

***Norfolk and Norwich
Naturalists' Society***



ANNUAL REPORT 2009

Founded 1869 Registered Charity 291604 www.nnns.org.uk

Presidents and Council members serving during 2009 are listed below

(members served throughout the year except where stated otherwise).

Presidents:	Professor AJ Davy <i>(to 17.3.09)</i>	Dr G Barnes <i>(from 17.3.09)</i>
Vice Presidents:	Dr RE Baker, PR Banham, Mrs MA Brewster, AL Bull, KB Clarke, DA Dorling, KC Durrant, RC Hancy, PW Lambley, DL Paull	
Chairman:	S Livermore	
Secretary:	Dr R Carpenter <i>(to 17.3.09)</i>	Ms DL Cheyne <i>(from 17.3.09)</i>
Assistant Secretary:	FJL Farrow	
Treasurer:	DI Richmond	
Assistant Treasurer:	MJ Stew <i>(from 17.3.09)</i>	
Membership committee:	Dr DI Leech <i>(chair)</i>	S Livermore <i>(secretary)</i>
Programme committee:	J Negal <i>(chair)</i>	Dr SR Martin <i>(secretary)</i>
Publications committee:	Dr AR Leech <i>(chair)</i>	PW Lambley <i>(secretary)</i>
Research committee:	RW Ellis <i>(chair)</i>	M Ghullam <i>(secretary)</i>
Elected council members:		
Retired 17.3.09	Ms DL Cheyne, GM Coupland, JG Goldsmith, DB Macfarlane, Dr DI Leech, Miss D Robinson.	
Retiring 2010	K Charters, PDP Collyer, AD Irwin, A Musgrove	
Retiring 2011	S Harrap	
Retiring 2012	R Coleman, SM Henson, NW Owens, P Parker, MP Toms <i>(all from 17.3.09)</i>	
Addresses:		
Charity Commission Contact:	DI Richmond, 42 Richmond Rise, Reepham, Norfolk, NR10 4LS.	
Honorary Secretary:	Ms DL Cheyne, Wood House, Free Lane, Ditchingham, Bungay, Suffolk, NR25 2DW.	

Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society . . .

The Society was founded in 1869 and became a registered charity in 1985 with registration number 291604. Its governing instrument is the constitution adopted on 4 March, 1983 as amended on 22 March, 1985, 16 March, 1999 and 21 March, 2006. The management of the affairs of the Society is in the hands of a Council consisting of Vice Presidents, officers and elected members as listed opposite. The Society President is nominated by Council to serve for one year and is a person who has made a significant contribution to the understanding of natural history.

The objectives of the Society are:

- to promote, organise, carry on and encourage education of the public and study and research for the advancement of knowledge in natural sciences and to protect endangered species.

To furtherance of the above objects but not further or otherwise the Society may:

- publish papers on the natural sciences, especially those relating to Norfolk.
- encourage the exchange of information between naturalists by means of meetings and excursions.
- protect endangered species by the collection of information, co-operative surveys, investigations and the dissemination of the useful results of such investigations.
- do all such other lawful things as shall further the attainment of the above objects.

. . . *Researching Norfolk's Wildlife*

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

The Council has the pleasure of presenting the Annual Report together with the Accounts of the Society for the year ending 31 December 2009.

To support its educational role the Society's programme of events for 2009/10 comprised 10 field meetings, 6 talks and 5 meetings organised by the Photographic Group. New this year, the programme also included 6 identification courses covering birds, bats and moths, and drawing on various experts in these fields.

The 10 traditional outings included joint meetings with Lowestoft Field Club (Brettenham Heath), Great Yarmouth Naturalists' & Suffolk Naturalists' Societies (Wheatfen), British Plant Gall Society (Gooderstone Water Gardens), Norfolk Fungus Study Group (Sheringham Park), and the Bryological Group (Bawsey Country Park). A joint meeting with Research Committee recording at Southrepps Common was also held. There were 'mainly bird' meetings at Titchwell, Snettisham and Sculthorpe Moor.

