THE ESSEX FIELD CLUB

DEPARTMENT OF LIFE SCIENCES

UNIVERSITY OF EAST LONDON

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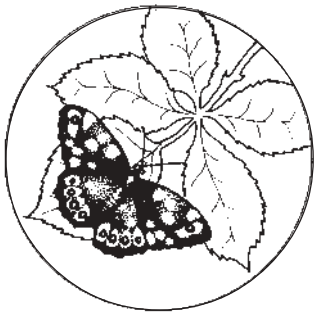

NEWSLETTER NO. 18 August 1996

EDITOR'S NOTE

Apologies for the late arrival of the Newsletter but I have been waiting for enough material to go into the issue. I would make a special plea to members to make efforts to contribute items for the Newsletter. There must be many observations and news of interest to other members and it does not matter if items are long or short. Although articles on disk are helpful, this is not important. Please send in your articles!

Congratulations to Simon Patient who is aged 17. He has won the British Birds Richard Richardson Award (Bird Illustrator of the Year, 21 and under) for 1996 and in July he went to the Mall Galleries in London to collect his prize. Simon tells me that he counted 31 Painted Lady butterflies on the white buddleia in his garden and 28 on the small nature area near his house in Maldon.

SCARLET ELF-CUP REFOUND IN ESSEX

In early March an unknown rambler found this fungus in a wood near Sunnymead Farm, Arlesford (known by some as Cockaynes Wood). He took it to an evening class group also attended by Ann Guiver, who in turn showed it to Ian Rose. Ian Rose visited the wood on 19th March 1996 as did Martin Gregory and Tony Boniface on the following day. After a preliminary identification by Ann and Ian the cup fungus was confirmed by Brian Spooner as *Sarcoscypha austriaca* (Beck: Sacc.). Martin and Tony also examined it microscopically with the help of the key in "The Mycologist", Vol. 9, Part I, February 1995, and observed the truncate blunt-ended spores and the strongly sinuous coiled hairs on the outside of the cup, which distinguish this species from the other one found in Britain called *S. coccinea* (Jacq.: Fr.) Lambotte.

The original Epping Forest record was for *S. coccinea*, which at that time included the five present day species. The two British ones look very similar with an inner scarlet fertile layer and a whitish outer surface. The wood contained many fruiting bodies amongst willows, alders and hazels on both sides of a footpath along a stream. The cups were growing on moss covered wood or apparently on soil. It was a pleasant experience to observe this large and conspicuous cup fungus in a county where it has been very rarely found before.

Tony Boniface

RARE PARASITIC FUNGUS FOUND IN ESSEX

On the Essex Field Club meeting to Rowney Wood on 11th May 1996 Chris Romer, Martin Gregory, Tim Pyner and Tony Boniface found *Taphrina johansonii* Sadeback growing on the female catkins of what we thought at first was a willow. On closer examination Tony Boniface identified it as an aspen which was confirmed by Tim Pyner. The fungus causes the fruits of the aspen to enlarge and turn bright yellow.

Martin Gregory recollected having seen a photograph of the fungus in Fungi of Switzerland Volume I. Tony Boniface confirmed this and located a description of it in British Cup Fungi by Dennis. Tim Pyner, Jerry Bowdrey and eventually Brian Spooner at Kew confirmed the identification.

The Kew collections contain two previously collected specimens both found in Scotland. Martin and Pam Ellis have published a record in Suffolk at Thrandeston by Peter Wanstall. Bruce Ing knows of no other record of the fungus in the British Isles.

The fungus is conspicuous and easily recognised on aspen. Maybe it is more frequent but unobserved at the top of taller trees. Never dismiss your finds as common. Rarities are still to be found.

