Southampton Natural History Society

ANNUAL REPORT 2009

SOUTHAMPTON NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY

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Society website: http://sotonnhs.org/

Cover: Holly Blue on Potentilla
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Southampton Natural History Society
Founded 1907

Chris Packham

2009 saw club President Chris Packham become better known to thousands of people in the UK when he took over presenting the BBC wildlife show *Spring Watch*. Chris's profound wildlife knowledge and nerdy facts, coupled with his quirky sense of humour proved to be a perfect match to co-host Kate Humble, a fact agreed by the producers as Chris continued to present *Autumn Watch* and the one-off special *Snow Watch* later in the year.

Chris's great enthusiasm for all wildlife, from reintroduced Great Bustards to the minutest bug, was evident on every show, as were the antics of show stealers Scratchy and Itchy, Chris's two poodles. Viewers were even invited to guess what to Chris's most precious item was. Those of us who attended the Testwood Lake workshops already knew it was a regurgitated kingfisher pellet that he'd collected as a young teenager!

We would like to congratulate Chris on his success and look forward to seeing more of him this spring.

Membership Secretary's Report

We would very much like to welcome the following new members and hope they enjoy our meetings: Brian Bett, Sue Channon, Celia Cox, Mrs Davis, Sheila Ford, Barry Goddard, John and Carol Harris, Issidoros Lemanis, Greg Parker and Family, Lynne Pearce, Dr Kate Reeves, Mr and Mrs Richard Sutton, David Thelwell, Julia White.

We have sadly lost another member of at least forty years: Virya Best, one of three sisters who were all members. In later years Virya came to all the indoor meetings, and would contribute to the raffle prizes with some delicious home-made buns. Perhaps you remember them. She died in her own home in April. I remember her as an extremely friendly, helpful lady.

We also said goodbye to Muriel Arnold. We did not see her very often, but she was a member for over thirty years. She has gone to live in Lincolnshire to be near her relations. We wish her happy hunting for the natural history there.

I would like to encourage members to spread information about the society and encourage their friends to join us. We have leaflets you can carry with you to give away.

Barbara Thomas

Field Meetings Report

Poole Harbour, Dorset
Date: 25th January all day. Leader: Julian Moseley. Purpose: Winter birds. Attendance: 8 (joint with Hampshire Ornithological Society, HOS). Weather: Showers then hazy sun spells. Cool. Birds: 53 species including Great Northern Diver, Black-necked and Slavonian Grebes, Avocets, Purple Sandpipers, Merlin, Guillemot and Razorbill. Other items of interest: A Sika Deer seen on Studland Heath and a King Ragworm *Neiris viridis* on Brand's Bay.

Blashford Lakes
Date: 8th February all day. Leaders: Phil Budd. Purpose: Winter birds and other wildlife. Attendance: 4. Weather: Sunny spells then cloud and light rain. Cold. Birds: 51 species, including a good view of a Bittern from Ivy North Hide. Black-necked Grebe and 2 Goosander on Ibsley Lake and 6 Bewick's Swan at Harbridge. Woodland Hide: The 'avian serengeti' from here was amazing. 4 Siskin, a Redpoll and 2 Goldfinch on one feeder. 5 Long-tailed Tits on another and also a pair of Brambling.

Southampton Common
Date: 21st February morning. Leader: Phil Budd. Purpose: Discover Southampton Common. Attendance: 30 (joint with Winchester Hampshire Wildlife Trust Group). Weather: Very sunny and mild. Highlights: Too many people to see much but a Buzzard passed over, Great-spotted Woodpecker drumming and both Red Admiral and queen Buff-tailed Bumble Bee seen.

Copythorne Common
Date: 1st March morning. Leaders: Phil Budd and Vicki Russell. Purpose: Mosses and liverworts. Attendance: 9. Weather: Mild and partly sunny. Dry on the ground. Highlights: 17 species of moss, 2 species of liverwort including the rare Ciliated Fringewort *Ptilidium ciliare* and 8 lichens including *Peltigera didactyla* recorded.

Mansbridge area
Date: 22rd March morning. Leaders: Anthea and Vernon Jones. Purpose: Early spring wildlife. Attendance: 14. Weather: Sunny and mild. Highlights:We saw a living Mole, a dead Bullfinch and, at the reservoir, found a Moorhen egg. 3 Buzzards seen over and Cetti's Warbler singing. Insects: Peacock, Comma and Brimstone all on the wing. Flowers: Sweet Violet, Blackthorn and Coltsfoot.

Avington Lake
Date: 4th April all day. Leaders: June Chatfield and Graham Long. Purpose: Birds, snails and freshwater life. Attendance: 7 plus 9 Alton Natural History Society members. Weather: Sunny and warm. Highlights: Snails seen included *Vertigo*

moulinsiana — the 'Newbury Bypass Snail'. Also 24-spot and Water Ladybirds, Orange-tip, a Toad and a pale variety of Lesser Celandine.

Stubbington, Newlands Farm and Peel Common area
Date: 11th April all day. Leader: Phil Budd. Purpose: Birds and spring wildlife. Attendance: 8 including 4 SNHS members (joint with HOS). Weather: Dull with drizzle then brighter with hazy sun. Bird highlights: A Swallow seen at Newlands Farm, a Sparrowhawk at Crofton Church, 2 Lapwing west of Ranvilles Lane. Linnets and Skylarks also. Other highlights: St Georges Mushroom, Speckled Wood butterfly and 2 Roe Deer *(colour plate 4)* at Peel Common. Three-cornered Leek in Stubbington and Early Forget-me-not at Crofton Cemetery.

Anderwood to Sandy Ridge, New Forest
Date: 26th April all day. Leader: Simon Currie. Purpose: Redstarts, cuckoos and other wildlife. Attendance: 12. Weather: Sunny then overcast. Highlights: Tree Pipit, Wood Warbler and Redstarts singing. Green Tiger Beetles and Giant Pondskaters seen. Bog Beacon fungus recorded. Sea urchin fossil found at Hart Hill, later identified (at the County Museum) as belonging to *Micraster cortestudinarium (colour plate 4)*.

Vernditch Chase and Martin Down
Date: 9th May all day. Leader: Julian Moseley. Purpose: Birds, butterflies and orchids. Attendance: 23. Weather: Dry and warm with sunny spells. Highlights: 6 Birdsnest Orchids at Vernditch Chase. 15 male Brimstone butterflies. Birds included Garden Warbler, Wheatear and Corn Bunting (11). Other records: Other butterflies included Small Copper and Grizzled Skipper. Also Speckled Yellow and Burnet Companion Moths. Some Burnt-tip Orchids rising.

Town Common, Christchurch
Date: 17th May all day. Leader: Gary Powell (Herpetological Conservation Trust). Purpose: Reptiles and heathland wildlife. Attendance: 8. Weather: Cool and windy with sunny spells after heavy rain. Highlights: All native reptiles except Adder seen, including 2 Grass Snake *(colour plate 1)*, a Smooth Snake and 3 Sand Lizards. Ravens again nesting on a pylon at Town Common.

Durlston Country Park
Date: 23rd May all day. Leader: Julian Moseley. Purpose: Birds, butterflies and orchids. Attendance: 13. Weather: Warm with bright sun the hazy and cloudy. Bird highlights: Around 30 Guillemot and 20 Razorbill plus female Peregrine, Fulmar and other sea cliff birds. Also Whitethroat, Lesser Whitethroat, Skylark, Stonechat and Yellowhammer. Other highlights: 2 Cream-spot Tiger Moths and a migrant Striped Hawkmoth in the moth traps. 2 Stoats. Butterflies: included Green Hairstreak, Wall, and Adonis and Small Blues. Flora: Still some Early

Purple Orchids. Also Small-flowered Buttercup, Horseshoe Vetch, Pale Flax, English (Early) Gentian, Knotted Bur-parsley and Wild Clary in bloom.

The Wild Grounds and Alver Valley, Gosport
Date: 31st May all day. Leader: John Norton and Phil Budd. Purpose: General wildlife. Attendance: 12. Weather: Sunny and hot. Flora: Scaly Male Fern and Burrowing Clover new to The Wildgrounds and Royal Fern, Grass Vetchling and Climbing Corydalis also of interest. Fauna: Emperor and Black-tailed Skimmer Dragonflies seen, several butterflies and larva and pupa of 6-spot Burnet. An unusual Hymenopteran gathering on reed stems thought to be Reed Stem Borer *Cephus arundinis*.

Crab Wood and West Wood
Date: 13th June all day. Leaders: June Chatfield and Graham Long. Purpose: Woodland snails including the rare Cheese Snail. Attendance: Unknown (joint with Conchological Society). Weather: Dry, cool and sunny. Molluscs: 25 species of molluscs identified at Crab Wood and 29 species recognised at West Wood. Rare Cheese Snail *Helicodonta obvoluta* found at West Wood. Other species of interest: 8 species of gall, 2 common fungi species and the longhorn beetle *Grammoptera ruficornis* also seen.

Shedfield and Wickham Commons — see separate article on page
Date: 27th June all day. Leader: David Allen. Purpose: The identification of Brambles. Attendance: 6. Weather: Dry, warm, humid. Cloud then sun. Species of note other than Brambles: At Shedfield Common Tree Bumble Bee *Bombus hypnorum* and nymph Gorse Shieldbug. At Wickham Common both Marbled White and Roesel's Bush Cricket

Porton Down - see central coloured plates
Date: 5th July all day. Purpose: Birds, butterflies and flowers. Attendance: 26. Weather: Dry, cool and cloudy then warmer and sunny. Fauna highlights: One Red Kite but no Stone Curlew. At least 14 butterfly species including a lot of Dark Green Fritillaries. Red Data Book moth Yellow Pearl *Mecyna flavalis* and 3 Lesser Stag Beetles. Flora highlights: On the open downland a Frog Orchid found. In the woodland many Yellow Birdsnests and some Deadly Nightshade in flower.

Old Bursledon Nature Haven
Date: 10th July evening. Leader: Phil Budd and John Horne. Purpose: Moths and glow worms. Attendance: 12. Weather: Cloudy, drizzle or light rain. Highlights: Only 6 Common Glow-worms seen (a poor year) but one larva of Lesser Glow-worm also *(colour plate 1)*. The other highlight was a Water Shrew hunting over land.

Southampton Central Parks
Date: 20th July evening. Leader: Phil Budd. Purpose: General wildlife, trees and park management. Attendance: 5. Weather: Cloudy, mild, dry. Fauna highlights: Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner Moth *Cameraria ohridella* emerging and one adult seen. Also Harlequin and Adonis Ladybird in East Park area. Birds included Mistle Thrush and Goldfinch. Flora highlights: Shaggy Soldier plant growing on pavements near old ambulance station. Trees/shrubs on flower included Silver-pendant Lime *Tilia petiolaris*, *Eucryphia glutinosa*, *Hydrangea villosa*, *Hibiscus syriacus* and Bladder Senna *Colutea arborescens*.

Hall Lands Farm, Fair Oak
Date: 25th July late evening. Leaders: Phil Budd and Ginnie Copsey. Purpose: Moths and nocturnal insects. Attendance: 7. Weather: Clear, cool and dry. Moths: 90 species of moth recorded using 4 M-V or Actinic light traps. Interesting records included *Pyralis farinalis*, *Evergestis pallidata*, Double Kidney, Purple and September Thorns, Juniper Pug and Dark Umber. Other species of interest: A Badger seen at start of evening. 3 Brown Chafers at light plus Orange Ladybird and acorn weevil *Curcilio glandium*.

Southampton Old Cemetery and Bassett Wood/Daisy Dip
Date: 2nd August morning. Leader: Phil Budd. Purpose: Hoverfly survey. Attendance: 4. Weather: Dry and sunny. Hoverflies: 8 species recorded on mugwort, hogweed and heathers in Southampton Old Cemetery. 8 species also recorded on ragwort, knapweed and meadowsweet at Daisy Dip, Bassett. Other highlights: Peregrine Falcon over Southampton Old Cemetery and Hornet *(colour plate 1)* on heather blossom here. The Thick-headed Fly *Physocephala rufipes* seen on meadowsweet at Daisy Dip, Bassett.

Chessel Bay, Southampton
Date: 10th August evening. Leader: Phil Budd. Purpose: Urban flora and wildlife. Attendance: 4. Weather: Cloudy with drizzle. Highlights: A pair of Stock Dove seen (unusual here). On shore 200+ Black-headed Gulls, a Little Egret and 3 Redshank. Annual Beard-grass *Polypogon monspeliensis* also of interest.

Mansbridge and Woodmill
Date: 14th August evening. Leaders: Chris and Mike Pawling. Purpose: Bats and nocturnal wildlife. Attendance: 7 plus 2 leaders. Weather: Dry, clear and warm. Nature notes: The group walked from Woodmill to The White Swan. Only the usual common species of bat recorded at Mansbridge.

Browndown to Cherque Farm
Date: 22nd August all day. Leader: Phil Budd. Purpose: Insects. Attendance: 5. Weather: Dry, sunny and warm. Flora: Although it was an insect meeting some

interesting flora seen including Imperforate St John's-wort on the Browndown Tip and Ray's Knotgrass on Lee-on-Solent shore. Birds: 6 Swift over made-up ground south of Cherque Farm, Dartford Warbler at Browndown and early Sanderling passing off Lee-on-solent Shore. Insects: Not as interesting as expected. Yellow Belle Moth, Adonis' Ladybird, Gorse Shieldbug (on Melilot) and Wasp Spider on old tip and Clouded Yellow at Browndown. Hoverflies on carrot heads included *Chrysotoxum bicinctum* and *Riponennsia splendens*.

Warsash

Date: 6th September morning. Leader: Chris Oliver. Purpose: Waders and migrant birds. Attendance: 3. Weather: Cloud then sun, dry, cool. Insect highlights: Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta* dragonfly seen. Bird highlights: 29 species seen including Black-tailed Godwit, Greenshank, female Red-breasted Merganser, Shoveler, Teal and Sandwich Tern.

Dibden and Fawley Inclosures plus Beaulieu Heath

Date: 12th September all day. Leader: Phil Budd. Purpose: Birds, insects and flora. Attendance: 7. Weather: Sunny and warm. Bird highlights: A good meeting for migrants including a Spotted Flycatcher, a Tree Pipit, a family of Whinchat and a surprise Osprey passed over travelling north. Botanical highlights: Nail Fungus *Poronia punctata*, Coral Necklace, Shoreweed, Pillwort, Allseed, Lesser Water Plantain and Orange-berried Whitebeam (probably planted). Insect highlights: 10 butterfly species including a late Gatekeeper. Small Copper caterpillar being sucked dry by a Spiked Shieldbug and Juniper Shieldbug on Lawson's Cypress *(colour plate 4)*.

