Lower Test Reserve 4/5 and 2 adults there 3/7 (ARC)

**White Admiral** first at Whiteley Pastures 9/6 (ARC), quite early, maximum of 5 there (RC), 7 at Chilling Copse 13/6 (RC)

**Purple Emperor** 1 Botley Wood/Whiteley 7/7 (RC)

**Silver-washed Fritillary** first at Whiteley Pastures 9/6 (ARC), maximum of 20 Botley Wood/Whiteley 7/7 (RC)

**Dark Green Fritillary** 2 at Botley Wood/Whiteley 23/6 (RC), Port Lane, Hursley 1 on 4/8 (PB)

**Queen of Spain Fritillary** a remarkable record of 3–4 (1 well photographed) at Old Winchester Hill 13/6 (HK). Origins uncertain but possibly an introduction.

**Speckled Wood** Brookwood Cemetery, Eastleigh 1 on 5/4 , Great Goswell Copse 10/10 (PB)

**Purple Hairstreak** Seymour Road, Southampton 31/7 (SW)

**Small Copper** Pig Bush /Tantany Wood, New Forest 1 on 14/10, a late date (PB)
**Common Blue** Chandler's Ford (garden) 28/7 (DH).
**Silver-studded Blue** Longdown, Ashurst 1 on 5/9, a late date (PB)
**Geranium Bronze** 1 from imported geraniums at Hill Head 13/10 (RC)
**Large Skipper** 1 at Westwood 31/5 (ARC)
**Dingy Skipper** 4 at Botley Wood/Whiteley 1/5 (RC)
**Grizzled Skipper** at Botley Wood/Whiteley 1 22/4 and 5 20/5 (RC)
**Marbled White** 1 Southampton Common 10/6 (ARC)
**Small Heath** Lakeside Park, Eastleigh 6 on 4/5, possibly a new site (PB), 2 Botley Wood/Whiteley 20/5 (RC), 1 at Itchen Valley CP on 1/6 and 1 Westwood 7/8 (ARC)
**Ringlet** Southampton Old Cemetery, 22/7, established here (PB)

**Moths**

***Acroclita subsequana*** (a Tortrix moth) Sandy Point, Hayling Island 16/5, a scarce moth swept off Sea Spurge (PB)
***Cameraria ohridella*** **(Horse Chestnut Blotch Miner)** Horns Drove Wood, Rownhams 14/7 (and other sites), this species is rapidly infesting Common Horse Chestnut (PB)
***Coleophora palliatella*** (a case-bearer) Inchmery, Exbury 2 on 2/9 on Pedunculate Oak leaves (PB)
**Purple-bordered Gold (*Idaea muricata*)** south of Matley Wood 1 on 13/6 (PB)
**Grass Wave (*Perconia strigillaria*)** Botley Wood/Whiteley 10/6 (RC), Matley Wood 13/6 (PB)
**Great Prominent (*Peridea anceps*)** Hall Lands Copse, Fair Oak 21/4 (PB)
**Currant Clearwing (*Synanthedon tipuliformis*)** in Sholing garden 3 to pheromone 3/6, a mating pair on 8/6 followed by a single to pheromone 10/6 (ARC)
**Yellow-legged Clearwing (*Synanthedon vespiformis*)** at Sholing, 2 to pheromone on 6/6 (ARC)
**Red-belted Clearwing (*Synanthedon myopaeformis*)** 1 to pheromone at Netley Common on 24/5, an early date (ARC)
***Tachystola acroxantha*** an introduced Australian species was quite commonly recorded in Sholing throughout the year from 29/4 (ARC). First recorded in Hampshire in 1994.
***Aceleris literana*** an uncommon tortrix moth recorded at Sholing on 21/2 (ARC)
**Ringed China-mark (*Parapoynx stratiotata*)** 1 at Sholing on 24/8 was the first ever recorded in the garden a Sholing (ARC)
**Large Tabby (*Aglossa pinguinalis*)** 1 male at Sholing on 14/7 (ARC)
**Cypress Carpet (*Thera cupressata*)** at Sholing there was a very early record on 15/4 with a further 26 throughout the year, the autumn brood was much

reduced presumably because of the weather (ARC). Recorded on 20/5 at Hill Head (RC)

**Privet Hawk-moth (*Sphinx ligustri*)** 1 at Sholing on 14/6 (ARC)

**Broad bordered Bee Hawk-moth (*Hemaris fuciformis)*** 4 at Hengistbury Head on 5/5 nectaring on flowering Holly and Rhododendron (ARC)

