



Wild About Beds

Autumn 2018

A first-time visitor

by John Curd

On 23 July, a lone male Southern Migrant Hawker (*Aeshna affinis*) dragonfly was found at Sandhouse Lane NR patrolling above the dried out main pond. It was the first confirmed sighting of this species in Bedfordshire. Our first time visitor was seen again over a period of about one week but subsequently disappeared, possibly moving on because no female could be found.

Also given the vernacular name of Blue-eyed Hawker for reasons which the picture should make obvious, *Aeshna affinis* is a very recent immigrant to the UK. Its first significant arrival was on the coastal marshes of the Thames estuary in 2010 where a breeding site was confirmed in 2011. A few additional breeding sites are now established on both sides of the estuary in Essex and northern Kent. (cont' p.2)



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Southern Migrant Hawker *Aeshna affinis*. Photo by Paul Ritchie

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Wild About Beds is the newsletter of:



The Bedfordshire Natural History Society
www.bnhs.org.uk
Registered charity number 268659



BedsLife
www.bedsbionet.org.uk

The BNHS

The BNHS was formed in 1946, its main function to record the fauna and flora of the county. It has over twenty active Recorders who cover many branches of natural history study and whose annual reports are published in the *Bedfordshire Naturalist* journal.

Members receive a quarterly newsletter, *Wild About Beds*, and programmes of meetings. These meetings include field meetings to Bedfordshire sites and occasionally farther afield. During the winter months there are illustrated lectures normally held in Maulden; the Christmas Members' Evening is held in Maulden.

The Society depends on annual subscriptions which are devoted to its working, as all offices are honorary. Membership is open to anyone, whether resident in the county or not. If you would like to join the Society, please contact **Mary Sheridan**, Honorary Membership Secretary, 28 Chestnut Hill, Linslade, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 2TR. Tel: 01525 378245, email membership@bnhs.org.uk.

BedsLife

BedsLife - Bedfordshire & Luton Biodiversity Partnership is a consortium of government and non-governmental agencies dedicated to promoting the maintenance and enhancement of Bedfordshire's biodiversity. The Partnership oversees the implementation and monitoring of the Bedfordshire and Luton Biodiversity Action Plan, which can be found online at www.bedsbionet.org.uk.

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The Wildlife Trust, Priory Country Park, Barkers Lane Bedford MK41 9DJ.

Email: newsletter@bnhs.org.uk.

Your comments/notes on anything that you have observed in the field, on the road or in a past *Wild About Beds* issue are welcome/essential for continuity. Please do send articles to me either as an attachment via email or through the post. Pictures are always welcome; material required by **15 December 2018** please.

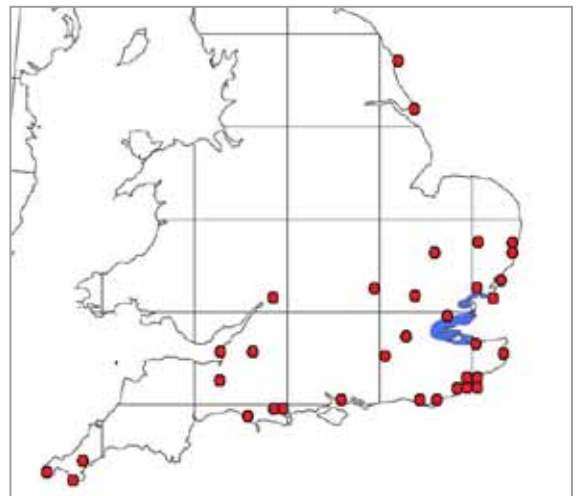
Thank you in anticipation.

The next *Wild About Beds* will be published in **December 2018**. Please note that any views are independent of the Bedfordshire Natural History Society and BedsLife.

