THE ESSEX FIELD CLUB

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

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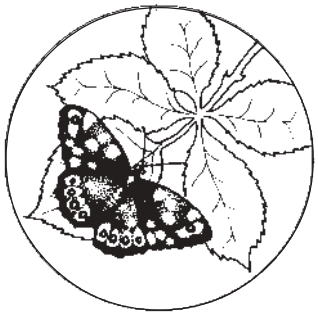

NEWSLETTER NO. 25 May 1998

THE PRESIDENT'S PAGE

Recent President's have left me with a hard act to follow. They have set in train a number of changes which will be of great benefit to the Club. At the moment we are addressing the problem of the future of the Club's library and collections. An agenda has been set to develop relationships with other natural history organisations in the county and also some well needed house keeping measures concerning our Constitution and defining the role of our Recorders. Ways to increase membership are being explored. The Essex Naturalist has been reinvigorated. I feel now that the Club needs to consolidate these initiatives and bring them to fruition. The President is in post only for one year, too short a period for many major matters to be discussed, thought out and fully implemented.

Whilst I wish to consolidate rather than initiate, one area I particularly wish to examine is the role of the Field Club. In the earlier days of the Field Club, and for many brother and sister organisations, local recording was very important and stimulated not only local interest but also helped greatly in the academic development of the natural sciences, such as botany, zoology, geology and meteorology. Academia has developed and become, on the whole, specialised, loosening its links with local natural history societies. However, recording remains vitally important because of its broad nature. Colin Plant at the AGM gave an example of the drastic reduction in the number of sparrows. The trend which signalled this is more likely to be detected, at least in the first stages, by local observers. The recording of temporary geological exposures similarly can have great value, e.g. a wider pattern of deposition can be discerned by comparison with other exposures. Another area where the Club's role might need examination is meetings. Attendance is tending to fall. Are the meetings too high-powered or perhaps too low-brow, should they be passive and look-see or should they be pro-active and have a purpose, such as recording biodiversity? Do we get the mix of meetings correct? Should there be more lecture sessions? Do the Newsletter and Naturalist meet your needs and provide a fair reflections of the Club's activities and aspirations? Do we need a different type of publication as well as or instead of these two?

At the first meeting of Council after the AGM (in the future as I write, in the past as you read) I will be taking stock of where we stand with regard to the initiatives already in train. Later in the year I will try to address the role of the Field Club.

Peter Allen

President 1998-99

HIGHWAY VERGES EVALUATED

Two interesting species, Crested Cow Wheat and Sulphur Clover occur mainly on the verges in north west Essex. They are in good order and increasing as a result of co-operation between members of the county Verges Team.

The Team includes local engineers, farmers, contractors and the highway managers and planning department, local councils and, recently, museum curators and local N.F.U. secretaries.

The engineers with the planning department, have safeguarded Special Verges from their own and public service operations by arranging for contractors to consult the list of Special Verges before starting work. Where excavation cannot be avoided, a protective routine demonstrated by B.T. in 1982 at Wickham Bonhunt has been successfully used ever since.

The highway engineers are ultimately responsible for all decisions and to avoid having to deal with conflicting advice on unfamiliar topics they rely on eight volunteer "Verge Representatives" who are responsible for all local communication connected with the Special Verges and liaison with local highway engineers covering the whole county. They also send an annual report to a meeting of the three area managers held in November. This meeting is devoted entirely to Verge affairs and here county level decisions are taken on the advice received. The Verge Representatives are volunteers from the local groups of the County Wildlife Trust and include three who are also Essex Field Club members.

Acceptance of advice is not automatic. In competition with public services the relative importance of a site can be a deciding factor, and here the natural history curators make available local, county, national and research information.

When advice is unacceptable the engineers explain why and the Representatives look for a satisfactory alternative. No-one wastes time attempting to "persuade" anyone else, we all assume each is already doing all they can.