This year's 'Wildflowers Revealed' meetings, with the participation of the Flora Group, visited Holt Hall and Sea Mere. The latter outing, held on a Tuesday in June at a private site otherwise difficult of access, was notably well attended and has encouraged the Programme Committee to undertake further reform of the structure, destinations and timings of the outdoor programme for 2010/11, especially as the trend overall of fewer members coming along to field meetings continued in 2009.

When it comes to indoor meetings however, the move to our new Eaton St. Andrew's Hall venue and the talks on offer have proved very popular, with increased attendances of 50 to 60 or more the norm. The 5 Photographic Group meetings have echoed this increased popularity. The provision of refreshments and the opportunity it gives to socialise after the main event of the evening has also been a feature well received.

After its Robert Marsham celebrations in 2008, the Society continued in 2009 to commemorate anniversaries of other Norfolk naturalists significant beyond the county with enjoyable and distinctively different special meetings in October and December marking, respectively, the centenary year of the birth of Ted Ellis and the 250th anniversary of the birth of Sir James Edward Smith of Norwich. Thanks are due to the Norwich Castle Museum for providing the venue and in other ways facilitating the joint Smith meeting. Three days later, Peter Lambley's Christmas talk on Patagonia 'in the footsteps of Darwin', reminded us in turn that 2009 was the bicentenary year of his birth.

Other highlights, past or to come, include Rex Hancy on early butterfly hunters, Dr Gerry Barnes' Presidential Address in January on 'Landscape with trees. Norfolk's trees, woodlands and orchards...', Dr. Helen Smith's talk on the Fen Raft Spider, and Dr Dave Leech speaking about BTO nest recording at the Annual General Meeting.

The Society was represented at a number of other events around the County during the year including the "Spring Fling" at the Norfolk Showground, the "Wild about the Wensum" event at Pensthorpe in May, and the "Wild About Norfolk" event at Acle High School in October. A hedgehog survey engaging the public has been conducted and further surveys are planned.

The research committee has now completed its work of collecting records on Flordon and Southrepps Commons and is in the process of planning a substantial publication on the former and perhaps a more modest report on Southrepps.

The Society has resolved to take a more active role in supporting wildlife recording in Norfolk and has asked the research committee to consider how this can be achieved. The topic was explored and given general support at a joint meeting of the Society and the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service in December to which all recorders were invited and will be developed further in 2010.

The 2008 Bird and Mammal Report has been well received. After editing the Bird Report for the past ten years, Giles Dunmore has retired and Andy Stoddart has taken over editorship to produce the 2008 Report, supported by Dave and Jacquie Bridges the new County Bird Recorders. Although the contents followed the pattern set in recent volumes, the physical format has been changed from A4 to B5 and the paper quality improved to achieve a slimmer publication and an appearance more in keeping with other modern journals. The change has also allowed an approximately 25% increase in the area of the colour photographs. As is apparent from the acknowledgements (on page 4 of the Report) a large number of people, including photographers and artists, contribute to the Report's production. The Mammal Report, edited by Dave Leech, was slightly longer than in recent years and included four articles on Norfolk bats.

Once again production of Transactions has been delayed and will appear in early 2010. This is, in part, due to the change in editorship from Peter Lambley to Simon Harrap but a full complement of papers and notes has been received and will be published. The Publications Committee intends to bring back the date of publication of Transactions to mid-summer as soon as possible. The Bird & Mammal Report remains a part of Transactions (although they are now paginated separately) so Transactions, too, will change in format to B5.

A natural History of the Catfield Hall Estate (occasional publication no 11), which was distributed to members in 2008, was awarded a CPRE (Council to Protect Rural England) Norfolk Award in 2009 for the quality of its research and presentation.

Mammals of Norfolk. Council has agreed to publish this title, jointly with the Norfolk Biodiversity Information Service. An outline business plan has been drawn up for a full-colour A4 224 page book with multiple authors and an Editorial Team comprising Mike Toms, Martin Perrow, Dave Leech, Steve Henson and Ian Keymer.

Checklist of Birds of Norfolk. A 32 page booklet, based on the checklist published in the 2006 Bird & Mammal Report by Mick Fiszer and Keith Dye, has been prepared as Occasional Publication no 12. Copies will be distributed free to members and will also be on sale.