A first-time visitor (cont' from cover)

The height of this species' flight season is late July when, in addition to the usual encounters on either side of the Thames estuary, 2018 sightings were reported in Hertfordshire and East Sussex, as well as our own Bedfordshire example. Even further flung reports came from Somerset, as far west as Cornwall and as far north as East Yorkshire. [Map courtesy of Adrian Parr at the British Dragonfly Society.]

The 2018 summer weather was, as I'm sure everyone will remember for a long time to come, exceptionally fine and dry. This pattern of sightings looks less like a natural expansion from the Thames bridgehead but perhaps more like additional immigrations on warm southerly summer winds from the continent.



The Southern Migrant Hawker's preferred habitat is for water bodies which dry out in late summer so 2018 probably resulted in more suitable habitats than would normally occur. It remains to be seen whether any of these additional encounters result in further established colonies.

The BNHS Grants Scheme

Did you know that there are small financial grants available to help BNHS members who would like to do a small natural history project in the county? The grants are aimed at amateurs and students who need to purchase equipment or disposables (e.g. sweep nets, pond nets, small mammal traps, specimen tubes) to facilitate projects focused on recording the wildlife of Bedfordshire. The grant scheme is greatly underused and we suspect this is mainly because members are unaware of its existence.

Full details of the grants scheme and a simple application form can be found on the BNHS website www.bnhs.co.uk. On the home page of the website there is a box on the right near the top headed 'Main Sections...'. Click on 'Society Documents' in this box. Clicking on 'Contacts' in the same box will provide contact details for the Honorary Secretary to whom applications can be sent. Relevant County Recorders would be happy to provide guidance and advice when considering an application and their contact details are also available on the website under 'Contacts'.

If you fancy helping to record the wildlife of Bedfordshire and have an idea for a small project focussed on a particular species or group or a specific site don't hesitate to apply for a grant. You don't need to be an expert as help and advice are available for putting together the application, conducting the field work or identifying specimens.

A trip to the western Carpathians *story and photos by Betty Cooke*

This summer, eight intrepid BNHS members ventured into the Western Carpathian Mountains, along the border between Slovakia, Czech Republic and Hungary. We enjoyed a memorable week, organised by Wildlife Travel, in search of butterflies and other wildlife. We were taken to a variety of habitats including sandy heath, wet boggy meadow, woodlands, flower-filled hay meadows and alpine slopes.

The local guide helped us to find 84 butterfly species, many of which were new to us and a few which even Wilf had not seen before, like the Safflower Skipper that we saw in the Zadiel Gorge. Other wildlife, several endemic to the area, included colourful lizards, moths, caterpillars, beetles, Praying Mantis, Yellow-winged Owlfly, crickets and grasshoppers as well as eighty-five bird species, a few bats and countless plants. One highlight for the whole group was a close encounter with a Mole Cricket, which crossed our path and then surprised us by speedily swimming across a large puddle.

Thanks to Wildlife Travel for organising a varied itinerary with experienced local guides, transport, comfortable accommodation and excellent food. Thanks also to the enthusiastic group members who willingly shared their knowledge and expertise. Looking forward to the next trip!!



Top: Praying Mantis
Bottom: Safflower Skipper *Pyrgus carthami*

Summer Highlights 2018

by Julia Powell

Wrest Park May 2nd

Around 15 society members enjoyed a chilly but wonderful evening walk around the magnificent parklands of Wrest Park facilitated by Amy, the English Heritage representative for Wrest Park. It was led by David Alderman, our extremely knowledgeable man from the Tree Register, or more fully, the Tree Register of the British Isles, which is a registered charity collating and updating a database of notable trees throughout Britain and Ireland. We were shown some of the many very old trees in the collection. Two veteran trees of note were Pedunculate Oak and Common Lime. The latter had been allowed to mature with all the bushy growth around the base. It was good to see so many trees grown to show off their natural form albeit without some competition that might occur in the wild.

