

# **LEICESTERSHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY**

**I**

November 1988

## **FIRST EVER FORMAL MEETING OF THE SOCIETY**

This historic occasion took place on September 5th 1988 at New Walk Museum, Leicester following the meeting at the University on 8th June which discussed the setting up of the Society.

The first half of the meeting was very much the business section concerning the adoption of the constitution, the setting of subscription rates and the election of officers. After coffee, members appetite for some real entomology was at last satisfied with an interesting array of exhibits and slides.

### *Hawk moths*

First to kick off was Derek Lott who, on behalf of the Leicestershire Museums Service, exhibited a drawer from their collections showing freeze-dried specimens of all the life cycle stages of British hawk moths. He also showed a collection of insects from Donington Park, which this year has been shown by survey to be a nationally important site for ancient woodland invertebrates associated with dead wood. Finally, he exhibited a specimen of *Hadrognathus longipalpis* a small staphylinid beetle, the first British record of

which came from Cumbria last year.

### *Leaf miners*

Next Nona Finch exhibited an extensive collection of leaf mines made by micro-moths. These can best be identified by and recorded from their feeding signs. The specimens were remarkably well preserved and formed a fine and original reference collection.

### *Something different!*

John Gladman followed on with a couple of slides of the south European Ascalaphidae. These are large striking insects looking somewhat like dragonflies although they are, in fact, of the order Neuroptera and are related to lacewings.

John Bullock brought along a fine and amusing old print entitled "The Passaliden Club" which depicted a group of beetles belonging to the family Passalidae at leisure in their gentleman's club!

## **FIRST MEETING contd.**

### *ISR work*

Finally the meeting was treated to a foretaste of the photographic skills of NCC's Stuart Ball. Stuart showed slides to illustrate the work being carried out by the NCC staff involved in the Invertebrate Site Register for insect conservation in Britain. Many mouths must have been watering at shots of some of the top entomological sites in the country. I suspect that some of the superb close-up shots of insects will linger long in the memory. The high standard of insect photography in these slides augurs well for Stuart's talk scheduled for April. Let's hope that he divulges some of the techniques that he has employed in taking such splendid photographs.

### *Indoor meetings*

It is planned to have an exhibitions section at the beginning of each indoors meeting. Exhibitors are welcome to use Museum equipment e.g. microscopes, where available and should contact Derek Lott on Leicester 554100 ext 3031 in normal working hours if they wish to borrow equipment.

In any case, it is to be hoped that members will, from time to time, take the opportunity to exhibit their prize capture, or anything else of interest, as this will provide an occasion for all members to make a contribution to the exchange of information in a pleasant and informal atmosphere.

Derek Lott

## **COMMITTEE 1988 - 1989**

*Chairman:* Ray Morris

*Secretary:* Derek Lott

*Treasurer:* Jane McPhail

### *Programmes:*

*Indoor:* Roger Key

*Outdoor:* John Mousley

*Editor:* Ray Morris

## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENT**

The Society is grateful to the Leicestershire Museums Service for their support and encouragement for the Society and thank them for their cooperation and advice regarding the production of Society publications.

## **COPY WANTED!**

The Society's Newsletter, if it is to survive, requires copy from its members! If you have any comments or items which may be of interest to members please write to Ray Morris.

# ODONATA RECORDING

*Progress with Odonata data - Leicestershire dragonflies on computer.*

The publication of a British dragonfly atlas is currently being eagerly awaited by entomologists across the British Isles. This atlas is being produced by the Biological Records Centre at Monks Wood in conjunction with the British Dragonfly Society. It also includes damselflies.

Local records are well represented, partly because Helen Ikin has sorted them out and organised all the museum records using the museum computer. One of the fruits of this labour was the transfer of these records to BRC "at the flick of a switch". Other Leicestershire records were sent via local natural history societies and directly from individual recorders.

## *Interesting trends*

To date the museum has 1,632 records of Odonata (dragonflies and damselflies) in a computerised data bank. Of these, 508 were published in 1980 by H. Mendel

*(Leicestershire dragonflies - Trans. Leics. Lit. Phil. Soc., 71, 29-53).* The records show some interesting trends in the populations of some of our species.

Even when account is taken of the increase in recording in recent years, some of our species seem to be increasing in numbers.