An example of a follow-up after rejected advice occurred early on when financial restrictions decreed disastrous low-priority grass cutting, and also no specially timed management, because of the impossibility of supervising visiting machine operators. A very successful 2-year basic routine for all sites was produced from the following three-way consultation in 1986:-

- Evidence of the benefits of original traditional, harvest-related management as demonstrated by farmers who had been voluntarily managing the more important verges on their boundaries;
- advice from the relevant research of Terry Parr at I.T.E. Monks Wood, and Derek Wells of the (then) N.C.C.
- the County Council offer of a little more money, a routine spread over two years, and an annual grant for supplementary management alternate years from the County Landscape Improvement Fund.

This had several advantages and was adopted county-wide after due trials. Public complaints ceased immediately. There was no need for any close supervision of machine operators. It provided reliable control conditions for the farmers' experimental adjustments in timing supplementary management, and unexpectedly, also happened to include an economical way of maintaining Sulphur Clover.

With so many different interests involved we have had to listen to each other and ensure that each is fully aware of the consequences of any proposed changes. The mutual understanding that followed has given officials and others confidence to initiate further conservation aims in their own sector, unasked.

When contracts were privatised recently and put in control of district controllers, the West Essex area manager Derek Hurrell immediately engaged the keen support of the Uttlesford Controller, Ken Tait, for continuation of the established management routines, and also extended his efforts to the rest of the county.

A farmer, Peter Greenall, with only a narrow highway verge beyond his boundary hedge realised it was not avalaible as part of a reserve because it had to be managed officially for public safety. The hedge was a seed bank for Crested Cow Wheat, so he created a "verge" inside the hedge, and then went on to restore a number of sites away from the highway, and to help other farmers interested in the species.

The Verge Representatives have established access to those working in the countryside as follows:-

- to the private sector and land management advice via five N.F.U. secretaries and farmers;
- to the public sector and public priorities via Beverely McClean of the planning
- department and the county and local councils;
  to scientific ecological resources via the museums.

It is encouraging to find that the new Saffron Walden Natural History Museum Curator, Sarah Kenyon, has been appointed Uttlesford Verge Representative as part of her duties. Nevertheless, it must be remembered that within each of the three sectors above: private, public, and scientific, the highway flora is still of low, if not of lowest priority. However by keeping commitments to the minimum and communications precise and streamlined, such co-operation could become habitual and long term. The role of the verges as a key to long term corporate conservation appears to be at least as important as providing a habitat for Crested Cow Wheat and Sulphur Clover.

Joan Mummery

Request for notes and illustrations for the Newsletter - Editor

I would like to be able to include more illustrations in the Newsletter and would welcome contributions from members relevant to our wildlife or geology, on their own or together with articles.

There is always a shortage of notes for the Newsletter, yet many members must be able to put pen to paper and contribute something of interest to other people. The recent decline of the House Sparrow is an example where members' own observations can provide valuable information to help build up a better picture of what is happening in Essex .

Many other plants and animals havesuffered severe declines in the past decades and species formerly thought of as common are now rare. On the other hand some other species are increasing and this *may* be related to Global Warming. We need to track the changes happening now for posterity. All members can help do this by sending in notes, however short, on their own observations.

John Gibson (1778-1840) manufacturing chemist and fossil collector of Stratford, Essex.

John Gibson (1778-1840), Yorkshireman, fossil collector and manufacturing chemist, was a partner with Luke Howard and Joseph Jewell and others in the Stratford based chemical firm of Howard from 1813 until 1840 (Anon. 1947 p.15). While visiting friends near Helmsley in the North Riding of Yorkshire in 1821, he noticed some bones and tusks had been used with lumps of oolitic limestone to repair a road. John Gibson tracked these back to an oolitic quarry adjacent to Kirkdale church. He soon realised the antiquity of the bones which the quarry men had incorrectly assumed to be the remains of cattle which had fallen into a chasm in the rock and perished. Gibson amassed and preserved a large valuable collection of bones, tusks and teeth. For example he collected more than three hundred hyaena canine teeth, belonging to at least seventy five individuals (Buckland 1823 p.17). On his return to London he generously donated specimens to the Royal College of Surgeons; British Museum and museum of the Geological Society. Drawings by Mr. Clift of some of the more perfect specimens were sent to Cuvier, the great French naturalist in Paris, to be incorporated into a new edition of his works (Buckland 1823 pp.14-15; Buckland 1842 pp.524-525; Kendall & Wroot 1924 pp.576-577). These famous Pleistocene fossil mammal remains from a hyaena den at Kirkdale Cave, Yorkshire were immortalised by William Buckland (Buckland 1823 p.14) in his famous book *Reliquiae Diluvianae*. These remains are considered to date to the last interglacial (Ipswichian) period and be about 125,000 years old (Stuart 1982 p.124).

