

# LEICESTERSHIRE ENTOMOLOGICAL SOCIETY

2

February 1989

## PROTECTED!

The Wildlife and Countryside Act (1981) is probably the most comprehensive wildlife law ever introduced in Britain. New, legal measures were given to the protection of wild plants and animals with important steps being taken to protect vulnerable habitats. Stiff penalties (up to two thousand pounds per specimen) were introduced against offenders, although, as yet, the full force of such fines has to be applied.

Much publicity has been given to the protection afforded to mammals and birds but the Act also covers a growing list of invertebrates (Table 1).

Under schedule 5 of the Act it is an offence to kill, injure, take, sell or possess any of the mentioned species (whether dead or alive) and to disturb or destroy their habitats.

A further addition to the schedule was made late in 1988 when 22 butterflies

received a degree of protection under the Act (Table 2). Section 9(5) controls the sale of these insects by a system of licensing run by the Department of the Environment. This regulates the exploitation of the named species and requires that wild-taken butterflies of foreign origin should not be released into the wild.

Members are reminded that a code of conduct when collecting invertebrates has been published by the JCCBI - ask for a copy!

Table 1. Species protected under schedule 5 of the Act

Rainbow leaf beetle	Wart-biter grasshopper
Violet click beetle	Barberry carpet moth
Heath fritillary butterfly	Black-veined moth
Large blue butterfly	Essex emerald moth
Swallowtail butterfly	New Forest burnet moth
New Forest cicada	Reddish buff moth
Field cricket	Viper's bugloss moth
Mole cricket	Fen raft spider
Norfolk aeshna dragonfly	Ladybird spider

**Table 2. Butterflies receiving protection under section 9(5) of schedule 5 of the 1981 Act as amended 1988.**

Northern brown argus	Pearl-bordered fritillary
Adonis blue	Black hairstreak
Chalkhill blue	Brown hairstreak
Silver-studded blue	White-letter hairstreak
Small blue	Large heath
Large copper	Mountain ringlet
Purple emperor	Chequered skipper
Duke of Burgundy fritillary	Lulworth skipper
Glanville fritillary	Silver-spotted skipper
High brown fritillary	Large tortoiseshell
Marsh fritillary	Wood white

## **BOOK REVIEW**

### ***The Dragonflies of Essex***

This book can be strongly recommended, not only to people with a specialist knowledge of dragonflies, but also to those who are looking for a new field of interest.

Chapter 1 describes the progress of the Essex survey and the different factors which influenced the work. Systematic coverage of each 5 and 10 km square, regular field trips and good communication have led to a very thorough coverage of the county. There is also a handy table of dragonfly flight periods.

The natural history of dragonflies, including sections on behaviour and ecology, are covered in the next chapter. In addition, useful tips on how to observe and study these insects are given.

Subsequent chapters give descriptions of habitats in Essex which lead into

the Essex listings. These include distribution maps for each species found in the county. These dot maps conveniently form an integral part of the text and are based upon the 2km tetrad system of recording.

There then follows notes on possible further work and some interesting appendices. One appendix on "History of Dragonfly Recording in Essex" gives a fascinating glimpse of the social history of a very favoured corner of England. The first significant local list of Essex Odonata was published in 1835 by Edward Doubleday. Cynthia Longfield and Cyril Hammond are amongst the many excellent entomologists who have worked in Essex in the past.

It was interesting to read the article by Derek Lott and Helen Ikin on the dragonflies of our county (LES Newsletter No. 1).

There is clearly plenty of worthwhile and enjoyable work to be done in the local county. The insects are useful as indicators of the health of our aquatic habitats.

Appendix C of the book contains a useful (and pocket-sized) key for the identification of the different species. Dragonflies begin to

appear in May, which gives you sufficient time to order your copy before the season starts! Why not?

*John Kramer*

[The Dragonflies of Essex by E Benton is available from The Essex Field Club, c/o Passmore Edwards Museum, Romford Road, Stratford, London E15 4EZ at six pounds fifty pence including postage.]