The Norfolk Red Data Book Project launched in 2008 has progressed to the pilot stage with orthoptera and bumblebee sections entered to the database. We look forward to further progress in 2010.

Four issues of the Society's Natterjack newsletter were distributed during the year. We thank the editor, Francis Farrow, once again for his hard work and expertise in putting this publication together, and Simon Harrap for compiling the photographic section. We thank all those who have contributed articles and photographs gratis for all of the Society's publications.

The Society's membership at the end of the year stood at 625, with 49 new members joining during the year. The Society's website has continued to attract new members and provide information for existing members and the wider public. The full colour guides to Norfolk species has been expanded to include Reptiles and Amphibians, Fish, Mammals, Woodlice and Trees. We thank David Richmond for preparing these excellent presentations.

The results of the questionnaire issued at last year's AGM indicated that the quality of our publications, talks and field meetings is high but that we should do more to promote them. Partly in response to this feedback we plan to expand the use of the Society's web site to make it more interactive and useful to existing members, and we are assembling a list of email contacts so that we can give timely reminders to members of up-and-coming events.

The Society ended the year with general account reserves of £11,750 (£1099 down on 2008 which in turn was £490 down on 2007). A further £14,162 was designated to the Peet Fund. The general account figure remains higher than usual because of the delay in publishing the 2009 edition of the Transactions of the Society. Had this

been published before the end of the year, then the general account outturn would have been reduced to about £9,750.

During the course of the year, the Society received a further generous donation of £2000 from Mr Tim Peet through the Sarnia Charitable Trust. The Peet Fund was used to meet the cost of colour plates in Natterjack and to subsidise the cost of Transactions, the Norfolk Bird & Mammal Report and expenditure on exhibitions.

Towards the end of the year, the Society applied for and received a Natural History Museum grant of £1520 for display materials and surveys in 2010. Because of the explicit nature of the grant it has been recorded in the accounts as a restricted fund.

The Society's reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds in its general account to cover one year's activity including the full production costs of Transactions and the Bird & Mammal Report. Current balances are less than this leading the Society to review its subscription rates and explore alternative sources of funding.

The Council of the Society met 4 times during the year to conduct the business of the Society. Our thanks go to Dr Gerry Barnes for his year as President.

In summary the Society continues to deliver high quality services to its members, and wider public benefit through its educational activities and publications.

In the coming year we will strive to improve our role in helping the public to become general naturalists and general naturalists to specialise, and in facilitating the continued recording, dissemination and publication of data about Norfolk's wildlife.

Finally I want to say thank you to the many people involved in committee work, helping out at meetings, contributing to and getting publications out, and all the other things that make this Society what it is today.

Stephen Livermore, Chairman

INDEPENDENT EXAMINER'S REPORT
to the Trustees of Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

I report on the accounts of the Society for the year ended 31 December, 2009 which are set out on the following pages

Respective responsibilities of trustees and examiner

As the charity's trustees you are responsible for the preparation of the accounts; you consider that the audit requirement of section 43(2) of the Charities Act 1993 (the Act) does not apply. It is my responsibility to state, on the basis of procedures specified in the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners under section 43(7)(b) of the Act, whether particular matters have come to my attention.

Basis of independent examiner's report

My examination was carried out in accordance with the General Directions given by the Charity Commissioners. An examination includes a review of the accounting records kept by the charity and a comparison of the accounts presented with those records. It also includes consideration of any unusual items or disclosures in the accounts, and seeking explanations from you as trustees concerning any such matters. The procedures undertaken do not provide all the evidence that would be required in an audit, and consequently I do not express an audit opinion on the view given by the accounts.

Independent examiner's statement

In connection with my examination, no matter has come to my attention:

- 1) which gives me reasonable cause to believe that in any material respect the requirements
 - to keep accounting records in accordance with section 41 of the Act; and
 - to prepare accounts which accord with the accounting records and to comply with the accounting requirements of the Acthave not been met; or
- 2) to which, in my opinion, attention should be drawn in order to enable a proper understanding of the accounts to be reached.