Tony Boniface

ESSEX FIELD CLUB VISIT TO THORLEY FLOOD POUND ON 23RD JUNE 1996

Insect Report

This year has been generally poor for invertebrates, and so it was with some interest that we set off with nets around the Thorley Flood Pound, just on the Essex side of the River Stort, our boundary with Hertfordshire. The site is a reserve area for winter flood water from the Stort (owned by the Environment Agency - formerly the National Rivers Authority), and is typically flooded in January/February when its principal interest is in the birds. Throughout the summer, it normally retains a soggy nature, but the hot summer of 1995 and the mini-drought of 1996 seems to have taken their toll. The level of water in the few remaining dykes was lower than usual and has allowed terrestrial plants to encroach the margins making them difficult to see (at least that's what the horse told me!)*.

In spite of this evident drying out, the Flood Pound managed to produce some good insects on the day. The soldier fly *Nemotelus pantherinus* was taken in huge numbers - mostly males, and just a few females. This small fly is only known in Essex from three other recent records, all in the south of the county. The best fly of the day, another soldier fly, *Oxycera nigricornis* (formerly *Oxycera formosa*), was taken in a sweep net by 13 year old Rosemary Plant - perhaps the Club's youngest entomologist! This species is only otherwise known in Essex from Sawbridgeworth Marsh Nature Reserve in the same ten-kilometre grid square, just a couple of kilometres further down the River Stort.

Hoverflies were extremely poorly represented, reflecting the national picture in what is an abysmal year. *Chrysogaster hirtella* was numerous sitting on grass stems and other vegetation; almost all the specimens examined were females. Several *Neoascia tenur*, a typical wetland hoverfly, were collected. At nearby Sawbridgeworth Marsh, this species displays abnormal characteristics in that the bases of the front femora are yellow rather than the usual black. This variation is constant within the population and it is currently under investigation in case a new and as yet undetected species is involved. One specimen from Thorley had the same atypical characters, but the rest of the sample was normal.

Several snail-killing flies (Sciomyzidae) were also in evidence, including the distinctive *Pherbina coryleti* and several species of *Tetanocera* which will need the male genitalia examining under a microscope before a name can be applied.

Several other flies were collected and await examination.

Dragonflies and damselflies were also few, with only three species notd ... *Ishnura elegans*, *Enallagma cyathigerum* and *Calopteryx splendens*. Grasshoppers ad crickets included *Conocephalus dorsalis*, *Pholidoptera griseoaptera* and the two common species *Chorthippus brunneus* and *Ch. parallelus*.

A dead tree trunk attracted some attention as ruby-tailed wasps *Chrysis* sp. (as yet unidentified females) were watched investigating holes in the timber, some of which contained nest chambers of the solitary wasp *Trypoxylon attenuatum*. Ruby-tailed wasps are cleptoparasites (nest parasites) of solitary bees and wasps and are sometimes called cuckoo-wasps, laying their eggs in the host nest. The parasite egg hatches first, destroys the host egg and then uses the food provided by the host for its own larva. After development, the cuckoo-wasp, rather than the host wasp, emerges from the nest-chamber.

A disappointing day for accumulating insect records, but nevertheless an interesting one from the point of view of investigating the changing populations of insects within the county.

Colin W. Plant

* Editor's note: There was some consternation and excitement during the morning when a foal was found stuck in one of the dykes. It had obviously been there for some time and its efforts to escape from the deep water had thrashed the vegetation in a large circle to the extent that it appeared to have fallen into a pond rather than a dyke. Even though the foal was obviously getting very tired it was still making desperate efforts to get out, and so it was with some trepidation and care that we managed to pull it out safely. The horses feeding nearby immediately all arrived to surround and protect the foal and take it off to safety. Without our appearance the foal would certainly not have survived.

Spider report

Spiders recorded were all widespread, the most interesting and local being the Theridiid spider *Theridion instabile*. This is a characteristic but rather local species of marshes and sedge beds.