**Poplar Kitten (*Furcula bifida*)** 1at Sholing on 28/7 (ARC)

**Beautiful Yellow Underwing (*Anarta myrtilli*)** Southampton Old Cemetery 29/7 (JV), first for site

**Kent Black Arches (*Meganola albula*)** at Sholing 1 on 14/7 (ARC)

**White-point (*Mythimna albipuncta*)** at Hill Head recorded 17/5–22/9 (RC), at Sholing recorded from 6/6 with a further 21 throughout the year, considerably fewer than in 2006 (ARC)

**White L Wainscot (*Mythimna l-albmu*)** at Sholing recorded from 1/6 with a further 29 through the year (ARC), at Hill Head recorded 5/6–18/9 (RC)

**Obscure Wainscot (*Mythimna obsoleta*)** recorded at Hill Head 5/6 (RC)

**Silky Wainscot (*Chilodes maritima*)** 1at Sholing on 9/6 (ARC)

**Brown-veined Wainscot (*Archanara dissoluta*)** recorded at Hill Head 26/8 (RC)

**Webb's Wainscot (*Archanara sparganii*)** recorded at Hill Head 31/7 (RC)

**Rosy Marbled (*Elaphria venustula*)** 2 on 10/6 were the first garden records in Sholing (ARC)

**Small Purple-barred (*Phytometra viridaria*)** recorded at Botley Wood/ Whiteley 20/5 and Hook/Chilling 26/5 (RC)

**Waved Black (*Parascotia fuliginaria*)** larvae at Botley Wood/Whiteley 6/5 (RC)

**Buttoned Snout (*Hypena rostralis*)** 3 at Sholing from 18/5 (ARC)

**Migrant Moths**

**Diamond-backed Moth (*Plutella xylostella*)** at Sholing recorded from 22/5 with a total of 52 through the year (ARC). At Hill Head recorded 11/6–10/10 (RC)

**Rusty Dot Pearl (*Udea ferrugalis*)** at Sholing, 2 only from 31/7 (ARC). At Hill Head recorded 2/8–12/10 (RC)

**Rush Veneer (*Nomophila noctuella*)** 1 at Hill Head 30/8 (RC)

**Blair's Mocha (*Cyclophora puppillaria*)** 1on 22/5 at Hill Head, a rare migrant, confirmed by Keith Wheeler (RC)

**Hummingbird Hawkmoth *Macroglossum stellatarum*** a generally poor year. Ethelbert Avenue, Bassett Green 8/3, a very early date (PB). 1 at Hill Head 7/7 and 1 Meon Canal path 24/9 (RC), 1 at Titchfield Haven 29/7 (ARC)

**Great Brocade (*Eurois occulta*)** 1 at Sholing on 26/8 was the first garden record of this scarce migrant from the north/east, which arrived on north-sourced winds (ARC)

**Dark Sword-grass (*Agrotis ipsilon*)** recorded at Hill Head 22/7 (RC)
**Pearly Underwing (*Periodrom saucia*)** at Sholing singles on 23/4 and 3/8 (ARC)
**Delicate (*Mythimna vitellina*)** singles at Hill Head 8/6 and 5/8 (RC)
**Dewick's Plusia (*Macdunnoughia confuse*)** a very rare migrant, photographed by KG at Ashurst on 23/10
**Silver Y (*Autographa gamma*)** the first at Sholing on 27/3 and a total of 45 through the year, an exceptionally low count (ARC)

**DIPTERA (Flies)**

(all records from PB unless otherwise stated)
***Anasimyia lineata*** (a hoverfly) Matley Wood 13/6
***Bombylius major*** **(Common Bee Fly)** Cromarty Pond area, Lord's Hill 2/3, a very early date (JC)
***Chrysotoxum bicinctum*** (a hoverfly) Magdalen Hill Down Extension 23/6, a very common species in Wiltshire & Cotswolds
***Conops flavipes*** (a thickheaded fly) Eastpoint, Hightown 22/8
***Conops vesicularis*** (a thickheaded fly) Whiteley Pastures 24/5
***Cynomya mortuorum*** (a blowfly) Magdalen Hill Down Extension 2 on 29/7
***Dasysyrphus venustus*** (a hoverfly) Whiteley Pastures 31/5
***Eriozona syrphoides*** (a hoverfly) Magdalen Hill Down Extension 23/6, a scarce species
***Eristalinus aeneus*** (a hoverfly) Inchmery,Exbury 1/9, on Sea Aster
***Gymnosoma rotundatum*** (a parasitic fly) Magdalen Hill Down Extension 1/6 Magdalen Hill Down Original, 22/7, Whiteley Pastures 24/5 (colour page 1)
***Melanostoma mellinum*** (a hoverfly) Calshot—shore by power station 23/8
***Neoascia podagrica*** (a hoverfly) Liddel Way, Chandler's Ford 5/8 (DH)
***Physocephala rufipes*** (a thick-headed fly) Southampton Old Cemetery 22/7
***Sericomyia silentis*** (a hoverfly) Longdown, Ashurst,2/9, Lord's Hill Recreation Ground 25/8
***Tachina lurida*** (a parasitic fly) Whiteley Pastures 31/5
***Volucella bombylans*** Botley Wood/Whiteley 10/6 (RC)
***Volucella inanis*** A3024 Eastpoint, Hightown 22/8, Magdalen Hill Down Original 8/7 (PB), Vespasian Road 30/7 (GHW) (colour page 3)
***Volucella inflata*** Whiteley Pastures 24/5
***Volucella zonaria*** **(Hornet Hoverfly)**, Magdalen Hill Down Extension 29/7, Magdalen Hill Down Original 2 on 8/7 (PB), Nursling sub-station—on Bramble blossom 10/7 (JC), Vespasian Road 31/7 (GHW), Hill Head 31/7–18/9 (RC)
***Xylota sylvarum*** (a hoverfly) Chilworth Manor Garden 6/6