Photo by Julia Powell



Whipsnade Downs May 20th

This was always going to be well attended as a joint meeting with Butterfly Conservation and the S Beds Local WLT Group. So the group was split into two parties, ably led by Greg Herbert and Jon Powell. The star of the show, the Duke of Burgundy did not disappoint and everyone had a chance to have a good view. The other target species showed well too including Grizzled and Dingy Skippers and Green Hairstreak. It was a fine day and we enjoyed the wildlife, company and exercise.

Flitwick Moor Invertebrate Day May 26th

Again another joint meeting, this time with Flit Vale WLT Local Group and BIG (Bedfordshire Invertebrate Group) and moved from its later date in previous years to coincide with the Greensand Trust Country Festival. An opportunity to engage with families about what can be seen on their local patch and a great networking chance with other members. (When I was working and had to accrue points for my 'Continuing Professional Development' certificate, coffee breaks and lunch times were allocated points on the basis they were networking opportunities!) A good list of species was again recorded at this important wetland site the day was particularly productive for sawflies, hoverflies and moths with a range of species from other groups as well.



Family Bioblitz at Rushmere Country Park June 3rd

Members from Milton Keynes Natural History Society were also invited to lend a hand with identification the bugs and beasties found by the families with sweep nets. It is quite surprising how many of the Dads enjoy using a net and stay for quite some time! So apart from helping record what was found and assisting in the craft activity, Wilf, Sheila and I had a chance to 'network' with our fellow naturalists from MK. They are a very active bunch too. This Dock plant intrigued us as the leaves had been reduced to skeletons by the Dock Beetle, *Gastrophysa viridula*, larvae and its yellow eggs were found under an uneaten leaf.

Unhatched eggs of Dock Beetle *Gastrophysa viridula* on dock leaf. Photo by Sheila Brooke

Linslade Wood June 27th

Just six of us met on a fresh summer day to enjoy a stroll through Linslade Wood but we had a lovely new member in the group. So it was a good chance to get to know each other and fortunately he has been seen at further meetings! We saw lots of butterflies, dragonflies, bugs and plants while we were learning about its history as Judith and Rory knew the site very well. White-letter Hairstreak was seen by some of the group around the top of an Elm tree where larval damage had been noted. We ended at the Globe for a very nice lunch.

Cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae* larvae. Photo by Rory Morrisey



Duck End July 4th

It was a day time visit as a change from the evening walks we have had in previous years. David explained about the management problems here and we also saw the lasting evidence of recent vandalism which is so devastating for this wonderful little site. No Willow Emerald to be seen but a good selection of damselflies and other invertebrates. The orchids were having a rest this year, but the little patch of Bog Pimpernel could be seen with a lot of care right by the water's edge. We walked through the adjacent meadow this time and things were already becoming very dry.

Flitton Moor 30th Anniversary July 21st

We were invited to have a stand here which was placed in a beautiful shady spot on what turned out to be a very hot day. We were able to engage with a lot of local people. There were interesting stands dotted around the site including ever popular Birds of Prey and a marquee held an interesting art display. The BBQ was very good and we all shared lovely anniversary cake.



Bellows Mill July 25th

Last year we spent half a day here in the pouring rain. There could not have been more of a contrast with the weather this time as we were in the middle of a heat wave. It is hugely interesting place with ponds, woods and grassy meadows and the river running through the site. About 16 people turned out for the joint meeting with BIG and although the vegetation was a little dried out there were a lot of interesting finds. The lake held many Dragonfly species and it was fascinating to watch dozens of Small Red-eyed Damselflies pairing and ovipositing, as well as the larger Southern Hawkers patrolling their territory and investigating the human onlookers. As this is often used as a wedding venue, there was a gazebo we could use or an indoor facility so people could enjoy their lunch in the shade and also not have to sneak into the bushes for some relief.

Top: Common Blues *Polyommatus icarus*.
Bottom: Small Red-eyed Damselflies *Erythromma najas*. Photos by Rory Morrisey



Flitton Moor August 4th

We returned to Flitton Moor to be led round this site by Dave Sedgley looking for dragonflies and damselflies. Though water levels were somewhat low, John Curd explained that this was not detrimental for all dragons and damsels and a good variety were seen by the dozen or so members that came. The offspring of Parent Bugs, *Elasmucha grisea*, were spotted on an Alder leaf and all were final instar nymphs waiting to moult for the last time.

