



# *Honeyguide*

**WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS**

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Norfolk break no 2  
14 – 18 September 2020



## Participants

Anne McGregor  
Mervin Nethercoat  
John Coish

Jillian Macready  
At Potter Heigham:  
Helen and Malcolm Crowder

## Leader

Chris Durdin.

Daily diary by Jillian Macready (first three days) and Chris Durdin.  
Additional sections on seashore life, galls and fungi by Mervin Nethercoat. Lists by Chris Durdin.

Photos credits by initials, Chris Durdin where none noted.

We stayed at the Oaklands Hotel in Thorpe St Andrew <https://oaklands-hotel.co.uk>



Cover: mute swans in a ditch, with great water dock and tussock sedge, NWT Thorpe Marshes.

Above: willow emerald damselfly, NWT Thorpe Marshes:

Below: the group at NWT Hickling.



Honeyguide Wildlife Holidays always tries to put something into nature conservation where we visit, and an additional member for Norfolk Wildlife Trust – now four from two Honeyguide Norfolk breaks – certainly does that.

## DAILY DIARY

### Monday 14 September – arrival

Chris collected Anne from Norwich railway station and, after settling in at the Oaklands Hotel, she spent the afternoon at NWT Thorpe Marshes where she saw a hobby among other things. The others arrived by car during the afternoon and we enjoyed an evening meal together on the terrace of the Oaklands Hotel.

### Tuesday 15 September – NWT Thorpe Marshes and RSPB Strumpshaw Fen

The first morning dawned damp and misty but it soon lifted and, as forecast, got hotter and hotter and hotter and we spent the day in temperatures more like southern Spain than the UK. The first port of call was a short detour to River Green, Thorpe St Andrew where there was a curious alien plant growing alone at the base of a wall. It was a thorn apple *Datura stramonium*, a member of the nightshade family. We found out at lunchtime, reading from a Flora of Norfolk, that this highly poisonous plant was often found around blacksmiths and they fed leaves to the horses, to calm them down. Jillian noted that the majestic horse chestnut tree on River Green was living up to its name of the 'self-pruning tree' as it had recently lost a huge branch, possibly in the recent storms that swept the country in August.



Thorn-apple; ivy bee.

We continued onto NWT Thorpe Marshes and on the approach road we were introduced to the ivy bee, a new bee that has found its way to the UK. They weren't difficult to spot among all the other insects, as they have plump, distinctly yellow and brown striped bodies. The ivy was in full flower and in the hot September sun, was acting as a magnet to them and lots of other insects all making good use of the last of the nectar. We climbed the bridge, always the most difficult part of the walk round! Here, if we had been trainspotters, we had our first train to tick off the list. How strange a train looks from on top of it!



On the reserve, we walked round anti-clockwise as Chris had been here before! and knew that the star species here, the willow emerald damselfly (*mating pair left, MN*) doesn't get up very early, so we would have a better chance seeing them at the end of the walk; sure enough, several showed very well flying round the ditches and resting on vantage twigs. Chris pointed out the parallel scratch marks or egg-laying scars on the bark of an ash tree twig overhanging a ditch, an ash that was suffering from ash dieback. The exit holes made by the nymphs, so they could easily plop into the water below, could clearly be seen. Plenty of other dragonflies were on the wing such as brown and migrant hawkers, common blue damselfly and common darter.

Plenty of plants were still in flower, gipsywort, marsh woundwort, water mint, bristly oxtongue. Guelder roses were dripping with cherry red berries. A red

admiral sat on a buddleia flower and chiffchaff and Cetti's warbler sang from the trees. A song thrush put in an appearance for a minute or two. We were lucky to have Mervin Nethercoat with us who opened up a new branch of natural history, that of galls and mushrooms. The ditches were full of frogbit, water dock and a few plants of a new introduction during lockdown by the Water, Mills and Marshes Project, the greater water parsnip. We found both rayed and rayless nodding bur marigold. In the marshes we found angelica and reed sweet-grass.



Halfway round, some welcome respite, in the form of two benches overlooking Thorpe St Andrew Broad, which is a flooded gravel pit rather than peat workings as are the other broads. The River Yare was to our backs with the occasional pleasure boat motoring by. On the broad we saw a little grebe who didn't appear again, cormorant and two graceful mute swans flew overhead with their distinctive clattering, mechanical wing sound, as though we were in a 19th century mill. Swans deliberately create sounds with their wings and use their syrinx (voice box) for very little, because they have evolved a mechanical means of creating their contact note.

Lunchtime we headed for the shade in Chris's delightful garden and disturbed a flock of long-tailed tits from their lunch on the birdfeeders. We rehydrated on lots of cold water and ate a hearty salad prepared by Chris with delicious homemade bread. Julie Durdin arrived home after her own expedition which had been 25 miles on her bicycle.

Prizing ourselves off our comfy garden chairs, we made our way in a two-car convoy to Strumpshaw Fen. On arrival, we spotted probably the same lizard sunning himself on the log near the entrance as the first Norfolk Break group had seen. We scanned the reeds for notable sights: a perch was having a good meal in the water near the lookout and a grey heron was watching on motionless.