These species include *Lestes sponsa* (emerald damselfly), *Aeshna mixta* (migrant hawker), *Libellula depressa* (broad-bordered chaser) and, the newest addition to our fauna, the black-tailed skimmer (*Orthetrum cancellatum*). All of these have increased

*Table 1. Additions to the county list in last ten years.*

10km square	No. records	10km square	No. records
SK20	2	SK80	24
SK30	591	SK81	13
SK31	31	SK82	2
SK32	6	SK83	1
SK40	17	SK90	12
SK41	17	SK91	1
SK42	10	SP39	43
SK43	23	SP49	40
SK50	46	SP57	3
SK51	33	SP58	11
SK52	1	SP59	6
SK60	14	SP68	2
SK61	13	SP69	67
SK70	4	SP99	1
SK71	14	TF00	1
SK72	1	TF01	1
SK73	3		

## Odonata recording continued

from very low or non-existent breeding populations. Changes of status of *Sympetrum sanguineum* (ruddy darter) require careful scrutiny because it may have been confused with the common darter (*Sympetrum striolatum*). Other locally rare species seem to be decreasing, especially the white-legged damselfly (*Platycnemis pennipes*), the emperor dragonfly (*Anax imperator*) and the four-spotted chaser (*Libellula quadrimaculata*).

### More records needed!

These records will be published in a forthcoming booklet but we still require more records. All records of Odonata, either new or ancient, will be gratefully received and acknowledged.

Our cover is geographically

patchy at present. Table 1 shows the additions to the county list over the last ten years based upon 10km squares. Note that squares SK62, SP79 and SP89 have no records on file at all! Note also that these figures do not include records of the Loughborough Naturalists' Club.

In addition, there are some mysteries to be resolved. Does *Cordulegaster boltonii* (golden-ringed dragonfly) breed in the Whitwick area? There have been some convincing descriptions of yellow and black ringed dragonflies from this district. What is the status of the black darter (*Sympetrum danae*) at Charnwood Lodge? We are still waiting for the first properly authenticated record of the southern hawker (*Aeshna juncea*).

Table 2. Records received for Odonata over the last ten years

Species	No. records
<i>Aeshna cyanea</i>	62
<i>Aeshna grandis</i>	263
<i>Aeshna juncea</i>	72
<i>Aeshna mixta</i>	31
<i>Anax imperator</i>	7
<i>Calopteryx splendens</i>	71
<i>Coenagrion puella</i>	64
<i>Cordulegaster boltonii</i>	71
<i>Enallagma cyathigerum</i>	103
<i>Erythromma najas</i>	97
<i>Ischnura elegans</i>	228
<i>Lestes sponsa</i>	9
<i>Libellula depressa</i>	9
<i>Libellula quadrimaculata</i>	4
<i>Orthetrum cancellatum</i>	2
<i>Platycnemis pennipes</i>	2
<i>Pyrrhosoma nymphula</i>	9
<i>Sympetrum danae</i>	1
<i>Sympetrum sanguineum</i>	6
<i>Sympetrum striolatum</i>	84

## **Odonata recording continued**

The number of records received in the last ten years for each species is shown in Table 2, again not

including the records of the Loughborough Naturalists' Club.

*Derek Lott & Helen Ikin*

## **FOUNDER MEMBERS**

Mark Baker, 2, Begonia Drive, Burbage LE10 2SW - all groups

Harry Ball, 170 Packer Avenue, Leicester Forest East  
LE3 3QJ - lepidoptera, general, breeding

Stuart Ball, NCC, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA -  
diptera, odonata, photography, computerised recording  
and identification

Ray Barnett, Herbert Art Gallery & Museum, Coventry -  
lepidoptera, general

John Bullock, Dept Zoology, Leicester University, LE1 7RH -  
coleoptera, freshwater heteroptera

Frank Clark, 13 Woodbank Road, Leicester LE2 3YQ - ecto-  
parasitic insects, any insects with aquatic larvae

Gareth Dalglish, NCC, 70 Castlegate, Grantham, Lincs

Tony Drane, 14 Rockingham Road, Cottingham, Market Harborough  
LE16 8XS - coleoptera, habitats (old woodlands, parklands,  
fens and marshes)

Graham & Nona Finch, 14 Thorndale, Ibstock, LE6 1JT (lepid-  
optera, syrphids)

B.M. Foulquies, Fenney, Nr. Shepshed, Loughborough LE12 9EW  
(general)

Maggie Frankum, 3 Chapel Lane, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3WF  
(lepidoptera, odonata, aculeates, garden wildlife)

Neil Frankum, 3 Chapel Lane, Knighton, Leicester LE2 3WF  
(syrphids, odonata, garden wildlife)

Peter Gamble, 96 Meeting Street, Quorn LE12 8EX (lepidoptera,  
odonata)

Fred Giles, 53 Portcullis Road, Netherall Estate, Leicester  
LE5 1SF (phasmids, general)

Monica Gillham, 27 Waterfield Road, Cropston LE7 7HL (odonata)

John Gladman, 15 Springfield Avenue, Market Bosworth CV13 0QD  
(lepidoptera, breeding)

