

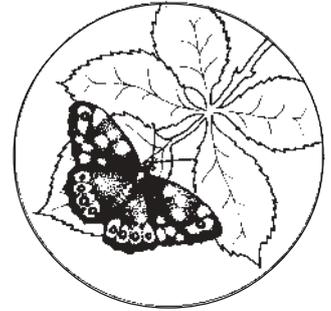
# THE ESSEX FIELD CLUB

**HEADQUARTERS:**

**THE PASSMORE EDWARDS MUSEUM,**

**ROMFORD ROAD, STRATFORD,**

**LONDON, E15 4LZ**



**NEWSLETTER NO. 14**

August 1995

## LACEWINGS AND ALLIES IN ESSEX

Even non-entomologists must recognise a green lacewing when they see one. Though there are 76 British species (including four snake flies, three alder flies and four scorpion flies) we have only one which hibernates and this is the one which is frequently found lying dead on window ledges and in garden sheds during the spring.

Exactly ten years ago, back in 1985, when the Passmore Edwards Museum still had a Natural History Department, I produced a set of distribution maps for lacewings and allies in the county. These showed some 34 recorded in recent years together with a further four that had been recorded donkey's years ago but had not been seen since.

At that time, the study of lacewings had, for some reason, been largely ignored by British entomologists, though our European counterparts, especially the Austrians and Hungarians, were approaching these familiar insects in a rather more thorough manner. However, things have moved on apace in the intervening decade. The Essex list now stands at a rather more impressive 46 species reported since 1979, with a further 4 not recorded since the turn of the century. North Essex and South Essex vice counties compare well, with 39 and 41 species since 1979, respectively. I am sure there are half a dozen or so more to be discovered yet!

Over the same period, no less than 8 new species have been added to the formal list for the British Isles. For the budding entomologists amongst you, these are: *Coniopteryx esbenpeterseni*, *Coniopteryx lentiae*, *Semidalis pseudouncinata*, *Hemerobius fenestratus*, *Chrysoperla lucasina*, *Chrysoperla species B*, *Cunctochrysa bellifontensis* and *Nineta inpunctata*.

Of these eight, no less than five - *C. esbenpeterseni*, *S. pseudouncinata*, *Cu. species B*, *C. bellifontensis* and *N. inpunctata* are recorded for Essex. Indeed, the last named species was first found in the county, at Eastend Wood, near Stansted Airport during 1989. It looks confusingly like the rare unspotted form of *Chrysopa pallens* (= *septempunctata*) and I had labelled it as this in my collection. It was not until earlier this year, whilst examining some material rather more critically as a part of my research for the new AIDGAP keys to lacewings (due for publication early in 1996), that I realised it was something different. I eventually tracked it down in a German key. Confirmation proved rather more difficult, especially since the specimen was a female and so the characteristic shape of the male genitalia could not be examined. There are apparently only 15 sites (including Eastend Wood) in the entire Western Palaearctic where this species has ever been recorded and it seems that there are no examples in any museum or private collection anywhere in Britain. Confirmation was finally gained through the kindness of Herbert Hölzel in Austria - though the specimen lost a wing in transit!

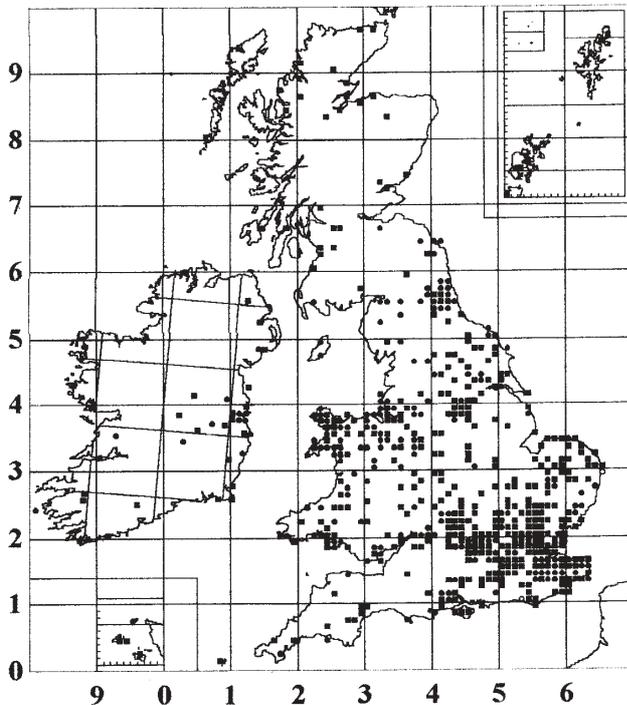
The two *Chrysoperla* species are of far greater interest however, and are the main reason