We were met by site manager Tim Strudwick who gave us a comprehensive talk about the reserve, their aspirations and some extraordinary research going on about what swallowtails will feed and breed on. Apparently when milk parsley, their normal larval food plant, is in scarce supply at this time of the year, swallowtail larvae can also be found on hemlock. Jillian noted that hemlock has proliferated in the last few years and can be found on all the motorway and road networks outcompeting all the ruderal road verge vegetation but didn't think that we were going to suddenly see a huge increase in the number of swallowtails in the countryside!



Galls on oak at Strumpshaw Fen. Left: silk button and common spangle galls. Right: knopper gall.

Although the afternoon was drawing on, we went out on a long walk to the tower hide and on the way saw marsh harriers and lots of buzzards. Many more galls and some mushrooms were encountered on the way. Dragonflies – common darters, migrant hawkers and emperors were in evidence; we watched an emperor on patrol in the pond-dipping area that had no regard to us standing there. A couple of ladies had made it to Tower Hide before us, so we donned our face masks, as we must in these Covid-19 times. There we saw many ducks, mostly in eclipse plumage: teals, shovelers and gadwalls. A water rail was heard squealing.

Every ivy bush needed examining for ivy bees and we found them every time. The rich fen meadows had been cut but you could still see devilsbit scabious in profusion in the uncut parts and the sun going down had given all the ditches and plants in them, a gorgeous orange glow. A stoat scurried over the path in front of us. We didn't get back to the cars until gone 6pm.

With just enough time to turn round and we were back in the open-air dining room with our checklists and another welcome glass of Winbirri wine for Anne and Jillian and a cold beer for the men.

### **Wednesday 16 September – Winterton Dunes and NWT Hickling**

The day was a good 10 degrees cooler with more cloud and a stiff breeze, but still warm enough for breakfast in the open-air dining room. Always stomachs first, we set out in the direction of Sainsbury's for our picnic lunches, then it was a 40-minute drive to Winterton Dunes. We did get a good deal of sun in the morning on the dunes and beach, but in the afternoon the clouds took over. We were directed to park beside the Corsa and Anne, very quick off the mark, said she hoped it might be a cream-coloured courser!

Before the walk on the hummocky dunes, a quick scan of the sea and we found gannets, Sandwich terns, common scoters and grey seals. The dunes were covered in marram grass though sand sedge could be seen spreading in straight lines along its underground rhizomes. It's one of the first plants to colonise new or open sand dunes. The rare grey hair-grass was also locally common. Sheepsbit (no longer called sheepsbit scabious) gave the dunes some welcome September colour. We encountered a silver Y moth and a pretty micromoth: white-streak grass-veneer *Agriphila latistria* was Honeyguide's Chris (Mothman) Gibson's later ID. Polypody ferns were common as was heather (ling) giving the distant dunes a purple haze. Grey white lichen (the abundant species is *Cladonia portentosa*) was scattered in big patches all over the place, too. We came across a patch of sea buckthorn, the only shrub on the dunes, with garden orb spiders spinning webs across their prickly branches.

Our walk across the dunes had taken us quite far inland so we turned towards the sea and made our way eastward, the dunes becoming sandier and less compacted as we went. Here we found sea holly, sea spurge and sea sandwort growing. We dropped down the steep sides of the dunes onto the sandy beach and found many remains of polyzoa (hornwrack) washed up and dried out. Under the microscope (the back of our binoculars) Mervin pointed out the intricate cellular nature of these aquatic creatures which form flat sponge-like colonies; they look like seaweed but they are more akin to coral. In life, in the sea, they build up their colonies by repeatedly budding, each single cell containing a mouth, an anus and tentacles with which to grab food. Large amounts of red seaweed could be seen tumbling in the waves and washing up on the beach, so the shoreline was strewn with it and the remains of the polyzoa. There was also bladder wrack saw seaweed, green lettuce seaweed and the tiniest of topshells inside the remains of a razor clam.



Close-up of hornwrack and sea holly, Winterton Beach.

As we walked along the beach, we encountered many dogs all of them off their leads, but mostly behaving themselves. One little scrap of a dog spoilt it for all as he was beside himself barking at two seals which were surprisingly close to the shore; luckily they seemed quite calm and untroubled, unlike Jillian who wanted to shout at the owner to keep his dog under control! A couple of other marine mammals were bobbing along in the sea, also surprisingly close to some other seals; these turned out to be *Homo sapiens* enjoying the calm September weather.

Rounding the corner of the sea defences and up towards the tearoom, we encountered a curiously named plant, the Duke of Argyll's tea plant growing on the sea wall; named after the 3rd Duke of Argyll who introduced it into the UK from China where it's an important commercial crop. The tearoom was bustling by the time we got there so we went into the village to try Poppy's tearoom instead. Alas that was also full, but they could do us takeaway coffee which we drank on the two village green benches before we set off to Hickling Broad.