**Sally J Pearson FMAAT,
45 Cuttons Corner, Hemblington, Norwich, NR13 4PS. February 2010**

Norfolk & Norwich Naturalists' Society

Registered Charity 291604

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES

YEAR ENDING 31 DECEMBER 2009

A Income	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	General a/c	Peet Fund			
	£	£		£	£
A1 <u>Voluntary sources</u>					
Subscriptions	7,488.75			7,488.75	7,198.75
Other donations from voluntary sources	2,000.00		1,520.00	3,520.00	3,422.00
A2 <u>Trading activities (sales of publications)</u>					
Bird & Mammal Report (previous year)	1,216.40			1,216.40	673.80
Bird & Mammal Report (current year)	3,091.00			3,091.00	3,668.50
Other publications	224.00			224.00	2,992.00
A3 <u>Income from Assets</u>					
Interest	126.12			126.12	422.82
A4 <u>Miscellaneous receipts</u>					
Donations, sale of goods	963.32			963.32	191.60
A Total income	15,109.59	0.00	1,520.00	16,629.59	18,569.47

B Direct charitable expenditure	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	General a/c	Peet Fund			
	£	£		£	£
B1 <u>Lectures and meetings</u>					
Room hire and speakers expenses	782.20	0.00	0.00	782.20	1,088.61
B2 <u>Publications</u>					
Transactions	1,820.00	455.00	0.00	2,275.00	2,000.00
Bird & Mammal Report	6,138.96	579.00	0.00	6,717.96	6,511.07
Occasional Publications	605.50	0.00	0.00	605.50	7,309.29
B3 <u>Membership expenses</u>					
Printing and stationery	768.85	1,330.00	0.00	2,098.85	2,160.86
Postage to members	2,306.76	0.00	0.00	2,306.76	2,178.42
B4 <u>Research</u>					
Expenses	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
B5 <u>Other charitable expenditure</u>					
Exhibitions	200.00	181.75	0.00	381.75	0.00
Other charitable expenditure	276.24	0.00	0.00	276.24	227.48
B Total direct charitable expenditure	12,898.51	2,545.75	0.00	15,444.26	21,475.73

C Other expenditure	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	General a/c	Peet Fund			
	£	£		£	£
C1 Other expenses (Officers & committees)					
Postage (committee expenses)	287.47	0.00	0.00	287.47	214.81
Postage (B&M sales)	149.57	0.00	0.00	149.57	127.79
Printing and stationery	159.83	0.00	0.00	159.83	111.34
Public liability insurance	373.27	0.00	0.00	373.27	391.68
Miscellaneous expenditure	260.00	0.00	0.00	260.00	260.00
C Total of other expenditure	1,230.14	0.00	0.00	1,230.14	1,105.62

D Total expenditure (B+C)	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	General a/c	Peet Fund			
	£	£		£	£
B Direct charitable expenditure	12,898.51	2,545.75	0.00	15,444.26	21,475.73
C Other expenditure	1,230.14	0.00	0.00	1,230.14	1,105.62
D Total expenditure	14,128.65	2,545.75	0.00	16,674.40	22,581.35

E Gross transfers between funds	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	General a/c	Peet Fund			
	£	£		£	£
E1 Donations assigned to Peet Fund	-2,000.00	2,000.00	0.00	0.00	0.00
E2 Share of interest relating to Peet Fund	-80.14	80.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
E Gross transfers between funds	-2,080.14	2,080.14	0.00	0.00	0.00

F Summary and year end balances	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	General a/c	Peet Fund			
	£	£		£	£
Funds brought forward at start of year	12,849.50	14,627.12	0.00	27,476.62	31,488.50
A Add total income	15,109.59	0.00	1,520.00	16,629.59	18,569.47
D Deduct total expenditure	-14,128.65	-2,545.75	0.00	-16,674.40	-22,581.35
E Adjust for transfers between funds	-2,080.14	2,080.14	0.00	0.00	0.00
F Funds carried forward at end of year	11,750.30	14,161.51	1,520.00	27,431.81	27,476.62
Increase (decrease) in current year	(1,099.20)	(465.61)	1,520.00	(44.81)	(4,011.88)