Shortly after his discoveries in Yorkshire John Gibson was collecting Pleistocene fossils from Ilford. In the *Gentleman's Magazine* for May 1824 (page 454) is an account of the discovery, in a alrge brick pit, of the entire skeleton of a large mammoth at Ilford at a depth of about 16 feet in a tenacious clay. He spent much time and effort diligently collecting and preserving the bones. Later Professor Buckland and Mr. William Clift helped him to excavate "a large tusk and several of the largest cylindrical bones of the legs, many ribs and vertebrae, withthe smallest bones of the feet and tail lying close upon one and other". Unfortunately he was unable to reassemble the skeleton estimated to have been at least 15 feet high. Dr. James Mitchell (Manuscript Vol. III p.115) referred to this find as follows "A skeleton of an elephant was once discovered and great pains were taken by a party of gentlemen from London, with the aid of plaster of Paris, to get out the skeleton in a good state, but all to no purpose, the whole fell to pieces". Gibson used glue as well as plaster of Paris to protect his specimens. Mr. J. Eliot Howard F.R.S. (1807-1883), for example, asserted in 1880 that he well remembered seeing , as a boy, Mr. Gibson's specimens being brought into his father's office at Stratford and being anointed with a solution of glue to prevent them crumbling to pieces (Cole 1881 p.XXIX). In 1833 Gibson donated to the Yorkshire Museum "an interesting suite of bones of elephant, rhinoceros, ox, etc from the diluvium of Ilford" (Anon. 1834 pp.2 & 13; Pyrah 1988 p.151). Dr. James Mitchell (Manuscript Vol. III pp.112) writing of Ilford about 1840 noted "The collection of Mr. Gibson in the Mile End Road has been much enriched from this locality".

John Gibson was elected a Fellow of the Geological Society on 4th June 1824 and remained a member until his death from a haemorrhage on 2nd October 1840 at Bow Road, Bow, aged 62. In his will dated 31st May 1839, which was proved 24th October 1840, he is described as being of Stratford, Essex and Tredegar House, Bow. His estate was estimated as being below £35,000. In his will he stipulated "... after my decease I give my books, pictures, prints, philosophical instruments, coins, shells, fossils and all my other natural curiosities unto my son John Gibson absolutely..." (Will and Estate Duty Office Register at Public Record Office PROB 11/1934 700 & IR 26/1547 582). He was buried in St. John's Church, Stratford and a white memorial tablet placed on the north aisle wall with the following inscription "In a vault beneath are deposited the remains of ... John Gibson who departed this life October 2nd 1840 Aged 62 years". Some of John Gibson's Ilford specimens, including mammoth bones & teeth and bones of a large

aurochs, went to the Royal College of Surgeons and were catalogued by Richard Owen (Owen 1845 item Nos 585, 642, 1394-1398). Other specimens were domated by John Gibson's widow in 1846 but they were not catalogued and no record of their localities preserved (Davies 1874 p.73). The Royal College of Surgeons received many bones and teeth of hyaena; lion; rhinoceros; horse; deer and ox or aurochs from Kirkdale cave (Owen 1845 pp.32; 210-211; 234; 264-265; 276-277 and 281-282). They also received some sharks' teeth from the chalk of Sussex (Owen 1854 pp.127; 129; 131 & 139).