NWT Hickling was a good deal quieter than the coast, but still lots of people having lunch in the sunshine. We avoided the visitor centre, something one would never do in pre Covid-19 days, but Anne signed up to be the newest NWT member, which made up for it. At the only free picnic table, eating our Sainsbury's fayre, Chris showed us a little trick which can only be performed if you have a dogwood species. He skilfully separated transverse sections of the leaf keeping it together only by strands of elastic vein, the effect resembling a ship's sail. That must have taken some practice! Common darters joined us at lunch as did several swallows presumably on their way back to Africa. A very tame robin joined us on the picnic table, keen to find out if we had some food.

Before we set off on our way, Rachel Frain from NWT Hickling gave us an interesting talk about when the reserve had been created and just how many iconic species made it their home.



Dragonflies were everywhere, mostly common darters, basking on wooden fences or patrolling the marshes. Nine was the top count on one five bar gate, all lined up in the same direction. Our only good view of a ruddy darter was one at the pond in the picnic area. We walked round the circuit dipping into the all the hides and viewpoints along the way and with every stopping point the excitement grew greater! First we saw marsh harriers and a hobby, then next we saw a single crane flying in the distance and on the viewing platform looking over Hickling Broad a bittern flew over the water from left to right and landed in the reeds on the other side. Mervin found a cherry gall and a marble gall, sometimes confused with oak apples. We also spotted two hares hunkered down on a grassy field, for the wind was now quite strong. One of them did stand up for a time.



A bittern flies over coots on Hickling Broad (JM).

We reached the habitat creation project being carried out jointly by Environment Agency and NWT. Flooded arable fields will create open water with reedbeds, to take the place of what is assumed will be lost due to coastal erosion. Parts of it were covered in a tiny yellow pincushion flower called buttonweed which isn't native and there was a line of skeletal trees drowned by the flooding, giving it an African reserve feel. Also flowering all over the abandoned arable field was red goosefoot; the goosefoots were often eaten and fed to livestock hence the large seedbank. Fen hen is another goosefoot which hens obviously liked. Once a *Chenopodium* along with fat hen, red goosefoot is now rebranded as *Oxybasis rubra*.



Tubular water dropwort, and a common darter taking the sun at NWT Hickling.

There was drama at dinner time, when a young waiter misjudged his handling of a tray of red wine and beer and the whole lot tipped over Chris's cream trousers. There was no alternative but for him to go home and change. Joey the waiter was mortified, Chris was more bemused than cross, and John wondered whether he was ever going to get his red wine. While we were eating, we heard a tawny owl and asked another waiter if he had heard it too, and his reply reflected just how different cultures can be. In Romania, an owl is a bad omen: birds heard around the house means a death will occur.

#### Thursday 17 September – Buxton Heath and Holt Country Park

After a trip to Sainsbury's again to stock up on lunch (though we found out later, Chris having tried to sell to it us, that Hetty's tearoom would have been much nicer place to buy lunch) we headed out in convoy again, to Buxton Heath, a 67ha Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). Three species of heather were in flower, heather (ling), bell heather and cross leaved heath, which together with the bright yellow flowers of western gorse and a backdrop of Scots pines made for a very pleasant walk. We saw and heard the yaffle of two green woodpeckers and watched three mistle thrushes on telegraph wires for some time. Small copper butterflies were present, one of them with blue markings on the hindwings, the variant *Caeruleopunctata* (photo, JM, right). A fox moth caterpillar was crossing the path, looking for somewhere to pupate.



The NWT's British white cattle were standing under some trees along with half a dozen frisky Dartmoor ponies. They were no more agitated when a dog walker and his dogs walked across their path. Mervin pointed out mushrooms again and this time turned one over and ran his finger over the pores. It quickly turned blue telling him it was a boletes species.

After walking in one direction for some time, we retraced our steps and saw some tiny thyme-leaved speedwell. Then we went in a southerly direction towards the damp valley area. Here the vegetation is very different; boggy mounds of sphagnum dotted with marsh pennywort are everywhere as are marsh lousewort and devilsbit scabious all still in flower. A bullfinch was seen fleetingly but a flock of linnets and a yellowhammer stayed in trees for a while. Several hoverflies visited the sheep's bit including one hornet hoverfly.

It was nearly lunchtime so we made our way to Holt Country Park as we could have a coffee there and use the loos. Hetty's tearoom proved how Chris had described it, so despite sandwiches from Sainsbury's we couldn't resist vegetarian sausage rolls as a pre-lunch snack with our coffees! After a hearty lunch we made our way through the dense wood and came to a pond where we found lesser spearwort and common darters. An attractive grey dagger caterpillar was in full view on a leaf. There are over 2600 moths in the UK, but we had only seen two caterpillars in our three days.



Keeled skimmer caught by a four-spot orb web spider and birch polypores, both at Holt Country Park.

Walking anti-clockwise around the heath, we found ourselves on a narrow path between the heath and tree vegetation which was surprisingly steep and rugged for Norfolk. Following a steep path down into the botanically rich and boggy valley floor known as Holt Lowes SSSI, we saw lots of sparkly sundews in the peaty soil, their long red tentacles on the ends of the leaves each with a dew drop at the tip which glistened in the sun. This is a sticky gland and is the method with which they catch their prey. I was willing an insect to fly in and be trapped and they probably would have done if we had had time to stay there longer. It was a magical place in the sunshine. We saw keeled skimmers here for the first time and one



unfortunate one had been trapped for dinner by a four-spot orb spider, probably female because she was so big. Siskins called and settled in the trees.