## HYMENOPTERA (Wasps and Allies)

(records from PB unless otherwise stated)

***Abia sericea*** (a sawfly) Magdalen Hill Down Extension 8/7

***Andricus aries f. agami*** **(Ramshorn Gall)** Old Bursledon Nature Haven 10/7, a rapidly spreading species but never in large numbers, RVCP19/8

***Andricus lucidus f. agamic*** **(Hedgehog Gall)** Blashford Lakes Reserve 23/9, a very recent colonist, Inchmery, Exbury 1/9, RVCP 5 on 2/10 (colour page 2)

***Bombus campestris*** (a cuckoo bumblebee) Farlington Marsh 15/9, Peartree Green Southampton 3/9

***Bombus hypnorum*** (a bumble bee) Chilworth Manor Garden 2 on 6/6 (PB), Talbot Drive, Highcliff 3/4 (GP) colonising SW Hampshire

***Dolichovespula media*** **(Median Wasp)** Horns Drove Wood, Rownhams 14/7, Rownhams House Grounds 27/7

***Dolichovespula saxonica*** **(Saxon Wasp)** Doctor's Hill, Lockerley, May 2007, a recent colonist and still uncommon

***Lasius fuliginosus*** **(Jet-black Ant)** West Wood, Netley 5/5

***Melecta albifrons*** (a bee) Silverdale Road, Southampton 8/4—a cuckoo bee of *Anthophila plumipes*

***Philanthus triangulum*** **(Bee-wolf = Bee Killer)** Magdalen Hill Down Original 22/7

***Urocerus gigas*** **(Giant Wood Wasp)** Stoke Charity 2/10 (VAJ)

***Vespa crabro*** **(Hornet)** Old Bursledon Nature Haven 21/4 a very early date, Botley Wood/Whiteley 1/5 onwards (RC), Chandler's Ford 24/5–2/8 (DH), Pig Bush /Tantany Wood 5 on 14/10, Funtley Meadow 15/10, last 31/10 Forest of Bere (RC)

## COLEOPTERA (Beetles)

### Longhorn Beetles

Names follow Duff, A (2007) "Identification:Longhorn Beetles Part 1" *British Wildlife* **18**(6)406-414 and "Part 2" *British Wildlife* **19**(1)35-43.

***Rhagium mordax*** **(Black-spotted Longhorn (Eyed Longhorn)),** Home Wood 17/4, beaten off Honeysuckle foliage (PB), 1 flew in at Willow Farm and Fisheries 19/4 (CA), Standing Hat, New Forest 22/4, on Crab Apple blossom (PB), Whiteley Pastures 24/5, on Alder Buckthorn blossom (PB), Lord's Wood 25/4, Lord's Wood Plantation 6/5–22/5, Nightingale Wood, near Romsey, 9/5 (JC)

***Rhagium bifasciatum*** **(Two-banded Longhorn)** Emer Bog NR 24/4, on a Birch log (PB), 1 at Exbury Gardens 20/5 (ARC). Hut Wood 11/5 (JC), Lord's Wood Plantation 30/4, Nightingale Wood, near Romsey 9/5, Nursling Gravel Tip 17/5 (JC) (colour page 3)

***Stenocorus meridianus* (Variable Longhorn)** 1 at Whiteley Pastures 19/5 (ARC), Magdalen Hill Down Extension 23/6, on Hogweed (PB), Magdalen Hill Down Original 1/6 (PB),1 at Whiteley Pastures 31/5, on Hemlock Water Dropwort (PB). Seen at Mottisfont 8/7 (ARC) (colour page 3)

***Grammoptera ruficornis* (Common Grammoptera)** A common and widespread species, especially on hawthorn and other flowers. Recorded by PB from about 16 sites 21/4–6/6. Recorded by ARC from many sites, including Southampton Common from 2/5 and a total of 15 at Whiteley Pastures 25/5. Recorded by JC from about 12 locations 25/4–31/5. Reported at Willow Farm and Fisheries 4/5–14/6 on Hawthorn, Hemlock Water Dropwort and Field Rose (CA)

***Grammoptera abdominalis* (Black Grammoptera)** a nationally Scarce A species. Recorded on Southampton Common from Hawthorn, 2/5 (ARC). This is the first record for the area.