Calshot Beach

Date: 19th September afternoon. Leader: Andy Barker. Purpose: Seashore life. Attendance: 6. Weather: Very warm, calm and dry. Highlights: An extreme low tide. We saw living Variegated Scallop, Oyster and Blunt Gaper. Also an aggressive Velvet Swimming Crab *(colour plate 4),* a Butterfish, 2 Dahlia Anemone and the usual brittlestars, sea spiders and porcelain crabs.

Southampton Common

Date: 11th October afternoon. Leader: Phil Budd. Purpose: Fungus foray. Attendance: About 20 including 6 SNHS members. Weather: Dry, mild, cloudy. Fungi: 23 species recorded in dry conditions including slime mould *Fuligo septica*, the polypore *Grifola frondosa*, Beefsteak *Fistulina hepatica* and waxcap *Hygrocybe persistens*.

Hayling Oysterbeds

Date: 24th October morning. Leader: Julian Moseley. Purpose: Winter duck, wildfowl and raptors. Attendance: Not recorded. Weather: Very wet and windy.

Birds: No insects due to awful weather. A late Swallow seen. Also 6 Little Egret, 3 Curlew, 4 Little Grebe, 8 Shelduck, 7 Great-crested Grebe, 9 Redshank, 12+ Grey Plover and 3 Red-breasted Merganser.

Kytes Lane, Durley
Date: 22nd November half day. Leader: Phil Budd. Purpose: Birds. Attendance: 5 (joint with HOS). Weather: Very wet and stormy then sunny, mild. Bird highlights: 33 species including a few Redwing and Fieldfare, also Bullfinch. In Greenwood Great-spotted Woodpecker and Marsh Tit seen. Other highlights: A few late insects including Drone Fly. A Wild Srawberry in bloom at Mincingfield Lane. A lot of fungi including Ringless Honey Fungus *Armillaria tabescens* at Kytes Lane.

Zionshill Copse, Chandlers Ford
Date: 28th November afternoon. Purpose: Late season fungi. Attendance: 6. Weather: Cool and damp, cloudy. Fungi: Despite the late date about 47 species were seen. Of particular interest were *Polyporus durius* (=*P. badius*), *Galerina pumila*, *Entoloma lampropus* and *Agaricus augustus*. Other highlights: Lichens on trees included *Fuscidia lightfootii*. A female Bullfinch seen and Song Thrush heard singing.

Cadmans Pool, New Forest
Date: 12th December all day. Leader: Julian Moseley. Purpose: Wintering birds of the New Forest. Attendance: 18 (mainly HOS members). Weather: Dry,cold and mostly sunny. Birds: Approximately 32 species. Highlights included a Hawfinch, Crossbills, Siskins (feeding on larch cones), a Dartford Warbler and flocks of 25 each of Redwing and Goldfinch. Someone who left the party saw a Merlin at Hampton Ridge. Other highlights: At least 14 Fallow Deer seen. New Forest Water Crowfoot in bloom in Dockens Water. Lots of common fungi still to be seen plus Nail Fungus *Poronia punctata* at Ragged Boys Hill.

Indoor Meetings

I can report on a successful 2009 Indoor Meetings programme, although there have been some issues with noise emanating from religious services upstairs. We are in the process of trying of trying to reduce noise disturbance at our meetings. At least we don't have to compete with football crowds on Mondays.

We no longer hold a January meeting, so we started on this year on 2nd February. It was unfortunate that icy conditions and heavy snow blocked many of the roads around the city; as a result only seven members could make it to the meeting. The speaker, Gordon Small, made it and gave a presentation about autumn bird

watching in New Brunswick and Quebec in eastern Canada. On 2nd March, John Poland gave a short presentation to promote his vegetative flora as our scheduled speaker pulled out at quite short notice. Twenty members attended, so John was able to promote the book that was due out at the end of April. Although the entire committee attended the AGM, there were only six other members present. Jim Earwood was elected as an honorary member and later showed us some slides. Jan Kidd was elected as Treasurer for the second time. We followed the AGM with an American supper.

On 5th October Gordon Small presented his second talk for us this year, covering the wealth of unfamiliar bird and mammal life to be found on the Falkland Islands. Twenty members attended in total. On 2nd November twenty-one members watched a talk given by a new speaker for us, Peter Jones, from West Sussex. Peter gave an excellent illustrated talk on his foreign excursions and other stories associated with the wildlife of his Yapton scrap metal yard. Finally, on 7th December, I presented my PowerPoint presentation on a holiday at Alberta, Canada in July 2008 to seventeen members. Fortunately several of the younger members were at hand to overcome all the technical difficulties at the start of the talk. I would also like to thank Darren Naish for assistance in preparing this talk and Anthea and Vernon Jones for providing the mince pies.

Phil Budd

Brambles of Shedfield and Wickham Commons
David Allen

After braving Southampton Common's all-but-overwhelming bramble diversity if 2007, then being frustrated by all-too-few finds in the central New Forest the following year, these two neighbouring old commons, unfamiliar to most of those attending, proved a better choice for this third introductory meeting on this large and famously challenging group.

Shedfield was where Frederick Townsend lived in 1865–74 and began the fieldwork that later culminated in the first book-length account of Hampshire's plants. Already launched into critical field botany while a student at university under Babington's tutelage, Townsend lost little time in trying to master the bramble diversity thereabouts, and it was only fitting therefore that we started by following in his footsteps to inspect examples of two of the species he discriminated (but failed to obtain correct names for): *Rubus thyrsigeriformis*, now know to be an apparently recent immigrant from just across the Channel, and *R. hantonensis*, a species with a British range almost coterminous with the County and consequently named in its honour.

Apart from those, a manageable total of eighteen other species occur on the two westernmost portions of the common, each of which were then pointed out and examined in turn. Two, *R. nessensis* and *R. sulcatus*, are suberect in habit and readily told by their resemblance to raspberries. One of Hampshire's rarest brambles, *R. sulcatus* is accompanied in one of its several spots on the common by the equally rare *R. sciocharis*. Also, as is almost invariable the case with this group, the species that happen to have had scientific binomials bestowed on them are escorted by a smaller number as yet denied that privilege — in this case most notably and impressively "Forest of Bere *salteri*" (another which Townsend discriminated here) and the mainly Isle of Wight "False *mollissimus*", a bramble with strongly hairy anthers inside beautiful cups of deep pink flowers.

After lunch it was time to switch to Wickham Common, 3½ miles to the east. Much more overgrown than the other and with considerably fewer species, this usefully repeated several seen during the morning. Of the only five novelties, *R. leyanus*, a western species very local in the County, was waiting to greet us on the entrance drive. Further in, quantities began appearing of an eglandular white-flowered bramble known here for many years but elsewhere only at Buckler's Hard. Still unmatched with any other European one, it is presumptively a Hampshire endemic. Further round we passed through a large population in the open of the normally sylvestral *R. scaber* and eventually lighted upon a single decrepit example of *R. vigorosus*, a fourth member of the raspberry-like suberect section to be seen during the day and apparently much reduced from its former quantity by recent clearing of the bracken.

Best of all, though, most unexpected and an addition to the standing list for this common, was a bush of *R. boulayi* on the wooded margin of the south boundary line, at SU586104. A trans-Channel species mainly restricted in Britain to the southern New Forest, this is presumably a bird-brought stray from there.

Mad March Hares — and More!
Anthea Jones

We joined the Southampton Natural History Society on the day my husband retired, in order to gain some knowledge of wildlife and botany, thereby making our hobby of walking much more interesting by being able to recognise what we were seeing in the countryside.

So, it was with some trepidation that we agreed to lead a walk, having been chatting with the committee about seeing hares in the Spring. We were confident that we knew a hare when we saw one, but, from books, I boned up on their life-cycle and habits in case anyone asked any awkward questions and on March

1st last year on a fine, bright morning we met a group of twelve members at the village hall in Broughton, an area where we had previously seen hares.

More in hope than expectation, we set off to the fields where the young green shoots of crops were showing through the soil and were soon rewarded by several sightings of these beautiful creatures, not boxing as we'd hoped but jumping and running across the fields, oblivious to the line of humans with binoculars, watching them *(colour plate 4)*.

We then led the group to an open-sided barn where we had previously found owl pellets and, sure enough, there were lots on the ground. One lady took some home, dissected them and produced a tiny mounted display of minute vole and mouse bones, found inside the pellets.

We led the group back to the village hall via the buffalo farm, where the animals were still in the barns and yard — most of the year the buffalo are in the surrounding fields, an unusual sight in Hampshire — and then to see the beautifully restored ancient well house in the main street.

Back at the car park we felt extremely relieved that our 'Mad March Hare' walk had yielded several sightings of hares, especially as this year, at the same time, same place, there wasn't a hare to be seen!

British Birds and Urban Noise
Dave Hubble

It is now well known that some birds can adapt their songs to different environments. For example, Great Tits (*Parus major*) have been shown to sing faster and at a higher pitch in urban areas (Slabbekoorn & den Boer-Visser 2006). This may be because urban noise, mostly from traffic, tends to be at a lower pitch and drowns out low-pitched birdsong. Also, the relative openness of city landscapes compared to woodland means that high-pitched songs are less likely to be lost in reflections in dense foliage – the reason why songs in dense woodland are slower and lower-pitched.

Exactly how city birds adopt a higher pitch is not so well understood. As Great Tits are known to learn songs from their neighbours, one hypothesis states that young birds may simply not hear the low notes produced by other birds and so lose them from their song. However, this would imply that urban songs had fewer notes than forest songs, which is not the case. Instead, songs with low notes may be dropped entirely, leaving birds with an exclusively high-pitched repertoire. Alternatively, as songs are used for attracting mates or defending territory, it may

be that urban birds are forced to use higher-pitched songs because the low-pitched ones do not prompt the required response. However, without urban noise, females generally prefer males with lower-pitched songs and it is unknown as yet what the effect of song change will be on mate selection (Mockford & Marshall 2009). Certainly, noise in the urban environment does appear to be exerting evolutionary pressure with birds using higher-pitched songs being more successful at mating.

Does this mean urban noise will eventually have no effect as birds adapt? Well, no — it has become clear that not all birds are able to adapt. With low-pitched species unable to sing effectively near main roads, man-made noise may lead to a decrease in biodiversity around towns and main roads. Urban development does tend to lead to a similar, limited, range of species being found and recent research in the US (Francis *et al* 2009) shows that noise reduces the diversity of bird species present (absent species being those with lower-pitched calls and songs), but not necessarily the overall number of birds, as those that remain fledge their young more successfully due to the relative absence of avian predators, many of which have low-pitched calls. Of course, there may also be knock-on effects of reduced biodiversity e.g. an absence of species which are important for dispersing seeds (such as Jays) would be harmful to the ecosystem as a whole by reducing plant regeneration.

The behavioural flexibility that may be key to urban success, or the lack of it in many species, is likely to at least partly explain the detrimental effects on bird communities in noisy urban areas or along main roads. Mockford & Marshall (2009) also show that birds from noisy areas respond less strongly to the song of birds from quieter areas, and vice versa, even when the songs come from only a mile or two away. As Great Tits can disperse up to 3km (1.8 miles) in their first year, this means that young males may have difficulty establishing and defending a territory, or attracting a mate, if they move to an area with more or less noise than they are used to — something that may have implications for Great Tits' ability to communicate and breed successfully, especially as Great Tits are thought to learn their song in their first year and can only make small changes after this. Potential barriers to breeding could mean they eventually stop recognising each other, reducing genetic flow between urban and rural populations and it is unknown whether small populations in small cities will suffer from lower genetic diversity.

Other species are also affected such as the Blackbird (*Turdus merula*) which is also shown to sing faster and at a higher pitch in noisy environments (Nemeth & Brumm 2009), while Nightingales (*Luscinia megarhynchos*) are known to sing more loudly and in Germany even break noise regulations, reaching 95 decibels (Brumm 2004). Showing a different adaptation, the highly territorial Robin (*Erithacus rubecula*) sings during the night in areas that are noisy during the

day, with light pollution (often considered to be the cause of nocturnal singing in urban birds) appearing to have less of an effect than daytime noise (Fuller *et al* 2007). This study also found that nocturnal singing was, on average, 10 decibels louder than daytime songs. This may mean that Robins are highly adaptable to the urban environment, but equally they may well be suffering from what noise has rendered poor-quality habitat and having trouble attracting mates. If so, nocturnal singers could be sacrificing other activities such as feeding and preening in order to maximise their singing time. Female Robins judge the quality of males by how creatively they sing and prefer males using a greater diversity of songs. Therefore, noise pollution could have a negative effect on males by making it more difficult to hear their full repertoire.

The effect of noise on communication also has effects outside of breeding e.g. the need to hear approaching predators or locate prey, and noise does not just affect birds. Frogs croak, crickets chirp, bats use ultrasound to navigate and find insect prey, and there has been much research relating to the effects of shipping noise on navigation and communication by whales and dolphins. Therefore it is becoming increasingly clear that, when thinking about conservation, good-quality habitat requires reduced noise pollution as well as reduced pollution from light and unpolluted air and water.

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The Fantastic, Charismatic Slow-worm
A Very Special Reptile
Darren Naish

The anthropogenic extinction of bears, moose, aurochs, beavers, wolves, lynx, bustards and everything else bigger than a house brick means that Britain has no 'charismatic megafauna' (domestics and recent introductions notwithstanding). But, given that all animals are inherently fascinating, our fauna still has a lot going for it, and we still have a lot of neat beasts. It's near the top of the list — it's the Slow-worm *Anguis fragilis*, a limb-less anguid lizard also known as the Blind-worm or Ovet (apparently). It occurs throughout Europe (except for southern Portugal and Spain, Corsica and Sardinia, Ireland[1], and much of Scandinavia) and is also found in Asia as far east as the Caucasus, and in parts of Algeria and Tunisia. *(Colour plate 1.)*

In my experience, lay people find it utterly inconceivable that it's not a snake, and most think that it's a 'grass snake' (the true Grass snake *Natrix natrix* is an amphibious colubrid that's normally between 60 and 100 cm long). Slow-worms are nocturnal and semi-fossorial (burrowing) and mostly occur in well-vegetated places with thick ground cover and loose soils. They hide under large stones, pieces of wood, sheet metal and other debris. Of course, places that fulfil these criteria are exactly those that are nowadays covered by concrete or turned into housing estates, and today there are fewer gardens and allotments that are suitable for Slow-worms than there used to be.

