



THE IRIS

MAGAZINE OF THE NATURE GROUP OF THE RPS

Issue No. 83
Summer 2002

RPS 
THE ROYAL
PHOTOGRAPHIC
SOCIETY





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accompanied by printed copy. As an
E-mail (**please not as an attach-
ment**) or simply typed, double
spaced, on one side of the paper only.
Please send submissions to The
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who have failed to receive them.

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Front Cover photo Second Place in the Nature Group Annual Exhibition - Slide Section - “*Two Young Tawny Owls*” by Phil McLean ARPS.

Inside front cover photo by Philip Mugridge ARPS - “*Nuthatch*” - from his successful Associateship slide application.

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EDITORIAL

New Material:- Following observations in my previous editorial about an apparent epidemic of virulent ‘writers block’ you will be pleased to know that there are signs that some members are recovering. A few articles have arrived and promises renewed for others.

However many of you obviously are still convalescing and I hope for a full recovery over the next few months.

I suspect that too many of you have a natural modesty which prevents you from offering material unless you receive a direct request. Part of the problem is that I know too little about too many of you which means I cannot cajole (so much nicer than blackmail) you individually into producing a piece. John Bulpitt ARPS and Ian McLean LRPS are new contributors. John volunteered but Ian’s mistake was to write to me ordering *The Iris 2001 CD-ROM* and use an address label stating his hobby. Your eagle eyed editor at once saw the possibility and Ian kindly wrote a piece which I find fascinating.

Who, or what, is ‘Fi’? A question raised by several of you including Tony Bond FRPS (see Members’ Letters). ‘Fi’, although occurring in several places in the last issue, mainly in directions for Field Meeting venues, cannot be found in any of my dictionaries.

“Fi”, who you found so intriguing, is in fact the work of a gremlin who inhabits the computer cross-platform world between PCs and MACs. One of his specialties is taking certain pieces of text, such as ½, (which have previously been proof read in material sent to printer) and converting them to something different; in this case ‘fi’.

Usually your editor discovers this jolly fellow’s antics when he checks the printers’ proofs but on this occasion failed to do so. I could plead mitigating circumstances but they would take several more paragraphs. Suffice it to say I failed in my duties.

I find the problem with proof reading is that the more times you reread a piece the more likely your mind sees what it thinks should be there (especially if you typed it) and ignores what your eyes see on the paper. For this reason our sub-editor usually proof reads copy before dispatch to the printers and I check their return proofs. Whilst not being complacent, I think our record stands well against many other publications.

CD-ROM:- Most computers now include a CD writer enabling us to legally produce or ‘burn’ our own material onto CDs which can be used on other computers. Add to this such multimedia programmes as ‘Illuminatus Opus’ and we all have the potential to go into ‘publishing’ on the lowest cost basis possible; i.e. produce a CD only when an order is received. Consider this against the difficulties and several thousand pounds required to ‘self-publish’ your work as a book or alternatively persuading a publisher to produce it. The actual compilation of material ready for producing the CD requires time as with a book but I am fairly certain that financially the project is far safer and more likely to yield a profit; albeit not large.

When you then consider the knowledge and expertise possessed by some of our ‘senior’ (photographically speaking) members I should be very surprised, also disappointed, if some of them did not emulate Mike Lane’s foray into this area. I can think immediately of members who could cover individual subjects such as wild flowers, fungi, insects etc.,

I look forward to being able to notify members of more CD-ROM guides produced by fellow members ☘

FROM THE CHAIR

DAWN OSBORN ARPS

By the time you read this issue of The Iris the Summer Solstice will have passed. Like me, you may be wondering where the time went. One thing of which I am certain, time seems to pass quicker and quicker and I seem to have much less of it

to spare. Certainly there never seems to be enough time for photography.

At this time of the year I seem to be running myself ragged; working full time and juggling home and garden chores with the fickle British weather, while still trying to find some time for photography and a social life. I can break photography down into sections; picture taking, picture making (whether in a dark room or via a computer) and other photographic events. The latter includes committee meetings (as well as the Nature Group, I also serve on the RPS Central Region Organising Committee) and social events (such as the meetings of photographic societies to which I belong, and visiting other clubs and societies at which I have been invited to speak). My social life breaks down into photographic (already mentioned above) and non-photographic which includes friends (many of whom are photographers) and family (most of whom are also keen photographers). Photographic things seem to take up more and more of my time, keeping me very busy and out of trouble, a situation that is certainly preferable to being bored. The downside is that I often have to let picture taking opportunities pass me by because of other obligations. Consequently, it is during vacations that I take most of my pictures.

I'm sure that many of you will already have returned from some faraway place, having had the opportunity to photograph a myriad of photographic subjects. Many more of you will be preparing for vacations later in the year as well as planning for future trips both at home and overseas.

I was recently persuaded to take a much-needed vacation, booked at very short notice, to the Greek Island of Lesvos. The bird photographers amongst you will no doubt already be familiar with Lesvos, a mecca during spring for both photographers and 'birders' but not perhaps to those who, like me, choose flora as their main subjects. While not as prolific in its range of flora as the island of Crete, Lesvos nevertheless holds a great variety of species and some interesting rarities too. The third largest of the Greek Islands after Crete and Evia, I discovered that Lesvos also offers some stunning landscapes and a rich history, not to mention superb weather, good food, wine and excellent value for money. I can thoroughly recommend it. Wherever you plan to visit this year, I wish you an excellent time and some stunning subjects for your cameras.

Less than two weeks before I jetted off to Lesvos, the Nature Group held its combined Spring Meeting, AGM and Annual Exhibition Opening. I would like to thank all members and guests who attended; it was a very enjoyable day indeed. The AGM was concluded with very little fuss and in almost record time, the remainder of the day being spent looking at some excellent pictures by Colin Smith and the selected prints and slides in our own Exhibition. I was sorry to have to report the resignation of Roy Place, our Vice-Chairman and Programme Secretary. After several years of doing some sterling work on behalf of the group, Roy is packing up his camera bag and relocating his home to Spain. I would like to thank Roy both personally and on behalf of the Group for all of his efforts over the years and sincerely hope that he keeps in touch with us following his move.