***Leptura quadrifasciata* (Four-banded Longhorn)** 1 at Lower Test 23/6 (ARC)

***Leptura aurulenta* (Golden-haired Longhorn)** 1 on a log at Clay Hill Heath, New Forest 7/7 (ARC) (colour page 3)

***Paracorymbia fulva* (Tawny Longhorn)** 1 on Carrot at Lower Test Reserve 23/6, singles at Mottisfont 8/7 and Westwood 21/8 (ARC), Ashley Down 4/8 on Hogweed (PB), Magdalen Hill Down Original 8/7 on Common Knapweed (PB), 2 north of Cromarty Pond, Lord's Hill 14/7 on Hogweed and Bramble (PB), Dairy Lane and Mill Lane, Nursling 18/7 Nursling South 10/6 (JC)

***Pachytodes cerambyciformis* (Speckled Longhorn)** Whiteley Pastures: 4 on 12/5, 60 on 19/5 (ARC), 50, 24/5 (PB), 80 on 25/5 (ARC) on Hemlock Water Dropwort

***Alosterna tabacicolor* (Tobacco-coloured Longhorn)** 6 at Exbury Gardens 20/5 (ARC), 6 at Whiteley Pastures 24/5 (PB), 3 there 25/5 (ARC), Home Covert 4/5 (JC)

***Pseudovadonia livida* (Fairy-ring Longhorn)** Quite a common species associated with grassland flowers. 2 at Southampton Common 22/5, 50 at Southbourne 29/5, 15 at Westwood 1/7 (ARC). Recorded by PB at about 8 locations 25/5–14/7. Found on: Ox-eye Daisy, Yarrow, Estoril Thrift, Hogweed, Hemlock Water Dropwort, Bramble, Multi-flowered Rose, Dyer's Rocket, Carrot, Hemlock, Horse Radish and Dock sp. Recorded by JC at Baker's Pond, Rownhams 2/7, Cromarty Pond area, Lord's Hill 2/7, Dairy Lane, Nursling 10/6 East of Rownhams 16/7, Home Covert North 14/6 Lord's Hill Recreation Ground 16/6, Lower Test Reserve 31/5 (colour pge 3)

***Rutpela maculata* (Black-and-yellow Longhorn (Harlequin Beetle))** A common and widespread species. Recorded by PB from about 11 locations

24/5–6/8. Recorded by JC from about 9 locations 4/6–12/7. Wootton Coppice Inclosure, New Forest 15/7, on Meadowsweet flowers (SC). On Hogweed at Vespasian Road 19/6 (GHW). 4 at Botley Wood/Whiteley 4/8 (RC), 3 at Hook NR 7/7 (CA), Hillier's Arboretum 24/6 (BR), Rownhams Road, North Baddesley 8/9 (BR) (colour page 3)

***Stenurella melanura* (Black-striped Longhorn)** Southampton Old Cemetery 22/7, on Yarrow flowers (PB), Twigg Lane End 13/6, on Hemlock Water Dropwort (PB), Whiteley Pastures 2 on 12/5 (ARC), 15 on 24/5 (PB), 50 there 25/5 (ARC), on Hemlock Water Dropwort, Wootton Coppice Inclosure 15/7, on Bramble (SC), Rownhams Wood, 4/6 (JC)

***Asemum striatum* (Pine-stump Borer)** 1 on base of living Pine at Culverley, New Forest 3/6 (ARC)

***Arhopalus rusticus* (Dusky Longhorn)** singles to actinic moth trap in Sholing 10/8 and 26/8 (ARC)

***Obrium brunneum* (Brown Longhorn)** Dymer's Wood, Lord's Wood 6/5, Home Covert 1/5, Lord's Wood Central 30/4, Lord's Wood Plantation 27/4–22/5, Nightingale Wood 9/5 (JC), 1 at Whiteley Pastures 9/6 (ARC)

***Molorchus minor* (Spruce Shortwing Beetle)** Dymer's Wood, Lord's Wood 6/5, Home Covert 4/5 (JC), 1 at Whiteley Pastures 25/5 (ARC)

***Glaphyra umbellatarum* (Pear Shortwing Beetle)** Whiteley Pastures, 1 on 24/5, on Hemlock Water Dropwort (PB), another at the same location on 26/5 (ARC)

***Aromia moschata* (Musk Beetle)** Arter's Lawn junction with Twigg Lane End, Marchwood, 1, 13/6 on Hemlock Water Dropwort—a large female (PB) (colour page 3)