Species recorded

Dictyna arundinacea
Dictyna uncinata
Clubiona phragmitis
Xysticus cristatus
Philodromus cespitum
Pardosa amentata
Pardosa palustris
Pardosa prativaga
Pirata piraticus
Theridion bimaculatum
Theridion instabile
Theridion sisyphium
Enoplognatha ovata
Tetragnatha montana
Araniella cucurbitina
Larinioides cornutus
Gnathonarium dentatum
Hypomma bituberculatum
Oedothorax tuberosus
Erigone atra
Erigone dentipalpis
Bathyphantes approximatus
Kaestneria pullata

Peter Harvey

The flood pound contained many fine specimens of the Southern Marsh Orchid. Lesser Water-parsnip was present in some sbundance together with some Ragged Robin. A small amount of Red Bartsia was found. Common Valerian was a conspicuous component of the marsh flora. Eighty nine species were identified which was a modest total for the marsh which has had nearly two hundred species recorded in it by Shirley Watson.

Species recorded in Flood Pound and river bank to south in TL4918

Acer pseudoplatanus Sycamore
Alliaria petiolata Garlic Mustard
Alnus glutinosa Alder
Alopecurus pratensis Meadow Foxtail
Angelicus sylvestris Wild Angelica
Anisantha sterilis Barren Brome
Apium nodiflorum Fool's Water-cress
Arctium lappa Greater Burdock
Arctium minus Lesser Burdock
Arrenatherum elatius False Oat-grass
Artemisia vulgaris Mugwort
Berula erecta Lesser Water-parsnip
Caltha palustris Marsh-marigold
Capsella bursa-pastoris Shepherds-purse
Cardamine hirsuta Hairy Bitter-cress
Cardamine pratensis Cuckooflower
Carex acutiformis Lesser Pond-sedge
Carex hirta Hairy Sedge
Carex riparia Greater Pond-sedge
Centaurea nigra Common Knapweed
Cerastium fontanum Common Mouse-ear
Cirsium arvense Creeping Thistle
Cirsium palustre Marsh Thistle
Convolvulus arvensis Field Bindweed
Crataegus monogyna Hawthorn
Cymbalaria muralis Ivy-leaved Toadflax
Dactylis glomerata Cock's-foot
Dactylorhiza praetermissa Southern Marsh-orchid
Dipsacus fullonum Wild Teasel
Eleocharis palustris Common Spike-rush
Elytrigea repens Common Couch
Epilobium hirsutum Great Willowherb
Equisetum palustre Marsh Horsetail
Eupatorium cannabinum Hemp-agrimony
Festuca rubra Red Fescue
Filipendula ulmaria Meadowsweet
Galium aparine Cleavers
Galium palustre Common Marsh-bedstraw
Geranium dissectum Cut-leaved Cranesbill
Geranium pyrenaicum Hedgerow Cranesbill
Geranium robertianum Herb-Robert
Glyceria fluitans Floating Sweet-grass
Glyceria maxima Reed Sweet-grass
Hedera helix Ivy
Heracleum sphondylium Hogweed
Holcus lanatus Yorkshire-fog
Humulus lupulus Hop
Iris pseudacorus Yellow Iris
Juncus inflexus Hard Rush
Lamium album White Dead-nettle
Lapsana communis Nipplewort
Lathyrus pratensis Meadow Vetchling
Lolium perenne Perennial Rye-grass
Lychnis flos-cuculi Ragged Robin
Lycopus europaeus Gypsywort
Lythrum salicaria Purple-loosestrife
Odontites vernus Red Bartsia
Parietaria judaica Pellitory-of-the-wall
Phalaris arundinacea Reed Canary-grass
Phragmites australis Common Reed
Plantago major Greater Plantain
Poa pratensis Smooth Meadow-grass
Poa trivialis Rough Meadow-grass
Potentilla anserina Silverweed
Potentilla reptans Creeping Cinquefoil
Pulicaria dysentaria Common Fleabane
Quercus robur Pedunculate Oak
Ranunculus acris Meadow Buttercup
Ranunculus repens Creeping Buttercup
Rubus fruticosus agg. Bramble
Rumex hydrolapathum Water Dock
Salix cinerea ssp *cinerea* Rusty Sallow
Sambucus nigra Elder
Senecio jacobaea Common Ragwort
Senecio vulgaris Groundsel
Silene dioica Red Campion
Sisymbrium officinale Hedge Mustard
Solanum dulcamara Bittersweet
Stachys sylvatica Hedge Woundwort
Stellaria graminea Lesser Stitchwort
Symphytum officinale Common Comfrey
Symphytum uplandicum Russian Comfrey
Taraxacum agg. Dandelion
Trifolium pratense Red Clover
Trifolium repens White Clover
Urtica dioica Common Nettle
Valeriana officinalis Common Valerian
Veronica beccabunga Brooklime
Vicia sativa Common Vetch