Slow-worms also suffer heavily from predation by domestic cats: over a five- month period of a single year, Britain's 9 million cats are estimated to bring home about 5 million reptiles and amphibians, and of these about 12% are Slow-worms (Woods et al. 2003). That amounts to about 600,000 Slow-worms killed over five months, every year (if I've screwed up the maths, which is likely, let me know), which might be a non-sustainable number if we actually knew what the total population is (and we don't). Certainly, my parent's cats reportedly kill or mortally wound enough Slow-worms to create the impression that all the large juveniles and adults in the area are being extirpated, and Slow-worms are certainly less common here in Hampshire now than they were when I was a boy.

Despite this, however, I am pleased to say that even today it's not difficult to find them in suitable places if you know where to look, and lately I've discovered them whenever I've searched in the right kind of habitat. On a well-vegetated piece of waste-ground about 200 m from my front garden there is a piece of

[1]Although there are some indications that the species might actually be present on Ireland. See McCarthy (1977).

carpet where there's an ant's nest, and it's under this piece of carpet that I've been finding Slow-worms.

Sexual dimorphism and the mimicry hypothesis

Slow-worms are viviparous, giving birth to 5–12 babies (though exceptionally as many as 26) during August or September. The juveniles, normally around 10 cm long, have a gold dorsum with a black central dorsal stripe and black sides. In adults, it's easy to distinguish males from females. Females tend to have a proportionally smaller head and more distinct neck, and also a more demarcated tail, but more obviously they have a dark stripe down the centre of the back and dark sides. The dorsal stripe is usually straight, but in some individuals it zig-zags.

Individuals of both sexes are often scarred: females, because they get gripped around the head and neck by males during mating, and males, because they bite one another vigorously when fighting. Individuals frequently lack their tail tips, or have regrown or partially regrown tail tips. Slow-worms are like many other squamates in being able to drop the tail voluntarily by contracting muscles (this is known as caudal autotomy), but they do this more than is usual, with most individuals having autotomised their tails several times. This explains the specific name, *fragilis*, by the way.

Why Slow-worms exhibit prominent dimorphism I don't know, but it's been suggested that the dorsal stripe of the females might lend them some superficial similarity to the Adder *Vipera berus*, as this venomous species also has a zig-zag dark stripe along its dorsal midline. In other words, it has been proposed that Slow-worms might be mimics of Adders. This is utterly unconvincing, however, given that the zig-zagging is indistinct, and that Slow-worms and Adders are otherwise so utterly different in shape and size. Furthermore, this theory is horribly anglocentric as it's not as if the Adder is the only venomous snake that inhabits the same range as the Slow-worm (in Britain, Adders are the only venomous native snake). In fact, other European snakes with zig-zagging dark dorsal stripes (e.g., the Viperine snake *Natrix maura*) are no more dangerous to potential predators than the Slow-worm is, so mimicking them wouldn't really be such a good thing. Furthermore, among the most important predators of Slow-worms are other squamates (most notably the Smooth snake *Coronella austriaca*), and they identify their Slow-worm prey by olfaction, not by visual clues.

Slow-worms with spots, and the second slow-worm species

Large, old male Slow-worms are sometimes decorated with light blue spots, and at least a few females possess these spots too. The spots vary in intensity, distribution and number, and appear to occur randomly among populations. In Britain it used to be thought that blue-spotted animals represented a distinct subspecies that was

dubbed *Anguis fragilis colchica*, but in fact there is no such taxonomic entity. To confuse things, there is a supposed anguid taxon endemic to eastern Europe that was also named *A. f. colchica* (that was the original name — coined by Nordman in 1840 — but it should actually be *A. f. colchicus*), and it also is characterised, in part, by its blue spots (which are larger and more prominent than those of other slow-worms). While most authors continue to regard *A. f. colchicus* as a valid taxon, Šandera et al. (2004) found supposed *A. f. colchicus* individuals living sympatrically with *A. f. fragilis* individuals on Corfu, and they hence doubted the idea that *A. f. colchicus* really warrants taxonomic separation.

Southern Greece is home to a distinct slow-worm population that is best known in the literature as *A. f. peloponnesiacus*, after the Peloponnese Islands where it's found (it also occurs on the southern Ionian Islands). This name was coined in 1937 and it turns out that an older name, *A. f. cephallonica*, was created in 1894 for the same taxon. Distinguishable from other slow-worms by its high scale count at mid-body (Arnold et al. 1992), *cephallonica* is now deemed distinct enough from other slow-worms to warrant specific status (as *Anguis cephallonica*), so nowadays there are actually two slow-worm species.

On the subject of variation and taxonomy, I must say that the English Slow-worms I'm familiar with often look quite different from the European and Asian individuals I've seen in photos. Interestingly, non-British Slow-worms often look superficially more like glass lizards to me, being proportionally longer, more robust, and with larger, more sharply demarcated cephalic (head) scales. I'm sure that this is an accident resulting from my familiarity with a local group of populations, however, rather than anything important.

When slow-worms bite

I've never known a slow-worm to bite — Knight (1965) wrote that a Slow-worm "seldom bites at the human hand that grasps it" (p. 23) — but one that I picked up once opened its mouth and let out a comparatively loud, throaty huff noise. I didn't know they did this, so I asked around, and it seems no one else knows they do this either. I did hear of a case where a pet anguid (I forget of which species) let out a loud shriek, which if accurately reported would have been a genuine vocalisation rather than just a noisy exhalation. As you'll know if you've checked the arcane literature on squamates, which snakes and lizards are really capable of true vocalisation is controversial, with anecdotal records suggesting that the ability to vocalise might be more widely distributed than generally thought. Officially it's only geckos and some lacertids (wall lizards) that vocalise, though pygopodids (Australian legless lizards), anoles and teiids (whiptails) have been reported to make distress calls. This is an essentially random distribution within

Squamata, so it's certainly conceivable that groups like anguids might have evolved this ability too.

If a Slow-worm were to bite, I imagine it would be pretty painful. They prey mostly on small slugs and earthworms, but they also eat small snails, and to crush snail shells you need powerful jaws. Anguids in general have nasty bites: Sprackland (1991) reported that alligator lizards would be able to break human skin. A correspondent once told me about the time he was bitten by a Slow-worm (he had found the animal which at school, and placed it inside the front of his shirt before returning to the classroom!). It clamped on to his skin for about five minutes, creating a sensation not unlike that of a large bulldog clip. Two horseshoe-shaped patterns of tiny bleeding tooth-marks were left behind when the Slow-worm eventually released its grip.

Like many animals that we encounter repeatedly, or are fairly familiar with, many of us here in the British Isles regard the Slow-worm as a mundane and ordinary little beast. In fact, it is a unusual, charming little animal that I and many others find fascinating.

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The Vegetative Key to the British Flora (John Poland & Eric J. Clement)

John Poland

In 2009, the *Vegetative Key to the British Flora* was published — a radical overhaul of British botany, written by two members of the Southampton Natural History Society, with assistance from several others. This book was born out of Eric's vision from over forty-five years ago, his invention of polycotomous lettered keys, and his persistence in looking for a keen co-worker until he found me. After such a long nascence, the book was completed in just five years, thanks to our full dedication to the project.

In June 2004, Phil Budd, Peter Burford and I set off on a plant 'twitch' in Sussex (viz. a hurried rush-a-round to see rarities in known locations). Phil had invited along a new member and distinguished botanist, Eric Clement (himself very much the botanical equivalent of Sherlock Holmes) to join the search party. I had not met Eric before and hence it was not long before Eric began discussing the great merits of putting observations into published articles. "Even a few paragraphs in BSBI News would be welcome" expounded Eric, "better still would be a book on identifying plants when not in flower!", he joked. Eric was amazed that no individual or institution had ever even attempted this before. It was a few weeks before I decided that this challenge appealed to me, perhaps as a part-time project with Debbie Allan (another SNHS member who had provided enormous help to Eric in typing up a 'skeleton key').

After another day out with Eric, the adventure of embarking on the *Vegetative Key to the British Flora* began. However, it soon became apparent that a task of this magnitude was certainly not a part-time project! My next five years were spent travelling the length and breadth of the British Isles repeatedly observing every British plant in painstaking detail — and without flowers! It was great fun and writing the keys was certainly a challenge. Meanwhile, back at base, Eric would cultivate various plants sent to him from many sources so we could observe them throughout the year.

Much to the delight of Eric and I, the *Vegetative Key* has received rapturous reviews, not only in *British Wildlife* **21**(1):72 (October 2009), where Clare O'Reilly tells every reader to "...be part of the botanical revolution!", but even in the international journal *Taxon* **58**(3): 1035–1036 (August 2009). Here the editor, testing the book out in California on some introduced weed species, exclaims

"Wow — it works, and works well!"

Any naturalist who has not already acquired a copy is missing out.
"What bush is that bird in?"
The answer lies therein.

Weather Records 2009
Records made at 488 Bitterne Road East (SU454129)
Phil Budd

2009 was a dry year up to October, but both November and December were very wet, so overall the year was somewhat wetter than normal. The average temperature was slightly higher than normal. The winter was colder than any we had experienced for quite some time and most of spring and summer was cool and rather dry. The autumn was pleasantly warm.

January was a month of two contrasting halves. A north-east airstream dominated the first 10 days, with temperatures never exceeding 4.7 °C and dipping to -7.9 °C on the nights of the 7th & 10th — the coldest nights for 12 years. The maximum of 0.0°C on the 6th was the coldest day of the year and there was a light snowfall on the 5th. A wet and mild westerly airstream began on the 11th and reached its maximum influence on the 22nd — this was the mildest and wettest day of the month (20 mm rain fell). On the night of the 17th/18th the south-westerly winds reached storm force (60 mph) here but up to 123 mph in northern Scotland! From the 26th January to the 5th February there was a south-easterly airstream and this caused a gradual change to colder and dryer weather in late January.

February was again a month of two halves: cold first half and mild second half. The coldest weather corresponded with the continuance of a south-easterly to easterly airstream in the first week and included a maximum of only 0.6 °C on the 2nd and an hour-long 'blizzard' during morning rush-hour on the 3rd. From the 7th the month was mostly dry and gradually became milder under the influence of a north-westerly airstream. In fact, only 1 mm rain was measured from the 11th February to the 2nd March. Earlier, on the night of the 9th/10th February, a major depression had crossed northern France giving 40 mm rain here and serious flooding in The Midlands.

March was very mild and rather dry with a mainly north-westerly airstream continuing, temperatures peaking at 18.7 °C on the 19th. This was part of a very notable spell from the 15th to the 22nd when a very dry, clear easterly airstream interrupted the north-westerly flow and gave an amazing 86 hours of sunshine in 8 days — this corresponded to bright sunshine 90% of the time over that period! The only really cold and very wet weather occurred on the 3rd to the 5th and culminated in a light snowfall on the evening of the latter date. The last air frost in my garden occurred on the 30th.

April was milder and wetter than normal and was a very 'mixed bag'. The first 11 days saw variable winds, warm weather including 21 °C as early as the 1st , but increasing rainfall. Mostly dry easterlies prevailed from the 12th to the 24th,

but a brief hot and humid spell brought 15 mm rain on the night of the 14th/15th. From the 25th April to the 9th May westerly winds gave a cool, unsettled spell with 11 mm rain and temperatures confined to 11 °C on the 27th.

May was warm and very dry: the driest month of the year. This was despite the domination of westerly or south-westerly winds and frequent light showers in the middle of the month. A brief spell of easterlies pushed the temperatures up to 24.3 °C on the 10th. On the 29th the wind turned to the east again and this gave us another 'sunshine bonanza': 110 hours sunshine recorded from the 29th May to the 6th June, corresponding to 78% of the total possible over that period.

June was average in terms of temperatures but rather dryer than normal. The spell of easterlies at the start of the month continued until the 10th. Temperatures peaked at 27.7 °C on the 1st and it was mostly dry except for an evening hail storm on the 1st and a 15 mm downpour on the night of the 6th/7th. A cooler, but dry and sunny, westerly flow followed on the 11th to the 17th, but there was a lot of rain in northern Britain at this time. Easterly winds resumed on the 18th June and continued to the 2nd July. There was a repeat thundery heat event when temperatures of 27.5 °C on the 25th were followed by 15mm rain the following night.

July saw the hottest day of the year — maximum of 29.6 °C on the 2nd, but this was followed on the 3rd by the start of a two-month period of south-westerly winds lasting to the 7th September. The inevitable result was that we were to suffer the 3rd consecutive much wetter than average July, although the temperatures were only fractionally cooler than average. The main low points were the sunless 11th when temperatures only reached 17.4 °C and the thundery, wet night of the 16th/17th. 13 mm rain fell that night, but 80 mm caused serious flooding in County Durham, North-East England.

August was dominated by winds from a south-westerly or westerly direction, but it still managed to be slightly warmer than average with only about half the normal rainfall. It was also significantly sunnier than the disappointingly dull July. There was some thundery rain at 4am on the 6th and the previous night (4th/5th) was the warmest of the year. The warmth was consistent but not dramatic and due to the Atlantic winds the temperatures never exceeded the 26 °C recorded on the 9th and again on the 19th. Also the 31st was the sunniest day of the year (100% sunshine).

September was more like summer than either July or August — it was warm, very dry and sunny. The sunshine certainly exceeded 50% of the possible total. About 60% of the month's rainfall (19 mm) fell in a 2–3 hour downpour on the evening of the 2nd. This and a series of cool temperature readings in the first week marked the end of the 'Atlantic summer of 2009'. A dry north-easterly airstream

took over on the 8th and was followed by anti-cyclonic conditions from the 22nd September to the 4th October. Temperatures climbed to 26 °C on the 19th and no rain was recorded from the 17th September to 4th October — at 18 days the longest totally rainless period in 2009.

October was both warmer and drier than normal but not particularly sunny. However 36 mm of rain in a 4-day period from the 5th to the 8th finally got the fungus season underway. From the 9th to the 19th there was a spell of high pressure with almost no rain but on the 17th/18th the first air frost was recorded in country areas. An autumnal south-westerly regime began on the 20th However, in late October this gave mild weather with very warm nights and not much by way of heavy rain or strong winds

November was a different story — it was a horrid month with twice the normal rainfall and not much sunshine, although it was mild with no air frosts in Southampton. The 188 mm rainfall total put November into the top-five wettest months of the last 25 years, the heaviest fall being 21 mm on the 1st, 60 mm from the 12th to the 16th, 17 mm from the thunderstorms on the morning of the 22nd and 36 mm on the 28th/29th,. All of these rainfall events were accompanied by gales, but the worst winds were those of the damaging tornado that crossed Romsey and Chandler's Ford on the late morning of the 3rd and the 70 mph winds around midday on the 14th, including 100 mph gusts at The Needles. Ironically, the 19th was one of only three dry days in November, but this was the date of the greatest rainfall event in British meteorological history: 12.4 inches fell on Seathwaite, Cumbria and caused much-publicised severe flooding at the towns of Workington and Cockermouth.