***Poecilium alni* (White-banded Longhorn)** Tickleford Pond Wood 5/5, swept from Soft Brome grass under Pedunculate Oak (PB)

***Clytus arietis* (Wasp Beetle)** A common species recorded by PB from 6 locations 12/5–1/11. Recorded from 14/5 (Southampton Common) by ARC. Recorded by JC from 5 locations 4/5–25/5. Recorded at Willow Farm and Fisheries 22/5 and 14/6 on Hemlock Water Dropwort and Field Rose (CA)

***Pogonocherus hispidus* (Lesser Thorn-tipped Longhorn)** Home Wood 17/4 off Holly and Honeysuckle (PB), Greenhill Lane, Toot Hill 9/5, Home Covert, Nursling 3/5, Lord's Wood Plantation 22/5, Nightingale Wood, near Romsey 9/5, Rownhams Wood 21/5 (JC)

***Leiopus nebulosus* (Black-clouded Longhorn)** Mallard's Moor, Hamble 8/5, beaten off Alder foliage (PB), Lord's Wood Plantation, 16/5 (JC)

***Stenostola dubia* (Lime Longhorn)** Lord's Wood Plantation 14/5 on Bugle (JC)

***Tetrops praeustus* (Plum Longhorn)** Hum Hole, Bitterne 2/5, beaten off Cherry Plum (PB), Rownhams 16/5, Home Covert 1/5, Hut Wood 11/5, Nightingale Wood 8/5, Nursling 4/5, Zionshill Copse 29/5 (JC)

**Other Coleoptera**

***Adonia variegata* (Adonis Ladybird)** Blashford Lakes Reserve, 2, 23/9 (PB), Calshot—shore by power station, 6 on 23/8, Mansbridge Marsh 5 on 25/5 (PB), 1 at Weston Shore 20/8 (ARC), a new location, Mill Lane, Nursling 18/5 (JC), Peartree Green 19/5 (PRB), seen during butterfly transects. Either increasing or previously overlooked.

***Anisostica 19-punctata* (Water Ladybird)** 1 at Lower Test Reserve 23/6 (ARC), Lower Test NR 10/4 (JC)

***Ampedus cinnabarinus*** (a click beetle) West Wood, Netley 5/5 (PB)

***Aphidecta obliterata* (Larch Ladybird)** Lord's Wood Plantation 26/3 (JC), Nightingale Wood, near Romsey 9/5 (JC)

***Apoderus coryli* (Hazel Leaf-roller Weevil)** Rownhams Wood 4/6 (JC)

***Athous haemorrhoidalis*** (a click beetle) Southampton Common 10/6 (PB)

***Byrrhus pilula* Pill Beetle** Chilworth Manor Garden 6/6 (PB)

***Chilocorus 2-pustulatus* (Heather Ladybird)** 1 in the garden at Sholing 6/4 (1st record) (ARC), 1 found High Firs Road 22/5 (ARC)

***Chrysolina oricalcia*** (a leaf beetle) Mansbridge Reservoir, 3 on 25/5 (PB), Upton Village, Nursling 22/5 (JC), associated with Cow Parsley and spreading from the NE (colour page 3)

***Cicindela campestris* (Green Tiger beetle)** Casbrook Common Michelmersh 24/4 (PB)

***Coccinella undecimpunctata* (11-spot Ladybird)** SE of Fawley Power Station 5/8 (PB), 2 at Lepe 5/8 (ARC)

***Cychramus luteus*** Matley Wood 13/6 (PB)

***Dorcus parallelipipedus*** (**Lesser Stag Beetle)** 1 at West End (garden) 31/5 (CA), recorded at Vespasian Road 16/5 and 29/7, including 12 larvae and 2 pupae (GHW), Home Covert, Nursling 1/5 (JC)

***Dytiscus marginalis* (Great Diving Beetle)** Hum Hole, Bitterne, 2 on 27/2 (PB)

***Endomychus coccineus* (Ladybird Mimic)** Nursling Substation 4/7 (JC)

***Gonioctena decemnotata*** 1 off Aspen at Lordswood 2/6 (JC)

***Harmonia axyridis* (Harlequin Ladybird)** Bishopstoke Road, Eastleigh, 100, 31/8 (PB), Boscombe Chine 26/5 (PB), East Cliff, Bournemouth 26/5 (PB), Fareham Civic Offices, 1000, 15/10, huge numbers gather on the concrete face of the building at 4pm (PB). About 200 in window frames in house in Sholing in autumn (IW). A total of 11 recorded in moth traps in Sholing during the year (compared with 18 Orange Ladybirds) (ARC). Now widespread and common in Southampton and area with particularly large

numbers building up in late autumn. The earliest record was of 8 off Douglas Fir in Lordswood Plantation 6/3 (JC)

