

Pamber Forest Nature Reserve

Quarterly Newsletter



October 2018

The autumn was well under way when the winter migrants arrived. Redwing appeared on the 12th October with fieldfare a week later; these were joined by an influx of woodcock that were seen several times when I flushed them when walking off track. Two other unusual birds were seen; on the 16th October a rose-ringed parakeet was heard flying over, this followed a report of one on the reserve a few days earlier, this is only the second record for the site. A mute swan was seen flying over on 15th November, this is the first record I have for the site and was probably one from the gravel pit at Burnt Common 4km to the north.

A minotaur beetle was found on 13th October, this large dung beetle is seen very infrequently here, less than once per year.

Unlike butterflies moths fly all year even in quite cold conditions so there were records of winter moths and mottled umber, disturbed during our coppicing operations. I also recorded these when I



December Moth

put the light trap out in December. However, the best record was a nice December moth, a large and furry species that flies only during November to January.

I intercepted groups of fungi pickers on three occasions during October carrying carrier bags full of fungi; I had to explain the law regarding this activity after which I did not see them again. There

has been a noticeable upsurge in the frequency of this mostly from people of eastern or southern European origin where the law regarding this activity is obviously different.

Work during the last three months has concentrated on coppicing along the ride edges



Completing the 639 work days
and the main coppice areas behind the deer fences.

The various volunteer groups notched up an impressive 185 work days during the three month period that resulted in the annual total 639, 78 more than last year. This figure represents about the equivalent of 2.5 full time members of staff and if we had paid contractors to do the work would have cost us more than £20,000. A big thank you to all who contributed.

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Basingstoke
and Deane