John Gibson was survived by his widow who died on 8th March 1868; a son John Gibson, a daughter Eliza Ann Gibson; a daughter Hannah who died on 9th October 1879 after having borne ten children by her husband the Reverend Joseph Wix who died on 29th March 1898. His brother Thomas Gibson; sister Mary Thomas of Knarborough; and brother in law Michael Chapman Harrison also survived him (Estate Duty Office Register at Public record Office IR 26/1547 582). A son, Robert Harrison Gibson who was born on 23rd February 1810, predeceased him on 5th November 1838. They are interred together. In addition to property at Stratford and Bow he owned land in Westerdale, Yorkshire.

John Gibson's earthly remains lie very close to those of Sir Antonio Brady, another famous Ilford fossil collector and "elephant hunter" (Cole 1884 pp.94-101 + portrait), who started his researches at about the time John Gibson passed away. Did they ever meet?

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Owen, R.	1854	*Descriptive Catalogue of the Fossil Organic Remains of Reptilia and Pisces contained in the Museum of the Royal College of Surgeons.*
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W.H. George

Essex Bumblebees - A Call for Help!

There has recently been some national publicity about the serious decline in populations of many of our Bumblebee species. Currently five species are on the National Biodiversity Action Plan lists. I have been recording the Bumblebee species in Essex for about fifteeen years, and the local situation seems in line with national trends. It is assumed that Bumblebees, most of which depend on large tracts of flower-rich habitat, have been hit hard by agricultural intensification in recent decades. There is no doubt that parks and suburban gardens have become increasingly important as foraging-sites for the commoner species, but it needs to be established whether they provide suitable habitat for the whole life-cycle, and for which species.

Reports sent in from all parts of the county, and my own observations are now building up to a reasonably comprehensive picture of the status and distribution of the Essex species. We can compare this with the national atlas prepared by the Institute of Terrestrial Ecology, published in 1980. According to that, twelve species of the genus *Bombus* were present in the county between 1960 and 1980, together with five species of the closely related genus *Psithyrus* ('cuckoo bees', now included within the genus *Bombus*). One difficulty with making comparisons with the present situation is that we do not know how thorough the earlier survey was, and much valuable information about exact localities appears to have been lost. However, with that qualification in mind, there are some things which can be said. There are six species of *Bombus* which remain very widespread in the county. They have been recorded in nearly every 10km. square, and probably occur in all of them. These are *Bombus terrestris, pratorum, lucorum, pascuorum, lapidarius* and *hortorum*. However, though they are still widespread it would be wrong to be complacent about these species. Loss of habitat has occurred on such a massive scale it seems likely that populations are far smaller than previously. Of the six, *B. hortorum* seems to be the least common, though this may be misleading. Each nest has smaller numbers of workers than other species, and the flight period seems to be somewhat shorter, resulting in its being recorded less frequently.

The remaining six *Bombus* species appear to have always been more localised in Essex (and elsewhere). *Bombus ruderarius* is possibly under-recorded because of its similar appearance to *B. lapidarius*. Previously recorded in twenty five 10km. squares across the county, its current distribution appears to be more restricted to the East and North East. Any records of this species, but especially from the West and South of Essex would be recieved with interest. Two other localised species are *B. humilis* and *B. muscorum*. These are similar in appearance to *B. pascuorum*. Both species occur in what is left of our estuarine and coastal grazing marshes, but there are a few interesting inland records. Though probably much less common than before, *muscorum* is hanging on in small numbers with roughly similar distribution in East and South Essex. By contrast, *humilis* seems to be holding its own along parts of the Thames Estuary, but seems to have disappeared altogether from North East Essex. *Bombus ruderatus* was probably always very localised in Essex, but now seems to be extinct or on the verge of it. I have only three records since 1980. These sightings were near Great Chesterford, the Dunmow railway cutting, and near Braintree. Subsequent visits have failed to confirm the continued presence of the species. One possibility yet to be explored is that this species now inhabits suburban gardens, like the similar but smaller *B. hortorum.* Again, close observation of such gardens, especially in the areas mentioned would be worthwhile, and I'd be very interested to hear of possible sightings. I had given up hope of finding the remaining two *Bombus* species when Peter Harvey found one of them - *B. sylvarum* - in South Essex. This species is now the subject of both national and county Biodiversity Action Plans, but at least one of its Essex sites is about to be destroyed by 'development'. The other - *B. subterraneus* - now appears to be extinct in Essex.