for this fit of generosity in providing our Editor with some much needed copy for the newsletter. In my opening paragraph I referred to a green lacewing that hibernates and is often found inside houses and sheds, etc.. This is the common green lacewing *Chrysoperla carnea* which was discovered as new to science in London during 1836 by the famous entomologist Stephens. It occurs throughout the length and breadth of the British Isles, from Shetland to the Channel Islands, from Lowestoft to the Dingle. It is numerically abundant throughout its range which, on a wider scale includes the entire Holarctic region (in USA they call it *C. plorabunda*). Or is it?

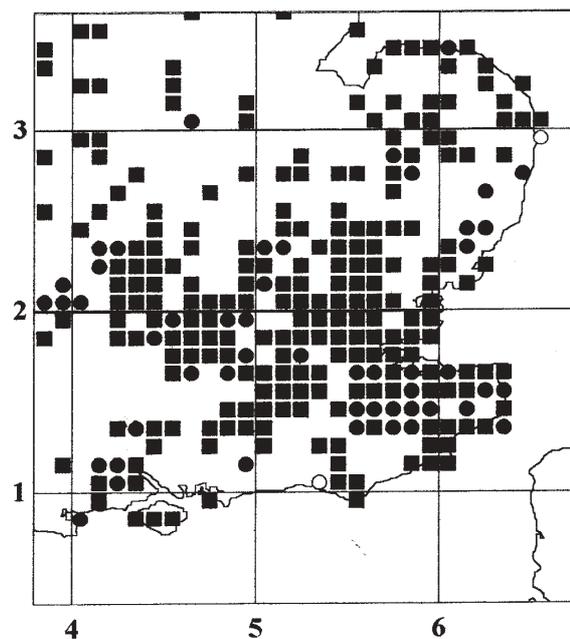
Recently, french entomologist Patrice Leraut examined the type specimens (the actual specimens used to give the first ever description of the species when it was first discovered) of a number of species of *Chrysoperla* and realised that what we have been calling *Ch. carnea* is in fact a complex of no fewer than four separate species!!! Three of these are present in Britain. The true *carnea* it seems, is in fact incredibly rare here. The commonest by far is the one I have called species B above (it was so named by Leraut in his work - since then the name of *Chrysoperla kolthoffi* has been applied to it but a recent paper by Stephen Brooks at the Natural History Museum shows that this is not the correct name as *kolthoffi* is already in use for a Japanese species). We also have *Ch. lucasina* in this country and this is quite hard to separate from species B. The fourth segregate, *Ch. renoni* is a rare species of damp areas along the Mediterranean seaboard and would not be expected in Britain.

All this leaves us with a bit of a problem. The accompanying map shows that what we have to date been calling *Ch. carnea* is well distributed. But the evidence to hand suggests that the true *Ch. carnea* is indeed quite rare and it is not, so far, recorded for either of the Essex vice counties. Species B is recorded in Essex, however, and appears quite widespread and common. So far, I have not encountered any Essex examples of *Ch. lucasina*.

### Chrysoperla carnea



### Chrysoperla carnea



So, this is where the Essex Field Club's members come in! I need to see specimens from all over the county. There are of course several other green lacewing species with which the target species can be confused, but this does not matter as records are needed for all species to update the distribution maps. I should like to see any lacewings from Essex (and anywhere else for that matter) - be they dead or alive, green or brown. Look for them in light fittings, on window ledges, in the blue electrocution traps at Sainsbury's (always gets an interesting reaction when you ask the manager for his dead insects!), in spiders webs and elsewhere or even go out and catch a few for me. Those members who run moth traps can be particularly helpful by sending me samples for each trap session (paper triangles labelled with date are adequate - putting the entire night's catch in one triangle). A certain member did tell me a few years ago that he only had the one green lacewing in his garden - when he sent me samples from his trap I think I found five species, from memory!