## COUNTY ATLASES

Two county atlases of invertebrate interest are expected to be published during 1989 with the following provisional titles:

### ***Preliminary Atlas of Galls in Leicestershire***

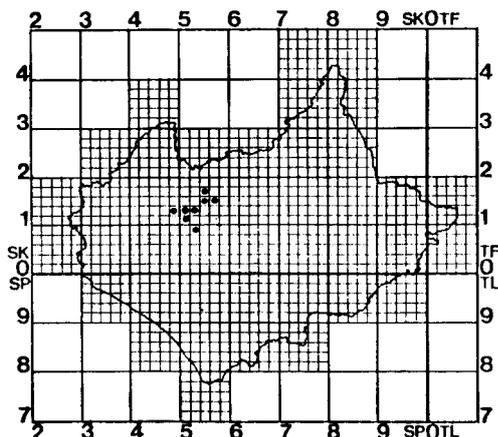
This publication is being produced by Chris Leach (Secretary of the British Plant Gall Society) and Les Jones, both of whom are members of LES, with the cooperation of staff at the Leicester Museum. Records of galls in the county are

still fairly sparse despite the extensive collection built up by Les in the last few years which forms the reference collection at the Museum. Additional records are always welcome and, in the first instance, should be sent to Les.

### ***Butterflies and Moths of Leicestershire in the 1970s***

This long overdue review of the county's lepidoptera is now almost in its final draft with the text and distribution maps receiving one last check. Much of the original work in setting up the Leicestershire Lepidoptera Recording Scheme was carried out by

the late Don Hall-Smith. In his memory the atlas is to carry his name as co-author with Ray Barnett, now of the Herbert Museum in Coventry, who worked at the Leicester Museum when the data was being collated for production of the atlas.



Distribution of the map-winged swift in the county in the 1970s.

The Society thanks the Leicestershire Museums Service for its cooperation and advice in producing the publications of the LES.

## **NEW MEMBERS**

Steve Bates, 237 Thurncoat Road, Leicester LE5 2NL  
(general)  
Elwyn Bowles, Stamford House, Station Road, Kirby Muxloe  
(general)  
Ian Evans, Leicestershire Museums Service, New Walk, Leicester  
(everything!)  
Jim Fowler, School of Life Sciences, Leicester Polytechnic,  
Scraptoft, Leicester LE7 9SU (Mallophaga, Diptera,  
Dixidae)  
Walter Lemmon, 22 Clarence Road, Narborough (general)  
(Odonata)  
Eva Penn-Smith, Whitehill, Whitwick Road, Markfield LE6 0QB  
(Lepidoptera, Odonata)  
Reg Price, 98 Barwell Lane, Hinckley LE10 1SS (general,  
(Coleoptera)  
Dennis Cooper, 158 Knighton Church Road, Leicester LE2 3JC  
(general)

## **BUTTERFLY SURVEY**

The South West Group of the county Trust is undertaking a survey of butterflies seen in gardens during 1989. The primary aim is to involve Trust members in a very simple recording scheme - all that is needed is a pen with which to fill in the boxes on the forms! Hopefully sufficient returns will be received to give a useful injection of local data for this group of insects. While the survey area is the south west of the county this does not preclude any other Trust members or LES members from taking part. All records count and, with a bit of luck, the survey may stimulate interest in other parts of the county. If you would like to take part in the survey send a large s.a.e. to Ray Morris, 142 Hinckley Rd., Barwell LE9 8DN who will provide the necessary record sheets

## **RECORDS**

Still on the topic of biological recording don't forget to submit your

insect records as soon as possible so that the data becomes available for use in reports etc. It cannot be over-emphasised how important such records are. Without this information the conservation movement finds it difficult to comment upon planning applications which may result in the total destruction of valuable habitat. In addition, it is hoped that each year the LES will be able to use the records to summarise the situation of our county's insect fauna.