Unhatched eggs of Dock Beetle *Gastrophysa viridula* on dock leaf. Photo by Sheila Brooke



Swiss Garden Invertebrate Day August 22nd

We were invited to help at the Invertebrate Day here again and given a warm welcome by Corrine. We were housed under a large gazebo with plenty of tables and chairs, so we could put on a good display as well as having a large space for members to gather at lunch time for more networking. A good number of BNHS and BIG members participated in both showing off the items on the Nature Table to the visitors that came and having a good time finding plenty of live specimens. We spent some time pond-dipping, which the young visitors enjoyed - it was hard for their parents to drag them away! We anticipate that there will be a number of new records for the site/county especially as Graham Warnes, a water bug expert joined us amongst the recorders present.



Above: Juniper Shieldbug *Cyphostethus tristriatus*
Right, top: Alder Sawfly *Craesus alniastri*
Right, bottom: *Excavarus apiarius*, parasitic wasp of *C. alniastri*. Photos by Andrew Green

The Third BNHS Insect Conference: act now if you still need a ticket!

by John O'Sullivan

More Neglected Insects in Beds will be bursting out of its cocoon on Saturday 17 November 2018.

This is a great opportunity to hear some top speakers, meet with fellow enthusiasts and exchange ideas and information, all while enjoying the modern facilities at the Forest Centre, Marston Moretaine – and some tasty food! The Society is proud of the two previous events, which attracted speakers and delegates from far and wide, and drew much praise for the quality of the presentations, the first-class exhibits, and the retail opportunities available. Without exaggeration, Bedfordshire is making a name for itself in the world of entomology! Beginner, expert or something in between, you are most welcome to come along and be a part of it. This year's speakers are:

Craneflies	John Kramer
Long-legged Flies or "Dollies"	Martin Drake
Snail-killing Flies	Stuart Ball
Ladybirds	Peter Brown
Scarab Beetles	Darren Mann
Ichneumons	Gavin Broad
Scale Insects and Mealy Bugs	Chris Malumphy

Examples of all of these insects can readily be found in Bedfordshire and its surroundings, and whatever your level of interest, you are sure to gain something from this event. Judging by the previous conferences, the wildlife images you see will be worth the ticket price on their own!

Tickets are £20 for BNHS and Beds Bird Club members and £25 for non-members. The Society keeps these prices low by subsidising them: that's how important we think it is to spread the word about understanding, recording and protecting nature.

For more details and to get your ticket, please see the booking form elsewhere in this issue.

We hope to meet you there!

RSPB 2017 Birdcrime report released

by Heather Webb

The latest Birdcrime report has just been released by the RSPB and revealed five confirmed persecutions of owls and birds of prey in Bedfordshire, the second highest in Britain. The incidents included two shootings/attempted shootings of Red Kite and two of Buzzards. The fifth incident was an illegal pole/spring trapping of a Tawny Owl.

One case was prosecuted at Luton Crown Court in 2017. The defendant was sentenced on two charges, to six weeks in prison suspended for 12 months for each charge, to run concurrently. He was also ordered to serve 120 hours of community service and pay £400 in costs. The defendant had pleaded guilty to two charges of having in his possession 28 Goldfinches and four Greenfinches. He had pleaded not guilty to a single charge of using 'birdlime' to kill or capture a wild bird. The defendant was found guilty on the two possession charges however the third charge was discontinued.

The Birdcrime report is produced annually and summarises known offenses against birds of prey. The current report covers confirmed incidents from 2017 as collated by the RSPB's Investigations team. These are believed to be only a small fraction of the total offences committed in Britain.