Live specimens can be sent in a matchbox, film canister or similar - preferably with a small piece of tissue to soak up condensed "sweat". Post them to me first class together with a note of the place and date of capture. Remember to include your own name and address if you want a reply and if sending live specimens please label the container with the words "**LIVE INSECT**" so I know to open carefully. (Don't write the words on the envelope or the post office will probably go on strike!). Air holes are not necessary - the insects travel extremely well. Dead specimens should be gently wrapped in tissue to avoid mechanical damage during transit or else sent in paper triangles.

As a result of this exercise I hope to gain a better picture of what is happening to the carnea species complex in Essex; hopefully I can put my early results in the next newsletter.

I look forward to lots of lacewings in the post over the next few months.

Colin W. Plant  
14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts, CM23 3QP

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#### UNUSUAL NEUROPTERID SEEN IN ESSEX

I was pleasantly surprised to see a specimen of the large Neuropterid, *Osmylus fulvicephalus* (Scopoli), along the Twitty Fee stream valley in Little Baddow Heath nature reserve on 1st June 1993. To my amazement a second one was spotted along the stream valley in Blake's Wood nature reserve, Little Baddow (just over a mile WNW of the 1st June occurrence), the next day. The latter specimen came to rest on a twig above the stream and I managed to pick it up and examine it!

I understand from Colin Plant that this impressive lacewing-like insect is rare in Essex and that there are no other recent records.

Geoff Pyman

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## THE REDISCOVERY OF A RARE ANT IN ESSEX

Between 10 July 1992 and 29 July 1992 a single worker of the Slender-bodied Ant, *Leptothorax tuberosus* (Fab.) was caught at the Old Ranges, Gunners Park, Shoeburyness (an EWT reserve). Along with this species were also specimens of the Red Ants, *Myrmica specioides* Bond. and *Myrmica schencki* Em. (determined by P.R. Harvey) as well as the Black Ant, *Lasius niger* (L.). Sampling was undertaken at three places on the reserve from the end of 1991 to the end of 1992. Only one specimen of *L. tuberosus* was found.

*Leptothorax tuberosus* is a Notable A species (Falk, 1991) meaning that throughout Britain it has only been found in 16 to 30 10Km squares. It appears to be almost wholly a coastal species found in warm, sunny situations, with most localities along the south coast. Donisthorpe in his famous book, 'British Ants, their life-history and classification' published in 1927 gives Southend as the only locality in Essex.

As ants go, it is a small species (workers are 2.3 - 3.4 mm), yellowish in colour. It frequently makes small nests under stones or in rock crevices, but will also utilise the dry stumps or twigs of shrubs like gorse or broom. Nests are not large usually containing about 50 workers but only one queen.

Outside the British Isles, *L. tuberosus* is common in south Norway, Sweden and Finland north to about 62 latitude where it is restricted to warm lowland habitats. It is common and widespread in the mountains of central Europe from Spain to the Caucasus as well as in northern Italy, north to central Sweden (Collingwood 1979).

Obviously such a small ant living in small colonies must be over-looked. Furthermore, many of its sites along cliffs are inaccessible. Recently, a number of new localities have been discovered in Cornwall, Devon and Dorset as well as in Glamorganshire which suggests that its distribution may be wider than was originally thought. This does not detract from the importance of its rediscovery alongside the Essex Thames where, nowadays, there must be precious little suitable habitat for it.

The Old Ranges at Shoeburyness are a remarkable survival. They form a remnant of Shoebury Common, part of which lies within the confines of the adjoining coastguard station and also a much more degraded section managed by Southend Borough Council alongside Shoebury Common Road going westwards into Thorpe Bay. Before Southend became the modern town it is today, much of the coast west of Shoebury, as far as Southend would have had areas of bare, gravelly, sandy ground closely resembling the Old Ranges. Old paintings (Beecroft Art Gallery) and photographs (Southend Museum) clearly show low gravelly cliffs stretching along Thorpe Bay or Southchurch as it was called then. The Old Ranges survived development, because very early on, it was taken over by the military and used as a rifle range. For centuries it has been cut off from public access and has never been farmed.