## **Founder members continued**

Ken Greenwood, 24 Coventry Road, Pailton, Nr. Rugby CV23 0QD  
(lepidoptera, breeding)

M.T. Greenwood, Dept of Geography, University of Loughborough  
LE11 3TU (siphonaptera, ephemeroptera, plecoptera,  
parasites of bats)

Harold Godsmark, 2 Welford Road, Shearsby, Lutterworth  
LE17 6PE (lepidoptera)

Roger & Diane Harris, 16 Butterley Drive, Loughborough  
(general, syrphids)

John Hay, School of Pharmacy, Leicester Polytechnic,  
Leicester LE1 9BH (insects of medical and veterinary  
importance)

Helen Ikin, 32 Brook Road, Woodhouse Eaves LE12 8RS  
(odonata, orthoptera)

Carol James, 2 Begonia Drive, Burbage LE10 2SW (general)

Les Jones, 8 Towers Drive, Kirby Muxloe (lepidoptera, galls)

Roger & Rosy Key, 67 Peterborough Road, Crowland, Lincs.,  
PE6 0BB (insect conservation, coleoptera, heteroptera)

John Kramer, 31 Ashtree Road, Oadby LE2 5TE (diptera, syrphids)

Chris Leach, David Attenborough Labs., School of Life Sciences,  
Leicester Polytechnic, Scraftoft, Leicester LE7 9SU  
(galls)

Derek Lott, Leicestershire Museums Service, New Walk,  
Leicester (coleoptera, heteroptera)

Jane McPhail, 7 Station Close, Kirby Muxloe LE9 9ES (galls,  
lepidoptera, syrphids)

John Measom, 34 Melton Avenue, Leicester (general)

Ray Morris, 142 Hinckley Road, Barwell LE9 8DN (lepidoptera,  
galls, syrphids, recording schemes, historical records)

John Mousley, 1 Brooks Lane, Whitwick LE6 4DG (diptera,  
aculeates)

Bernard Mullahy, 1 Nene Court, Oadby (lepidoptera)

Martin Osborn, 50 Tournament Road, Glenfield LE3 8LQ  
(lepidoptera)

Jenny Owen, 66 Scraftoft Lane, Leicester LE5 1HU (syrphids,  
aculeates, general, conservation significance of gardens)

Michael Pendery, 134 Station Road, Cropston (lepidoptera)

Adrian Russell, 15 St Swithin's Road, Leicester (general,  
lepidoptera)

John Tatham, 102 Chaveney Road, Quorn LE12 8AD (lepidoptera,  
conservation)

Steven Telling, 29 Highfield Road, Groby (general)(junior)

Phil Thomas, 181 Station Road, Earl Shilton LE9 7GG  
(odonata, coleoptera)

Jack Ward, 75 Liberty Road, Glenfield, Leicester (lepidoptera)

Jeremy Woodhead, 69 Davenport Road, Leicester LE5 6SE  
(lepidoptera, coleoptera)

# **WINTER PROGRAMME 1988-9**

Monday 14th November

DEREK LOTT - Records and recording  
An essential part of the Society's  
activities - not to be missed!

Monday 9th January

PAUL WARING (NCC) - Conservation  
of Britain's rarest moths. Paul  
is currently working on the  
conservation needs of the moths  
which are protected under Schedule  
5 of the Wildlife & Countryside  
Act.

Monday 13th February

ADAM WRIGHT (Coventry Museum) -  
Sawflies - introduction to the  
study of the Symphyta. Adam is  
one of the few entomologists  
working on these insects and has  
just started a study group and  
recording scheme.

Saturday 18th March

PETER KIRBY (NCC) - Hemiptera  
study workshop. Peter is one of  
the national experts on the  
Heteroptera and is currently  
working on a new guide to the  
British species with Bernard Nau.  
The workshop will aim to help  
members take an interest in the  
heteroptera and Auchenorrhyncha -  
het bugs and hoppers - covering  
field techniques and identification.

Monday April 10th

STUART BALL (NCC) - Introduction  
to invertebrate photography. By  
popular request, Stuart's short  
slide presentation at the September  
meeting is followed up by how he  
achieves such excellent photographic  
results. Aspects of macrophoto-  
graphy, lighting etc will be  
covered, all illustrated by some  
of his superb shots of insects and  
other invertebrates.

All evening meetings will be held at 7.30 p.m. at the Council  
Room, Leicester Museum, New Walk, Leicester.

The Bug workshop is at the same venue but will run from 10 a.m.  
to 4.30 p.m.

All indoor meetings will start with reports of members'  
observations and a display of exhibits. If you have anything  
of interest please feel free to make a contribution.