Recorders Tony Boniface, Chris Romer

Tony Boniface

Birds Recorded

Tufted Duck
Pheasant
Moorhen
Black Headed Gull
Wood Pigeon
Great Spotted Woodpecker
Robin
Reed Warbler
Sedge Warbler
Blackcap
Garden Warbler
Whitethroat
Willow Warbler
Chiff Chaff
Magpie
Jay
Blue Tit
Wren
Mistle Thrush
Blackbird
Starling
Greenfinch
Bullfinch
Reed Bunting
House Sparrow

John Bath, Judith Boniface

MOTH TRAPPING AT SANDFORD MILL - 10TH JULY 1996

A warm humid night, bright at first, thin cloud cover later. Previous weeks of rather mixed and sometimes cool weather, following a very cool spring.

Present: Tony & Judith Boniface, David Turner, Peter West, Phil Butler, Tony Walentowicz.

Peter West brought a bat detector and recorded three species along the river - Noctule, Serotine and Pipestrelle.

One Cockchafer was observed in flight.

The light trap operated from about 9.00 till 12.30. Very many Trichoptera (caddis flies) were about.

The following mostly macro moths were identified:

Elephant hawk-moth	*Deilephila elpenor*
Barred Straw	*Eulithis pyraliata*
Dark Arches	*Apamea monoglypha*
Common Emerald	*Hemithea aestivaria*
Small Emerald?	*Hemistola chrysoprasaria*
Large Emerald	*Geometra papilionaria*
Least Carpet	*Idaea vulpinaria atrosignaria*
Fen Wainscot?	*Arenostola phragmitidis*
Common Footman	*Eilema lurideola*
Thistle Ermine	
Plume Moth	
Riband Wave (dark specimen)	*Idaea aversata*
Peppered Moth	*Biston betularia* f. *carbonaria*
Pale Prominent	*Pterostoma palpina*
Double Square-spot?	*Xestia triangulum*

? not 100% certain

MOTH TRAPPING AT SANDFORD MILL - 15th AUGUST 1996

A very warm night during a prolonged (since June) heat wave. Street lamps at the site were not very helpful.

Present: Tony Walentowicz, Tony Boniface.

List of macro moths identified:

Common Wainscot	*Mythimna pallens*
Bulrush Wainscot	*Nonagria typhae*
Setaceous Hebrew Character	*Xestia c-nigrum*
Common Rustic	*Mesapamea secalis*
Brimstone	*Opisthograptis luteolata*
Flame Shoulder	*Ochroplena plecta*
Angle Shades	*Phlogophora meticulosa*
Marbled Beauty	*Cryphia domestica*
Shuttle-shaped Dart	*Agrotis puta puta*
Square-spot Rustic	*Xestia xanthographa*
Spectacle	*Abrostola triplasia*
Flounced Rustic	*Luperina testacea*

Tony Walentowicz

Volucella inflata, a rare hoverfly refound in Essex

On the 13th June 1996 while visiting an area just north of Stansted Mountfitchet with Colin Plant, I caught a single female of the large hoverfly *Volucella inflata* on a roadside verge next to an old sand pit. Earlier in the day I had briefly seen another *Volucella* which might also have been this species at some Mock Orange (*Philadelphus*) blossom close by.