Lying behind the sea wall, it is an area of shelly sand and flint representing what was once a sand dune area. Heavily grazed by rabbits, the vegetation is very rich in rare species mainly growing in short turf. However there are also substantial areas dominated by gorse (*Ulex europaeus*) and some areas of bramble which may provide the suitable dry sticks that could be utilised by *L. tuberosus*. There are also a number of flint stones and assorted stones and blocks left behind by the MOD.

Although the Old Ranges was saved as a nature reserve purely on the grounds of its

botanical richness and even the current EWT Nature Reserves Handbook states that wildlife interest of the reserve is largely botanical, this can no longer be said to be true. Even quite limited sampling has revealed the area as one of the richest invertebrate sites in the county, harbouring a relict fauna consisting of species almost certainly once much more widespread in this south-eastern corner of Essex.

#### References

- Collingwood, C.A. (1979) The Formicidae (Hymenoptera) of Fennoscandia and Denmark. Fauna Entomologica Scandinavia Vol. 8. Scandinavian Science Press Ltd.
- Donisthorpe, H.St.J.K. (1927) British Ants, their life history and classification. 2nd ed. G.Routledge and Sons Ltd. London.
- Falk, Steven (1991) A Review of the Scarce and Threatened Bees, Wasps and Ants of Great Britain. Research and Survey in Nature Conservation No. 35. NCC, Northminster House, Peterborough PE1 1UA.

R. G. Payne

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#### POND DIPPING AND AMPHIBIANS, THAXTED 7th MAY 1995

An Essex Field Club meeting was held at Park Farm Thaxted the home of Mr Simon Latham. This farmer is interested in conserving wildlife along with good agricultural practice. Four ponds exist on the farm, two older ones now cleared and improved and two newly dug smaller ponds. The meeting began by dipping the large older pond.

There were large numbers of Smooth Newts here, eleven males and twenty females were netted and released afterwards. The pond was in good condition with clear water and also produced a specimen of the Great diving Beetle together with numerous water boatmen. Pond snails were present, mayfly larvae and freshwater shrimps were also seen. Three spined Sticklebacks were found in breeding condition and numerous young were evident.

The second of the older ponds was found by walking uphill along a conservation corridor of trees and shrubs. This pond had recently been dug out and widened. The water was clear and contained a strong growth of pond weeds *Potamogeton natans* and *P. crispus*. Sticklebacks both adult and young were found but no newts were seen. Azure Damselflies *Coenagrion puella* were found here.

Time did not allow examination of the two new ponds but the area was of such interest it was thought that a further visit in the near future would be desirable to carry out more extensive recording.

David Scott

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## ECOLOGY AND THAMES CHASE COMMUNITY FOREST

Thames Chase Community Forest covers 9,850 hectares (over 38 square miles) and extends across Dagenham, Havering, Thurrock, and Brentwood, including the Rom/Beam, Ingrebourne, and Mardyke valleys. It is one of three lead 'community forest' creation schemes out of a total of twelve distributed across England. A small nucleus of full-time staff part-funded by the Countryside Commission are co-ordinating grant-aided and voluntary efforts of the Forestry Commission, local authorities, farmers and land-owners, community groups, and local conservation societies. The aim is to enrich the metropolitan green belt and urban fringe. The London Ecology Unit has carried out a Phase I survey, and an outline plan has been produced to promote interest and discussion, and to steer land use in the direction of improved landscape, conservation, and increased public access and enjoyment. Mainly small scale planting is already in progress. Over 50 years it is proposed to increase woodland cover from 10% to 27% by planting 2000 hectares.

The first meeting of the Thames Chase wildlife forum discussed the need for high quality ecological information before any changes are decided but this can be a problem. Once proposals to develop or alter land-use have been formally submitted to local planning authorities they may be determined quite quickly. The local planning authority can require 'environmental impact assessments' to be carried out but these can be botanically biased with limited field survey, especially when carried out by non-local consultants.