BALANCE SHEET AT 31 DECEMBER, 2009

G Monetary assets	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	General a/c	Peet Fund			
	£	£		£	£
G1 Cash balances at year end					
Barclays Bank plc	3,397.16	0.00	0.00	3,397.16	3,506.60
TSB plc (no 1 account)	8,043.09	653.25	1,520.00	10,216.34	5,577.86
TSB plc (no 2 account)	0.00	13,508.26	0.00	13,508.26	19,428.12
Petty cash	15.18	0.00	0.00	15.18	2.62
G2 Other assets					
Debtors (invoiced publications / m'ships)	1,902.00	0.00	0.00	1,902.00	970.00
Payments in advance				0.00	0.00
Unbanked cheques	24.00	0.00	0.00	24.00	120.60
G Total assets	13,381.43	14,161.51	1,520.00	29,062.94	29,605.80

H Liabilities	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	General a/c	Peet Fund			
	£	£		£	£
H1 Uncleared cheques					
H1 Uncleared cheques	809.13			809.13	839.09
H2 Sundry creditors	795.00			795.00	1,234.59
H3 Memberships paid in advance	27.00			27.00	55.50
H Total liabilities	1,631.13	0.00	0.00	1,631.13	2,129.18

I Balance at year end (G-H)	Unrestricted Funds		Restricted Funds	Total 2009	Total 2008
	General a/c	Peet Fund			
	£	£		£	£
I Balance carried forward	11,750.30	14,161.51	1,520.00	27,431.81	27,476.62

NOTES TO THE ACCOUNTS

1. Accounting policies

The accounts are prepared on an accruals basis in accordance with guidance given in Charity Commission publications:

CC53 Charity Accounts, CC55 Accruals Accounting for the Smaller Charity,
SORP 2000 Accounting and Reporting by Charities.

2. Description of funds

The Society manages its general fund to provide a programme of lectures and meetings, and to fund the publication of the Transactions of N&NNS and the annual Bird & Mammal Report.

The Peet Fund Special Projects Account is a 'designated fund' maintained by the Society to enhance the quality of its publications and to support other activities within the Society's objectives.

The restricted fund relates to a Natural History Museum OPAL grant for exhibition & survey expenditure

3. Reserves policy

The Society's reserves policy is to hold sufficient funds in its general account to cover the annual production costs of Transactions and the Bird & Mammal Report, so that their publication is independent of the variability in cash flow from subscriptions and sales.

The balance at 31.12.09 is about £2000 higher than normal because of the delayed publication of the 2009 Transactions of N&NNS.

4. Notes on large variances:

A2 (B&M): increased springtime sales of previous B&M, but reduced sales of current edition

A2 (other): 2008 figure includes £2830 for T.Harris share of Occasional Publication (Catfield Hall).

A4: 2009 includes £684 Gift Aid/top-up relief from 2008 donations; and £200 attendance fee for NWT events.

B1: Savings from change of venue and very few speakers' expenses.

B2: Occasional Publication - 2008 relates to full cost of 1st print run, 2009 to N&NNS share of 2nd run.

B5: Exhibition expenditure relates to posters, hedgehog survey sheets, Autumn checklists, T-shirts

5. Donations from voluntary sources:

2009: £2000 donation from Sarnia Charitable Trust, £1520 OPAL grant (restricted fund)

6. Independent examination of accounts

C1 miscellaneous expenditure includes £100 honorarium paid to Society independent examiner.

7. Uncleared cheques (31.12.09)

A Stoddart expenses, A Leech expenses.

8. Sundry creditors (31.12.09):

Easton College (Nov Council), Greshams (printing costs), A Stoddart / D&J Bridges (B&M honorariums)

9. The Society's bankers are:

Barclays Bank, St Stephen's Branch, 5/7 Red Lion Street, Norwich.

Lloyds TSB Bank, Harvey Lane, Norwich.

D I Richmond, Honorary treasurer.