This vacancy has arisen before the next biannual election at the April 2003 AGM, when of course the vice-chairman would succeed me as Chairman. In the interim the Committee will discuss the vacancy at our September committee meeting and hopefully I can advise you of the new incumbent in the Winter issue.

Finally, the Chairman's Day, which I advised you of in the Spring issue, has been rescheduled. It will now take place on Saturday 9th November. Details of the day's events are included in the leaflet enclosed with this issue and I can promise that it will be a day packed full of nature photography; both pictures, information and advice, from some of the best respected photographers in the group. I look forward to seeing you ☘

PLEASE NOTE THE CHANGE OF DATE

**CHAIRMAN'S DAY
IS NOW
SATURDAY 9TH NOVEMBER 2002**

**FULL DETAILS OF THE DAY'S EVENTS
LOCATION AND BOOKING FORM
CAN BE FOUND ON THE LEAFLET
ENCLOSED WITH THIS ISSUE.**

AN EVENT NOT TO BE MISSED

NATURE GROUP POSTAL PORTFOLIOS

These two successful portfolios have been running for many years now to the enjoyment of participating members. Both circles operate in similar fashion and members of both have a mix of photographic style and experience. For full details contact one of the Circle Secretaries.

Circle A:- John Berry ARPS - 3, Ennerdale Close, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire, CV32 6NW. Tel. 01926-338630.

Circle B:- Dr. Bill Burns-Begg ARPS - 'St. John's Cottage', School Lane, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1SD. tel. 01892-661335. e-mail. docbegg@talk21.com

BOTH CIRCLES ARE LOOKING FOR ADDITIONAL MEMBERS SO PLEASE MAKE CONTACT .

“Butterflies in the Pyrenees”

by Colin Smith FRPS

Last July my wife Joan and myself spent ten days in the Pyrenees in Andorra at an altitude of about 4,500ft. The flowers were rather disappointing, due partly to the late time of the year, and I suspect, the many ski runs which must have an adverse effect on the vegetation. There were however flowers in the meadows bordering the many streams but growing in tall vegetation making photography rather difficult. Amongst all these plants there was a multitude of insects of many types of which the most striking were the butterflies, not only because of the number of species but by the sheer volume of them on the wing at any given time.

In recent years, now we have the use of high quality faster film at our disposal, I have photographed insects by natural light. However, because the days were very warm making the butterflies particularly active, I resorted to using a three flash set-up on a home made bracket which I made many years ago. This enabled me to stalk feeding butterflies, or those just basking in the sun, by simply hand holding the camera, pre-focusing on a similar sized subject like a leaf for instance, and then moving in until the image was the desired size and sharp. Using this approach enabled me to stop my 100 mm macro lens down to f22 thus giving me a good depth of field which combined with a fast shutter speed, within the range of synchronisation, meant the ambient light played no part in forming the image at all. Although the shutter speed was set to flash synchronisation of 1/250 I was in effect exposing at 1/1000th second at f22 thus making camera shake less likely. In spite of maximising depth of field by using a small aperture it should be remembered at close range sharp focus is still only available over a few millimetres and so the camera should be angled to achieve sharpness from wing tip to wing tip before releasing the shutter. It is also desirable to place the butterfly in a slightly diagonal position in the frame as this can often improve composition.

The main drawback to this technique is the fall off of light if the background is too far away causing it to become dark and unnatural looking. The positioning of the flashes is also very important if convincingly natural looking images are to be achieved. I place the main light above the lens angled down at about 60 degrees to simulate the sun, and two fill in flashes set close to the lens axis on either side to soften and fill in the harsh shadows created by the more powerful main flashgun. My set up uses small manual flashguns but now, of course, flashguns offering through the lens exposure control make it much easier to operate. It is still advisable to run tests in advance to determine the correct aperture to use at close range as there is usually a minimum distance at which these automatic flashguns will operate accurately and so care should be taken to ensure the final exposure is correct.

I found some butterflies quite late in the evening or early in the morning when they were roosting as at this time the temperature was lower and the light level weaker, the butterflies remained quiet and immobile on their chosen perches making it possible to use a tripod and work at close range without disturbing them. Also in an evening or early morning the air is often still making longish exposures possible. The only drawback with this method is that when at rest the butterflies tend to close their wings making a top wing shot out of the question.

Although I much prefer the use of natural light whenever possible so the quality of light falling on the subject can be assessed before taking the picture, on occasions such as this



Photo by Colin Smith FRPS - "*Heath Fritillary*"
Natural light @ f16



Photo by Colin Smith FRPS - "*Apollo*"
Natural light @ f16



Photo by Colin Smith FRPS - "*Nickerl's Fritillary*"
Three flash heads @ f22



Photo by Colin Smith FRPS - "*Female Large Wall Brown*"
Three flash heads @ f22

it is a case of changing to the flash technique or not taking any successful photographs at all during the warmest part of the day. The examples shown are a mixture of the two techniques as indicated on the captions.

Like all forms of nature photography capturing insects on film has its own difficulties and problems to be solved, but the final rewards can far outweigh the frustrations providing patience and determination are exercised ☘

MORE FIELD MEETINGS IN 2002

SEPTEMBER

Sunday 29th September - Alvecote Pools, Nr Tamworth, Staffordshire.

Meet:- 10 am Alvecote Priory car park which is on Roby's Lane, off B5000 Tamworth to Polesworth Road.

Interest:- Fungi and autumn colours. *Bring Wellingtons.*

Leader:- Frank Young ARPS Tel:- 01827-284862.

OCTOBER

Sunday 13th October - Earlswood, West Midlands.

Meet:- 9.30 am car park at Clowes Wood, near Solihull. Grid ref SP 0942 073 413

Interest:- Fungi and autumn colours.

Leader:- Roger Pinn ARPS Tel:- 01564 - 793616.

“Culag Wood, Nr. Lochinver, Scotland”

by Nick Jarvis ARPS

Culag Wood (NC 093215) is a tiny, approximately half-mile square, remnant of old Caledonian Forest. It was opened to the public in 2000. For such a small area it has a wide range of habitats including coniferous woodland, deciduous woodland, rock faces, bog, and seashore.