December saw a continuance of the very wet and mild south-westerly airstream up to the 10th, but with a couple of frosts, including the first air frost of the winter on the 1st, and no very strong winds. Winds blowing from noth-west to east dominated the rest of the month and led to December being colder than normal. However, this period was also very wet with much snowfall further north in Britain. An interesting spell of weather began with a light snowfall on the night of the 17th/18th followed by the coldest night of the month — the 19th. There was dangerous series of freezing rain events on the mornings of the 20th to the 23rd and a spectacular evening hail/sleet/thunderstorm of the evening of the latter. This was followed by an inch of freezing rain and sleet on Christmas Eve. Christmas Day was chilly and sunny.

Month	Maximum temperature		Highest temperature	Minimum temperature		Lowest temperature	No. of air frosts	No. of wet days	Total rainfall		Sunshine
	ºC	ºF	ºC	ºC	ºF	ºC			mm	in	hrs
Jan	5.8	41.3	10.2	0.7	33.1	-7.9	14	10	113.3	4.5	84.4
Feb	8.4	45.4	13.3	2.0	35.2	-3.7	9	8	65.3	2.6	70.6
Mar	13.6	53.8	18.7	2.8	36.5	-2.8	5	6	43.8	1.7	188.7
Apr	17.6	60.2	22.1	6.5	42.4	1.3	0	10	60.8	2.4	202.7
May	19.9	63.8	26.2	8.6	45.8	2.6	0	7	28.5	1.1	218.5
Jun	21.8	66.9	27.7	11.5	50.4	7.5	0	3	35.9	1.4	257.8
Jul	21.5	66.4	29.6	12.8	52.5	8.7	0	11	75.7	3.0	177.7
Aug	22.9	68.6	26.2	13.0	52.8	9.0	0	7	30.4	1.2	191.5
Sep	21.3	66.1	25.9	10.7	49.1	7.1	0	5	32.6	1.3	188.7
Oct	16.4	58.2	19.6	8.9	46.2	1.9	0	9	60.5	2.4	109.7
Nov	12.1	51.4	15.3	6.5	42.4	2.2	0	21	188.1	7.4	77.5
Dec	6.2	43.2	12.0	1.3	34.3	-4.7	12	16	135.6	5.3	87.0
Means/ Totals	**15.6**	**57.1**	**29.6**	**7.1**	**43.4**	**-7.9**	**40**	**113**	**870.5**	**34.3**	**1854.8**

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

Phil Budd

A Note on the Role of the Recording Officer

Vicki Russell wishes to step down as Recording Officer at the 2010 Annual General Meeting and has asked me to take on the role of Recording Officer temporarily as from November 2009. I have agreed with the committee to compile the entire report this year and I am offering to put myself up for election as Recording Officer for the 2010/2011 business year at the 2010 A.G.M.

As I am sure you are aware, the role of Recording Officer is the most difficult of all the tasks within the society. I may be able to continue in the role single-handed this year, but it is thought most unlikely that any single member could take on the whole task every year in the long term. This is partly because, even with the great assistance of computer programs and technology, the task is highly time-consuming and awkward. An even greater difficulty is that a single Recording Officer has to know a lot about a wide range of taxa to be effective in this role.

I have come to the conclusion that, if the role of Recording Officer is to continue, it has to be a shared enterprise between several members, each concentrating on a particular field of interest, but with an overall coordinator to pull it all together. I have already discussed these ideas with some members, but I need more people to express their views on this matter and also more potential volunteers. Any re-definition of the Recording Officer role would also have to be agreed by committee.

Another important aspect of the records is the matter of how they are gathered and used. Currently, the three main sources of records are the Field Meeting records, members' reports listed on our web-site and members who kindly continue go to all the effort of sending in records of interest at the end of the year. I would certainly like to thank all those who contribute in these ways.

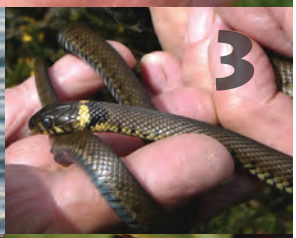
On the matter of how the records are utilised, the situation is more complicated. Those records that appear in the Annual Report are a selection of what I consider to be the more interesting observations of the year. Records are slightly more likely to be included if they are (1) from sites in the immediate Southampton area (although any record in the Vice Counties that cover Hampshire past or present could be included), (2) properly verified, (3) Field Meeting records and (4) records other than my own. If anyone thinks a very important record has been omitted, please let me know.

Records appearing on the web-site can be used in the Annual Report (see above) and will remain on the site on archived pages. Any paper records, including computer print-outs, are filed in labelled box-files and all those previous to 2000 have been passed to the Hampshire County Museum Service in Winchester for archiving.

There is also a possibility that any records may be entered on to the society Mapmate database. In time all records entered on to Mapmate are passed on the Hampshire County Council Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre (HBIC), based at Winchester. However, in this regard the taxon group of the record is important:

- *Records of Diptera*: Syrphidae (hoverflies) are always entered on the society Mapmate database since I am the Recorder for Hampshire of these insects.
- *Records of fungi*: These are usually entered on to the database, if I am satisfied that they are correctly identified, and eventually passed on to both HBIC and the Hampshire Fungus Recording Group.
- *Records of some 'popular groups'* (i.e. butterflies, moths and vascular plants) are not entered on to Mapmate unless the records are casual reports by people who do not send their records on to the relevant recording bodies/persons. I can provide information on the recorders for these groups in Hampshire if requested. If I do enter any other people's records for these groups on to Mapmate they may be sent to the relevant recorders along with my own observations.
- *Records of birds*: I never, under any circumstances submit records of birds, to the Hampshire Bird Recorder unless they are my own observations. However, members' records of birds may still be submitted to HBIC if I am happy that they are correctly identified. Also the publishing of a rare bird record in the Annual Report is no evidence of its acceptance by any rarities committee.
- *Records of mammals, amphibians and reptiles*: I suggest that members submit record of these direct to the Hampshire Wildlife Trust. However, some reports from other people may be get passed on with my own records.
- *Marine flora (seaweeds) and fauna*: Unfortunately, at present Mapmate only deals with certain taxa of marine flora and fauna. Therefore, although some old records of marine life have been entered, most are being stored as paper records.
- *Records of all other groups*: fish, insects and invertebrates (except those mentioned above), Bryophytes and lichens: These are all entered on to my Mapmate system and submitted to HBIC unless I know that the recorder is doing this already. This is provided that I am confident that the record is a correct identification.

Phil Budd



1. Slow-worm, Bitterne, Southampton (see pp 14–17)

2. Black-throated Diver, Weston Shore, Southampton (see p 47)

3. Grass snake, Town Common, Christchurch (see p 4)

4. L-album Wainscot, Northam, Southampton (see pp 32, 38)

5. Hornet (see p 6)

6. *Boletus queletii*, Wootton Coppice Inclosure (see p 6)

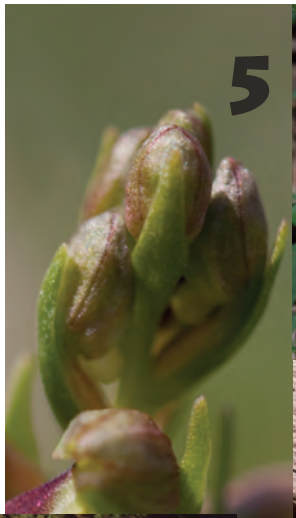
7. Lobster Moth larva, Royal Victoria Country Park (see p 38)

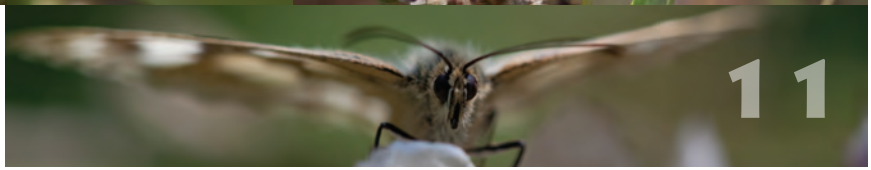
8. Currant Clearwing, Sholing, Southampton (see p 38)

9. Lesser Glow-worm larva, Old Burseldon Nature Haven (see p 5)

Thanks to our photographers: Phil Budd, Mike Creighton, Andy Collins, Anthea and Vernon Jones, Darren Naish

PORTON DOWN 2009





A flavour of the SNHS visit to Porton Down on 5 July.

1&2. Yellow Birdsnests in leaf litter.

3. Squinancywort and Thyme

4. Bird's Foot Trefoil

5&6. A Frog Orchid with admiring audience.

7. Blackneck (*Lygephila pastinum*)

8. Lesser Stag Beetle

9&11. Marbled White Butterfly

10. Dark Green Fritillary

1. Velvet Swimming Crab, Calshot (see p 7)

2. Painted Lady larvae, West Wood (see p 32, 37)

3. Red-tipped Clearwing, Sholing, Southampton (see p 39)

4. Small Marbled (see p 39)

5. Roe Deer, Botley Wood (see pp 4, 48)

6. Thick-headed Fly (*Sicus ferrugineus*), Porton Down (see p 43)

7. Spiked Shieldbug (*Picromerus bidens*) predating Small Copper caterpillar, Fawley Inclosure (see pp 7, 36)

8. Sea urchin fossil (*Micraster cortesudinarium*), Anderwood Inclosure (see p 4)

9. Members of SNHS looking for Brown Hares at Broughton (see pp 10–11)

MEMBERS' RECORDS FOR 2009

Contributors

JA	John Anderson	TB	Tim Bernhard
PO	Paul Brock	PB	Phil Budd
PRB	Peter Burford	RC	Richard Carpenter
JC	Jason Claxton	ARC	Andy Collins
GC	Ginnie Copsey	CC	Catherine Corney
SC	Simon Currie	KE	Kathy Emmott
DH	Dave Hubble	DHu	David Hurst
VAJ	Vernon & Anthea Jones	GL	Graham Long
GM	Graham Manchip	RNi	Rose Nicole
JNo	John Norton	GP	Gary Palmer
KP	Keith Plumridge	JP	John Poland
BR	Barrie Roberts	JS	Jan Schubert
RT	Ron Thomas	JV	John Vetterlein
JW	Julie Watson	PW	Paul Winter
Fm	Field Meeting	MO	Many Observers

Abbreviations

CET	Beaulieu Countryside Education Trust
HOS	Hampshire Ornithological Society
NR	Nature Reserve
NNR	National Nature Reserve
RVCP	Royal Victoria Country Park
TFSR	Tools For Self Reliance

MYCOTA

FUNGI

A good year for fungi generally, but not many records early in the year apart from St Georges Mushroom *Calocybe gambosum* (records not listed) and some Basidiomycete plant 'rusts' recorded by Dave Hubble. There was a significant flush of summer fungi in the wet weather of late July/early August and the most significant find then was a colony of over 30 Alder Bolete *Gyrodon lividus* at Buriton Old Chalk Pit growing under Grey Alder *Alnus incana*, confirmed by Stuart Skeates and Alan Lucas of the Hampshire Fungus Recording Group as the fifth Hampshire record and first for South-East Hampshire. There were also reports of the alien stinkhorn *Clathrus archeri* at a new site at Longdown in September plus two sites in the Setley area (one already known) at around the same time. Nail Fungus *Poronia punctata* had a much better year in the New Forest — it was almost non-existent in 2007 and 2008.

There was then a gap in the season due to the very dry early autumn, but things got going again around mid-October and there was then an exceptional late season until severe frosts struck just prior to Christmas. The most significant record was of *Auriculariopsis ampla*, a small, thin bracket with a gelatinous texture resembling a small *Auricularia* but related to the split-gill *Schizophyllum commune*. This was found in November on Aspens *Populus tremula* at IBM, North Harbour and confirmed by Alan Lucas. It appears to be the first Hampshire record. Other particularly interesting records were the *Lepista luscina* at Bishop's Waltham Moors, three *Coprinus picaceu*s records off chalk and *Chamaemyces fracidus* as well as several uncommon *Inocybe* species during a surveys at Chessel Bay Local Nature Reserve.

***Abortiporus biennis* (Blushing Rosette)** Holly Hatch Inclosure — by Dockens Water, on oak 22/11(SC)

***Amanita gemmata* (Jewelled Amanita)** Longslade Bottom 27/10

***Armillaria tabescens* (Ringless Honey Fungus)** Kytes Lane, Durley 22/11 (Fm)

Auriculariopsis ampla IBM North Harbour, abundant on five dead aspens at SU64710474, 20/11. Confirmed by Alan Lucas. First for Hampshire.