On the 23rd June Colin and myself paid a second visit to the area and we found males and females of the hoverfly to be present in some numbers visiting the Mock Orange blossom. The species is thought to be associated with old broadleaved woodland, with a probable requirement for old and diseased trees with sap runs, especially those attacked by the goat moth *Cossus cossus*. The nearest wood of any size is Alsa Wood, an ancient wood about one kilometre to the east.

There are only three previous records of this rare hoverfly in Essex. The most recent is by Colin Plant of one male in a malaise trap at Canfield Hart at TL5619 in July 1983. There are then two old records for Colchester in 1903 and for Wintry Wood, Epping Forest on the 27th June 1948.

Species of *Volucella* are large hoverflies which mimic bumblebees or have the warning colours used by hornets and other wasps. The larvae specialise as scavengers in the nests of bumblebees and social wasps, though *Volucella inflata* is more associated with sap runs. Adults have been observed ovipositing in sap runs on a tree trunk and larvae, thought to be of this species, have been found at this location (British Hoverflies by Stubbs & Falk, 1983) and Falk states that an association with wasps nests like its relatives does not seem likely and its distribution does not completely match that of the hornet *Vespa crabro* which would be its most likely host (A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain by Falk, 1991)

Peter Harvey

The Discovery of Field Garlic on Benfleet Downs

Field Garlic (*Allium oleraceum*) is a nationally scarce plant recorded on only very few occasions in Essex. Apart from 2 old records from Black Notley (recorded by John Ray) and Osea Island (1888), previous records have all been from the calcareous north-west of the county. For instance, there exists a small colony of the plant on a south-facing bank beside a lane at Wendens Ambo (TL53) where it was recorded in 1982.

On 5th August 1996, Steven Massey found a large colony of Field Garlic on Benfleet Downs. Although realising its difference from Crow Garlic (*Allium vineale*), he was unable to put a certain name to it. I identified his specimen as that of Field Garlic which was confirmed by Tim Pyner. The next day I visited the site, which is at the South Benfleet end of Hadleigh Castle Country Park. I found a substantial colony comprising well over a hundred plants in full flower. Despite being a tall plant, it is easily missed owing to its dull purplish-brown flowers which seem to blend in with the brown hue of the surrounding vegetation.

The colony is growing on a dry, south-facing slope quite close to the only Essex and, indeed, British colonies of Hartwort (*Tordylium maximum*). This dry slope is part of a large open area surrounded by hawthorn and blackthorn scrub which until a few years ago was kept mown short and used as a recreational area popular with picnickers. A change in its management has reduced the mown areas, the rest being treated like a hay meadow. In fact, the whole area is quite florally rich with lots of Narrow-leaved Birds-foot Trefoil (*Lotus tenuis*), Hardhead (*Centaurea nigra*), Wild Carrot (*Daucus carota*), vetches and a small colony of Spiny Rest-harrow (*Ononis spinosa*). Plants associated with the Field Garlic include Cat's tail (*Phleum pratense*) ssp. *bertolonii*), Oat-grass (*Arrhenathrum elatius*), Meadow Barley (*Hordeum secalinum*), Cock's foot (*Dactylis glomerata*), Hardhead (*C. nigra*), Common Ragwort (*Senecio jacobaea*), and Creeping Cinquefoil (*Potentilla reptans*).

Almost certainly, the reason why this substantial colony of Field Garlic has been overlooked until now, is that it has not been allowed to flower until recently. It has probably been reproducing vegetatively for many years. Though distant from its other Essex stations, it is quite close to colonies in Kent and is most probably native. In Britain, the plant occurs mainly on south-facing, dry grassy sites subject to summer drought (Stewart, Pearman, and Preston,), though usually on oolitic or carboniferous limestone. As well as this type of habitat it has been found, perhaps more frequently, along river banks and on banks in floodplain meadows or on sandy banks in the middle reaches of river systems.