When I visited in late August the really striking thing about this wood was the incredible numbers of fungi, far more than I have ever seen in any English wood. I also saw good numbers of mosses and ferns on the rock faces, plus Oblong-leaved Sundew in the bog. However, it was the fungi that really caught my attention. These included the colourful fungi *Suillus grevillei*, *Cantharellus tubiformis* var *tubiformis*, and *Amanita muscaria*. Also the rare and deadly *Amanita virosa*. There were countless other species that I could not identify. It took me two days of photography to cover the half-mile from car park to beach!

Facilities include a car park, picnic areas, a high viewpoint, and a number of rope swings and such like for the amusement of children. A small walkway reaches out into the bog area. Paths are clearly marked.

I did post some pictures to the online Notice Board ☘

Minutes of the RPS Nature Group 2002 AGM

The 26th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Photographic Society Nature Group was held at The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury, on Saturday 27 April 2002 at 2.00 p.m. It was chaired by Dawn Osborn ARPS and was attended by 45 members.

Apologies:-

These were received from Kath Bull, Bill Burns-Begg, John Fairbank, Sue Goody, Peter Jones, David Mazey, Roy and Dorothy Place, Ron Price.

Minutes of the 2001 AGM:-

The Minutes of the 2001 AGM printed in issue 80 of The Iris were approved and signed by Dawn Osborn as a correct record of what then took place.

Matters Arising:- There were none.

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT

It is hard to believe that a whole year has passed since I became Chairman. From a personal standpoint, it has been a difficult year, with far too many family crises to deal with and an insufficient amount of time left to enable much photography.

During 2001 the Nature Group lost two valued members; I speak of Derek Turner Ettlinger and my father, Roy Osborn. Many of you will have memories of my father as our Exhibition Secretary or from earlier Field Meetings on Cannock Chase. I would like to take this opportunity to thank all those of you who sent cards and messages of sympathy and support; they were of great comfort to both my brother and I, and especially to my mother. Derek will also be remembered fondly by many of you. He was well known for his great knowledge of, and passion for, orchids, and published several books on the species. Additionally he served on the A & F Distinctions Panel for some years and became its chairman. Both Derek and Roy were kindly gentlemen mindful of the well-being of both their subject and its habitat. I know that they are both missed by many of our members.

On a happier note the Nature Group celebrated its 25th Anniversary in 2001 and to honour the event a special Convention was held at Brooksby College last August. On behalf of the Nature Group I offer a big thank you to the two people responsible for organizing what turned out to be such a splendid event, I speak of our past Chairman, Martin Withers FRPS, and Secretary, Robert Hawkesworth FRPS. The weekend was expertly orchestrated by Martin and enjoyed immensely by all who attended.

I am sorry to announce that Roy Place, our Vice Chairman, has tendered his resignation. There were a number of reasons behind this decision, not least of which is the impending relocation of Roy and Dorothy to Spain. For a number of years now, Roy has served the group as the Programme Co-ordinator, a roll in which he has often found the need to persuade and cajole the more reluctant of us to act as leader. Nevertheless he has always managed to get enough of us to 'volunteer' to enable a programme of events to be published in The Iris. We wish Roy and Dorothy a happy retirement in Spain and trust that they will keep in touch. Maybe our new Programme Co-ordinator can persuade Roy to hold a field meeting on his new 'patch'. I am pleased to announce that Nick Jarvis has agreed to succeed Roy and I wish him much success in his new role. Please contact Nick if you think that you have a suitable venue. I am unable to announce at this time, who will take on the role of Vice Chairman. This is a matter that will be discussed at our next Committee

Meeting, and will be announced in the Winter Issue of The Iris.

Whilst on the subject of The Iris I must congratulate John Myring on the excellent work he does. The Iris has gone from strength to strength. Few of us can have a full understanding of the work involved in the production of the Iris, let alone the time spent stuffing it into envelopes for posting. Thank you to John, and his wife Margaret.

This is the second Exhibition under the direction of Peter Jones. Peter and Sue are away on vacation at the moment, but nevertheless I would like to thank them both for the 'behind the scenes' work involved in organizing and promoting the exhibition. Also, thanks to everyone who assisted on Selection day.

Finally, I wish to thank all members of the Nature Group Committee for their efforts on behalf of the group. Trevor Hyman, for keeping the books so expertly, John Bebbington for representing the group at RPS Advisory Board meetings, Sue Goody, Nick Jarvis, and Barbara Lawton for the tasks they have undertaken on our behalf, and to Tony Wharton for his expertise and sound judgment. I wish to thank our Secretary, Robert Hawkesworth. I am privileged to have such a diligent and hard working secretary during my tenure as Chairman and fortunate indeed to number Robert and his wife, Barbara, amongst my friends.

TREASURER'S REPORT

The accounts are presented in a similar way to that used previously, though I've adopted a slightly different layout and added some details relating to our CAF Gold account (our 'deposit' and main interest bearing account). It has been necessary to condense the figures somewhat in the interests of clarity and, of course, I'll be very happy to answer any questions.

Subscriptions:- The situation at RPS Headquarters relating to their computer system has, if anything, deteriorated since last year. As a result, it has been extremely difficult to determine exactly when subscriptions are due from each member and to know who has decided not to renew their Group subscription. If anyone has received a questionnaire asking why they haven't renewed their Nature Group membership (when they have!) I must offer my apologies. The frequent lack of the unique identifying Membership Numbers has made updating of our own database extremely difficult and I know that Robert Hawkesworth has often never received his monthly updates and so cannot send out our 'Welcome Pack' to new recruits.

Last year John Myring reported that an adjustment to membership numbers renewing in January and February 2001 would be made. We were underpaid by £354.26 (which wasn't credited to us until May). This inflates the 2001/02 subscription figure but membership numbers did rise and now stand at 701 (including members renewing in March, Life members and 'free' members). Income from March '02 renewals will not be credited until April i.e. in the next Financial Year.