## **COPY WANTED!**

The Newsletter will only thrive if you, the members, contribute to it! Any short notes on insect behaviour, unusual records, requests for information or for assistance will be welcome.

Don't hesitate - write to the Newsletter now and let us know what you're up to!

All copy to: Ray Morris  
142 Hinckley Road,  
Barwell LE9 8DN

## **PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST 1988**

Periodically, the Society will publish a list of articles which may be of interest to members. If you should require to see

copies of the papers listed please contact Ray Morris for further information on how to acquire them.

### **British Journal of Entomology and Natural History vol. 1**

- 1/88 MWF Tweedie. Resting posture in lepidoptera pp1-8.  
2/88 MEN Majerus. Some notes on the 18-spot ladybird (*Myrrha 18-guttata* L.) (Coleoptera: Coccinellidae) pp11-13.  
3/88 PQ Winter. An additional aid to the identification of *Amphipyra pyramidea* L. and *A. berbera svenssoni* Fletcher (Lepidoptera: Noctuidae) pp97-99.

### **Bulletin of Entomological Research vol. 78**

- 4/88 WJ McGeechie. A remote sensing method for the estimation of light trap efficiency pp365-377.

### **Journal of Applied Ecology vol. 25**

- 5/88 E Pollard. Temperature, rainfall and butterfly numbers pp819-828.

### **Bulletin of the Amateur Entomologists' Society vol. 47**

- 6/88 M Collins. Legislation on insects pp53-55.  
7/88 AJ Hollier. A note on the design of nature reserves for insects pp68-70.  
8/88 H Marcan. Field observations of variation in British coccinellidae pp201-205.  
9/88 J Ruffle. Foodplants of the British Geometridae pp205-214.

### **Journal of Applied Entomology vol 106**

- 10/88 K Tunset et al. A new trap design for primary attraction of bark beetles and bark weevils (Coleoptera: Scolytidae and Curculionidae) pp266-269.

### **Field Studies vol 7**

- 11/88 LE Friday. A key to the adults of British water beetles pp1-151 (an AIDGAP key).

- 12/88 BK West. *Biston betularia* L. (Lep: Geometridae): melanism in decline? pp39-41.  
13/88 J Owen. *Sericomyia silentis* (Harris) (Diptera: Syrphidae): the 44,834th hoverfly pp43-44.  
14/88 RR Uthoff-Kaufmann. The occurrence of the genus *Strangalia* Serveille (Col: Cerambycidae) in the British Isles pp63-71.  
15/88 DJL Agassiz. Microlepidoptera - a review of the year 1986 pp118-130.  
16/88 RF Bretherton & JM Chalmers-Hunt. The immigration of lepidoptera to the British Isles 1987 pp175-180 and 226-232.  
17/88 RHL Disney & RE Evans. New host records for fungus breeding phoridae (Diptera) pp169-174  
18/88 RR Uthoff-Kaufmann. A revised key to the varieties of *Rhagium bifasciatum* F. (Col: Cerambycidae) pp 217-225.

Entomologist's Gazette vol 39

- 19/88 J Boorman & C Rowland. A key to the genera of British Ceratopogonidae (Diptera) pp65-73.  
20/88 J Paul. Colour and pattern variation in *Tetrix ceperoi* Bolivar (Orthoptera: Tetrigidae): an aid to identification pp133-139.  
21/88 MG Fitton & M Boston. The British species of *Phthorima* (Hymenoptera: Ichneumonidae) pp165-170.

## OCCASIONAL PUBLICATIONS SERIES

The Newsletter of the LES aims to keep members in touch with the activities of the Society and to draw attention to matters which may be of some interest e.g. changes in legislation regarding invertebrate conservation, book reviews, short items on unusual records or insect behaviour.

However, it is felt that the Society should also encourage the production of reports on studies carried out by members or, indeed, by the Society.

To that end an "Occasional Publications Series" is

being produced (the first two are included with this Newsletter) which will act as a record of the efforts of members but will also serve as a means of rapidly publishing reports.