The latest Birdcrime report can be viewed at www.rspb.org.uk/birds-and-wildlife/advice/wildlife-and-the-law/wild-bird-crime/the-birdcrime-report/.

More summer 2018 highlights
story and photos by Sheila Brooke

Harrold-Odell Country Park pond-dipping August 22nd

When we arrived we were pleased to see the gazebo had been erected as the rain was already threatening. The display went up but as the rain became persistent we decided to delay putting anything else out. This was the right decision as no-one ventured near us apart from Janet who brought us coffee and biscuits for which we were most grateful. Ah well: you can't win them all!

Duck End NR Small Mammal trapping September 1st

Always a popular morning at Bedfordshire's best kept secret. Mick chose well when setting out traps as they were almost all occupied. Bank Voles and Wood Mice topped the list but there was great excitement, especially from David, when a Harvest Mouse was trapped for the second year running. David missed the event last year! The cameras clicked, the selfies were taken and the much admired, delightful little mouse was put back where it was found. We had been hoping for a Water Shrew but we were very satisfied with a Common Shrew to add to the species list. Those who lingered on the site caught up with Willow Emerald, I believe, but I made too hasty a departure!



Central Bedfordshire's new Newt Officer

We have been chosen as the base for the country's first ever Newt Officer. Great crested newts are protected, and surveys indicate that they are present in about a third of Central Bedfordshire ponds, higher than the national average. If a proposed planning development is within 500m of a pond, great crested newts become a consideration for planning applications. That's where the Newt Officer steps in.

Newt Officer, Indea Chawk from Barton-le-Clay in Bedfordshire, is working alongside our planning and ecology teams. Indea is responsible for raising awareness amongst developers and planners of a new licensing scheme for newts.

"I will be advising planners and developers about the scheme, and making sure than anyone who isn't in the scheme is adhering to the planning and legal requirements. At the moment I am spending a lot of time liaising with our planning team, and, of course, the ecologists who are out on site digging new ponds and creating high quality habitats to support newt conservation."

The new alternative newt licensing route scheme is fully supported by the government, and is scheduled to roll out nationwide over the next few years.

Experts wanted for Marston Vale 'Wildlife Weekender'



The Forest of Marston Vale is looking for people who might be willing to offer walks, talks and/or presentations at their upcoming **Wildlife Weekender April 27-28th 2019** at the Marston Vale Forest Centre.

Community Engagement Officer Jo Roberts is keen to hear from anyone interested in helping to enthuse people about a range of subjects, from invertebrates to mammals, to flora and more.

If you would be interested in helping out please contact Jo Roberts directly on 01234 762608 or 07458 125795 or via email at [jo.roberts\(at\)marstonvale.org](mailto:jo.roberts(at)marstonvale.org).



Please note: to reduce the risk of email spam being sent to contributors and others, '(at)' appears in email addresses in place of '@' in this newsletter. -Ed.



More Neglected Insects in Beds
Another Bedfordshire Natural History Society Conference
of interest to specialists and enthusiastic naturalists alike.



Sponsored by
OneStopNatureShop

Venue: The Forest Centre, Millenium Country Park, Marston Moretaine, MK43 0PR ,
Date: **Saturday 17 November 2018** Open at 09:30 for 10:00 prompt start – finish at 16:30hrs

Entrance: £20 for BNHS & Bird Club members, £25 for non-members.

This fee includes all refreshments and cold buffet lunch. Note ticket price is NON-REFUNDABLE

Please complete and tear off the application form below and return with a cheque to:
Mike Bird, Treasurer, BNHS, 69 Cotefield Drive, Leighton Buzzard, LU7 3DN

To secure your place a booking form is included on the back of this page

Don't forget!

Christmas Social Members Evening

The date for our festive get together has been confirmed as TUESDAY DECEMBER 11th in Maulden Village Hall at 8pm. We look forward to sharing the best of your beautiful photos, videos and festive food.

Hoopoe hopes everyone had a lovely summer and sends best wishes for the coming holiday season.