The Iris:- This is our main expenditure and the figures include postage.

Lectures & Workshops:- Our very successful convention at Brooksby made an overall profit of £434.34.

Transfers:- This item shows how CAF Gold is used to solve cash-flow during the year.

Interest received:- This has been split to show that going to CAF Gold and our Current A/C.

continued on page 15

THE NATURE GROUP OF THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Income and Expenditure Accounts for 1st April 2001 to 31st March 2002

'Current' Account (Subdivision Memorandum)

Year 2000/01

Year 2001/02

<u>Income</u>	£		£
7,090.72		Subscriptions	7,666.42
130.00		Lectures & Workshops (+ 1,110.00 c/o→)	5,177.50
822.33		Annual Exhibition	706.30
		Transfers (from CAF Gold)	3,000.00
984.28		(←to C/A & CAF Gold) Interest received (to C/A→)	89.92
404.62		Sundry Income	580.76
<u>9,431.95</u>		sub totals	<u>17,220.90</u>

Expenditure

5,992.10	The Iris incl. postage	6,242.70
246.99	Lectures & Workshops	5,813.16
1,071.64	Annual Exhibition	720.76
	Transfers (to CAF Gold)	2,000.00
1,620.68	General Administration	1,633.60
<u>8,931.41</u>	sub totals	<u>16,410.22</u>

Excess of Income over Expenditure **810.68**

CAF Gold Account

Receipts Interest	673.88
Transfer from C/A	2,000.00
Less Withdrawals & charges (see Note 1)	<u>3,000.40</u>

Excess of Withdrawals over Receipts **-326.52**

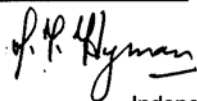
Note 1. The withdrawals (to C/A) include the £1,110 deposits (for Brooksby) held over from last year.

Balance Sheet at 31st March 2002

'Current' Account	
Balance brought forward	£1,657.72
Excess of Income over Expenditure	<u>810.68</u>
Total	<u>£2,468.40</u>

CAF Gold Account	
Balance brought forward	£15,674.58
Excess of Withdrawals over Receipts	<u>-326.52</u>
Total	<u>£15,348.06</u>

Net Assets at 31/3/2002 **£17,816.46**



J T Hyman, Hon. Treasurer

Independent Examiner's Report to Members

The statements of account for the period ended 31st March 2002 set out above have been prepared from the books and records of the Nature Group of the Royal Photographic Society and are in accordance therewith.



C S Wilkinson. Chartered Accountants - 25th April 2002

continued from page 13

Annual Exhibition:- This item includes the Travelling Exhibition, which contributed £285 income (balanced by the cost of slide duplication of £285 !). Unfortunately entry numbers for 2002 were down this year and overall a slight loss of £14.46 was made.

Sundry Income:- This includes VAT refunds.

General Administration:- Includes all running costs of the Nature Group (general postage, telephone, stationery and travel to committee meetings plus VAT expenditure).

This has been my first year as your Hon. Treasurer and I would like to record my thanks to all of the Committee for making me feel so welcome and helping me. It has been a steep learning curve – the figures are comparatively easy but knowing what they really mean is quite another thing! Very special thanks are due to John Myring for having handed over the accounts in such an excellent state and for being there for advice and help whenever this has been needed but who never imposed his ideas as to how the job should be done.

SECRETARY'S REPORT

Once again the year has been dominated by the malfunctioning of the RPS Membership Database which, happily, I am informed will shortly be up and running satisfactorily. It really has been impossible to keep track of the Nature Group Membership and I am quite sure that new members must have wondered just what was going on.

May I take this opportunity to thank all members for their patience when things have gone awry. I must point out that the staff at HQ have been equally frustrated for they genuinely do wish to offer a good service and of course they have been at the sharp end of all the criticism, which has not always been correctly directed.

The other major event in 2001 was the 25th Anniversary Convention, which was extremely successful and prompted many requests for a repeat Convention before another 25 years have passed. You will be pleased to know that we have booked the weekend of Friday 8th to 10th August 2003 once again at Brooksby College. I shall be pleased to receive ideas from you for inclusion in the programme, make a note of the date now.

Change to the Regulations:- In order to facilitate a postal ballot paragraph 6.3 of the Regulations should read as follows. Nomination of candidates for election as officers or members of the committee shall be in writing and be received by the Secretary at least four months, normally 31st December, prior to a General Meeting at which the election shall take place. This change was proposed by Roger Jaques, seconded by Martin Withers and approved.

Any Other Business:- The Nature Group had been asked by the RPS if any of its members were willing to help man a stand at the Birdwatching Fair to be held near Coventry at the end of June. Anyone willing to do so should contact Dawn Osborn

Date and Venue of the 27th AGM:- This would be Saturday 26th April 2003 at The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury at 2.00 p.m.

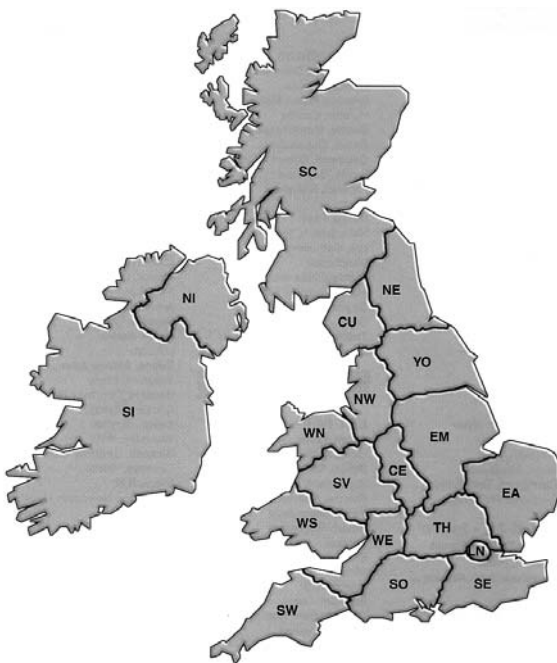
The meeting was declared closed at 2.20 p.m. ❀

THE IRIS 2001 ON CD-ROM

All three issues in Adobe Acrobat files plus two Kai Power Slide Shows featuring all colour photographs. Available from the Editor for £5 including p & p. Please make cheques payable to 'RPS Nature Group' and quote your RPS membership Number.