Hopefully, the Series will not only result in a sharing of experiences but will also stimulate members to undertake studies on invertebrates.

All submissions will be scrutinised by the Editorial Panel but this must not discourage members from reporting their observations. The Panel will advise all

contributors on how to best present their data.

All papers will be edited to conform to a common style but this need not deter potential authors.

The only requirements which will be applied to all submissions for inclusion in the Occasional Publications Series are:

(a) the text should be preferably typed or, at the least, clearly written;  
(b) any diagrams should be sufficiently large so as not to lose detail if they are reduced in size by up to 50% and they should be well drawn, preferably using black indian ink - no diagrams using colours will

be accepted at this time; (c) photographs cannot, at this time, be included in the publications although it is hoped that in the not too distant future good quality, glossy black and white prints may be usable.

Remember! If in doubt ask for advice - it will be freely given.

Two papers are already published and a further three or four are on their way. Make sure that your contribution to the Society is recognised in its Occasional Publications Series!

Send submissions to Ray Morris.

## **THE DIPTERIST'S DIGEST**

Interested in two-winged flies (Diptera) then you need to subscribe to the new *Dipterist's Digest*.

Originating from the Diptera Recording Scheme the journal aims to keep the enthusiasm of the supporters of the Scheme from waning by encouraging contributions from all over Britain.

The publication is under the tender care of Derek Whiteley, a well-known fan of hoverflies (see Occasional Publications

Series No. 1 by John Kramer)

The journal will presumably appear as and when there is sufficient copy to justify a print run.

Copies can be obtained on subscription from Derek by sending 2 pounds 50 pence for issue No.2 or 5 pounds for Nos. 2 and 3. Copies of No. 1 are still available at 3 pounds each.

Send to Derek Whiteley (to whom cheques should be made payable) at 730 Eccleshall Road, Sheffield S11 8TB.

# FIELD TRIPS 1989

DATE	SITE	MEET/PARK AT
■ May 7th	Saddington Reservoir Open water, reedswamp and willow scrub. Lunch at Black Horse, Walcote	Saddington to Gumley road at SP 665912.
	* Misterton Marshes. Grassland, springline reedbed, stream and woodland.	SP 555848
■ June 4th	Barrowden railway line Dismantled railway cutting with limestone flora. Geeston quarry. Disused limestone quarry.	East of Morcott to Harringworth road at SP 928998  Geeston to Barrowden road at SK 981036.
	Lunch at PH in Tinwell	
	* Burley Wood. Largest wood in Leics? Wide rides, dead wood and wetland.	A606 at SK 8909
■ July 2nd	Acresford Pit. Disused sand pit.	Donisthorpe to B5002 road at SK 303132.
	Lunch at Navigation Inn, Spring Cottage, Albert village. Overseal Goods Sidings. Dismantled railway, slag heaps and adjacent marshes.	Navigation Inn car park B5004 road at SK 304161.
	* Holly Hayes Wood. Ancient woodland and grassland.	Hilary Crescent off Hall Lane, Whitwick SK 442152.
■ August 6th	Sutton Park, Sutton Coldfield. (Joint meeting with British Ent. Soc.)	New Walk Museum car park.
■ August 20th	Burbage Common, Hinckley. Managed heathland with oak scrub. (Joint with Hinckley NHS and the British Plant Gall Society).	Visitor Centre on Common off the A47 Leicester to Hinckley road at SP 446954 <u>at</u> <u>10 a.m.</u>
■ September 3rd	Great Bowden Borrow Pit Clay pit with cotton grass, reed mace and bog moss. Lunch at Bewicke Arms, Hallaton. Hallaton Castle. Grassland, springline marsh and stream. Tilton marsh. Spring line marsh and stream.	Gt. Bowden to Thorpe Langton road at SP 743897.  Hallaton to Goadby road at SP 780966.  Loddington to Tilton road at SK 766042.

Meet either at Museum car park at 9.30 a.m. or at the site.  
\* Moth trapping. Lunch 1300-1400 hrs.