***Boletus queletii* (Deceiving Bolete)** Wootton Coppice Inclosure 19/09 (GP) *(colour plate 1)*

***Calvatia gigantea* (Giant Puffball)** near Upper Barn Copse, Fair Oak 12/11 30+

***Chamaemyces fracidus* (Dewdrop Dapperling)** Chessel Bay, Southampton, under plum trees at north end of woodland 15/11. First record in Southampton

***Clathrus archeri* (Devil's Finger's)** Longdown Inclosure 01/09 (CET). Also appeared at two sites at Setley this year

***Clavaria vermicularis* (White Spindles)** Mon Crescent, Bitterne 04/10 (RT)

***Coprinus picaceus* (Magpie Inkcap)** Pigbush 30/10 (PRB). Rarely seen in the New Forest. Upper Barn Copse, Fair Oak, off chalk 12/11. Greenwood Lane, Durley, off chalk 19/11

***Cordyceps militaris* (Scarlet Caterpillar Club)** Fritham Plain 01/12 (RC). Denny Wood, New Forest 13/12 (SC)

Crepidotus mollis var. calolepis Gull Coppice, Whiteley, on poplar 17/10

***Cystoderma amianthinum* (Earthy Powdercap)** Hall Lands, Fair Oak 26/11 (GC)

Galerina pumila Zionshill Copse, on poplar. Identified DH and JP 28/11 (Fm)

***Gomphidius roseus* (Rosy Spike)** Markway Inclosure 31/10 (SC)

***Gyrodon lividus* (Alder Bolete)** Buriton Old Chalkpit, 25+ under Grey Alder *Alnus incana* 10/08. First for South-East Hampshire

***Hygrocybe irrigata* (Slimy Waxcap)** Hall Lands, Fair Oak 26/11 (GC). Short Rd, Hill Head, Stubbington 26/11

Hygrocybe persistens Southampton Common 11/10 (Fm)

Hygrocybe splendidissima Longslade Bottom 26/10
Hygrophorus erubescens **(Ivory Woodwax)** Swanwick Reserve 01/11
Hypholoma capnoides **(Conifer Tuft)** Stoke Park Wood, Fair Oak 12/11
Inocybe cervicolor Chessel Bay, Southampton 15/11
Ischnoderma benzoinum Markway Inclosure 31/10 (SC)
Ischnoderma resinosum Holly Hill Woodland Park 07/02
Lepista luscina Longslade Bottom 04/11.
The Moors, Bishops Waltham 06/11. My first record here
Lepista saeva **(Field Blewit)** Chilworth Manor Garden 28/11 (KE)
Macrotyphula juncea **(Slender Club)** IBM North Harbour 25/11
Melanophyllum eyrei **(Greenspored Dapperling)** Abbotstone Down 24/10
Mycena crocata **(Saffrondrop Bonnet)** Upper Barn Copse, Fair Oak 12/11.
Mycena megaspora Hartford Heath, Beaulieu 18/10
Mycoporum antecellens Small Profits, Valley Park, on Hazel 30/03 (DH)
Phragmidium mucronatum School Lane, Chandlers Ford Industrial Estate 03/06 (DH)
Phragmidium tuberculatum School Lane, Chandlers Ford Industrial Estate, on rose 30/05 (DH)
Polyporus badius **(Bay Polypore)** Zionshill Copse 28/11 (Fm)
Polyporus ciliatus **(Fringed Polypore)** Botley Wood, two seen 16/05 (RC)
Poronia punctata **(Nail Fungus)** South of Dibden Inclosure 12/09 (Fm). Longslade Bottom 27/10, Ashley Walk 15/11 (RC). Ragged Boys Hill 13/12 (Fm). A better year for this species than the previous two
Puccinia coronata Valley Park, on Alder Buckthorn 16/06 (DH)
Ramaria stricta **(Upright Coral)** Newtown Rd, Southampton 22/10 (CC)
Russula quelettii **(Fruity Brittlegill)** Sparsholt College, five under Norway Spruce 14/12
Russula turci Hollybrook Cemetery, several old specimens east of the chapel under pines 03/11
Sarcoscypha austriaca **(Scarlet Elfcup)** Hocombe Mead, Chandler's Ford 27/01. Blashford Lakes 08/02 (Fm). Hall Lands, Fair Oak 28/02 (GC). Titchfield Haven 12/03 (DH)
Thelephora penicillata Great Goswell Copse, Beaulieu 14/10
Tricholoma ustale **(Burnt Knight)** Chessel Bay, Southampton 15/11

LICHENS

Aspicilia caesiocinerea Bishop's Waltham Church, on granite tombstones 19/02. Portchester Castle Church 26/02
Catapyrenium squamulosum Portchester Chalkpit 26/02
Chaenotheca ferruginea Holly Hill Woodland Park 27/02

Cladonia coccifera Copythorne Common 01/03 (Fm)
Cladonia crispata var. cetrariiformis North Oakley Inclosure,on a rotten stump 26/04 (Fm)
Cladonia macilenta Copythorne Common 01/03 (Fm)
Collema crispum var. crispum Zionshill Copse, Valley Park, on soil near leisure centre 30/03 (DH)
Fuscidea lightfootii Zionshill Copse — west, Valley Park 28/11 (GC)
Graphis scripta Zionshill Copse — west, Valley Park 28/11 (GC)
Leproplaca xantholyta Bishop's Waltham Church, on a chest tomb 19/02
Opegrapha vulgata Zionshill Copse, Valley Park, on Hazel 30/03 (DH)
Parmelia borreri Liddel Way, Chandler's Ford, on garden apple tree 30/03 (DH)
Parmelia soredians Posbrook Lane Cemetery, Titchfield, on Horse Chestnut bark 16/03
Parmelia verruculifera Bishop's Waltham Church, on granite tombstones 19/02
Peltigera canina Browndown northwest 11/04. A rare species in Hampshire
Peltigera didactyla Copythorne Common 01/03 (Fm)
Phaeophyscia nigricans Portchester Castle Church 26/02
Placynthiella uliginosa Browndown Northwest 11/04
Porpidia cinereoatra Bishop's Waltham Church, on granite tombstones 19/02
Roccella phycopsis Portchester Castle Church, still on north side of church 26/02
Trapelia involuta Portchester Castle, around church in south-east corner 26/02
Xanthoria polycarpa Liddel Way, Chandler's Ford, on garden apple tree 30/03 (DH)

FLORA

BRYOPHYTES

Bryophytes are very under-recorded by the society, but Southampton is a good area for them. The number of records this year is greatly boosted by the survey at Holly Hill Woodland Park that I carried out in January and February on behalf of Fareham Council. On this survey 98 species were recorded and, of particular interest was the flora of the Pulhamite stones around the lake. Pulhamite is a mildly basic artificial stone created from a 'secret' formula that includes cement powder; many of the mosses found on it are more typical of chalk and limestone conditions rather than the acidic natural conditions at Holly Hill. The stone structures were put up by Victorian landscape designers and Holly Hill is the only place in Hampshire where such Pulhamite stones can be found (this information was obtained from the web but I have lost the original reference).

Otherwise, the most significant record was of *Homalothecium lutescens* at Chessel Bay. This moss is very common on chalk grassland, but very rarely found elsewhere. Eleven 'new' Bryophytes were recorded at Copythorn Common on the Field Meeting on 1st March, but all were common species.

Liverworts

Calypogeia arguta Holly Hill Woodland Park, common on bare clay of ditches 21/01
Metzgeria fruticulosa Avington Lake — southern end 04/04 (Fm)
Metzgeria temperata Holly Hill Woodland Park, on bark of Plane tree 04/02

Mosses

Bryum rubens Holly Hill Woodland Park, on root plate 05/01
Cratoneuron filicinum Holly Hill Woodland Park, on Pulhamite stone 27/02
Eurhynchium crassinervium Holly Hill Woodland Park, on Pulhamite stones 04/02
Homalia trichomanoides Holly Hill Woodland Park, on Pulhamite stones 04/02
Homalothecium lutescens Chessel Bay — north end by Kemp's Quay 30/04. Only known site in Southampton
Hookeria lucens Holly Hill Woodland Park 18/01. An increasing species
Leptodictyum riparium Holly Hill Woodland Park, low down near lake 04/02
Orthotrichum lyellii Holly Hill Woodland Park, on *Castanea* trunk 16/02
Pleuridium acuminatum Holly Hill Woodland Park, abundant on root plate by path 18/02
Pogonatum aloides Holly Hill Woodland Park, on sandy root plate 18/01
Polytrichum commune Holly Hill Woodland Park, on bare clay of ditch at one location 21/01. Great Covert 25/03 (DH)
Rhynchostegium murale Holly Hill Woodland Park, on wet Pulhamite stone 27/02
Scorpidium scorpioides Stony Cross, New Forest. Bog Orchid site 04/07
Warnstorfia exannulata Holly Hill Woodland Park 21/01. An uncommon species

ANGIOSPERMS (Flowering Plants)

The list below is only a small selection of the total number of records received, and the majority are new sites or least sites where I have not seen the species previously. In the case of the naturalised species all were thought not to have been planted or sown. Particularly interesting are the two records of Manna (Flowering) Ash *Fraxinus ornus* in Southampton — these appear to be the first records for the city. The same probably applies to the apparently self-sown bush of Ninebark *Physocarpus opulifolius* by Charlotte Way near the old Ambulance Station car-park. Two very interesting records at Magdalen Hill Down were the first Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea* on the chalk scrapes there and the single plant of Corky-fruited Water Dropwort *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* — this species has probably never been recorded on the chalk in Hampshire before. It was good to see that Lesser Quaking Grass *Briza minor* is still surviving at Manor Farm Country Park south-east of Hedge End. Twenty plants were seen but there were far more plants there in 2003.

It was a very good year for orchids, with two strong colonies of Bog Orchid *Hammarbya paludosa* reported in the New Forest. The Green-winged Orchids *Orchis morio* put on a magnificent display at St Mary's Extra Cemetery. At the same site the Autumn Lady's Tresses *Spiranthes spiralis* were very poor, but they were abundant in late August on many chalk sites, especially around Butser Hill and at Vineyard Hole, East Meon, no doubt favoured by the mid-summer rain. The records of *Spiranthes* do not appear in the list below.

Native Species

***Anacamptis pyramidalis* (Pyramidal Orchid)** Botley Wood, one seen 27/06 (RC). New to here

***Briza minor* (Lesser Quaking-grass)** Manor Farm Country Park — east, 20 plants 27/08. Frst seen in this area in 2003

***Bromopsis commutatus* (Meadow Brome)** Titchfield Haven 05/06 (RC)

***Cephalanthera damasonium* (White Helleborine)** Sailor's Lane, Corhampton, (10+) 26/05

***Cicendia filiformis* (Yellow Centaury)** Crockford Bridge 28/06 (SC)

***Dactylorhiza praetermissa* (Southern Marsh-orchid)** Lords Wood 16/06 (GM). Unusual here

***Epipactis helleborine* (BRd-leaved Helleborine)** Peewit Hill, Bursledon, two seen 09/07. First record here

***Gymnadenia conopsea* (Fragrant Orchid)** Magdalen Hill Down Extension 01/06 (CC). First record here and seen by others

***Hammarbya paludosa* (Bog Orchid)** Stony Cross, New Forest (34+) 04/07. Wilverley Bog, New Forest (23) 26/07 (SC)

***Lathraea squamaria* (Toothwort)** Green Lane, north-west of Hambledon Probable new tetrad record. 18/04. Sailor's Lane, Corhampton (100+) 28/04 (RC). Meon Valley Railway Line (50+) 05/05 (RC)

***Listera ovata* (Common Twayblade)** Sky's Wood, Valley Park. 103 counted in area of Hazel coppice. 01/06

***Neottia nidus-avis* (Bird's-nest Orchid)** Sailor's Lane, Corhampton, one seen 26/05 (RC)

***Oenanthe pimpinelloides* (Corky-fruited Water-dropwort)** Magdalen Hill Extension — top edge by cemetery 31/07. Never recorded on chalk before in Hampshire

***Orchis morio* (Green-winged Orchid)** St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing. A massive number this year — 1800 approx. 05/05

***Polypogon monspeliensis* (Annual Beard-grass)** Chessel Bay, Southampton, along footpath towards Quayside Rd 09/08. A new site

***Spiranthes spiralis* (Autumn Lady's-tresses)** St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing, 50 was the highest count 05/09. A very poor year

***Tilia cordata* (Small-leaved Lime)** Priors Hill Copse 24/05. Possibly native here

***Ulmus minor subsp. minor* (Small-leaved Elm)** Chilling Farm 16/05

***Valeriana dioica* (Marsh Valerian)** Lords Wood 25/06 (GM). Confirmed by PB

***Verbascum nigrum* (Dark Mullein)** Monks Brook, Fleming Park 07/05. Unusual off chalk. Southampton Old Cemetery 25/06 (JV) First record here

***x Agropogon littoralis* (Perennial Beard-grass)** South of Cherque Farm 22/08 (Fm). According to Eric Clement the first record from here

Non-native Species

***Anisantha diandra* (Great Brome)** Brownwich area 08/06 (RC)

***Amelanchier lamarckii* (Juneberry)** Chessel Bay, Southampton. A ten-foot tall self-sown tree on edge of beach 01/05. New species here

***Bromus secalinus* (Rye Brome)** South of Greenwood, Durley 29/06

***Campanula poscharskyana* (Trailing Bellflower)** Monks Brook, Fleming Park. Naturalised in good quantity in several places. 07/05

***Chenopodium glaucum* (Oak-leaved Goosefoot)** September Close, West End, on a kerb-side 19/08

***Cotoneaster salicifolius* (Willow-leaved Cotoneaster)** St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing, bird-sown. 03/05

***Crocus sieberi* (Sieber's Crocus)** Portchester Castle — graveyard of church (8) 26/02

Elaeagnus pungens (an oleaster) Monks Brook, Fleming Park, one self-sown bush 07/05

***Fraxinus ornus* (Manna Ash)** Chessel Bay, Southampton, a ten-foot tall self-sown tree 01/05. First record in Southampton. Eastern edge of Priors Hill Copse, two smaller trees self-sown, but the larger one might have been planted by the public footpath 24/05

***Impatiens glandulifera* (Indian Balsam)** Southampton Common North. First record here — probably introduced by horticultural workers. 25/09

***Lathraea clandestina* (Purple Toothwort)** Monks Brook, Fleming Park. Seen on both sides of stream, locally abundant 07/05

***Lithospermum purpureocaeruleum* (Purple Gromwell)** St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing. Amongst natural vegetation and didn't look planted. 05/05

***Lysichiton americanus* (American Skunk-cabbage)** Squirrel Drive, Station Rd, Sholing 08/04. A new site

***Ornithogalum angustifolium* (Star-of-Bethlehem)** St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing 03/05

***Physocarpus opulifolius* (Ninebark)** Ambulance Station car-park, on waste ground on south side of Charlotte Place, 2 foot tall, probably not planted 27/06

***Selaginella kraussiana* (Krauss's Clubmoss)** Holly Hill Woodland Park, in secret garden, abundant on wet lawn 05/01. A new site

***Sorbus hybrida* (Swedish Service-tree)** South-west of Brownwich Lake. One tree in hedge with native trees. 30/08

***Thuja plicata* (Western Red-cedar)** Bishop's Waltham Palace. Seeded itself on one wall. 31/08

FAUNA: INVERTEBRATES

Despite suffering a third consecutive wet, cold July most of the spring, summer and early autumn were encouraging for insect life. In addition, we now have some very active insect recorders in the society. An additional feature this year was the number of records of galls supplied by Dave Hubble.

This year I have decided to save space by listing species from the more popular groups i.e. Odonata, Orthoptera, butterflies and larger moths by vernacular name only and, for the less well-recorded species, by scientific name only. I hope that this does not cause any problems.