***SHOWN BELOW ARE NATURE GROUP MEMBERS PER RPS REGION
TOGETHER WITH REGIONAL CODE AND OTHER STATISTICS***

CE - CENTRAL	65
CU - CUMBRIA	12
EA - EAST ANGLIA	50
EM - EAST MIDLANDS	33
IN - IRELAND (NORTH) combined	5
IS - IRELAND (SOUTH)	
LN - LONDON	26
NE - NORTH EAST	13
WN - NORTH WALES	9
NW - NORTH WESTERN	61
SC - SCOTLAND	24
SV - SEVERN VALLEY	28
SE - SOUTH EASTERN	93
WS - SOUTH WALES	18
SW - SOUTH WESTERN	22
SO - SOUTHERN	58
TH - THAMES VALLEY	56
WE - WESTERN	41
YO - YORKSHIRE	26
TOTAL UK	640
OVERSEAS	52
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP	692



The statistics on this page are as at 31st January 2002 and based on information provided by the RPS membership department.

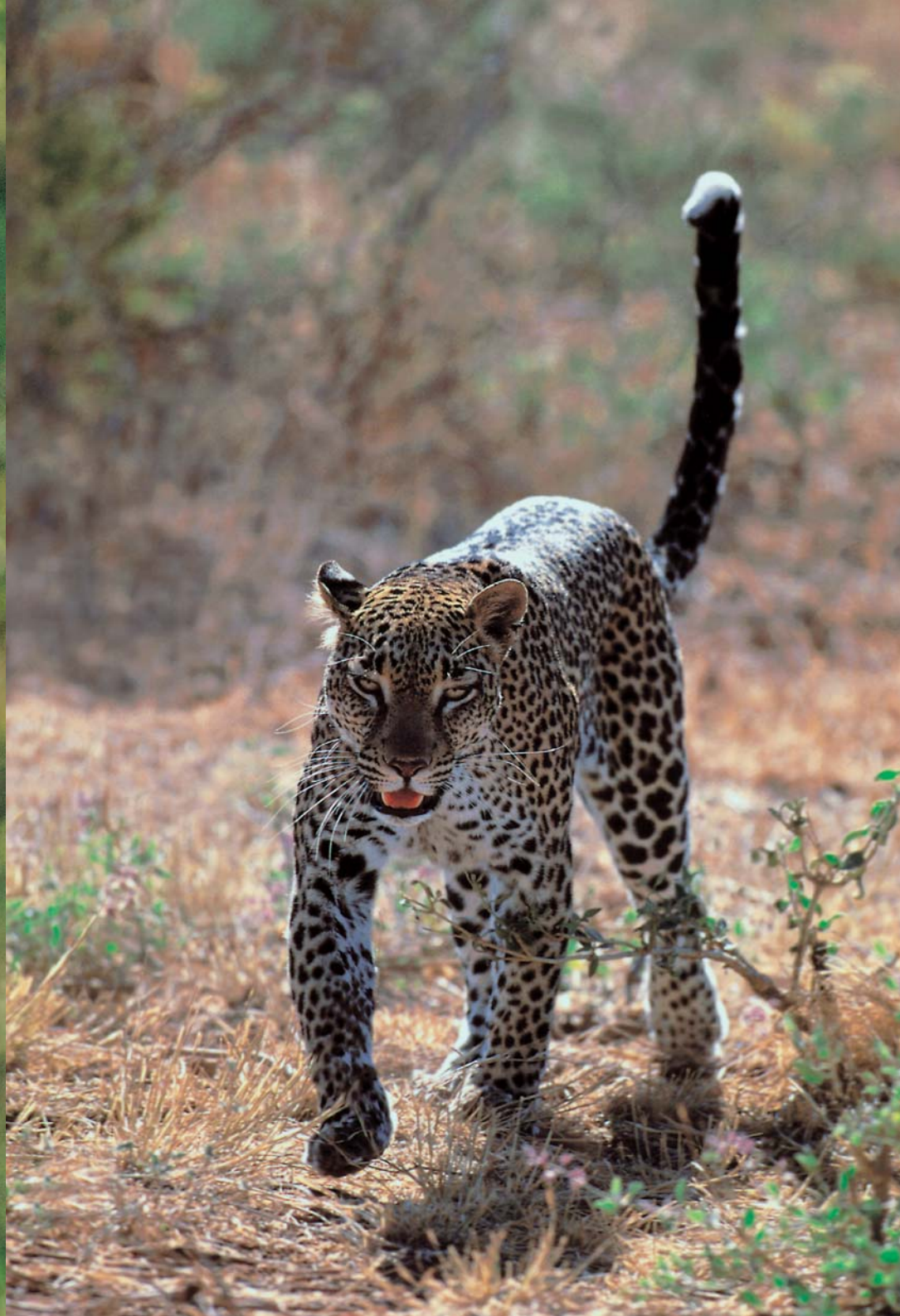
Complimentary Members	1
Life members	14
Life members (Free)	78
Free Trial membership	8
Ordinary	591
<u>TOTAL BY MEMBERSHIP TYPE</u>	<u>692</u>
Honourary FRPS	3
FRPS	88
ARPS	213
LRPS	175
Non Distinction holders	213
<u>TOTAL BY DISTINCTIONS</u>	<u>692</u>

Map courtesy of the RPS Journal January / February 2001.

*For details of pictures shown on the following four pages
please turn to page 32*









“*BEEs AROUND US*”

BY IAN McLEAN BSc NDB LRPS

Bees fall into three broad classifications. Highly social honey bees; semi-social bumble bees where mother and offspring help to raise the family but only the new queen survives to start anew next year and solitary bees where mother dies before her offspring emerge.