It so happened that in 1992 when local consultation on Thames Chase was in progress, the UK government pledged action at the 1992 Rio World Environment Summit Conference on what is now known as 'Agenda 21' (i.e. action to protect world environment and biodiversity for the 21st century). Agenda 21 emphasises the fundamental importance of local action via 'Local Agenda 21' initiatives. 'Flagship' initiatives such as Thames Chase would seem to be an ideal vehicle to demonstrate the 'new higher ecological standards' advocated. However, notwithstanding the good work of staff and voluntary organisations, funding does not support a dedicated ecologist, and additional expertise would be welcome. The capture of as much existing habitat and species data as possible would be extremely useful, followed by new survey when necessary. This would add definition to the Thames Chase vision, and assist responses to planning applications as they arise. Are EFC members able to offer assistance? Contact Peter Wilkinson on 01708-641880.

## NOAK BRIDGE NATURE RESERVE

Members who assisted the local residents campaign by contributing records will be interested to know that their efforts proved helpful in getting this site designated. Work funded by the Commission for New Towns has begun on fencing the reserve area prior to hand-over to EWT, who will oversee management by the Noak Bridge Conservation Group. Unfortunately part of the adjacent wild area was sold to a builder who started work without advance warning, with the result that orchids and primroses which should have been translocated have been lost. A few plants have since been spotted in areas cleared for fencing. Contract work has been in progress through the spring against conservation advice. New ponds have been dug, the old one deepened in places to maintain the aquatic fauna, and the collection and transfer of amphibians is in progress. Fortunately there is still undisturbed habitat around the reserve which should ensure the replacement of any losses due to disturbance

Phil Butler

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## THE BIRD GROUP 1994-5

Eleven meetings had been organised by the Group during this period, three of which were at venues not previously visited namely Dungeness, Copt Hall and a walk along the River Wid at Mounnessing. The average attendance at these meetings was a disappointing 5.55 half of which was made up by the regular attendance of the same three people.

The total number of species recorded was 88 and, not surprisingly, the list was headed by Wood Pigeon and House Sparrow which featured at 10 of the 11 meetings. Robin, Crow and Magpie were seen at 8 meetings, Great Crested Grebe, Cormorant, Mallard, Black Headed Gull, Great Tit and Blue Tit at 7 and Shelduck, Blackbird and Starling at 6. The most notable sightings were Red Necked Grebe at Dungeness, Long Tailed Duck at Wrabness, Berwick Swan at Abberton, Bittern and Marsh (or some say Willow) Tit at Fishers Green and Green Sandpiper at Rye House Marsh.

Historically common species such as Skylarks and Song Thrush are less often seen and less common species such as Tree Sparrows, Corn Bunting, Partridge, Flycatchers both Spotted and Pied have virtually disappeared from our countryside whilst the Canada Goose, Coot, Black Headed Gull and, of course, the Magpie reach almost epidemic proportions.

John Bath

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## THE FOUR SEASONS RECORDING PROJECT GALLEYWOOD COMMON SUNDAY 14th APRIL 1995

The higher plants of Galleywood Common were recorded by Tony Boniface and Martin Gregory. Invertebrates were recorded by Peter Harvey. The areas concentrated upon were the heather sites, ponds, marshy and boggy areas and the connecting paths. The heather would no doubt benefit from clearing some of the overgrown birch scrub. One or two plants of the Pill Sedge (*Carex pilulifera*) were growing in the area behind the houses which also includes heather and heath bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*). Other seeds of heath plants may well be dormant in the soil. Wood horsetail (*Equisetum sylvaticum*) was growing well in the bog area. A number of Common Lizards were seen sunbathing.

Two invertebrates of particular note were recorded, the mining bee *Andrena labiata* (Nationally Scarce Notable A) and the hoverfly *Melangyna triangulifera* (Nationally Scarce Notable B). The *Andrena labiata* has a close association with Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys* which is usually the main pollen source, but here the bees were foraging on and flying around Stitchwort, *Stellaria*, and no *Veronica* was seen.

Future recording meetings are to be held on Sunday 13th August 1995 and Sunday 22nd October 1995 at 10.00 am at the car park off Margaretting Road TL 702026.