As we moved back up the valley side, the vegetation gave way to heath and gorse again, the two contrasting colours of pink and yellow looking sumptuous in the afternoon sun. Only Michael Portillo would think to wear those two colours together! We came across birch polypores all the way up a dead standing birch and a slow-worm which didn't move until a camera came close and then it slithered its coppery body away into the undergrowth.

Getting back to the car park we had time to have a cup of tea at Hetty's and wait in the hope that the crossbills would make another appearance as they had on the first Norfolk Break, but sadly they didn't. Later Jillian said goodbye to the group as she was grape picking the next day, though John, Mervin and Anne still had one more day to enjoy of their Norfolk Break.

### **Friday 18 September – Breydon Water and Potter Heigham marshes**

For this bonus day – three of this week's group requested an additional day in the field – seeing more waders was the request (*writes Chris, picking up the diary-writing baton from Jillian*). So today we headed to Great Yarmouth and parked in the Asda car park behind the railway station, with the estuary of Breydon Water just over the sea wall where we'd parked. Among the saltmarsh vegetation were sea lavender and sea aster in flower. Immediately there was our first little egret of the break, and once we'd walked under Breydon Bridge there were more: we counted ten spread out across the saltmarsh.

But it was on the edge of the saltmarsh where there was most to see: the high tide wader roost. A tight flock of avocets in a black and white patch was the most obvious. On the left was a good group of redshanks and the central section had a mass of grey: mostly black-tailed godwits, plenty of curlews too, best identified once beaks were untucked from under wings. Shelducks, a few oystercatchers, dunlins and a single grey plover added to the mix. Much of this we viewed from the hide on stilts. Three ducks flew in and, in the absence of male plumage, it took a while to be sure they were pintails. Once on the water, their elegantly shaped neck and head clinched the ID. Several great black-backed gulls were loading on a spit, then we noticed one in the water wrestling and succeeding to subdue something moving, which was probably a redshank from glimpses of a wing before the gull won the rather uneven tussle.

The best was yet to come. Waders took to the air as a peregrine appeared swooped repeatedly above the high tide wader roost. Most of the visual drama was the twisting and turning flock of black-tailed godwits as they were chased. Curiously, the curlews stayed put – presumably they know that peregrines want smaller prey. The aerial spectacular went on for several minutes and eventually the peregrine failed to make a catch and retreated into the distance. We also retreated, to loos and to buy supplies at Asda.



*Avocets and godwits at the high tide roost at Breydon Water.*

To my slight surprise we made our high noon rendezvous at the car park at Potter Heigham with Honeyguiders Helen and Malcolm Crowder, who joined the group for the afternoon – still, happily, within the 'rule of six' (a phrase we all know now, but will it mean much in years to come?). We drunk coffees and ate lunch in the sunshine on the river wall, watching a great crested grebe.



Before we headed off, I introduced Helen to ivy bees by the public loos in Potter Heigham. This new coloniser has been a great feature on this year's Honeyguide Norfolk breaks, and they were here in large numbers on a sunny, ivy-covered wall.

We walked along Weavers Way behind the chalets that run alongside the River Thurne. On the dry marshes there were sheep, horses and scores of Egyptian geese. Beyond the restored mill, now a holiday let, we were overlooking the large habitat creation project organised by the Environment Agency and managed by Norfolk Wildlife Trust. Reedbed is the main new habitat, punctuated by a series of lagoons, which we stopped to scan on many occasions. Most of the birds were greylag and Canada geese and eclipse plumage ducks; teals, shovelers, gadwalls and mallards. On the farthest lagoon there was a single black-tailed godwit, a dunlin and a greenshank: nice birds, though thin in numbers compared with this morning.

The star sighting this afternoon was certainly a hobby. It swept in front of us, chestnut trousers and all the other hobby features showing well. A brimstone flew past, battling a headwind: it makes you wonder how a light-weight butterfly could cope so well when the odds seemed stacked against it. Two unusual flies settled on warm frame of a wooden sign. One seemed to be consuming a drop of blood and they had chestnut on their wings. Helen later found an ID: noon fly *Mesembrina meridiana*. The return leg along the farm track was fairly uneventful, though there were two wheatears on the far side of the final lagoon and a tame kestrel landed on a direction sign then perched on a pile of stones, little owl style. Quite a day for falcons.

Helen, Malcolm, Merv and John stayed at Potter Heigham for tea and a chat. Anne opted for more birdwatching and we drove to Horsey. We'd heard from such other birdwatchers that some pink-footed geese had just arrived. We were lucky: we heard and saw, though not very well, a skein on the move on the coastal side of the Horsey to Somerton road. Better still, looking inland, groups of five and four cranes flew past. Another car drew up and located three more cranes on the ground, distant but through the telescope clearly two adults and a juvenile fledged this year. Then, closer still – we must have been looking elsewhere when they came in – there were two more adult cranes.

#### **The best bits – holiday highlights nominated by group members**

Jillian: bittern, sundews, 'pocket guide to galls' by Mervin.