I am concentrating on the latter two groups because honey bees defend their nest sites from robbers, which includes ‘man’. Leave them alone unless you have expert guidance and a face veil, though when foraging they are normally too busy to bother with you. Bumblebees are to be respected rather than feared, wasps are much less predictable. Solitary bees only sting under extreme provocation. Bees have compound eyes and see movement very well but lack acuity. If you feel threatened, move slowly, stay calm and get out of their way.

There are about twenty five species of Bumblebees in Britain; some being very rare.

A half dozen of these are ‘Cuckoo’ bees, *Psithyrus* which take over the nests of *Bombus* species. Bumbles mostly nest either underground, often in old mouse nests, or on the surface in tussocks or similar shelter. The queens, as big as your first thumb joint, can often be seen in spring searching for nest holes about an inch off the ground. Having found it they build a honey pot from wax, collect stores to tide them through spells of bad weather and build the first batch of cells, which they provision. They lay an egg in each and then incubate them, just like birds. The first offspring are underfed and tiny, they keep the nest warm. Later batches are larger and help with collection of pollen and nectar. The nest site usually goes unnoticed until the start of the school holidays, when anxious grandparents suddenly notice activity from under the garden shed, old compost heap or rockery.

Occasionally you can find bees covered in rain or dew, clinging to grass stems and looking drowned. They often ‘live out’ during the summer. An hour or two of sunshine and they are off to work again. Tickle a Bumble with a grass stem and it will raise its middle leg and fend you off just like a rugby forward. In hot weather many bee species can be found drinking by sucking water from damp ground.

In July the nest reaches its most prosperous phase (50 - 250 bees according to species), queens and drones are produced. Drones set up territories which they scent mark, drive off other drones and entice a mate. When the old queen reaches her life span her survivors dwindle and the nest is abandoned.

In early autumn, you will see large young queens feeding in order to build up their winter fat. They hibernate usually about 100 mm deep in the soil of a north-facing bank. They survive frosts, their haemolymph having a low freezing point.

Turning to solitary bees. In spring if your neatly manicured lawn or local park suddenly has what appears, at first sight, to be worm casts, take a look. Especially on sandy soil it may well be the tumuli of *Andrena armata*. In the right soil they form ‘Bee villages’ where hundreds of bees live in individual dwellings in relative harmony. Other mining bees, which form ‘villages’, are *Colletes cunicularius* in dunes and *C. succinctus* in stream banks, notably in Sleddale.

About the size of a honey bee or common wasp worker, *Andrena* have bright orange hairs on the thorax with a flattened gaster (abdomen); they are excellent pollinators for your fruit trees. You can sometimes find them sunning themselves before going off to work.

They dig a vertical tunnel, with a kink or refuge just below the surface where mother stands guard when she is not out foraging. The tunnel has several lateral branches that will be provisioned with a ball of pollen and honey, an egg is laid on top and the lateral loosely back filled.

The accusation that “my bees were undermining her house”, [Ian is a bee keeper] raised my curiosity and prompted a visit. It was the Mason bee *Osmia rufa*, common in spring. It is about 10 - 13 mm in length, reddish brown with a pair of horns on its face (in addition to the usual antennae). It was tunnelling in the old mortar enlarging nooks and crannies. *Osmia* have been found nesting in door locks, teapot spouts, and indeed any hole about 7 mm in diameter. Mother never sees her offspring. They emerge in the spring, mate and the female then searches for a nest site. Less than 50% survive this phase. Bird predation takes its toll. Until they have found a nest site they become torpid at night and fall prey to spiders. I've seen a lovely photo of a crab spider taking one on a flower.

Trap nests may be made out of lengths of bamboo, about 100 mm minimum in length and 7 mm bore. A length of 100 mm diameter plastic drain pipe, filled with a bundle of bamboo and suspended horizontally under a shed or garage gutter, will hopefully attract tenants; though you may prefer a more natural looking site. *Osmia* collect mud pellets from the edge of a pool or puddle and mould it into a ball, which they carry home in their mandibles with the aid of their front legs. I think it was Aristotle, a keen observer, who described this behaviour thinking that the bees were using ballast to steady themselves in the wind. Other mason bees carry small pebbles in the same way.

The mud forms the back partition of the cell, pollen is collected, the egg laid on the mass. A mud partition is formed which seals the first cell and forms the rear of the next cell. A row of about 4 to 6 cells is sealed with an empty vestibular cell. Mud plugs in the end of your bamboo lengths are a sure sign of occupancy. The eggs develop through the usual larval, pupal to adult stages by September and the adults remain quiescent until spring.

The oldest bee is obviously the one at the back of the tube; she awakens and bites through her partition, then through the cocoon of the next bee. If this bee is dormant it is awoken with a nip in the rear and the process continues until the males nearest the entrance are awoken and emerge.

The family *Megachilidae*, to which *Osmia rufa* belongs, can be recognised by the way they carry pollen underneath their abdomen on the hairs of their scopa.

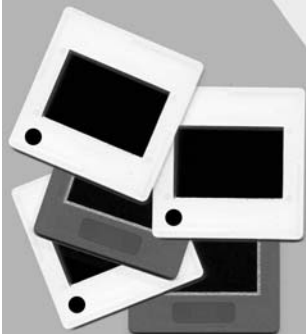
If you find neat semi-circles or ovals cut from your rose leaves, suspect *Megachile centuncularis* or the slightly larger *M. willughbiella*, the latter using willowherb, lilac or beech leaves as an alternative. Try to follow them to their nest site, they show up in flight as they carry off the leaf portion. They nest in many places, hollow stems 7 - 8 mm dia., beetle tunnels, garden hoses, door locks.

Growing plants like *Stachys lanata* or the thistle *Onopordon acanthium* is one way of attracting carder bees to your garden. They may be a *Bombus* species or *Anthidium manicatum*, the common carder bee. She cards the hairs with her mandibles, and flies with her ball of down to her nest site, a line of cells in a tunnel not dissimilar to the *Megachilidae*. This and other interactions between bees and flowers is another fascinating topic.

Do have a look around; you have something like 150 species to find in the UK 🍀

References:- O'Toole, C. and Raw, G. (1991) - 'Bees of the World' Blandford.
Alford, DV. (1975) - 'Bumblebees' Davis-Poynter.
Chinery, M. (1976) - 'A field guide to the insects of Britain & Northern Europe' Collins.