Tony Boniface

## Plants

<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field Maple
<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore
<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow
<i>Aegopodium podagraria</i>	Ground Elder
<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse-chestnut
<i>Aira praecox</i>	Early Hair-grass
<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic Mustard
<i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>	Meadow Foxtail
<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Wild Angelica
<i>Anisantha sterilis</i>	Barren Brome
<i>Anthoxanthum odoratum</i>	Sweet Vernal Grass
<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow Parsley
<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Columbine
<i>Azolla filiculoides</i>	Water Fern
<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Daisy
<i>Betula pendula</i>	Silver Birch
<i>Betula pubescens</i>	Downy Birch
<i>Bromus hordeaceus ssp. hordeaceus</i>	Soft Brome
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather
<i>Cardamine flexuosa</i>	Wavy Bitter-cress
<i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Cuckooflower
<i>Carex nigra</i>	Common Sedge
<i>Carex pendula</i>	Pendulous Sedge
<i>Carex pilulifera</i>	Pill Sedge
<i>Chamerion angustifolium</i>	Rosebay Willowherb
<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater Celandine
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping Thistle
<i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Marsh Thistle
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock
<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut
<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood
<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel
<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn
<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cock's-foot
<i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i>	Tufted Hair-grass
<i>Digitalis purpurea</i>	Foxglove
<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Broad Buckler-fern
<i>Dryopteris fiix-mas</i>	Male-fern
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Great Willowherb
<i>Equisetum sylvaticum</i>	Wood Horsetail
<i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Beech
<i>Festuca filiformis</i>	Fine-leaved Sheep's-fescue
<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers
<i>Galium saxatile</i>	Heath Bedstraw
<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Gound-ivy
<i>Glyceria fluitans</i>	Floating Sweet-grass
<i>Hedera helix</i>	Ivy
<i>Humulus lupulus</i>	Hop
<i>Hyacinthoides hispanica</i>	Spanish Bluebell
<i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Bluebell
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	Marsh Pennywort
<i>Ilex aquifolium</i>	Holly
<i>Juncus effusus</i>	Soft Rush
<i>Lamium album</i>	White Dead-nettle
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red Dead-nettle
<i>Lemna minor</i>	Common Duckweed
<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle
<i>Luzula campestris</i>	Field Wood-rush

<i>Lycopus europaeus</i>	Gypsywort
<i>Malus domestica</i>	Apple
<i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i>	Green Alkanet
<i>Pinus sylvestris</i>	Scots Pine
<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort Plantain
<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual Meadow-grass
<i>Populus canescens</i>	Grey Poplar
<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen
<i>Prunus domestica</i>	Wild Plum
<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn
<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken
<i>Quercus robur</i>	Pedunculate Oak
<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous Buttercup
<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>	Lesser Spearwort
<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping Buttercup
<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>	Bramble
<i>Rubus idaeus</i>	Raspberry
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's Sorrel
<i>Salix cinerea ssp. cinerea</i>	Grey Willow
<i>Salix cinerea ssp. oleifolia</i>	Grey Willow
<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder
<i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Common Ragwort
<i>Silene dioica</i>	Red Campion
<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Bittersweet
<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>	Rowan
<i>Spergularia rubra</i>	Sand Spurrey
<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater Stitchwort
<i>Stellaria media</i>	Common Chickweed
<i>Stellaria uliginosa</i>	Bog Stitchwort
<i>Taraxacum officinale</i>	Dandelion
<i>Teucrium scorodonia</i>	Wood Sage
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse
<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging Nettle

Ninety one species were positively identified. Nomenclature based on Stace's New Flora of the British Isles.

#### Arachnida - Spiders

*Clubiona comta*  
*Xysticus cristatus*  
*Pardosa amentata*  
*Pardosa lugubris*  
*Pardosa nigriceps*  
*Pardosa prativaga*  
*Pardosa pullata*  
*Pirata hygrophilus*  
*Pisaura mirabilis*  
*Theridion simile*  
*Theridion sisyphium*  
*Diplocephalus picinus*

#### Butterflies -Lepidoptera

Orange Tip  
 Speckled Wood  
 Small Copper  
 Common Blue  
 Peacock

#### Hymenoptera

Ants  
*Myrmica rubra*  
*Myrmica ruginodis*  
 Bees  
*Andrena labiata*  
*Andrena haemorrhoa*  
*Andrena nigroaenea*  
*Andrena saundersella*  
*Andrena scotica*  
*Lasioglossum punctatissimum*  
*Osmia rufa*  
*Nomada flava*  
*Nomada flavoguttata*  
*Bombus lapidarius*  
*Bombus lucorum*  
*Bombus pascuorum*  
*Bombus terrestris*  
*Psithyrus vestalis*