The 'cuckoo' Bumblebees do not have a worker caste. The females can be distinguished from the true Bumblebees by their lack of a 'pollen basket' on the hind femurs. There are six British species of (sub)genus *Psithyrus*, of which five are reliably recorded in Essex. *P. vestalis* seems to be very common and widespread throughout Essex. *P. sylvestris* and *P. barbutellus* also seem quite widely distributed, but remain under-recorded. *P. campestris* appears to have an oddly discontinuous distribution, with records concentrated in the South West and North East of the county. More records of this species from any part of the county would be very interesting. Finally, *P. rupestris* has always been scarce. It has greatly declined nationally, and is very rare in Essex. It may still occur in the North East of the county, but the most recent records are from the Thames estuary in the far South.

I am hoping to publish the results of the present Bumblebee survey next year, so this is likely to be the last season for field recording. I would be really grateful if any reader with an interest in this fascinating group of insects would send me records of sightings. O. E. Prys-Jones and S. A. Corbet Bumblebees (in the Cambridge University 'Naturalists' Handbooks' series) has excellent keys to the identification of species. Records should include date, species, caste/sex if possible, locality and map reference (for common species reference to nearest 1km. square will do - for more scarce species, 6 figure references and more details about locality and habitat would be welcome). Any information on behaviour, nest sites, pollen and nectar sources etc. will be very useful. I am particularly short of records even of common species in the Western half of the county. Records from these 10k. squares are especially needed: TL44, TL43, TL73, TL51(the Rodings area), TL50 (N. of Chipping Ongar), TQ59, TQ69, TQ79, TQ68, TR09 (Foulness).

I am very grateful to all the people who have sent in records so far. These include: R. Benton, K. M. Black, J. P. Bowdrey, J. Bratton, S. Burden, M. Fremlin, M. Hanson, G. Harris, P. Harvey, P. Kelly, R. D. Kent, P. Kirby, S. Massey, G. Moore, E. M. Parsons, R. G. Payne, S. L. Pennington, H. F. Perry, C. W. Plant, G .A. Pyman, J. Rose, R. Ruffell, D. A. Smith, and G. Smith. I want to get the acknowledgements right in the final publication, so please let me know if I have missed anyone out!

Ted Benton

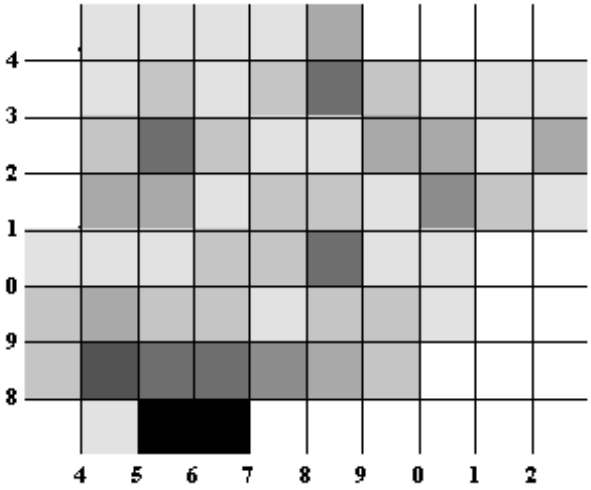
Provisional distribution maps for the solitary aculeate Hymenoptera of Essex

In Essex and the British Isles the aculeate Hymenoptera includes the ruby-tailed wasps (Chrysididae), the Scoloidea (including the velvet ants), the ants (Formicidae), the spider-hunting wasps (Pompilidae), the mason wasps (Eumenidae), the social wasps (Vespidae), the solitary wasps (Sphecidae), the solitary mining, cuckoo and nomad bees (Andrenidae, Halictidae, Melittidae, Megachilidae, Anthophoridae) and the social bees (honeybee, bumblebees-Apidae).