***Hoplia philanthus* (Welsh Chafer)** Chilworth Manor Garden, 3 on 6/6 (PB), a scarce species

***Larinus planus*** (a weevil) Magdalen North Down 1/6 (PB)

***Leistus ferrugineus*** (a ground beetle) Old Bursledon Nature Haven 21/4 (PB)

***Liliioceris lilii* (Lily Beetle)** Bassett 21/3 (PJW)

***Lucanus cervus* (Stag Beetle)** 11/6–20/6 at West End (CA), female, Bassett 20/6 (AP), 31/5 and a female 8/7 at Vespasian Road (GHW)

***Malachius viridis*** (a malachite beetle), Southampton Common 2/7 (PB)

***Mordellochroa abdominalis*** (a tumbling flower beetle) Whiteley Pastures 31/5 (PB)

***Myrrha octodecimguttata* (18-spot Ladybird)** 1 in MV trap in Sholing 15/4 (ARC), Chilworth Manor Garden 6/6 (PB)

***Omaloplia ruricola*** (a chafer beetle) Magdalen Hill Down, 1 on 22/7 (PB). Recorded here previously.

***Ontholestes tessellates*** (a rove beetle) Home Covert, Nursling 12/6 (JC).

***Onthophagus vacca*** (a dung beetle) Brookwood Cemetery, Eastleigh 10/4 (PB)

***Orsodacne lineola*** Mallards Moor, 3 on 8/5, a scarce species—beaten off Hawthorn (PB)

***Phosphaenus hemipterus* (Lesser Glow-worm)** a very rare species found by JH at Old Bursledon Nature Haven 14/6. This was reported in the *Southern Daily Echo* on 8/8 with photos. Reportedly this species has been seen only 9 times in the last 200 years in Britain and is the first British record since 1995. On 10/7 the male, female and larvae were recorded.

***Phyllobrotica quadrimaculata*** (a leaf beetle) Matley Wood 13/6, associated with Lesser Skullcap (PB)

***Sibinia arenariae*** (a weevil) Southbourne Cliff,17/5 on flowers of Rock Sea Spurrey (PB)

***Thanasimus formicarius* (Ant Beetle)** off Corsican Pine at Lordswood 22/5 (JC)

***Tillus elongatus*** (a chequered beetle) Matley Wood 13/6 (PB)

***Typhaeus typhoeus* (Minotaur Beetle)** Lordswood 11/3 (PB), Browndown north 12/3 (RC): early dates

***Variimorda villosa*** (a tumbling flower beetle) Magdalen Hill Down 23/6 and 8/7, Whiteley Pastures 24/5 (PB), seen on umbellifers, an uncommon species

## FISH

***Gobius paganellus* (Rock Goby)** Royal Pier, Mayflower Park 20/3 (JC & JP)

***Pungitius pungitius* (Ten-spined Stickleback)** Tanglewood Pond, Rownhams 1 seen on 27/3 (PB)

## AMPHIBIANS

**Common Toad**, Fernyhurst or Rosebank Pond 1 on 27/3, probably almost extinct here (PB) Horns Drove Wood, Rownhams 10, 14/7 Marlborough Deeps, New Forest 18/2, early spawn (PB), 1 dead at Hook 25/2 (ARC)

**Palmate Newt** Goldcrest Pond, Lords Hill 3 on 27/3, Hum Hole Pond 116, 9/4 (PB), still a very large colony

**Smooth Newt** Andrew's Park 10 on 7/3 (PB), a newly discovered site in the city centre, Blackberry Terrace, Northam 7/3 (JS)

## REPTILES

**Red-eared Terrapin** 1 at Swanwick 29/4 (ARC) (the last, others here have been captured), 1 Shirley Pond 1/5 (ARC)

**Western Green Lizard** 5 above Portman Ravine, Boscombe 14/4 including a small juvenile (2–3 inches) and a pair showing courtship behaviour (ARC)

**Adder** frequent at Whiteley Pastures 21/4-20/8 with a maximum of 6 on 8/7 and 1 melanic on 20/8 (ARC), 1 Browndown 25/7 (RC), Chilworth Manor Garden 6/6 (JC) (colour page 1)

**Smooth Snake** Cranesmoor—1 seen on 18/6 (JC)

**Grass Snake** Old Bursledon Nature Haven 21/4 (PB), Titchfield Haven pond 20/4–21/4 (ARC, RC) and 1 there 21/9 (RC), 2 at Whiteley Pastures 9/6 (ARC), 3 Botley Wood/Whiteley 1/7 (RC), Great Goswell Copse 10/10, basking on a pile of logs (PB). Horns Drove Wood, Rownhams 14/7 (CO)