#### Flies - Diptera

Hoverflies  
*Eristalis tenax*  
*Eumerus tuberculatus*  
*Helophilus pendulus*  
*Leucozona lucorum*  
*Melangyna triangulifera*  
*Merodon equestris*  
*Pipiza noctiluca*  
*Platycheirus ambiguus*  
*Platycheirus tarsalis*  
*Rhingia campestris*  
*Volucella bombylans*  
 Bee fly  
*Bombylius major*

A NEW RECORD OF THE SPIDER *Theridion pinastri* IN ESSEX

During an Essex Spider Group meeting to Curtismill Green (GR TL517965) on 24th June 1995 two specimens of *Theridion pinastri* were collected, a female taken by David Carr from the low branches of an isolated oak in an area of scrub and then a male taken by Peter Harvey from another oak near the main block of woodland.

The spider has been found on few occasions in Britain: a male and female at Chobham Common (Surrey) on two separate occasions in 1977 and 1984, a female at Burnham Beeches (Bucks.) in 1990, a female at Headley Common (Surrey) in 1991 and then three males and two females at Leyton Flats and a further male from Lippitts Hill in 1992 both in Epping Forest (see EFC Newsletter No. 3).

Curtismill Green is an S.S.S.I. comprised of a variety of habitats including deciduous woodland, unimproved grassland with isolated oaks and areas of hawthorn/blackthorn scrub, again with isolated oaks on soils derived from London Clay and Chalky Boulder Clay. There are patches of valley gravel and alluvium locally. The varying soil conditions give rise to both damp and dry grassland containing several plants which are uncommon, decreasing or unusual in the county.

In view of the occurrence of *Theridion pinastri* at two localities in Epping Forest it is of interest that Curtismill Green is a small relic of the ancient Forest of Waltham, of which Epping Forest is the largest surviving fragment.

I am grateful to English Nature for providing some details about the site.

Peter Harvey

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**CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER**

Please send contributions for the next Newsletter, due out at in November, to the Editor, Mr Peter Harvey, 9 Kent Road, Grays, RM17 6DE by the first week of October.

Remember that the production of the Newsletter depends on contributions from members. I am sure that many members must have news, observations or the results of fieldwork that would be of interest to others. If text has been typed on a PC computer then a disk with the file would be very helpful.

## WHATS ON: ESSEX FIELD CLUB

## AUGUST

- Sunday 6th **Joint Meeting** with Colchester NHS. Invertebrates and botany at Martins Farm. Meet lay-by near Shangri-La Caravan Park TM 120174 at 10.00am.
- Sunday 13th **General Meeting 1398.** Recording on Galleywood Common, botany/fungi/birds/invertebrates. Meet central car park off Margaretting Road at 10.00am TL 702026. All recorders welcome. Phone Tony Boniface for details: (01245) 266316.
- Saturday 19th **Galls in Stour and Copperas Woods.** Meet RSPB car park at 10.30am TM 190309. Leader Jerry Bowdrey. Phone: (01255) 880023 for details.

## SEPTEMBER

- Saturday 16th **Botany Group Fungi Recording Meeting.** Shadwell Wood, Ashdon. Meet at 10.30am on Saffron Walden to Ashdon Road TL 574410. Leader Martin Gregory. Phone: (01245) 223300 for details.
- Sunday 24th **General Meeting 1399.** Birds and fungi at Hanningfield EWT Reserve. Meet 10.00am at car park TQ 736976. Leaders Judith and Tony Boniface. Phone: (01245) 266316 for details..

## OCTOBER

- Sunday 1st **Joint Meeting** with Essex Rock and Mineral Society. Fossils at Walton-on-Naze. Meet Naze car park at 10.00am TM 265234. Leader Gerald Lucy. Phone David Turner for details: (01245) 267450.
- Sunday 8th **Botany Group.** Fungus Foray in Danbury area. Meet at 10.30am at entrance to Scrubs Wood TL 787057. Display and cup of tea at St. Andrew's Room, Little Baddow TL 780075 3.00-5.00pm. Leader Martin Gregory. Phone 01245 223300 for details.
- Sunday 15th **Bird Group.** A walk along the Blackwater. Meet 10.00am at Heybridge Basin car park TL 871069. Leaders Judith and Tony Boniface. Phone: (01245) 266316 for details.
- Sunday 22nd **General Meeting 1400.** Recording on Galleywood Common, fungi/galls/birds/pond dipping. Meet central car park off Margaretting Road at 10.00am TL 702026. All recorders welcome. Phone Tony Boniface for details: (01245) 266316.
- Saturday 28th **Mammal Group.** Deer watching meeting in Tilty area. Meet Foakes Hall car park, Stortford Road, Dunmow at 3.00pm. Leader David Scott. Phone: (01245) 361475 for details.