Field Garlic is an exciting addition to the flora of the ridge of London Clay which includes the Belton Hills at Leigh and Hadleigh Downs. Exposed parts of this naturally dry escarpment may well be somewhat calcareous. The calcicole Hairy Violet, (*Viola hirta*), occurs here locally. Several other scarce plants also occur along this ridge, most notably, Hartwort, but also, Hairy Vetching (*Lathyrus hirsuta*), Bithynian Vetch (*Vicia bithynica*), Deptford Pink (*Dianthus armeria*), and Small-flowered Buttercup (*Ranunculus parviflorus*).

REFERENCES:

Stewart, A., Pearman, D.A. and Preston, C.D. (1994) Scarce Plants in Britain JNCC.

Roger Payne.

Ugh! Fred, What's this crawling across the worktop?

Working in a Museum I get a great many enquiries from the general public. Looking back over 16 years it is interesting to examine exactly which creepy crawlies catch the general public's eye. I have found that they can be divided into roughly 3 categories.

1) It has been found in the house, e.g. crawling across the worktop. Even very tiny creatures, normally un-noticed outside, attract attention if they are in the house and sometimes cause great worry and consternation.

2) It is large, i.e. being large and unfamiliar inevitably attracts the attention of the layman who invariably believes it to be a foreign import and hence possibly dangerous.

3) It is brightly coloured or behaves in an out-of-the-ordinary sort of way, i.e. it attracts attention and arouses the curiosity of the enquirer.

Predicting the top ten enquiries is not as easy as one might expect. They are not necessarily the most common invertebrates and indeed some members of the Field Club may not have seen them all.

1. THE BISCUIT BEETLE (*Stegobium paniceum*) Far and away the most frequent enquiry. This is an insect I quickly learnt to identify when I began working at the Museum. It falls into category 1 and frequently infests stored dried food in kitchens. It also closely resembles the WOODWORM BEETLE and so is doubly alarming to the general public who are usually relieved when I tell them that their potfull of beetles have not been destroying the fabric of their house.

2. THE VINE WEEVIL (*Otiorrhynchus sulcatus*) This is one of the largest insects likely to be found crawling around in the house and all the enquiries received are of wandering adults. Crawling slowly up net curtains, these beetles tend to be conspicuous and attract attention. People usually worry that they might eat timber or start chewing their carpets. Many of these beetles emerge from potted plants where the larvae feed, but I am sure they also come indoors to hibernate and many of the enquiries are in early spring and autumn.

3. THE SUMMER CHAFER (*Amphimallon solstitialis*) Large, yellowish-brown and hairy, this beetle takes to the air between late June and the end of July and inevitably attracts attention when it lands on the living room carte. Normally males fly around the tops of tall trees at night, but buildings seem to offer an alternative and they are even attracted to light near the tops of tall blocks of flats. The fat, white grubs live underground feeding on grass roots.

4. THE LARGE ELEPHANT HAWK-MOTH (*Dielephila elpenor*) Almost invariably it is the caterpillar which attracts attention and falls into category 2, though its behaviour when disturbed also arouses curiosity. Usually it is a fully grown caterpillar feeding on Fuschia in the garden that is found. The false eyes, snake-like appearance and 'sting' at the end of its body (i.e. typical horn of a hawk-moth larva) further adds to the alarm.

5. THE POPLAR HAWK-MOTH (*Laothoe populi*) Another insect in category 2. However, the adults are found more than the caterpillars which are less common in gardens. Few people believe that such a large moth can possibly be British. Very often the specimens brought in are found in houses and shops, obviously attracted by light.

6. DERMESTID BEETLES Two members of the beetle family Dermestidae are joint 6th. The CARPET BEETLE, *Attagenus pellio* and *Dermestes peruvianus*. Both are medium sized household pests whose larvae feed on dry animal matter from food scraps to carpets. They fall into category 1.