Mervin: peregrine display; fine cherry gall; display of the emperor dragonfly at Strumpshaw Fen pond-dipping area' mating willow emeralds; the company.

John: the varied itinerary; peregrine; bittern; variety of dragonflies; Merv's special knowledge.

Anne: eating lobster every night (apart from one night when wasn't available); peregrine; bittern; cranes; slow-worm; the weather.

Chris: peregrine hassling waders at Breydon Water; cranes; keeled skimmer including the one caught by a spider.

#### **PLANT GALLS Mervin Nethercoat**

The most notable feature of the galls on the reserves was the astonishing number of Silk Button galls on young oak trees. In a few instances, the leaf had been curled over. Although other plants were inspected, few galls were evident.

At Thorpe Marshes, a search of the meadowsweet revealed a few specimens of *Dasineura ulmaria*, the small blisters on leaves. Here, too, the riverside ash trees had the clusters of *Aceria fraxinivora* and the distorted rolled leaves of *Psyllopsis fraxini*. A mite gall normally common on sloe was only seen once (*Eriophyes similis*). On willow we saw the sawfly gall *Pontania bridgmanii*.

Strumpshaw Fen produced the most galls and here, on dog rose, the Robin's Pin Cushion (*Diplolepis rosae*) was most evident with at least one being an amalgam of a few adjacent galls, combining as they grew. The other gall on rose was the Smooth Rose Pea Gall (*Diplolepis nervosa* or *D. eglantariae*); to differentiate safely, the adults have to be reared out.

The number of Silk Button Galls (*Neuroterus numismalis*) on Pedunculate Oak (*Quercus robur*), and the extent of leaves affected, indicated that not only were the numbers of the inducing wasps enormous but that they had synchronised their egg laying activities perfectly with the formation of the leaves. Another gall on the Oak leaves were the differently-coloured Smooth Spangle Gall (*Neuroterus albipes*) some of which had beautiful red edges.

At Strumpshaw, too, were a few Knopper Galls (*Andricus quercuscalicis*). When this wasp first invaded this country, it needed a Turkey Oak for one of the generations. The lack of these trees at Strumpshaw would indicate that the wasp is now using a different tree or means of producing the spring generation.

The only gall seen on alder was from the mite *Eriophyes laevis*.

While at Hickling Broad the pedunculate oak trees hosted Silk Button (*Neuroterus numismalis*), Knopper, Smooth Spangle, Marble Gall (*Andricus kollari*) and a Cherry Gall (*Cynips quercusfolii*), the latter being strikingly prominent. Here, too, was a very large Witches Broom (*Taphrina betulina*) on Birch.

Galls were then scarce in other areas but at Holt Country Park, some of the leaves of sloe had galls of the mite *Eriophyes similis*, a couple of Lighthouse Galls (*Hartigiola annulipes*) were on beech leaves and on the return route by the wooded area, there were thousands of last year's Knopper Galls on the path.

The stop at Breydon Water only produced a Smooth Rose Pea Gall while at Potter Heigham there were many *Pontania proxima* galls around the car park and also alongside the walk along the river. The river walk also produced a few examples of the mite gall on Nettle *Dasineura urticae*.

A belated search over sycamore leaves adjacent to the hotel terrace did produce two galls, those of the mites *Aceria pseudoplatani* and *Aceria cephalonea*.

Host plant	Gall inducer	Type of organism	Comments
Acer (maple/sycamore)	<i>Aceria pseudoplatani</i>	Mite	Pouch with matted hairs below
	<i>Aceria cephalonea</i>	Mite	Rounded blister lump
Alnus (alder)	<i>Eriophyes laevis</i>	Mite	A tiny pouch with small opening below
Betula (birch)	<i>Taphrina betulina</i>	Fungus	Witches Broom, a dense mass of twigs
Fagus (beech)	<i>Hartigiola annulipes</i>	Fly	Lighthouse Gall
Filipendula (meadowsweet)	<i>Dasineura ulmaria</i>	Cecidomyid fly	Fly pupates in the pouch gall
Fraxinus (ash)	<i>Aceria fraxinivora</i>	Mite	Irregular cauliflower-like growth in bud/flower
	<i>Psyllopsis fraxini</i>	Hemiptera Psyllid	Marginal roll or fold
Prunus (e.g. blackthorn)	<i>Eriophyes similis</i>	Mite	Pustule often along edge but also in vein
Quercus (oak)	<i>Neuroterus numismalis</i>	Wasp	Silk Button Gall, enormous numbers
	<i>Neuroterus albipes</i>	Wasp	Smooth Spangle Gall
	<i>Neuroterus quercusbaccarum</i>	Wasp	Common Spangle Gall very common
	<i>Andricus quercuscalicis</i>	Wasp	Knopper Gall
	<i>Andricus kollari</i>	Wasp	Marble Gall
	<i>Cynips quercusfolii</i>	Wasp	Cherry Gall
	<i>Pontania proxima</i>	Sawfly	A red, bean-like gall
Salix (willow)	<i>Pontania bridgemanii</i>	Sawfly	Bea-like gall, green
	<i>Diplolepis rosae</i>	Wasp	Robin's Pin Cushion/Bedagaur Gall
Rosa (rose)	<i>Diplolepis nervosa/eglantariae</i>	Wasp	Smooth Pea Gall
Urtica (nettle)	<i>Dasineura urticae</i>	Cecidomyid fly	A pale blister

*Postscript:* we wondered if the small, regularly placed standard oaks with so many galls by 'sandy wall' at Strumpshaw Fen had been planted. Yes, says Tim Strudwick: but by jays. Close to the path they have been trimmed: at first that was on the path side only but that didn't look right, then trimming all round has created the look of a planted tree.