Turning to the more popular group's one highlight was the apparent colonisation of the Boating Lake on Southampton Common by Red-veined Darter *Sympetrum fonscolombei*, this species thus following in the foot steps of Small Red-eyed Damsel *Erythromma viridulum*. The Wood Cricket *Nemobius sylvestris* may still be spreading in the Southampton area — it is still present at Bassett Wood and Jurd's Lake, with the latter colony apparently expanding towards Weston Shore. Regarding moths, 2009 was a reasonable year, with particularly high numbers of reports of two previously uncommon moths Dusky Thorn *Ennomos fuscantaria* and L-album (White L) Wainscot *Mythimna l-album (colour plate 1)*, but not many Hummingbird Hawks *Macroglossum stellatarum*.

The butterfly highlight was, of course, the vast influx of Painted Lady in late May and some of the larger counts are listed below *(colour plate 4)*. There were other interesting records such as 46 White-letter Hairstreak on the elms along Sea Rd, Peartree Green and the unusual second-brood White Admiral at Brownwich.

Of the less popular groups there were some interesting new site records for Hemiptera such as Dahlmann's Leatherbug *Spathocera dahlmanni* at Lord's Wood and Spiked Shieldbug *Picromerus bidens* at Peartree Green. Of Hymenoptera there were a lot more records than previously of Tree Bumble Bee *Bombus hypnorum*. Attempts were made to find hoverflies at new sites by 'square-bashing', but there is much more to do before a comprehensive list of Southampton hoverflies can

be obtained. Of the Coleoptera, there were an encouraging number of records of longhorn beetles *Cerambycidae*.

MOLLUSCA

Acanthinula aculeata West Wood, Farley Mount 13/06 (GL/Fm)
Aegopinella pura West Wood, Farley Mount 13/06 (GL/Fm)
Boettgerilla pallens West Wood, Farley Mount 13/06 (GL/Fm)
Carychium tridentatum Crab Wood, Winchester 13/06 (GL/Fm), West Wood, Farley Mount 13/06 (GL/Fm)
Euconulus fulvus Crab Wood, Winchester 13/06 (GL/Fm), West Wood, Farley Mount 13/06 (GL/Fm)
Helicella itala Vineyard Hole, East Meon 08/09 (GL). Previously thought to be extinct in Hampshire
Helicodonta obvoluta West Wood, Farley Mount 13/06 (GL/Fm)
Limax cinereoniger West Wood, Farley Mount 13/06 (GL/Fm
Macrogastra rolphii Crab Wood, Winchester 13/06 (GL/Fm)
Oxychilus draparnaudi Crab Wood, Winchester 13/06 (GL/Fm)
Planorbarius corneus Burridge Millennium Pond 04/10 (DH)
Pomatias elegans Crab Wood, Winchester 13/06 (GL/Fm). West Wood, Farley Mount 13/06 (GL/Fm)
Sphaerium corneum Burridge Millennium Pond 04/10 (DH)
Vitrea contracta Crab Wood, Winchester 13/06 (GL/Fm)

CRUSTACEA

Ligia oceanica Chessel Bay, Southampton 21/03
Orchestia cavimana Chewton Bunny — north end, Highcliff 13/04. This species of sand-hopper is a component of the litter fauna, most related species live in the sea or freshwater.

ARACHNIDA

Acari (Gall Mites)

Acalitus longisetosus Wicklow Drive, Valley Park, leaf with galls 16/05 (DH)
Acalitus rudis Crab Wood, Winchester, 20 galls on Downy Birch 13/06 (DH/Fm)
Aceria fagineus Crab Wood, Winchester, galls on Ash 13/06 (DH/Fm)
Aceria nervisequus Crab Wood, Winchester, galls on Ash 13/06 (DH/Fm)
Aceria pseudoplatani Itchen Navigation near St Catherine's Hill, 50 galls on *Acer pseudoplatanus* 04/06 (DH)
Aculus tetanothrix Wicklow Drive, Valley Park, galls on *Salix caprea* 16/05 (DH), Ramalley Bridge, Chandler's Ford, galls on *Salix alba* 09/06 (DH)

Eriophyes convolvens Itchen Navigation near St Catherine's Hill, 10 galls on *Euonymus europaeus* 04/06 (DH)
Eriophyes sorbi School Lane, Chandlers Ford Ind. Estate, galls on Rowan 30/05 (DH)
Phyllocoptes gracilis Crab Wood, Winchester, 10 galls on raspberry 13/06 (DH/Fm)
Phyllocoptes malinus Curbridge Nature Reserve. Galls on *Malus sylvestris* 26/04 (DH)
Phyllocoptes populi Wicklow Drive, Valley Park. Galls on Aspen 16/05 (DH)
Phyllocoptes sorbeus Wicklow Drive, Valley Park. Galls on Rowan (*Sorbus acauparia*). A rare species in southern England 10/06 (DH)

Aranae (Spiders)

Agalenatea redii south of Cherque Farm 22/08 (Fm)
Araneus sturmi RVCP central 13/09
Harpactea hombergi Chessel Bay, Southampton, off oak *Quercus* 01/05. First one I have seen in Southampton
Meta menardi Liddel Way, Chandler's Ford 14/06 (DH)
Nuctenea sclopetaria Alresford Pond — west side, seen by torchlight at night 08/09
Steatoda grossa St Marys Rd, Bishopstoke garden 20/08 (DH)

Opiliones (Harvestmen)

Homalenotus quadridentatus Hall Lands, Fair Oak 25/07 (Fm)

ODONATA (Damselflies and Dragonflies)

Blue-tailed Damselfly Renda Rd, Holbury 19/08 (KP), Last report of year
Broad-bodied Chaser Hart Hill, Anderwood 26/04 (Fm). First record of year
Common Darter Renda Rd, Holbury 12/10 (KP). Last report of year
Golden-ringed Dragonfly Magdalen North Down, male 27/06 (DH). First report of year. Lords Wood, 4 seen 10/07 (GM). Bitterne Rd East garden 08/08
Hairy Dragonfly Botley Wood 16/05 one (RC). Botley Wood, one 23/05, 30/05 (ARC)
Keeled Skimmer Ragged Boys Hill 30/05 (SC). First report of year. Renda Rd, Holbury, one female attracted to moth lamp 14/06 (KP)
Large Red Damselfly Renda Rd, Holbury 18/04 (KP). First record of year
Red-veined Darter Boating Lake, Southampton Common 01/07 (PW), 02/07 (ARC, PB), up to two male and one female. This species is starting to colonise Hampshire
Scarce Chaser Lower Test Marshes, one immature 12/05 (ARC). An early date
Small Red Damselfly Crockford Bridge 28/06 (SC)
Southern Damselfly Crockford Bridge 30/05, 8/06 (SC)

Southern Hawker West Hoe Cemetery, Bishops Waltham, female 06/11. A late date. Homesley Inclosure 07/11 (SC). Last report of year

ORTHOPTERA (Grasshoppers and Crickets)

Bog Bush Cricket Lord's Wood Plantation — south-west 19/07 (GM) Emer Bog Nature Reserve, commonest bush cricket here 01/08 (BR)

Common Ground Hopper Copythorne Common — north 01/03 (Fm). First record of year. Broom Hill Quarry, Boyatt Wood 13/04 (DH). Another early record

Large Marsh Grasshopper Wilverly Bog, New Forest, singing 26/07 (SC). Acres Down, singing 26/07 (SC)

Roesel's Bush Cricket Wootton Coppice Inclosure, singing 28/06 (SC). Daisy Dip — west, Bassett Green 02/08 (Fm)

Short-winged Conehead Exbury Gardens 04/07

Slender Ground Hopper Whiteley Shopping area 04/04 (ARC). Moorgreen Meadows 24/05

Wood Cricket Copperfield Rd, Bassett Wood. Still present at known site 02/08. Jurd's Lake, Weston. Still present at known site 05/09

Woodland Grasshopper Emer Bog Nature Reserve, including Baddesley Common 01/08 (BR). Botley Wood 02/08 (RC). Lord's Wood Plantation — south-west 11/08 (GM)

DICTYOPTERA

German Cockroach Old Bursledon, introduced colony 21/12

HEMIPTERA (Bugs – Heteroptera and Homoptera)

Aphalara panli Crab Wood, 6 galls on Broad-leaved Dock 13/06 (DH)

Aphalara polygoni Stoke Park Wood, Fair Oak — west, gall on *Persicaria maculosa* 31/08 (DH)

Aphanus rolandri Lord's Wood 13/05 (JC). First record here

Callicorixa praeusta Sky's Wood, Valley Park, at UV light 02/06

Dysaphis sorbi School Lane, Chandlers Ford Industrial Estate, galls on Rowan 30/05 (DH)

Elasmostethus tristriatus south-west of Fawley Inclosure, off cypress 12/09 (Fm)

Eurydema oleracea Priors Hill Copse, on comfrey 24/05. Southbourne, Bournemouth 18/10 (PBO). A late date

Gonocerus acuteangulatus Southampton Old Cemetery, on flowering ivy 25/09. Probably first for here

Ischnodemus sabuleti Avington Lake — southern end, amongst *Typha* 04/04 (Fm)

Ledra aurita Valley Park Woodlands — Bird Field, at UV light 19/08

Liorhyssus hyalinus Nursling Sub-station 25/08 (JC). New site

Megacoelum infusum RVCP central, off *Quercus robur* & *Quercus cerris* 13/09
Miris striatus Wicklow Drive, Valley Park 16/05, nymph seen. Adult emerged on 17/05 (DH)
Myrmus miriformis Exbury Gardens 04/07
Picromerus bidens Fawley Inclosure, one sucking juices out of Small Copper larva 12/09 (Fm) *(colour plate 4)*. Peartree Green Southampton 21/09 (PBO). First record here
Rhyparochromus pini Lord's Wood 08/09 (JC)
Saldula orthochila Valley Park Woodlands — Little Covert 09/07
Saldula saltatoria Inchmery, Exbury 13/08
Spathocera dahlmanni Lord's Wood 15/06 (JC). First Lord's Wood and Southampton record
Trioza alacris St Marys Rd, Bishopstoke garden, galls abundant on Bay 27/07 (DH)
Trioza remota Wicklow Drive, Valley Park, galls on oak 16/05 (DH)
Trioza remota Valley Park Woodlands — Bird Field, 7 galls on oak 19/08 (DH)
Troilus luridus Durley Manor Farm area 10/05 (PB)

MECOPTERA (Scorpion Flies)

Panorpa germanica Lord's Wood Plantation — south-west 16/07 (GM)

LEPIDOPTERA

Butterflies

Brimstone Short Rd, Hill Head, Stubbington 27/02. First record of year. Mark Ash Wood, 20 seen 15/03 (SC). Lords Wood 31/07 (GM). First summer record. Ower Wood, Sparsholt College 21/09. Last record of year
Clouded Yellow Hockham Valley, Small Down 28/07. Earliest date reported, seen again on 18/08. Magdalen Hill Down Extension, 1 of the *helice* form 31/07. Weston Shore & West Wood, two seen. 10/10 (ARC). Last reports of year
Comma Lordswood SW, Southampton 26/02 (GM). First record of year. Newtown Rd, Weston Park 15/03 (CC). Mark Ash Wood 15/03 (SC). Lord's Wood, maximum count of 6 22/06 (GM). Ower Wood, Sparsholt College 28/09. Last record of year.
Dark Green Fritillary Ampfield Wood — Portland Copse, one 09/07. Grandfathers Bottom, Butser Hill, one on marjoram 03/08. Little Butser Hill, one 24/07
Grayling south of Fawley Inclosure, five seen.12/09 (Fm)
Holly Blue Cedar Close, Shirley 20/04 (GM). The only garden record this year. Lord's Wood 14/06 (GM) Last record this year — no 2nd-brood records
Large White Great Covert 19/03 (DH). First record of year. Winchester —near railway station 02/10. Last record of year

Marbled White Renda Rd, Holbury 25/06, 03/07 (KP). Unusual garden records.
Meadow Brown south of Fawley Inclosure 12/09 (Fm). Last record of year
Painted Lady Bratley area 26/04 (SC) First record of year. Renda Rd, Holbury, movement north of 600 over 4 hours from mid-aftenoon 25/05 (KP). Calshot, 140 north in one hour 25/05 (ARC). Lepe, 160 north in an unspecified period 28/05 (ARC). Bitterne Leisure Centre, 22 on *Pyracantha* blossom 29/05. Wether Down, 50 on abundant flowering thistles 28/07. Magdalen Hill Down Extension, 925 recorded on transect, mostly feeding on marjoram 31/07. Hazeldene Burseldon 03/11 (PRB). Last record of year *(colour plate 4)*
Peacock Mark Ash Wood 15/03 (SC). First record of year Lordsdale Greenway 10/12 (ARC). Last record of year — very late
Purple Emperor Botley Wood, 4 — a maximum count 12/07 (RC)
Red Admiral Corn Market, Romsey 22/01 (DH). First record of year. Records in Shirley (GM) and Bitterne (PB) on 16/02. Broughton Village 26/11 (VAJ) A late record. Cobbett Rd, Bitterne 10/12 (Rni). Last record of year.
Ringlet Lords Wood 16/06 (GM). Seen again on 16/07. Increasing in Southampton area
Silver-spotted Skipper north of Bishop's Waltham 24/08. A new site. North of East Meon, egg seen 18/08. First record here for c25 years (TB)
Silver-washed Fritillary Lord's Wood 15/06, 16/07 (GM).TFSR Meadow 27/06. Hazeldene, Burseldon 01/07 (PRB). The only garden record this year. Tredgould's Copse, Valley Park 02/07. Southampton Common — north-east 12/07. Sky's Wood, Valley Park 29/07
Small Copper Longslade Bottom, near Sway, one seen basking 27/10. Last of year
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Wootton Coppice Inclosure 30/05 (SC). First of year, another on 28/06. Also at Homesley Inclosure 02/06
Small Tortoiseshell Lordsdale Greenway 16/03 (ARC). First record of year. Great Covert 19/03 (DH). Second record of year. Cedar Close, Shirley 08/08 (GM). Renda Rd, Holbury 08/08 (KP), also 09/08. Weston Shore 12/10 (ARC) Last record of year. Not common again this year
Small White Heytesbury Farm area, Wickham 23/10 Last record of year
Speckled Wood Bitterne Rd East garden 02/04. First record of year. Hazeldene Burseldon 03/11 (PRB). Last record of year
White Admiral Greenwood, Durley 29/06, Lord's Wood 25/06 (GM) Maximum count of 3. Last on 16/07. Telegraph Woods, West End 01/07 (JA). Valley Park Woodlands: Bird Field 02/07. West Wood, Netley 05/07 (CC).
2nd brood Brownwich Stream, one 16/09 (RC)
White-letter Hairstreak Peartree Green, 46 seen 21/06 (MO). Smaller numbers there 28/06