I have recently produced a 1997 update of Essex distribution maps for the solitary aculeate Hymenoptera. It includes all records received up to the end of 1997 and collates and summarises all available modern data for the two vice-counties of South Essex and North Essex in the form of five-kilometre square dot-distribution maps. The maps contain the result of over 9600 field records, the vast majority of records for solitary wasps and bees included in the maps are from 1992 onwards, although some date back as far as 1980 and 1984. The maps for the ants have been much more thoroughly covered by the work of the Essex Spider Group since 1986.

Field work continues to identify the East Thames Corridor as an exceptional area for aculeates, with records for over 94% of the modern county fauna, the presence of populations of many RDB and nationally scarce species and sites showing a remarkably high level of biodiversity. The two grid squares TQ57 and TQ67 (with a total area of less than a single 10Km square) contain over 86% of the county fauna and 48% of the british aculeate fauna.

Coincidence map showing number of species recorded in each 10km square



Map produced using DMAP a mapping program developed by Dr Alan Morton

As a result of my own survey work in 1994, English Nature acknowledged the national importance of the fauna of Mill Wood Pit in Thurrock and subsequent survey by Penny Anderson Associates resulted in a report which eventually surfaced in the public domain as part of a revised planning application. This report acknowledged the national importance of the fauna which has an Invertebrate Index higher than that of Salisbury Plain, a vastly larger area which has been much better worked over many years for many more invertebrate groups. However Mill Wood Pit will soon be completely lost except for the very small wood itself and tiny areas nearby. Many of the other most important sites are identified for development or will lost in the near future. None of the these sites in the south Essex area have any statutory protection although several have been identified as SINC sites. Planning permission for extensive development was granted without intervention by English Nature at an important site at Ferry Fields Tilbury despite the presence of populations of *Bombus sylvarum* and *Asilus crabroniformis*, two species in the government's top 100 priority list of taxa with Biodiversity Species Action Plans, and an invertebrate fauna comparable to that of SSSIs in the east Thames region.

Charles Watson has been making extensive inroads into coverage of the north-west of the county and has discovered the ruby-tailed wasp *Omalus puncticollis* new for Essex at Chrishill and Roger Payne has recently identified the spider hunting wasp *Anoplius concinnus* new to Essex collected in 1987 at Hanningfield Reservoir. Recent collecting by Jerry Bowdrey and Adrian Knowles in the Colchester area, so rich for aculeates in the Harwoods' day at the end of the last century, suggests that this region of Essex may still contain a diverse and important fauna today. The remnants of heathland and old sand and gravel pits and the remaining grazing marshes around Colchester and St. Osyth are all potentially important aculeate sites and Colin Plant and myself have found the area south of Sudbury to contain several excellent aculeate sites. All these areas in north-east Essex and others should be more thoroughly investigated and it is hoped that entomologists in Essex will be stimulated by these maps to increase their recording efforts.

If you would like a copy of the Essex Aculeate Hymenoptera distribution maps, please send a large A4 SAE together with £2 to cover costs of p & p, printing and binding to Peter Harvey at 32 Lodge Lane, Grays, Essex RM16 2YP.

IN SEARCH OF OAKLEY OWLS (15th February 1998)

Last year the Field Club observed at least six Short-eared owls on the saltmarsh and neighbouring fields near Little Oakley. This year eight members of the Bird Group met on an extraordinary spring morning in mid-February after a week of very warm weather. We parked along a track bordering an orchard and were greeted by a Dunnock in full song. Along the path to the sea-wall we saw a group of Reed buntings. The muddy creeks in the saltmarsh hosted Redshanks and some Curlews. Skylarks were conspicuous singing over the marsh. Shrubs along the wall contained Greenfinches aand Chaffinches.

Lunch was taaken where a concrete sea wall began. A Cormorant was observed dryng its wings in company with an Oystercatcher and a Turnstone on a concrete block. Two Great crested grebes in the sea were beginning their display behaviour.

We continued after lunch to a gravelly beach and inlet where many Brent geese, Oyster catchers and Grey plovers were roosting; Turnstone and Sanderling were feeding on the beach in the company of Ringed plovers. Some Twite were eventually identified by one member who stalked closer than the rest of us.