More Neglected Insects in Beds
conference booking form

Please send me [] Conference ticket(s). I enclose a cheque, made payable to Bedfordshire Natural History Society for the sum of £

I understand that the ticket price is non-refundable (Please tick)

Please name all the delegates below or on a separate sheet

Delegate 1 Name: _____ Tick if BNHS member

Delegate 2 Name: _____ Tick if BNHS member

Address to which tickets should be sent:

_____ Post code: _____

Email: _____ Telephone: _____

Please indicate if you have special dietary requirements: _____

Please tell us how you heard about this event: BNHS member/Beds Bird Club member/Personal email/Wildlife Trust mailing/Other (please specify: _____)



Events Programme Autumn 2018

Please check the website www.bnhs.org.uk or join the BNHS News Group for the latest information.

In severe weather, the leaders may cancel the event if conditions are unsuitable. Please check the website early on the day or contact Sheila or Julia.

Indoor talks start at 8pm at Maulden Village Hall, grid reference TL048380, post code MK45 2DP. Parking is free. Visitors are encouraged.

A small charge is requested for refreshments at the talks and possibly on other occasions too. Donations are always welcome.

For field meetings, please wear stout footwear and warm clothing, bring a hat, water and sun cream if it is hot. OS Landranger Numbers 152, 153, 165 & 166 cover Bedfordshire.

REGRETTABLY NO DOGS ARE ALLOWED and children under 16 years must be accompanied by a responsible adult.

Unfortunately some trips will not be suitable for wheelchair users and pushchairs. Please contact the leader in advance if you have any concerns about accessibility.

Please check the web site www.bnhs.org.uk or join the BNHS News Group for the latest information.

(F) Particularly suitable for families and young people.

(L) Bring a picnic lunch for all day events.



Meetings organised by the ornithological section, the Bedfordshire Bird Club (BBC)

TUESDAY 25th SEPTEMBER, MAULDEN

BBC Talk 'Birding in Paradise'. A travelogue from club member and keen traveller, Martin Palmer. Join Martin as he takes us on a journey through Trinidad & Tobago – Truly Birding in Paradise!

SUNDAY 30th SEPTEMBER, LEIGHTON BUZZARD 2pm (F)

Walk around Knolls Wood, a man-made wood that was first planted in 1844 and completed in 1845 on what was classed as 'wasteland'. It was planted by the well renowned landscape gardener Robert Marnock who was commissioned by the land owner, Mr JD Bassett. Originally Knolls Wood was known as 'The Plantation' and was an arboretum for specimen trees such as Redwoods, various Fir trees, Conifers and Pines. Alongside the 'softwoods' a number of 'hardwoods were planted such as Spanish Chestnuts, Turkish Oaks and a number of native trees. However, Knolls Wood is most famous for its Monkey Puzzle Trees (Chilean Pine). It has over 50 of these in the wood to date and another 20 or so in the gardens of properties that have subsequently been built on the land that the wood used to occupy. The wildlife and especially the bird-life in Knolls Wood is extensive and varied with lots of garden and woodland birds occupying the territory, including Tawny Owls. Park at end of Sandy Lane, off Heath Road, SP921272, LU7 3BE.

Leader Chris Christoforou

SUNDAY 14th OCTOBER, OLD WARDEN 10am - 1pm (F)

Walk in Swiss Garden for a joint meeting with Herts & Beds Fungus Group to explore the early 19th century landscape garden and adjoining woodland and lakeside picnic area for the many and varied fungi found here. Entrance fee will be waived for members entering with the group at 10:00 prompt. Meet in the free car park, TL150448, SG18 9EP. Please book with Alan Outen before midnight Wednesday 11th October: alanouten@virginmedia.com 01462 811374.

Leader: Alan Outen

TUESDAY 16th OCTOBER, MAULDEN

Talk 'Some highlights of 50 years of photographing nature' by Richard Revels, FRES FRPS. Richard started photographing nature in the mid 1960s, and in this show he shows some of his favourite pictures, from both Britain and abroad. Subjects range from birds to butterflies, dragonflies, beetles to wild orchids to pond life. Richards works very hard to provide the photographs in the Society's publications such as *Wild Orchids of Bedfordshire*.