Macro-Moths

Alder Moth Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 13/06 (ARC)
Beautiful Yellow Underwing Fawley Inclosure, larvae off heather 12/09 (Fm)
Blackneck Hazeldene Burseldon 29/06
Bordered Sallow Valley Park Woodlands — Bird Field 19/08
Bordered Straw Hill Head garden, at UV light 30/05 (RC)
Bulrush Wainscot Avington Lake — southern end,larval exit holes seen 04/04 (Fm). Renda Rd, Holbury 18/09 (KP)
Chalk Carpet Grandfathers Bottom, Butser Hill, two seen 11/08
Channel Islands Pug Hill Head garden, at UV light 28/05 (RC)
Currant Clearwing Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one to pheromones 13/06 (ARC) (colour plate 1)
Dark Spectacle Renda Rd, Holbury 29/09/2008 (KP), identified from picture by PB
Dark Umber Hall Lands, Fair Oak, at Actinic trap only 25/07 (Fm)
Diamond-backed Kathleen Rd, Sholing first two 16/04, last one 02/11 (ARC)
Double Kidney Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 21/07 (ARC).
Hall Lands, Fair Oak 25/07 (Fm)
Dusky Thorn Hall Lands, Fair Oak 19/09. A good year for this moth with records from several other locations.
Feathered Ranunculus Hazeldene, Burseldon 30/09. Renda Rd, Holbury 06/10 (KP)
Fern Hall Lands, Fair Oak 25/07 (Fm)
Flame Carpet Hill Head garden, at UV light 13/08 (RC)
Frosted Green Hazeldene, Burseldon 16/04
Great Oak Beauty Renda Rd, Holbury 07/07 (KP)
Heath Rustic Fawley Inclosure, larvae off heather 12/09 (Fm)
Humming-bird Hawk-moth Hamble village 09/07 (CC). Hill Head garden 20/07 (RC). Kathleen Rd, Sholing, on Buddleia 12/07, 24/07 (ARC). Silverdale Rd, Southampton, on Buddleia 24/08 (JW). Hall Lands, Fair Oak 11/08 (GC) Larva confirmed from a photograph by PB
Juniper Pug Hall Lands, Fair Oak 25/07 (Fm)
Kent Black Arches Renda Rd, Holbury 02/06 (KP)
L-album Wainscot Hazeldene, Burseldon one on 29/06, nine 30/09. Renda Rd, Holbury 15/09 (KP). Blackberry Terrace, Northam 19/09 (JS). A good year for this species *(colour plate 1)*
Large Wainscot Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 28/10 (ARC)
Light Crimson Underwing Chewton Common, Highcliff 01/08. Probably a migrant
Little Thorn Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 20/05 (ARC).
Tredgould's Copse — south, Valley Park 30/05
Lobster Moth RVCP central, larvae off *Quercus robur* 13/09 *(colour plate 1)*
Marsh Oblique Barred Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 02/09 (ARC)

Merveille du Jour Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 03/11 (ARC)
Ni Moth Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 21/08 (ARC). First for this garden (one previous record at Woolston garden)
Oak Lutestring Valley Park Woodlands — Bird Field 19/08
Orange-tailed Clearwing Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one to pheromones 13/06 (ARC). First garden record
Pale Pinion Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 19/03 (ARC)
Pinion-streaked Snout Renda Rd, Holbury 02/06 (KP). Kathleen Rd, Sholing, three 02/09 (ARC)
Privet Hawk-moth Kiln Lane, Old Alresford, one larva, on *Fraxinus* (Ash) 08/09
Purple Thorn Hall Lands, Fair Oak 25/07 (Fm)
Red-belted Clearwing Kathleen Rd, Sholing one to pheromones 13/06 (ARC)
Red-necked Footman Sky's Wood — south-west Valley Park 02/06
Red-tipped Clearwing Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one to pheromones 19/06 (ARC) *(colour plate 4)*
Rosy Marbled Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 30/05, one 14/06 (ARC)
Ruddy Carpet Soldridge, Four Marks 02/07
Rush Veneer Kathleen Rd, Sholing, first two 26/05, with further 42 through year (ARC)
Rusty-dot Pearl Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 01/11 (ARC). Only record of year
Sandy Carpet Hill Head garden, at UV light 28/05 (RC)
Scarce Bordered Straw Renda Rd, Holbury 22/08 (KP) A scarce migrant
Scarce Silver-lines Hill Head garden, at UV light 26/06, 29/06 (RC)
September Thorn Hall Lands, Fair Oak 25/07 (Fm)
Silky Wainscot Soldridge, Four Marks 02/07. Zionshill Balancing Pond 15/08
Silver Y Kathleen Rd, Sholing, first 26/05 (ARC)
Small Wainscot Valley Park Woodlands — Bird Field 19/08
Small Yellow Underwing Fleming Park Extension 07/05. North of Kytes Lane, Durley, on *Cerastium fontanum* flowers 10/05
Small Marbled Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 02/06 (ARC). First garden record *(colour plate 4)*
Southern Wainscot Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 23/07 (ARC)
Streak Hazeldene, Burseldon 27/10
Striped Lychnis Oxenbourne Path, Oxenbourne Down, larval 20/07
Toadflax Pug September Close, West End 18/08
V-pug Renda Rd, Holbury 11/04 (KP). An early date
White-point September Close, West End 18/08. Unusual in a suburban garden. Renda Rd, Holbury, several records (KP). Common in this area
Wood Tiger Grandfathers Bottom, Butser Hill, Larval25/08

Yellow Belle south of Cherque Farm 22/08 (Fm)
Yellow-legged Clearwing Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one to pheromones 19/06 (ARC)

Micro-Moths

Acleris logiana Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 28/10 (ARC)
Acrolepiopsis assectella **(Leek Moth)** Kathleen Rd, Sholing one 03/06 (ARC)
Alabonia geoffrella Tredgould's Copse — south, Valley Park 30/05
Amblyptila acanthodactyla Renda Rd, Holbury 01/07 (KP). Several records, the latest 07/11
Aphelia paleana **(Timothy Tortrix)** Kathleen Rd, Sholing, one 01/06, four 02/06, singles 09/07, 10/07 (ARC)
Calamotropha paludella Valley Park Woodlands — Bird Field 19/08
Coleophora alcyonipennella Valley Park Woodlands — Bird Field 19/08.
Cryptoblabes bistriga Tredgould's Copse — south, Valley Park 08/08. Valley Park Woodlands — Bird Field 19/08
Cydia amplana Renda Rd, Holbury, at moth lamp 11/08, 18/08 (KP). A scarce migrant
Dichrorampha acuminatana Renda Rd, Holbury, seen at *Eupatorium* blossom in daytime 08/09 (KP). Identification not confirmed
Dichrorampha vancouverana Southampton Old Cemetery, on Everlasting Pea *Lathyrus latifolius* 12/07
Epinotia rubiginosana Renda Rd, Holbury, at moth lamp, 14/06 (KP). An uncommon species. Not confirmed
Eudonia pallida Renda Rd, Holbury 02/06 (KP). Valley Park Woodlands — Bird Field 19/08 . An uncommon species
Helcystogramma rufescens Hall Lands, Fair Oak 25/07 (Fm)
Mecyna flavalis Porton Down — east 05/07 (Fm)
Monopis obviella Silverdale Rd, Southampton 14/08
Monopis weaverella Hall Lands, Fair Oak, at Actinic trap only 25/07 (Fm)
Nemophora metallica Catherington Down, on scabious bloom 20/07 south-west of East Meon, plentiful on scabious blooms 04/08
Ochsenheimeria taurella Exbury Gardens, in the Daffodil Field 04/07. Apparently first Hampshire record west of The Solent. Identity confirmed by Nick Montegriffo
Olindia schumacherana Tredgould's Copse — south, Valley Park, male 30/05
Ostrinia nubilalis Renda Rd, Holbury, female at moth lamp 18/09 (KP)
Pammene aurana Southampton Common — Hawthorns Centre, on hogweed 26/07. An unusual moth in Southampton
Platyptilia pallidactyla Wascoombe Bottom, Oxenbourne, on Yarrow blooms 20/07
Ypsolopha parenthesella Hall Lands, Fair Oak 25/07 (Fm)

HYMENOPTERA

Abia sericea Grandfathers Bottom, Butser Hill, on flowering parsnip 11/08

Andrena dorsata Liddel Way, Chandler's Ford 25/05 (DH). Kytes Lane car park area, Durley 29/06

Andrena haemorrhoa Great Covert 21/04 (DH). St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing 05/05

Andrena nitida Kytes Lane car park area, Durley, on hawthorn 10/05. St Mary's Extra Cemetery, Sholing 19/04

Andricus lucidus RVCP, galls on *Quercus robur* 13/09

Anthophora bimaculata Bitterne Rd East garden, at Hedge Woundwort 28/06. First record here

Anthophora plumipes Broom Hill Quarry, Boyatt Wood, female on gorse 13/04 (DH)

Arge pagana School Lane, Chandlers Ford Industrial Estate, on rose 04/06 (DH)

Athalia rosae Wharf Hill, Winchester 04/06 (DH)

Bombus hypnorum by Bitterne Bypass (A334), queen on *Rosa japonica* 25/05. Hatch Bottom, West End 08/06. Ramalley Bridge, Chandler's Ford 09/06 (DH). Shedfield Common 27/06 (JN). Ampfield Wood — Portland Copse 09/07. Bitterne Rd East garden, on marjoram 12/07. First record here. Hawthorns Centre, on *Rubus* blossom 12/07

Bombus lapidarius Short Rd, Hill Head, Stubbington 27/03. First record of year

Bombus sylvestris Liddel Way, Chandler's Ford, female on knapweed 02/05 (DH). Bye Rd, Swanwick 25/05 (Dhu)

Calameuta filiformis The Wildgrounds, Gosport, 10 seen 31/05 (Fm)

Chrysis ignita Great Covert 21/04 (DH)

Fenusa dohrnii Zionshill Copse — west, on *Alnus glutinosus* leaf 03/09

Megachile centuncularis Liddel Way, Chandler's Ford 24/05 (DH)

Megachile versicolor Boyatt Lane garden, nesting 14/06 (DH)

Micronematus monogyniae Itchen Navigation at St Catherine's Hill, Winchester, on *Prunus padus* 04/06 (DH)

Nomada fulvicornis Zionshill Copse 21/04 (DH)

Nomada goodeniana Great Covert 21/04 (DH)

Phymatocera aterrima Ower Wood, Sparsholt College, adults abundant around Solomon's Seal 21/04. East Park, Southampton, larval on Solomon's Seal 26/06

Pontania tuberculata Valley Park cyclepath, galls on *Salix caprea* 20/06 (DH). Not a common species in the south

Protichneumon pisorius Grandfathers Bottom, Butser Hill, on flowering parsnip 11/08

Rhyssa persuasoria Hawkhill Inclosure, New Forest 23/10 (PBO). A late date

Vespa crabro Southampton Old Cemetery, on flowering ivy 02/08, 25/09.
Thornhill Park Wood 21/10. Not seen here before.
Great Goswell Copse, Beaulieu 04/11. A late date

DIPTERA

Baccha elongata Rownhams Rd, North Baddesley 06/08 (BR). First sighting here

Bombylius major Belmont Rd, Portswood 19/03 (VAJ). First of year.
Great Covert 19/03 (DH). First of year.
Liddel Way, Chandler's Ford, on *Filipendula vulgaris* 25/05 (DH)

Chalcosyrphus nemorum Alver Lake, Gosport, male on *Rubus armeniacus* 09/06

Chrysotoxum bicinctum Lord's Wood Plantation — south-west 11/08 (GM). This is the commonest *Chrysotoxum* species

Chrysotoxum elegans Vineyard Hole, East Meon 01/09. A rare species, confirmed by Chris Palmer

Chrysotoxum festivum Bitterne Rd East garden, on Japanese Anemone 16/08. An uncommon species

Criorhina berberina Alver Lake, Gosport, female var. *Oxyacanthae* on *Oenanthe* at north end of lake 09/06

Cynomya mortuorum south-west of East Meon 04/08

Dasineura plicatrix Itchen Navigation at St Catherine's Hill, galls on bramble 04/06 (DH)

Dasineura tympani Itchen Navigation at St Catherine's Hill, galls on *Acer campestre* 04/06 (DH)

Dasysyrphus tricinctus Grange Fields, Netley, on *Pulicaria dysenterica* and *Picris hieraciodes* 05/09

Dexiosoma caninum Hall Lands, Fair Oak,at UV light 25/07 (Fm)

Dioctria baumhaueri Valley Park Woodlands: Yewberry Way, on *Cornus* 01/06

Epistrophe grossulariae Grange Fields, Netley, on *Pulicaria dysenterica* and *Picris hieraciodes* 05/09

Eristalis arbustorum Lord's Wood 16/07 (GM)

Eristalis horticola Cedar Close, Shirley 08/08 (GM)

Eupeodes bucculatus Alver Lake, Gosport, on *Leucanthemum* 09/06

Eupeodes latifasciatus Grandfathers Bottom, Butser Hill, on *Pastinaca* 11/08. Old Winchester Hill NR 20/08

Gymnosoma rotundatum Daisy Rd, Bassett Green, on carrot flowers 02/08 (Fm). Hatch Grange — by Hornbeam Gardens 08/06

Helophilus trivittatus Hatch Grange Meadow, West End 08/06. Lord's Wood 08/06 (JC). Monks Brook, Fleming Park, on *Oenanthe* 08/06

Nephrotoma quadrifaria Mottisfont Duck Grounds 11/04 (DH)