Closing date Wednesday 24th August



**"Five
"ebil2
noititəqmoC
The Iris
Competition"**

*see
enclosed
entry form*

Reviewed - "The Secrets of Wildlife Photography"

A Multimedia CD for PCs - produced by Mike Lane FRPS.

I was delighted to receive a review copy of Mike Lane's latest venture. His CD-ROM is proof positive that the facilities are now here for anyone owning a modern computer to go into "publishing" on a very inexpensive basis.

Having said that such "publications" will undoubtedly vary tremendously in quality. Being able to use a software programme is not enough. The author not only needs excellent subject knowledge but also the ability to present the contents in an interesting and informative manner. Anyone who knows Mike Lane has no doubt as to his superb skills and knowledge as a wildlife photographer and this CD-ROM demonstrates his ability to pass on such knowledge.

Once inserted the CD should 'auto-run' and lead you to the menu page. From this you are able to access the contents in the following ways:-

The Main Monthly Index. This lists the twelve calendar months. Clicking on any of them will take you to a 'rule' for the month and you can then proceed by clicking on various buttons to pictures of subjects that can be photographed in that month together with helpful text explaining how the photographs were taken. Where specific locations have been used sketch maps giving directions are provided together with notes about the site. There is the ability to print out both the map and notes to take with you. If you wish you can start at

January and just keep going until you reach December but it would take some hours to read everything. Far better to pick one month at a time and really absorb the information. Below this monthly index you can also go to 'Rules of Photography' or 'Companies Mentioned in Text'.

Bookmarks. Clicking on this button produces a map of the British Isles surrounded by pictures of all the locations covered on the CD. Moving the cursor onto any of these pictures produces a red square on the map to show its approximate location whilst double clicking takes you to the pages giving the maps and site information. There is the ability to add your own bookmarks.

Index. Clicking on this button brings up a small window of the internal search engine. There is an existing list of key words plus the ability to type in your own key words to search with. Alternatively you can click on a subject in the index list.

General Comments:- First some minor criticisms. Whilst the promotional leaflet does say that the techniques relate to photographing just birds and mammals I don't think this is immediately obvious from the title. True it does say 'Wildlife' as opposed to 'Nature' photography but not everyone will appreciate the difference; although they should. This CD will not help those looking for specific guidance on photographing insects, wild flowers or fungi.

Another small niggle is the poor 'cutout' of a telephoto lens superimposed on the back cover of the jewel case. My reason for mentioning this is that I feel it gives the wrong impression as to the quality of the CD's contents which are excellent.

Finally, there are a few 'mini' slide shows where the pictures change automatically. There is nothing wrong with this in isolation but I felt it distracts from reading the surrounding text, though this may be peculiar to myself. I needed to watch the pictures first, then ignore them and concentrate on the text. Personally I would have preferred a button which would allow the viewer to start the picture change once he had read the text.

These minor points though fade into oblivion when you consider the whole which must have taken months of work to compile. There is a wealth of practical information gained over many years which is presented with a delightful insight into Mike's philosophy; some tongue in cheek comments not to mention the odd myth being exploded. Top quality pictures; advice on camera equipment, how to get the best from it (with a warning not to buy Mike's second hand gear!); how to build a hide, where to get suet etc., etc., The whole is presented in a thoroughly entertaining style.

Who should buy it? Well I feel that there is something for everyone on this CD-ROM irrespective of where you are on the learning curve of wildlife photography. Those starting out in wildlife photography will find practical answers to most (if not all) of their questions. For those who might consider they have nothing/little to learn about wildlife photography, well, that might be so; however Mike has generously left a gap for you in the market. I suggest you may be very interested in buying a copy if only to see how you might cover the subjects not dealt with! Failing all else simply buy it to be entertained ☘

[Editor - I hope members will bear with a longer than usual review caused by this being the first (as far as I am aware) such CD-ROM to be produced by one of our members. It was produced using "Illuminatus Opus" software which is the same programme that I am using to produce "An Interactive Guide to Obtaining Your Nature Associateship".]

MEMBERS' LETTERS

The views expressed by correspondents are not necessarily those of the Editor, nor the Nature Group Committee, nor the RPS.

Dear John,

Thank you for the latest edition of *The Iris*. In response to your request for items for 'Curiosity Corner', here is my threepennorth.

On the 14th of January this year I came across some fresh specimens of the earth star *Geastrum triplex* at Ainsdale Dunes N.N.R. There were also the remains of some from the Autumn but these were very fresh. Indeed, there were more to come as some were only just poking through the surface. I do not know if this means anything; perhaps that mycologists should get out more often during the winter.

I do not know how the instruction to bring wellingtons got into the details of the field meeting on 6th July. Walking is extremely easy here and even sandals are sufficient. And who is 'fi' who pops up in several places?

Best wishes, Tony Bond FRPS (Leigh, Lancs)

ASSOCIATESHIP & FELLOWSHIP APPLICATIONS

The Associateship and Fellowship Nature Panel met on Tuesday, 12th March 2002.
Colin Smith FRPS was Chairman.

Fellowship Prints - 3 applications, 1 successful:-

Mr. A. K. Giam, Sarawak. Fungi.

Fellowship Slides - 2 applications, none were successful.

Associateship Prints - 6 applications, 6 successful:-

Mr. H. P. Ashwin, Mysore, India.	Birds
Mr. U. A. Chakrapani, Mysore, India.	Birds
Mr. P. Crook, Crawley, West Sussex.	Animals and Birds in Kenya
Mr. Ling Ei Sieng, Sarawak, Malaysia.	Pitcher plants
Mrs J. Templeton, Keswick, Cumbria.	Animals in Madagascar
Mr. R. Tseu, Sarawak, Malaysia.	Fungi

Associateship Slides - 14 applications (one referred to Travel Panel), 4 successful:-

Mrs P. Seekings, Ely, Cambs.	Insects, Fungi, Wild flowers, Lichen
Mrs L. Simpson, Inverness.	Plants, Insects
Mr. A. Thompson, Trowbridge, Wilts.	Animals in East Africa
Mrs K. Thompson, Ware, Herts.	Insects, Spiders

WILDEBEEST MIGRATION

by John Bulpitt ARPS

In February I spent two weeks in Northern Tanzania where the largest single movement of wildlife on earth may be witnessed. The tour was organized by Worldwide Journeys and Expeditions and led by Mike Mockler - a category award winner in the Wildlife Photographer of the Year competition.