## NOVEMBER

- Saturday 11th **General Meeting 1401.** "Birds of Spain". Talk by Martin Henry at 3.00pm Red Cross Hall, London Road, Chelmsford (car park entrance in Writtle Road).

## ESSEX FIELD CLUB PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are still available from Essex Field Club (Publications), Mark Hanson, 28 Sylvan Road, Forest Gate, London E7 8BN.

All titles are available to individuals on a cash with order basis. Please add 50p towards postage and packing irrespective of the size of the order.

### THE ESSEX NATURALIST SERIES

- No. 1.     **Deer of Essex** by Dr Donald Chapman.  
A 50 page paperback describing the distribution and history of deer in Essex. Photographs, maps, etc. ISBN 0 905637 06 2 (published 1977) PRICE £2.00
- No. 3.     **Tiptree Heath - its history and natural history** by Laurie Forsyth.  
19 page booklet describing the most important heathland habitat in Essex. ISBN 0 905637 08 9 (published 1978) PRICE 60p.
- No. 4.     **The Wildlife of Epping Forest** edited by Dr David Corke.  
60 page paperback with photographs and line illustrations. A review of the animal life of the Forest by the leading experts on each group of animals. ISBN 0 905637 09 7 (published 1979) PRICE £1.50
- No. 5.     **The Essex Field Club - the first 100 years** by L. S. Harley.  
21 page booklet describing the history of the Club on the occasion of its centenary. Photographs. ISBN 0 905637 10 0 (published 1980) PRICE £1.00
- No. 6.     **The Smaller Moths of Essex** by A. M. Emmet.  
The most detailed account of the smaller moths ever published for any British county. Distribution maps and details of over 1000 species. Illustrations of representative moths in each major group. ISBN 0 905637 11 9 (published 1981) PRICE £5.00 (reduced from £7.00).
- No. 7.     **Lords Bushes** by M. W. Hanson.  
The history and ecology of an Epping Forest woodland. 69 page paperback with 8 pages of photographs and additional line drawings. ISBN 0 905637 12 7 (published 1983) PRICE £3.00
- No. 8.     **The Larger Moths and Butterflies of Essex** by A. M. Emmet and G. A. Pyman.  
The companion volume to No. 6. Distribution maps for every species and a complete analysis of the changing butterfly and moth fauna of Essex. ISBN 0 905637 13 5 (published 1985) PRICE £6.00 (reduced from £9.00).
- No. 9.     **The Dragonflies of Essex** by Dr Edward Benton.  
A very comprehensive and readable account of the county dragonfly fauna. It includes the results of a recent county-wide survey and much historical information. ISBN 0 905637 14 3 (published 1988) PRICE £5.95
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Elms were devastated by Dutch Elm disease. In this booklet Mark Hanson examines the role of elms in the landscape and their uses, and also gives an up-to-date account of their status in Essex today. 87 pages, 19 photographs, maps and illustrations. ISBN 0 905637 15 1 (published 1990) PRICE £3.95
- No. 11.    **Epping Forest - through the eye of the naturalist** edited by M. W. Hanson.  
A book chronicling the complex land-use history of Essex's most famous Forest with modern accounts of its flora and fauna. ISBN 0 905637 16 X (published 1992) PRICE £10

### OTHER

**The Clay Tobacco-pipe in Britain** by L. S. Harley. 51 page paperback covering the history and identification of these pipes. Special attention is given to pipes made in Essex and East Anglia. ISBN 0 905637 00 3 (second edition 1976) PRICE £2.50.

### SPECIAL OFFER

Volume 6 (The Smaller Moths) and Volume 8 (The Larger Moths and Butterflies) are available together for £9.00 post free.