## SEASHORE LIFE

### Additional notes contributed by Mervin Nethercoat

At Winterton, we ventured onto the beach in a brisk north to north easterly breeze. Much seaweed had been washed up onto the sand and although we did not spend much time beach combing, we did find a few specimens.



Hornwrack (*Flustra foliacea*) had also been blown up onto the dunes and was the first organism we found. Although looking like seaweed, its rough texture indicates it is of animal origin and a close examination reveals the cells of each animal.

Closer to the water, we came across much filamentous red weed *Heterosiphonia plumosa* and what I thought to be simply some faded specimens turned out to be a totally different weed, probably *Asparagosis armata*, with spiked hooks along the stems. This latter is an invasive species first found in Irish waters in 1939. Both species could, ideally, have had more attention paid to them! Sea Lettuce (*Ulva lactuca*) was also wrapped in the fronds of these weeds as was Bladder Wrack (*Fucus vesiculosus*) and Saw Wrack (*Fucus serratus*). The other green weed was *Cladophora arcta* or *rupestris*.

A small Razor Shell (*Ensis ensis*) was also caught up in the weed and inside was a tiny Purple Topshell (*Gibbula umbilicalis*); a little gem. Perhaps on a future Honeyguide trip we can study seashore life in more detail.

## FUNGI Mervin Nethercoat

With the dry weather fungi were, naturally, scarce and would have taken a determined search to discover any. The only species abundant was the Tar Spot (*Rhytisma acerinum*) on Sycamore leaves.

At Hickling Broad the moribund Silver Birches hosted the Birch Polypore in all stages of development including one at a peculiar angle normally indicating that the tree had moved but this one seemed very firmly rooted. An enigma.

Less of an enigma at Hickling was the odour of Stinkhorn (*Phallus impudicus*) lurking under bramble. Despite a prolonged search, it could not be seen but the smell is distinctive.

Buxton Heath provided us with a few more species. Among the Silver Birches were The Blusher (*Amanita rubescens*) and an emerging Fly Agaric (*Amanita muscaria*). The boletes were represented by a fine Bay Bolete (*Boletus badius*) amongst the heather where the damaged pores oxidised to a deep blue colour. Near to the birches a pale Brown Birch Bolete (*Leccinum scabrum*) was in pristine condition.

The Milk Caps were represented by a large Bearded Milkcap (*Lactarius pubescens*) and the Brittle Gills by the Charcoal Burner (*Russula cyanoxantha*). In the open, near to Bracken, Common Earthballs (*Scleroderma citrinum*) were in varying stages of growth, though some had been trampled.

## WILDLIFE LISTS

### BIRDS H – heard

Great crested grebe  
Little grebe  
Cormorant  
Gannet  
Little egret  
Bittern  
Grey heron  
Mute swan  
Pink-footed goose  
Greylag goose  
Canada goose  
Egyptian goose  
Shelduck  
Gadwall  
Teal  
Mallard  
Pintail  
Shoveler  
Common scoter  
Marsh harrier  
Buzzard  
Sparrowhawk  
Kestrel  
Hobby  
Peregrine  
Red-legged partridge  
Pheasant  
Water rail H  
Moorhen

Coot  
Oystercatcher  
Avocet  
Grey plover  
Lapwing  
Dunlin  
Snipe  
Black-tailed godwit  
Curlew  
Redshank  
Greenshank  
Green sandpiper  
Black-headed gull  
Great black-backed gull  
Lesser black-backed gull  
Herring gull  
Feral pigeon  
Stock dove  
Woodpigeon  
Collared dove  
Tawny owl H  
Kingfisher  
Green woodpecker  
Great spotted woodpecker  
Skylark  
Swallow  
Meadow pipit  
Pied wagtail  
Wren H

Dunnock  
Robin  
Stonechat  
Wheatear  
Blackbird  
Song thrush  
Mistle thrush  
Cetti's warbler  
Chiffchaff  
Bearded tit H  
Long-tailed tit  
Marsh tit H  
Coal tit  
Blue tit  
Great tit  
Nuthatch H  
Jay  
Magpie  
Jackdaw  
Rook  
Carrion crow  
Starling  
House sparrow  
Chaffinch  
Goldfinch  
Siskin  
Linnet  
Bullfinch  
Yellowhammer

## MAMMALS

Grey seal  
Muntjac  
Stoat  
Badger (roadkill)  
Brown hare  
Rabbit (roadkill)