7. THE GARDEN SPIDER (*Araneus diadematus*) is joint 7th with PSOCIDS. The Garden Spider attracts attention when large pregnant females start to appear in people's gardens in September and October. Especially obvious are those vivid red individuals. By contrast, Psocids, which are species of the order Psocoptera, are very tiny but can occur in huge numbers in people's kitchens. Commonly called Book-lice they feed on starchy foods and like humid conditions.

8. Two most unusual insects hold 8th place. THE FLY BUG (*Reduvius personatus*) and JUNIPER SHIELD BUG (*Cyphostethus tristriatus*). Fly bugs are category 1 insects and usually it is the nymphs that are discovered. They are strange creatures like mobile balls of fluff which are usually only noticed when they decide to crawl up walls. They feed on dead and dying insects, especially along window sills and are quite common in the Southend area. The adult is large and black and is more likely to be found outside. Juniper Shield bugs fall into Category 3. They are either found in the house or garden often in Autumn or early Spring (they hibernate). It is their bright colours and distinctive shape that catches people's eye. Children often keep them as pets. Once very rare, this insect is now mainly a garden species feeding on conifers.

9. Jointly at 9th place are 2 moths, THE VAPOURER (*Orgyia antiqua*) and LIME HAWK-MOTH (*Mimas tiliae*). Vapourer moth caterpillars are colourful, very hairy caterpillars with conspicuous tufts. A great many often occur together and they have been known to defoliate whole shrub borders. They therefore fall into Category 3. Lime Hawk-moths are brought in either as caterpillars or as adults. The caterpillars are often seen crawling on paths when looking for pupation sites (Lime is a very common street tree in Southend). Their large size attracts attention. The adult moths are attracted to light and it is their unusual colour (shades of green, usually) and large size which makes people think they must be exotic.

10. Two very different creatures are joint 10th. THE HEDGEHOG TICK (*Ixodes ricinus*) and THE GARDEN TIGER MOTH (*Arctia caja*). Hedgehog or Castor bean ticks are occasionally found indoors having been brought in on pets. They do not bite humans but are commonly found on several mammals including foxes. A full sized, fully fed female is like an animated blob of lead about the size of a pea. People in towns are not familiar with ticks and their unusual appearance catches the eye. It is the bright colours of the Garden Tiger adult that attract many people's attention. The moth rests during the day but often is conspicuous places such as on doorsteps or walls. Many enquirers believe it to be an exotic butterfly as of course all moths are dull and brown! Much less commonly the large hairy caterpillars are brought in. Garden Tiger enquiries stopped in 1988, suggesting a decline in recent years.

Roger G. Payne

CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE NEXT NEWSLETTER

Please send contributions for the next Newsletter, due out in November, to the Editor, Mr Peter Harvey, 9 Kent Road, Grays, RM17 6DE by the middle 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

SEPTEMBER

Saturday 14th **Joint Meeting** with Colchester NHS and British Entomological Society including evening light trapping. Howlands Marsh. Details from Jerry Bowdrey (01206) 282936 day or (01255) 880023 evening.

Saturday 21st **General Meeting 1407**. Essex Fungi Group. Fungus Foray in Epping Forest. Meet 10.00am at Epping Forest Conservation Centre car park. Leader Geoffrey Kibby 0171-584 0067 daytime, weekdays.

Sunday 22nd **Bird Group**. Early migrants at Abberton Reservoir. Meet at visitors centre car park. TL 963185 at 10.30am. Leader Judith Boniface (01245) 266316.

Sunday 29th **Essex Fungi Group**. Fungus Foray. Meet at 10.30am at entrance to Scrubs Wood TL 787057. Display and cup of tea at St Andrew's Room, Little Baddow, 3.00 - 5.00pm. Leader Martin Gregory (01245) 223300.