Physocephala rufipes Daisy Dip — west, Bassett Green, on Meadowsweet 02/08 (Fm)
Phytomyza cytisi RVCP central, mine on Laburnum leaves 13/09
Pipizella virens Hatch Grange Meadow, West End 08/06
Platycheirus granditarsus Moorgreen Meadows, on various *Ranunculus* species 24/05. Daisy Dip — west, Bassett Green, on *Potentilla erecta* 02/08 (Fm)
Platycheirus rosarum Hatch Grange Meadow, West End 08/06. TFSR Meadow, Netley Marsh 27/06
Platyura marginata Tredgould's Copse — south, Valley Park 30/05 (DH)
Rhagio lineola Tredgould's Copse — south, Valley Park 08/08
Rhingia campestris Silverdale Rd, Southampton 18/03 (JW). An early date
Riponnensia splendens south of Cherque Farm, male off carrot flowers 22/08 (Fm)
Sargus bipunctatus Archery Rd, Woolston 27/09. Southampton Common, by Cemetery Rd 11/10
Scaeva selenitica Tadburn Stream Valley, Romsey 07/08
Sericomyia silentis Southampton Common north-east, on *Cirsium arvense* 12/07. Lords Wood 16/07, 19/07 (GM). Daisy Dip— west, Bassett Green, on *Convolvulus arvensis* 02/08. Southampton Old Cemetery, on *Calluna* and *Erica cinerea* 02/08. Bitterne Rd East garden 09/09, 29/09
Sicus ferrugineus Southampton Common north-east, on thistles 12/07
Tachina grossa Butser Hill — entrance, on hogweed blooms 23/07
Tipula lateralis Mottisfont Duck Grounds, several males and females in damp meadow 11/04 (DH)
Tipula pabulina Liddel Way, Chandler's Ford 08/05 (DH)
Volucella bombylans Rownhams Rd, North Baddesley 01/07 (BR)
Volucella inanis Cedar Close, Shirley 08/08 (GM). Also several records for Butser Hill area (PB)
Volucella zonaria Rownhams Rd, North Baddesley 01/07 (BR). Hill Head garden, one seen 12/07, 3/08, 21/08 (RC). Renda Rd, Holbury, on *Hoheria* and *Senecio* 31/07 (KP). Cedar Close, Shirley 08/08 (GM). Winchester — near railway station, on ivy blossom 02/10
Wachtliella rosarum School Lane, Chandlers Ford Ind. Estate, gall on rose 30/05 (DH)
Xanthogramma pedissequum Rownhams Rd, North Baddesley 29/09 (BR)

COLEOPTERA

Adonia variegata Ambulance Station car park, Southampton, six on Yarrow 27/06 (Fm). South of Cherque Farm 22/08 (Fm)
Agapanthia villosoviridescens Old Winchester Hill NNR, male on nettle 25/05. An increasing species

Alosterna tabacicolor The Wildgrounds, Gosport, on Ox-eye Daisy blooms 31/05 (Fm)
Anisosticta novemdecimpunctata Avington Lake — southern end 04/04 (Fm)
Anthocomus fasciatus Bitterne Rd East garden 15/05. First record here
Anthocomus rufus South of Cherque Farm 22/08 (Fm)
Anthonomus pedicularius Tredgould's Copse, Valley Park, gall on hawthorn 30/05 (DH)
Calathus fuscipes Great Covert 21/04 (DH)
Cantharis nigra Hatch Bottom north-east, West End 08/06
Cicindela campestris Broom Hill Quarry, Boyatt Wood 13/04 (DH). First record of year. Great Covert — reptile tin site, 4 seen 21/04 (DH). Anderwood Inclosure 26/04 (Fm)
Cionus alauda Tredgould's Copse, Valley Park, on *Scrophularia nodosa* 01/06
Denticollis linearis Sky's Wood, Valley Park 02/06
Dytiscus marginalis Hall Lands, Fair Oak, female at UV light 19/09
Gyrinus substriatus Mottisfont Duck Grounds 11/04 (DH). Woodfidely Passage West, five seen 02/04 (DH)
Lampyris noctiluca Old Bursledon Nature Haven, six seen 10/07 (Fm)
Leptura quadrifasciata Lord's Wood 19/07 (GM). Stoke Park Wood, Fair Oak 31/08 (DH)
Lucanus cervus Silverdale Rd, Southampton, male seen at 5.30pm 20/05 (JW). First of year. Renda Rd, Holbury 25/06 (KP). Badminston Lane 01/06 (KP)
Malachius viridis The Wildgrounds, Gosport, on Cocksfoot grass blooms 31/05 (Fm)
Malthodes minimus Soldridge, Four Marks 02/07 (DH)
Melanotus villosus Tredgould's Copse, Valley Park 30/05 (DH)
Pachytodes cerambyciformis Valley Park, near Blencowe Drive, on *Viburnum* 01/06
Paracorymbia fulva Magdalen North Down, on hogweed 02/07. West of Houghton, on flowers 02/08 (BR). Mottisfont Abbey Gardens, on flowers 15/08 (BR)
Phaedon armoraciae Mottisfont Duck Grounds 11/04 (DH)
Phosphaenus hemipterus Old Bursledon Nature Haven, larvae seen 10/07 (Fm)
Phyllopertha horticola Hatch Bottom, West End 08/06. Apparently rare in Southampton area
Platystomos albinus Old Winchester Hill NNR 25/05
Prasocuris junci Mottisfont Duck Grounds 11/04 (DH)
Pyrochroa coccinea The Wildgrounds, Gosport 31/05 (Fm). Also the commoner *P.serraticornis* seen
Rhagium mordax Botley Wood 31/05 (ARC)
Rhynchites caeruleus Durley Manor Farm area 10/05

Serica brunnea Hall Lands, Fair Oak, three seen at moth lamp 25/07.
Tredgould's Copse, Valley Park, at moth lamp 08/08
Staphylinus caesareus Bishop's Waltham 31/08
Stenurella melanura Priors Hill Copse, on comfrey 24/05
Timarcha tenebricosa Workman's Lane, Warsash 12/03 (DH)
Typhaeus typhoeus Ampfield Wood — Portland Copse, dead specimen 31/05

FAUNA:VERTEBRATES

There were two very interesting records of fish: Brook Lamprey outside the New Forest and a fish called the Orfe or Ide *Leuciscus idus*. This is a silver roach-like fish with a more familiar reddish-orange form, known as the Golden Orfe (Golden Ide). The Golden Orfe is often kept with Goldfish, but is distinguished from them by the much shorter dorsal fin (Fitter & Manuel 1986).

The Viviparous (Common) Lizard record at Windy (Horseshoe) Bay, Northam is a very interesting inner-city record and did lead to speculation that a colony of the Wall Lizard *Podarcis muralis*, so far unknown in Southampton, had been found. It is now thought that this record indicates that a colony of Viviparous Lizard exists along the main railway line running north out of Southampton.

The most interesting bird record was of the American White-throated Sparrow at Old Winchester Hill in April. This bird was first seen in November 2008, but the record was kept quiet for months. The bird was elusive at times, but was conveniently located as the bird frequented the bushes near the car park. A Little Auk appeared on the River Itchen in November, probably driven there by bad weather. This was an interesting follow-up to the Sabine's Gull last autumn. The Leach's Storm-petrel record was also of storm-driven birds.

There was a record of a dead Polecat on the Winchester–Stockbridge Road near to Sparsholt College, an indication that this mammal is increasing in numbers and range — certainly one to look out for in the Southampton area. Also the regular presence of Common Seal at Weston Shore combined with an additional record of Grey Seal there in September, was of interest.

Reference:

Fitter, R. & Manuel, R. (1986) *Field Guide to the Freshwater Life of Britain and North-west Europe*. Collins, London.

FISH

Brook Lamprey Itchen Stoke Water Meadows, four seen nest building 04/04 (DH)
Orfe Broom Hill Quarry, Boyatt Wood, 100 seen 13/04 (DH)

AMPHIBIANS

Palmate Newt Hum Hole, Bitterne, Southampton, 30 seen 12/03
Great Crested Newt Botley Wood, eggs found 26/04 (RC)

REPTILES

Smooth Snake Town Common North, immature caught 17/05 (Fm)
Adder Homesley Inclosure, swimming in small stream 02/06
Sand Lizard Town Common North, one male and two females 17/05 (Fm)
Viviparous Lizard Windy Bay, Northam 08/04 (VAJ). First record for here
Red-eared Terrapin Shirley Pond, one from March onward 16/03 (ARC)

BIRDS

Black-necked Grebe Weston Shore, one 26/09–15/11 (ARC).
River Test at Eling, one seen 27/12 (PW)
Black Redstart Vospers, Woolston, first-year male 27/12–30/12 (ARC)
Black Tern Weston Shore, eleven 13/05 (ARC). The highest number ever recorded here
Black-throated Diver Weston Shore, one juvenile 24/09–02/10 (ARC).
Also seen at Town Quay (ARC). Very early record *(colour plate 1)*
Brent Goose (Light-bellied) Weston Shore, singles 13/03, 17/03, 10/09 (ARC). The Autumn bird was associated with an unusual early arrival of Light-bellied Brent, mainly in the west of the UK
Common Bittern Blashford Lakes, one seen 08/02 (Fm)
Common Crossbill Holly Hatch area, 40 seen — max count in New Forest 10/08 (RC). Botley Wood 30/06 (one seen), 18/07, 11/10 (RC). Lord's Wood, 70 seen on larches 15/07 (GM)
Common Sandpiper Weston Sore, highest count six 14/05 (ARC). Itchen Bridge, Woolston, one wintering 28/11–28/12 at least (ARC). Riverside Park, one 19/12. Windy Bay, Northam, one — a different bird from the above 19/12
Common Scoter Weston Shore male 13/05 (ARC). Unusual in Spring.
The Solent — off Brownwich Shore, pair seen 05/12
Corn Bunting Martin Down Rifle Range, 11 seen 09/05 (Fm)
Cuckoo Kytes Lane — eastern end, Durley, heard 10/05. Several in New Forest (SC)
Dartford Warbler South of Cherque Farm, male seen 01/01
Firecrest Mark Ash Wood, several here and in Anderwood area 15/03 (SC).
Smoky Hole, North Oakley Inclosure, singing male 26/04 (SC).
Millyford Bridge, New Forest, singing male 08/10 (SC).
Gannet Town Quay, juvenile 16/10 (ARC). Originally found by Mark Painter
Goosander Eyeworth Pond 30/1 (SC)

Great Crested Grebe The Solent — off Brownwich Shore 01/01 (143 seen), 04/12 (108 seen) (RC)
Great Northern Diver River Test off Eling, one seen 12/1–31/12 (PW). Many records at Weston Shore (ARC)
Grey Partridge Lepe Country Park, 8 seen in marshes behind shore 19/10
Hawfinch Woodcrates 08/02 (SC). Bratley Wood 26/04 (SC). Anses Wood, New Forest 22/11 (SC). Alderhill inclosure 13/12 (Fm)
House Martin St Denys Rd, Portswood, 4+ nesting on houses 21/05
Iceland Gull Weston Shore one adult 01/12 (ARC)
Jack Snipe Titchfield Haven, one 27/03, 01/04 (RC)
Kittiwake Weston Shore, one first-year moving north 24/11 (ARC)
Leach's Storm-petrel Hillhead (6+) 28/11 (JS). Weston Shore, one 29/11 (ARC)
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker Bratley area 26/04 (Fm). Lord's Wood 04/07 (GM)
Little Auk Weston Shore — east 10/11 (ARC). Windy Bay, Northam 11/11 (DH)
Little Gull Weston Shore, adult summer and second-summer, flying south 16/04, one first-year 03/10, adult 21/10–25/10 (ARC)
Little Ringed Plover Meon Canal Path, one 23/03 (RC)
Little Tern Weston Shore, one 14/04 (ARC)
Long-tailed Duck Hook Reserve, one immature 07/02 (RC)
Marsh Tit Southampton Common — Hawthorns Centre 01/09 (MO). First one here since 1991. Crowdhill Copse, Fair Oak, one heard 12/11 (PB, DH)
Merlin Hampton Ridge, one reported by a HOS member 13/12 (Fm)
Nightingale Westwood, Southampton, one 16/04, one 04/05 (ARC)
Osprey South of Fawley Inclosure, one passed over northwards 12/09 (Fm)
Peregrine Falcon Southampton Common — west of Ornamental Lake, passed over 15/02. Southampton Old Cemetery, passed over 02/08. Bitterne Rd East garden 10/04, east over garden, 26/11 north-west over garden
Raven Hursley village, flying over 28/09. Several in New Forest and Butser Hill
Red-breasted Merganser Weston Shore, male and female 09/06–15/06 (ARC). very unusual Summer record
Red-necked Grebe Weston Shore, one 30/12 (ARC)
Red Kite Porton Down — east 05/07 (Fm). Titchfield Haven, one 20/10 (RC). Park Hill, East Meon, four seen circling over hill 09/12
Ring Ouzel Pigbush area, one female 21/10 (RC)
Sandwich Tern Weston Shore, one 19/12 (ARC). Rare in Winter
Scaup Titchfield Haven, two 24/03 (RC), one from 19/01 to 03/04. The Solent — off Brownwich Shore, pair seen 04/12
Slavonian Grebe Hillhead, one 02/01. The Solent — off Brownwich Shore, four seen 04/12 (PB, RC)

Spoonbill Titchfield Haven, one 02/03 (RC).
West of Farlington Marshes, one juvenile 25/11
Spotted Flycatcher Fawley Inclosure 12/09 (Fm)
Spotted Sandpiper Lower Brook, Test Valley 28/11 (MO), reported by JP
Swallow Hayling Oysterbeds 24/10 (Fm). Latest record
Tree Sparrow Titchfield Haven, two juveniles 18/09 (RC)
Turtle Dove Botley Wood, one 04/05 (RC). South-west of East Meon, 1 heard 04/08
Velvet Scoter in Solent of Hillhead to Brownwich 03/01, 9/12, 11/12 (RC)
Wheatear Wilverley, New Forest 22/04 (SC). Martin Down Rifle Range 09/05 (JM)
Whinchat Fawley Inclosure, six seen 12/09 (Fm)
White-throated Sparrow Old Winchester Hill — near car park, one 18/04 (MO)
Woodcock Bitterne Road East garden, south-east over garden at 5pm 06/01
Woodlark Sailor's Lane, Corhampton, one 17/03 (RC). Preshaw, one north 08/10 (RC). Kilmeston/Hinton Ampner, two 13/11 (RC)

MAMMALS

Roe Deer *(colour plate 4)* Weston Shore — on the shore (unusual) 16/09 (ARC)
Chinese Muntjac Botley Wood, one 18/08 (RC).
Ampfield Wood, heard barking 19/09
Noctule Bat Ramalley Bridge, Chandler's Ford, seven seen/detected 24/06 (DH)
Stoat Burridge Millennium Pond 04/10 (DH). Also several seen in chalky areas
Water Shrew Old Bursledon Nature Haven 10/07 (Fm)
Weasel A31, Morn Hill, Winchester 27/06 (DH)
Western Polecat B3049 near Westley Lane turning, Sparsholt, one dead — road kill 24/02
Common Seal Weston Shore — 14 dates to 9/04 and from 13/12 (ARC)
Grey Seal Weston Shore, one large individual 11/09 (ARC)

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