**Slow-worm** 22 at Botley Wood/Whiteley 1/7 (RC)

## BIRDS

**Egyptian Goose** 1 Cemetery Lake, Southampton Common 1/4 (PB)

**Pintail** 31 at Hook 10/2 (RC)

**Blue-winged Teal** a male on River Test near Testwood 9/6, a presumed escaped bird (PRB) (colour page 4)

**Garganey** up to 4 at Titchfield Haven 30/3–4/5 at least (MO)

**Scaup** 1 immature male at Titchfield Haven 19/1–4/5 at least (MO)

**Eider** 90 at Hill Head 24/1 (RC), 7 females/immatures Weston Shore 16/12, scarce here (ARC)

**Goldeneye** a male on River Test, Testbourne 4/1 (PB)

**Goosander** 1 at Bunny Meadows Warsash 15/1 and 26/2 (RC)

**Red-throated Diver** 2 at Weston Shore 1/1 (ARC, IW), an adult in summer plumage in the Itchen (Northam Bridge area) 7/10 at least (MO), the same bird was at Weston Shore 24/11 (ARC, IW)

**Black-throated Diver** up to 2 at Weston Shore on 7 dates 2/1–31/2 (ARC)

**Great Northern Diver** 2 at Weston Shore 1/1 and records on a further 13 dates

to 10/3, 1 seen off Hythe Pier 20/1 (PB). Also 1 at Brownwich 24/1 (RC), in the later period a single bird on five dates 15/12–30/12 (ARC)

**Slavonian Grebe** 1 Eastleigh Lakeside 16/11 at least (MO)

**Gannet** 4 Hill Head 24/9 (RC)

**Shag** 1 Hill Head 19/11 (RC)

**Little Egret** 2 on River Test at Testbourne 4/1 (PB), 10 Weston Shore 10/3 (ARC)

**Great White Egret** 1 NW of M27/M271 junction 1 / 4 (DH), possibly the Mockbeggar Lake bird, 1 at Titchfield Haven 6/10 (MO)

**Spoonbill** singles at Titchfield Haven 18/5, 25/8, 31/8, and 14/9–1/10 at least (RC and others).

**Marsh Harrier** singles at Titchfield Haven February, April, September and December (RC and others)

**Hen Harrier** 1 Chilling 28/9 and 1 Titchfield Haven 19/12 (RC)

**Red Kite** 1 Ibthorpe, northern Hampshire 4/1 (PB), 1 reported flying north over RVCP 2/4 was presumably a migrant

**Peregrine Falcon** 1 low over garden Bitterne Road 19/2 (PB)

**Merlin** an early female east of Calshot 23/8 also seen perched on post and hunting over marsh (PB), 1 at Titchfield Haven 25/11 (RC)

**Hobby** singles recorded at Hill Head/Titchfield/Hook 29/4–26/9 (RC)

**Avocet** pair with 3 young at Titchfield Haven 6/5 (ARC), a total of 6 pairs bred but with poor survival of young (RC)

**Golden Plover** 270 at Brownwich 25/11 and 200 at Hook 20/11 (RC)

**Grey Plover** 90 at Weston Shore 15/12 (ARC)

**Knot** 8 at Bunny Meadows 17/9 (RC)

**Sanderling** 3 at Hill Head 3/9 (RC)

**Little Stint** 1 at Titchfield Haven 24/8 (RC)

**Curlew Sandpiper** a group of 9 at Calshot 23/9 (ARC)

**Dunlin** 1000 at Weston Shore 17/11 (ARC)

**Woodcock** 1 at Bishopstoke Sewage Farm 16/2 (PB), singles at Botley Wood/ Whiteley January–May (RC)

**Black-tailed Godwit** 400 at Meon Canal path 5/3 (RC), 1 at Weston Shore 4/11—rarely seen here (ARC)

**Whimbrel** 50 to NE at Titchfield Haven 28/4 (RC)

**Greenshank** 1 at Weston Shore 10/11 (ARC, IW), rarely seen here

**Common Sandpiper** 1 River Itchen at St Denys 23/12 (PB)

**Arctic Skua** 1 east at Titchfield Haven 22/4 (ARC)

**Mediterranean Gull** there were far more records than usual in the spring, particularly in the Titchfield Haven area where a breeding colony is becoming established. There were 15 there on 5/4 and about 70 reported on the scrapes on 21/4 (ARC). A total of at least 10 pairs bred on the scrapes at

Titchfield Haven, an advance on 1 pair in 2006 (RC). An interesting record of 50 birds, mostly adults, on the shore at Hook on 19/8 (ARC). Also 6 at Calshot 10/9 (PB).

**Little Gull** 2 adults and a 1st year at Weston Shore 1/1 (ARC, IW). Adult at Titchfield Haven 21/4 and 5 there 22/4 (ARC), 3 there 27/4 and 11/5 with 1 until 29/6 (RC). At Weston Shore there were single 1st winters on 4/11 and 9/11, adult plus 1st winter 19/11, 2 adults and 1st winter 10/11 and 3 adults with 1st winter 11/11. The last was an adult on 2/12—the last of an unusual series of autumn records (ARC).