## AMPHIBIANS & REPTILES

Common frog  
Common lizard  
Slow-worm

## DRAGONFLIES & DAMSELFLIES

Willow emerald damselfly  
Common blue damselfly  
Migrant hawker  
Brown hawker  
Emperor  
Keeled skimmer  
Common darter  
Ruddy darter

## BUTTERFLIES & MOTHS

Small white  
Brimstone  
Red admiral  
Comma  
Speckled wood  
Small copper var *caeruliopunctata*

Hummingbird hawkmoth  
Small china-mark  
Silver Y  
White-streak grass-veneer  
Fox moth (caterpillar)  
Grey dagger (caterpillar)



White-streak grass-veneer *Agriphila latistria* (JM)

## OTHER NOTABLE INVERTEBRATES

Dock bug  
7-spot ladybird  
Harlequin ladybird  
Devil's coachhorse  
Common carder bee  
Ivy bee  
Hornet hoverfly  
Hoverfly *Syrphus ribesii*  
Noon fly  
Garden spider  
4-spot orb web spider  
Nursery web spider  
Slug *Arion ater*



Noon fly *Mesembrina meridiana* (JC)

## PLANTS

Some widespread and familiar species are omitted. nif = not in flower, mostly for distinctive leaves.

### Alismataceae

*Alisma plantago-aquatica* Water-plantain

### Apiaceae, umbellifers

<i>Angelica sylvestris</i>	Angelica
<i>Conium maculatum</i>	Hemlock
<i>Torilis japonica</i>	Upright hedge parsley
<i>Daucus carota</i>	Wild carrot
<i>Eryngium maritimum</i>	Sea holly
<i>Heracleum spondylium</i>	Hogweed
<i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>	Marsh pennywort
<i>Sium latifolium</i> Nif	Greater water parsnip
<i>Berula erecta</i>	Lesser water parsnip
<i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Fool's watercress
<i>Oenanthe fistulosa</i>	Tubular water dropwort

### Araliaceae

*Hedera helix* Ivy

### Asteraceae, daisy family

<i>Achilla millefolia</i>	Yarrow
<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser burdock
<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort
<i>Aster tripolium</i>	Sea aster
<i>Bidens cernua</i>	Nodding bur-marigold
<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Black knapweed
<i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Creeping thistle
<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle
<i>Cotula coronopifolia</i>	Buttonweed
<i>Eupatorium cannabinum</i>	Hemp agrimony
<i>Hypochaeris rasicata</i>	Common catsear
<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce
<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort

*Leucanthemum vulgare*  
*Matricaria matricarioides*  
*Picris echioides*  
*Senecio jacobaea*  
*S. aquaticus*  
*Solidago canadensis*  
*Sonchus arvensis*  
*Sonchus palustris*  
*Tripleurospermum inodorum*  
*Tussilago farfara*

Ox-eye daisy  
Pineapple mayweed  
Bristly ox-tongue  
Ragwort  
Groundsel  
Canadian golden-rod  
Perennial sow-thistle  
Marsh sow-thistle  
Scentless mayweed  
Coltsfoot nif

### Balaminaceae, balsams

*Impatiens glandulifera* Himalayan balsam  
*Impatiens capensis* Orange balsam

### Campanulaceae, bellflowers

*Jasione montana* Sheepsbit

### Caprifoliaceae, honeysuckle family

*Lonicera periclymenum* Honeysuckle  
*Sambucus nigra* Elder fruit  
*Viburnum opulus* Guelder rose fruit

### Caryophyllaceae

*Honckenya peploides* Sea sandwort  
*Lychnis flo-cuculi* Ragged robin  
*Myosoton aquaticum* Water chickweed  
*Saponaria officinalis* Soapwort  
*Silene alba* White campion  
*S. dioica* Red campion