The return journey led us to a Kestrel perched in a bush a few feet away from four Reed buntings. Finally the orchard revealed Fieldfares, a Redwing, Linnets, a Goldfinch and many Chaffinches and Greenfinches. A Robin sang as we prepared to leave, content, even though we had failed to locate the Oakley owls.

Birds identified at Little Oakley 15th February 1998

Great crested grebe
Little grebe
Cormorant
Mute swan
Brent goose
Mallard
Wigeon
Teal
Tufted duck
Shelduck
Kestrel
Red legged partridge
Moorhen
Coot
Oyster catcher
Lapwing
Ringed plover
Turnstone
Sanderling
Grey plover
Curlew
Redshank
Great black-backed gull
Lesser black-backed gull
Black-headed gull
Common gull
Wood pigeon
Collared dove
Skylark (in song)
Meadow pipit
Jay
Magpie
Carrion crow
Dunnock (in song)
Robin (in song)
Blackbird
Redwing
Fieldfare
Blue tit
Chaffinch
Greenfinch
Goldfinch
Linnet
Twite

Green Woodpecker was heard

Tony and Judith Boniface

WHATS ON: ESSEX FIELD CLUB

MAY

Saturday 9th	**JOINT MEETING with the Essex Spider Group. Recording of spiders and aculeates (bees and wasps)**. Meet 10.30am car park at Hanningfield Reservoir. TQ737976. Leader Peter Harvey (01375) 371571.
Sunday 10th	**RECORDING OF ALL GROUPS at an MOD location Shoebury Beach** if permission obtained. Phone Roger Payne (01702) 434449 to obtain details before 8th May.
Saturday 16th	**BOTANY GROUP BSBI Atlas 2000 recording meeting.** SquareTL62. Meet Little Easton Church TL 605234 at 10.30am. Leader Jeremy Ison (01376) 345235.
Sunday 17th	**GENERAL MEETING 1418.** Birds and Flowering Plants of Epping Forest. Meet 10.00am at Bury Road car park TQ394949, near Chingford Station, opposite golf course. Leader Jeremy dagley 0181-508 2266. An excellent opportunity to learn bird songs and calls.
Sunday 31st	**BOTANY GROUP Black Poplar Search**. Meet Writtle car park 10.30am. Leader Ken Adams 0181-508 7863.

JUNE

Sat 6th	**MOTH GROUP Hitchcock Meadows Nature Reserve**, near Danbury - a search for the Rosy Marbled moth. Meet 8 pm. Please contact leader in advance if planning to attend. Leader Geoff Pyman (01245) 222417. NB: The reserve Warden, Peter Scotcher, is willing to show anybody who wishes around the reserve - (01245) 226225.
Tue 9th	**BIRD GROUP Evening walk along the Chelmer**. Meet 7pm at TL763086. Leader David Williams (01245) 225119
Sun 14th	**REPTILES AND MARSH FROGS Hadleigh Country Park**. Meet 9.45am at Chapel Lane Car Park, TQ 802868. Leader John Wright (01702) 78409
Sun 21st	**BIRD GROUP Thrift Wood, Bicknacre** for woodland birds and butterflies. Meet 10am at TL 790017. Leader John Bath (10277) 651890
Sat 27th	**BOTANY GROUP BSBI Atlas 2000 recording meeting** - square TL62. Meet 11am at road junction near Poplar Farm, Lindsell, TL 651272. Leader Jeremy Ison (01376) 345235
Sun 28th	**GENERAL MEETING 1418 Ponds and More Ponds**. Matching Green area. Meet 10.30am at TL 536111. Leaders Charles Watson and Shirley Watson (01279) 505309

JULY

Sun 5th	**BIRD GROUP Maldon Wick Old Railway Line.** Meet 10.30am at entrance TL 842057. Leader Carole Wilken (01245) 450872
Sun 12th	**BOTANY GROUP BSBI Atlas 2000 recording meeting** - square TL43, Arkesden and Wicken Bonhunt. Meet 10.30am outside church at TL 499332. Leader Tim Pyner (01702) 332425
Sat 18th	**BOTANY GROUP BSBI Atlas 2000 recording meeting** - square TL63. Meet 11am at Great Bardfield village street by church, TL 678303. Leader Jeremy Ison (01376) 345235

JULY (cont.)