To see a selection of his pictures visit his Website: www.richardrevelsphotography.com

TUESDAY 30th OCTOBER, MAULDEN

BBC Talk 'Green Birding and the Biking Birder Adventure' by Gary Prescott who will talk about Green Birding, what it is, who does it and why. He will then explore the three UK Biking Birder years and finally his most recent challenge entitled Peru Adventure.

SUNDAY 4th NOVEMBER, 10:30am (F)

Walk in Heartwood Forest, formerly an oilseed rape field and now a 347ha estate with over 500,000 native trees planted since 2008, ancient wood and wildflower meadows. Areas of interest include four small areas of ancient, hornbeam/oak woodland, 70 ha of open grassland and sown wildflower meadows and many kilometres of hedges, some of which have now been laid in the south of England style.

Access is mainly along mown grassy tracks, though these can be muddy if there is heavy rain. There is about 4 km of all ability path that starts at the car park and goes through both newly planted and ancient woodland. It is suitable for a wheelchair, though with a hill making a push quite hard work.

Heartwood Forest is located either side of the B651 between Sandridge and Wheathampstead Village and approximately 4 km (2.5 miles) north of St Albans City Centre in Hertfordshire. Meet in car park. Sign posted off the B651 between Sandridge and Wheathampstead, TL168107, nearest post code AL4 9DQ. Leader David Anderson

SATURDAY 17th NOVEMBER, MARSTON VALE 10am to 4:30pm (doors open 9:30am)

3rd BNHS CONFERENCE: More Neglected Insects in Beds. Entrance by ticket only - £20 for members, £25 for non-members (includes refreshments). Free parking at Marston Vale Forest Centre for conference delegates. Get your tickets early as the previous two conferences have been sold out before November. See BNHS web site for further details.

TUESDAY 20th NOVEMBER, MAULDEN

Talk 'Restoring Norfolk's Ponds' by Dr Carl Sayer, lead aquatic conservation specialist and a Reader in Geography at University College, London. He will talk about reversing the decline of Norfolk's ponds so that agricultural landscapes contain a mosaic of clean water ponds and fewer overgrown by trees and bushes. The Norfolk Ponds Project is a partnership including UCL, Norfolk Wildlife Trust, Norfolk FWAG (Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group) and the Norfolk Rivers Trust.

TUESDAY 27th NOVEMBER, MAULDEN

BBC Talk 'The detailed study of nocturnal migration has only come into focus in the last few years'. Dr Simon Gillings, Head of Population Ecology and Modelling at the BTO, joins us to explain more about this fascinating aspect of bird behaviour.

SUNDAY 9th DECEMBER, HEATH and REACH 9am

BBC morning birding joint with BNHS around Stockgrove and Rushmere Country Parks, Heath and Reach, for a good variety of woodland birds. Meet in Stockgrove car park, SP920293. Parking £3 (coins). Leader: Sheila Alliez

TUESDAY 11th DECEMBER, MAULDEN

Christmas Social evening with seasonal refreshments. Bring along a selection of your photos (on a disc or memory stick) and some food to share. Doors open 7:30pm. Please come early if you have photos to load onto the computer or food to lay out. We need a prompt start to be able to include all the wonderful pictures on show.

WEDNESDAY 26th DECEMBER, WOBURN 9:30am – 12 noon (F)

Boxing Day Walk through Woburn Park. Bird watching, deer watching and a chance to catch up on the latest news from friends old and new. Meet at the Woburn Village car park, opposite the church in Park Street, SP950331, MK17 9PG.

Leader: Mary Sheridan

ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: The BNHS thanks all who have kindly given permission to visit and to hold field meetings on their properties.

Bedfordshire Natural History Society: Charity number 268659