### Celastraceae

*Euonymus europaeus* Spindle-tree fruit

### Chenopodiaceae

*Atriplex portulacoides* Sea purslane



<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat hen	<i>Anagallis tenella</i>	<b>Primulaceae</b>	Bog pimpernel NiF
<i>Oxybasis rubra</i>	Red goosefoot		<b>Ranunculaceae</b>	
	<b>Clusiaceae (Hypericaceae)</b>	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>		Meadow buttercup
<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's-wort	<i>Ranunculus flammula</i>		Lesser spearwort
<i>Hypericum tetrapterum</i>	Square-stalked St. John's-wort	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>		Creeping buttercup
	<b>Convulvulaceae</b>	<i>Thalictrum flavum</i> NiF		Common meadow-rue
<i>Calystegia sepium</i>	Hedge bindweed		<b>Rosaceae</b>	
<i>Calystegia sylvatica</i>	Greater bindweed	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>		Hawthorn fruit
	<b>Dioscoreaceae</b>	<i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>		Meadowsweet
<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black bryony fruit	<i>Potentilla erecta</i>		Tormentil
	<b>Dipsacaceae, scabious &amp; teasels</b>	<i>P. reptans</i>		Creeping cinquefoil
<i>Succisa pratensis</i>	Devilsbit scabious	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>		Blackthorn fruit
<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	<i>Rosa canina</i>		Dog rose fruit
	<b>Droseraceae</b>	<i>Rosa rugosa</i>		Japanese rose
<i>Drosera rotundifolia</i>	Round-leaved sundew	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i>		Blackberry/bramble
	<b>Eleagnaceae</b>	<i>Sorbus aucuparia</i>		Rowan fruit
<i>Eleagnus rhamnoides</i>	Sea buckthorn fruit		<b>Rubiaceae</b>	
	<b>Ericaceae, heathers</b>	<i>Galium uliginosum</i>		Fen bedstraw
<i>Calluna vulgaris</i>	Heather	<i>G. verum</i>		Lady's bedstraw
<i>Erica cinerea</i>	Bell heather	<i>Sherardia laevipes</i>		Field madder
<i>Erica tetralix</i>	Cross-leaved heath		<b>Scrophulariaceae</b>	
	<b>Euphorbiaceae</b>	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>		Ivy-leaved toadflax
<i>Euphorbia paralias</i>	Sea spurge	<i>Euphrasia agg</i>		Eyebright
	<b>Fabaceae, pea family</b>	<i>Linaria vulgaris</i>		Common toadflax
<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	<i>Odontites vernus</i>		Red bartsia
<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot trefoil	<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>		Marsh lousewort or red rattle
<i>L. uliginosus</i>	Greater (marsh)			Great mullein NiF
<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medick	<i>Verbascum thapsus</i>		Thyme-leaved speedwell
<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	<i>Veronica serpyllifolia</i>		
<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse		<b>Solanaceae</b>	
<i>Ulex gallii</i>	Western gorse	<i>Datura stramonium</i>		Thorn-apple
<i>Vicia cracca</i>	Tufted vetch	<i>Lycium barbarum</i>		Duke of Argyll's teapant
	<b>Fumariaceae</b>	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>		Bittersweet / woody nightshade
<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Fumitory	<i>Solanum nigrum</i>		Black nightshade
	<b>Gentianaceae</b>		<b>Urticaceae, nettle</b>	
<i>Centaurium erythraea</i>	Common centaury	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>		Pellitory of the wall
	<b>Geraniaceae</b>	<i>Urtica dioica</i>		Stinging nettle
<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common storksbill	<i>Urtica galeopsifolia</i>		Stingless (or fen) nettle
<i>Geranium pyrenaicum</i>	Hedgerow cranesbill	<i>Urtica urens</i>		Annual nettle
<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert			
	<b>Hydrocharitaceae</b>		<b>Monocotyledons</b>	
<i>Hydrocharis morsus-ranae</i>	Frogbit NiF			
<i>Stratiodes aloides</i>	Water soldier NiF		<b>Iridaceae</b>	
	<b>Lamiaceae, labiates</b>	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>		Yellow flag iris NiF
<i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Common hemp-nettle		<b>Wetland vegetation, grasses etc (selected)</b>	
<i>Lamium album</i>	White dead-nettle		<b>Cyperaceae</b>	
<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red dead-nettle	<i>Carex acutiformis</i>		Lesser pond sedge
<i>Lycopus europeaus</i>	Gipsywort	<i>Carex arenaria</i>		Sand sedge
<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water mint	<i>Carex paniculata</i>		Greater tussock sedge
<i>Prunella vulgaris</i>	Self-heal		<b>Juncaceae</b>	
<i>Stachys pulustris</i>	Marsh woundwort	<i>Juncus effusus</i>		Soft rush
	<b>Lythraceae</b>		<b>Poaceae (very incomplete)</b>	
<i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Purple loosestrife	<i>Ammophila arenaria</i>		Marram
	<b>Malvaceae</b>	<i>Corynephorus canescens</i>		grey hair-grass
<i>Malva sylvestris</i>	Common mallow	<i>Glyceria maxima</i>		Reed sweet-grass
	<b>Nymphaeaceae</b>	<i>Phragmites australis</i>		Reed
<i>Nymphaea alba</i>	White water-lily	<i>Spartina anglica</i>		Cord or salt grass
	<b>Onagraceae</b>		<b>Typhaceae</b>	
<i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Greater willowherb	<i>Typha latifolia</i>		Bulrush / reedmace
<i>Epilobium montanum</i>	Broad-leaved willowherb	<i>Typha angustifolia</i>		Lesser bulrush/reedmace
<i>Oenothera sp</i>	Evening primrose			
	<b>Papaveraceae</b>		<b>FERNS, MOSSES. LICHEN</b>	
<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>		Male fern
	<b>Plumbaginaceae</b>	<i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>		Broad buckler-fern
<i>Limonium vulgare</i>	Common sea-lavender	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>		Common polypody
	<b>Plantaginaceae</b>	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>		Bracken
<i>Plantago coronopus</i>	Buckshorn plantain	<i>Polytrichum commune</i>		Haircap moss
	<b>Polygonaceae</b>	<i>Sphagnum sp</i>		Bog moss
<i>Polygonum persicaria</i>	Redshank	<i>Cladonia portentosa</i>		Lichen, Winterton
<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Heath sorrel			
<i>R. obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock			
<i>R. crispus</i>	Curled dock			
<i>R. hydrolapathum</i>	Great water dock			