Sun 19th **GEOLOGY GROUP and Essex Rock and Mineral Society**. Red Crag fossils at The Naze, Walton. Meet 10am outside the café near the tower - TM 265234. Bring a garden sieve. Leader Gerald Lucy (01799) 523310

Fri 24th **MAMMAL GROUP Bat talk and walk**. Meet 8.30pm at Hainault Country Park car park, TQ 478928. Leader John Dobson (01245) 224408

AUGUST

Sat 1st **BOTANY GROUP BSBI Atlas 2000 recording meeting** - square TL53. Meet 11am at Debden Church, TL 551332. Leader Jeremy Ison (01376) 345235

Sat 8th **MOTH GROUP Marks Hall Estate, Coggeshall**. Meet 8pm. Please contact leader in advance if planning to attend. Leader Joe Firmin (01206) 241389

Sun 9th **BOTANY GROUP BSBI Atlas 2000 recording meeting** - square TL78. Meet 11am, Bowers Gifford churchyard, TL 755872. Leader Ken Adams 0181-508-7863

Sat 15th **GEOLOGY GROUP and Essex Rock and Mineral Society**. Exotic boulders in Kesgrave Gravel and derived fossils in Boulder Clay at Roxwell Gravel Quarry. Meet 8.15am at Roxwell Road entrance, TL 653086. Leader Gerald Lucy (01799) 523310

Sun 16th **FUNGUS GROUP Fungus foray in Epping Forest**. Meet 10am Conservation Centre car park. Leader Geoffrey Kibby 0181-789-7664. It is hoped to have a display in The Warren in the aftrenoon.

Sun 23rd **BIRD GROUP Hanningfield Reservoir reserve**. Meet 10 am at car park TQ 737976. Leaders Tony and Judith Boniface (01245) 266316.

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEWSLETTER

Please send contributions for the next Newsletter, due out in Aug./Sept., to the Editor, Mr Peter Harvey, 32 Lodge Lane, Grays, RM16 2YP by the end of July at the latest.

Remember that the production of the Newsletter depends on contributions from members.

Many members must have wildlife news, observations or the results of fieldwork that would be of interest to others - do not underestimate the interest of your own observations!!

If text has already been typed on a standalone PC computer then a disk with the file would be very helpful but typed or handwritten notes are welcome.

Deadline dates for the Newsletter each year

January/February Newsletter:	deadline - end of December
April/May Newsletter:	deadline - end of March
August/September Newsletter:	deadline - end of July
October/November Newsletter:	deadline - end of September

Readers are advised that publication of material in the Newsletter does not imply, unless indicated to the contrary, that the views and opinions expressed therein are shared by the editor or by the Council of the Essex Field Club.

ESSEX FIELD CLUB PUBLICATIONS

The following publications are available, from Tony Boniface, 40 Pentland Avenue, Chelmsford, Essex, CM1 4AZ. 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.

Field Club notelets (illustrated in previous Newsletters) are marketed in packets of ten, two of each design, together with envelopes. They are on sale at Field Club Meetings at £1.00 per packet or by post for £1 + 75p to cover postage and packing.

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. 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).
Volume 6 and Volume 8 are available together for £9.00 post free.

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 143 (published 1988) PRICE £5.95

No. 10. **Essex Elm** by M. W. Hanson.
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

No. 12 **Essex Naturalist No 12 (New series) - Journal** edited by M. W. Hanson.
ISSN 0071-1489, ISBN 0 905637-17-8 (published 1995) PRICE £5

No. 13. **Essex Naturalist No 13 (New series) -Journal** edited by P.R. Harvey & C.W. Plant.
ISSN 0071-1489 (published 1996) PRICE £5

No. 14. **Essex Naturalist No 14 (New series) -Journal** edited by C.W. Plant.
ISSN 0071-1489 (published 1997) PRICE £5

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.