Sunday 29th **Joint Meeting** with Colchester NHS, Basildon NHS and British Plant Gall Society. Meet at Warren Road entrance to Belfairs Nature Reserve, Leigh-on-Sea 10.00am. Details from Jerry Bowdrey (01206) 282936 day or (01255) 880023 evening.

OCTOBER

Sunday 13th **Bird Group**. Wintering birds at Fishers Green, Waltham Abbey. Meet 10.30am at car park TL 377032. Leader Carole Wilken (01245) 450782.

Saturday 26th **Mammal Group**. Deer watch in Tilty area. Meet Foakes Hall car park, Stortford Road, Dunmow at 3.00pm. Leader David Scott (01245) 361475.

Sunday 27th **Essex Fungi Group**. Fungus Foray, Galleywood Common. Meet central car park off Margaretting Road at 10.30am. TL 702026. Leader Tony Boniface (01245) 266316.

NOVEMBER

Saturday 24th **Bird Group**. RSPB Reserve, Old Hall Marsh. Meet 10.30am at Reserve car park TL 958122. Leader John Bath (01277) 651890.

Saturday 30th **General Meeting 1408.** "The Fascination of Flies" talk by Del Smith at 3.00pm. Red Cross Hall, London Road, Chelmsford (car aprk entrance in Writtle Road).

DECEMBER

Saturday 7th **Essex Fungi Group.** Review of the second year. 3.00pm at the Boniface's house, 40 Pentland Avenue, Chelmsford, CM1 4AZ. (01245) 266316 for details.

Thursday 26th **Boxing Day Ramble**. South Weald Park and Navestockside. 4 or 6 miles depending on the weather. Can be muddy if wet. Meet South Weald Country Park car park in Lincoln's Lane. TQ 564946 at 11.00am. Leaders John and Maureen Tollfree (01708) 742206.

ESSEX FIELD CLUB NOTELETS

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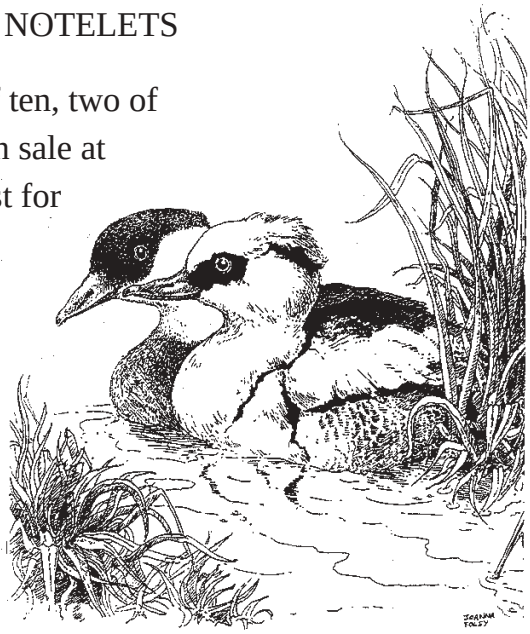

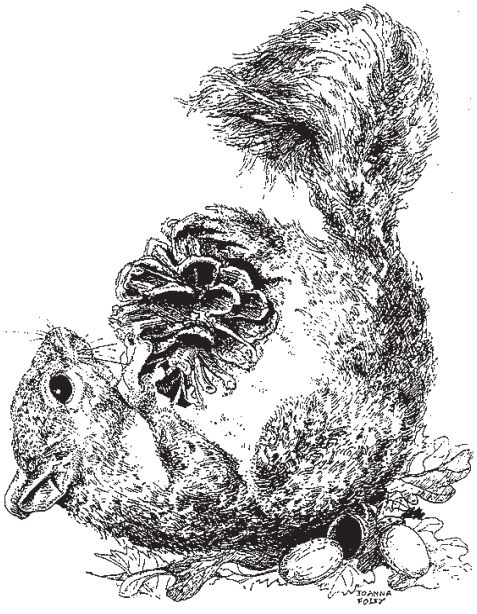

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