**Kittiwake** 1 1st winter bird flew up the Itchen from Weston Shore 10/11 (ARC, IW)

**Roseate Tern** 2 adults Titchfield Haven 22/9 at least (MO)

**Black Tern** 1 at Titchfield Haven 21/4 (ARC) and 2 on 27/5 (RC), 1 at Weston Shore 22/8 (ARC)

**Razorbill,** 2 at Weston Shore 1/1, 3 there 7/1, 2 on 13/1 followed by singles on 3 dates to 20/1. 1 on 22/12 (ARC)

**Woodpigeon** A strong autumn movement this year: 4100 to N/W 7.45–8.45 am over Weston Shore 3/11 with 2300 over there the following day (ARC)

**Turtle Dove** up to 2 at Whiteley Pastures 6/5 – 21/7 (RC, ARC), 1 Chilling Copse 30/7 (RC)

**Nightjar** 2 Botley Wood/Whiteley 25/5 (RC)

**Hoopoe** 1 at Calshot 29/4 at least (MO)

**Lesser-Spotted Woodpecker** 1 Brockwood Copse 2/1 (RC)

**Woodlark** 1 Sailor's Lane 3/2 (RC)

**Skylark** 58 Brownwich 16/11 (RC)

**Water Pipit** 2 Meon Canal path 19/11 (RC)

**Nightingale** 1–2 at Whiteley Pastures from 21/4 (ARC) with a maximum count for Botley Wood/Whiteley of 5 on 22/4 (RC), 1 Peartree Green 27/4 (PRB), 1 Manor Farm CP 20/5 (ARC)

**Whinchat** 1 at Meon Canal path 24/9 (RC)

**Fieldfare** 150 Meon Canal on 19/11 (RC)

**Ring Ouzel** male, Rose Bowl Cricket Ground 12/4

**Sedge Warbler** an early 1 at Titchfield Haven 6/4 (ARC), 1 singing Whiteley Pastures 31/5 (PB)

**Dartford Warbler** singles Brownwich and Titchfield Haven February and October–November (RC)

**Garden Warbler** Ramalley Copse, Chandlers Ford singing on 1/5 (PB)

**Lesser Whitethroat** Mallards Moor Hamble singing on 8/5 (PB)

**Firecrest** 2 at Hook 4/2 at least (MO). 1 reported at RVCP 21/2. A very good early year in the New Forest with birds singing at Wootton Bridge 22/4, the Reptiliary 22/4 and Holmsley 5/5 (ARC). 1 at Titchfield Haven 31/10 (RC)

**Spotted Flycatcher** 1 at Pitt's Wood New Forest 26/8 (PB). Recorded at Botley Wood/Whiteley, Brownwich, Hill Head area (RC)

**Bearded Tit** 1 at Hook Valley and Lake 7/3, up to 8 at Titchfield Haven 11/9 (RC)

**Treecreeper** 1 in Andrew's Park Southampton 31/1 (PB)

**Rook** 10 apparently occupied nests at Hogland's Park, City Centre on 5/4. Possibly 2006 was the first year for this unusual city centre colony. Presumably the birds seen around various car parks (for example, near West Quay) originate from this colony.

**Raven** recorded at Hampton Ridge, Blackwater Arboretum and Hackett's Lane Corhampton (PB). Up to 2 at Botley Wood/Whiteley (RC)

**Crossbill** pair at Pound Hill Inclosure 4/2 (PB), 3 at Botley Wood/Whiteley 20/10 (RC), 1 over Weston Shore 4/11 to NW (ARC)

**Brambling** 2 over Weston Shore 11/11 and 4 over 16/11 (ARC)

**Hawfinch** 16 at Blackwater Arboretum on 4/2 (PB)

## MAMMALS

**Pygmy Shrew** Titchfield Haven 8/6 (RC)

**Wood Mouse** Silverdale Road, Southampton, 8/4 (JW)

**Brown Hare** recorded at Sailor's Lane, Old Winchester Hill and Kilmeston Down (RC)

**Stoat** 3 singles at Sailor's Lane (RC)

**Weasel** Peartree Green NE, 1, 8/4, an unusual urban record (PB). Recorded at Chilling and Great Posbrook (RC)

**Fox** Riverside Park, 2 on 10/2 basking on west embankment of river below sewage works (PB)

**Common Seal** 1 at Weston Shore 21/1, 10/11, 16/12, 20/12, 30/12 (ARC). Also seen in the Itchen off St Denys, and reported in local press (with photo) including the free *Advertiser* on 20/12 where it was named as 'Flipper'! (colour page 4)

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