We flew KLM to Kilimanjaro via Amsterdam, a very relaxed affair with no difficulties about hand luggage, even for those wielding 500mm f4's! Our first day was spent in Arusha National Park with spectacular views of Africa's highest peak, before taking a light aircraft to the Serengeti (memorable views, memorable turbulence). The itinerary then was three days in the Serengeti, seven days in the Ngorongoro conservation area (NCA) including two full days on the crater floor, and two days in Tarangire NP before returning to Arusha.

Arusha is a good place to recuperate after a long flight. The most popular hotel, Mountain Village, is used as a base camp for those wishing to get to the top of Kilimanjaro (5800 metres above sea level; four days up , one day down). Mountain Lodge has lovely gardens with excellent bird viewing: we saw five species of cuckoo including the Emerald Cuckoo.

Whilst not the most spectacular in Africa, Arusha NP is a good place to get your brain in gear photographically. The problem about safaris, I have found, is that there is so much going on that one is tempted to snap at everything. Incidentally, I have heard a view expressed within the RPS that safari pictures are an easy option for those seeking distinctions. Speaking as a member whose distinction was gained in the Documentary and Visual Journalism category I have no particular axe to grind. However, I also take wildlife pictures in the UK and whilst the challenges are very different, I do not regard Africa as being any easier for the occasional visitor.

The name Serengeti comes from a Masai word meaning endless plain. In fact the Masai Mara in Kenya, the Serengeti and the Ngorongoro conservation area, form one continuous area of 9000 sq. miles, or twice the size of Northern Ireland. These plains were formed around three million years ago when ash blown from volcanic eruptions in the Ngorongoro highlands covered the rolling landscape. The thick layer preserved traces of early man (Olduvai Gorge has evidence of some of our earliest ancestors), and established the rich soil which supports the southern grass plains. We stayed in the Sopa lodge on the western side, which has wonderful views over the plains and a resident doctor who sewed up a head wound that I got from an argument with the roof of a land rover! The bird life was spectacular but I felt frustrated because in this part of the Serengeti one is not allowed off-road.

The next stop was Ndutu, which is in the NCA but only just outside the Serengeti. Here we stayed in thatched cottages overlooking a lake and a water hole. It was easy to understand why Ndutu is often used as a base by TV crews. This is where the action is in February (but it is not recommended in the dry season). Marshland, woods, lakes, rivers and plains are all within driving distance and you can take vehicles everywhere. And at dinner a family of wild genets, including four young suckling, were tempted into the restaurant by raw meat!

On to the Ngorongoro crater itself, a world heritage site and one of the most famous wildlife locations in the world. Ngorongoro was an active volcano but a million years or so ago the crater floor fell 2000 feet to leave 130 square miles of habitat with a year-round



Photo by John Bulpitt ARPS - *“Wildebeest giving birth”*.



Photo by John Bulpitt ARPS - *“Wildebeest and calf five minutes after birth”*.



Photo by John Bulpitt ARPS - "*Spotted Hyena*".



Photo by John Bulpitt ARPS - "*Cheetah Kill*".

water supply. There are four lodges on the rim at a height of about 7000 feet with the finest view that I have ever experienced. In the crater itself there is just about every species you could wish to see and although the animals can leave they have no particular reason to do so. The drawback is that it is very popular and you have to stick to a somewhat restricted road system. On our first day there was a lion kill and over sixty vehicles arrived to watch. Nevertheless it is not to be missed, the animals and birds are very confiding, and there are some ways of getting ahead of the crowd.

Finally, Tarangire, a tented camp with spectacular views over the river and endless mature Baobab and Acacia trees. We saw huge herds of elephant and on our last morning my wife was unable to leave the tent for nearly an hour because a breeding herd of eighteen had decided to take breakfast in the camp grounds!

At this time of year Northern Tanzania plays host to 1.5 million plains animals, mainly wildebeest, gazelles, antelopes and zebra, with all the insects, birds, and predators which this scale of activity inevitably attracts. And in addition there are large resident populations of giraffe, elephant, buffalo, hippos and a few Black Rhinos. The wildebeest move to the area to exploit the short grass plains that are rich in the minerals they need to rear their young. For three to four weeks 90% of female wildebeest give birth, flooding the plains with thousands of newborn calves each day.

It is difficult to pick out the highlights but as space is restricted I will pick out a few.

1. Seeing the birth of a wildebeest calf from start to finish at very close quarters. The calf was standing after five minutes; suckling after seven, and running with the herd at fifteen minutes.
2. Witnessing a cheetah family stalk and kill a young wildebeest and the frenzied feeding that followed.
3. Three lionesses on an attractive rocky outcrop in good light; a classic Serengeti scene.
4. The bird life. The birders in our group say that they saw 270 species.
5. Black-and-White Colobus Monkeys in Arusha NP.
6. A “crèche” of about one hundred young ostriches.
7. Elephants at (too) close range with some memorable calf behaviour.

Finally, a quick word about equipment. I have a Canon EOS system and on this trip used a 100-400 Image Stabilizer lens, normally with a 1.4 converter. When the conditions were appropriate, and whenever I remembered, I used fill flash - must do better next time! Film stock was usually Sensia 100 pushed a stop although I also used some Sensia 400 with pleasing results. In many situations one does not need as long a lens or as fast a film, but I found that this combination gave me maximum flexibility ☘

“NATUREPHOTO” MAGAZINE

Members may remember reference in the last issue, under “*Omnium Gatherum*”, of a possible free copy of this magazine for each of our members. Whilst my last e-mail from the Editor stated it was proceeding unfortunately neither I, nor the RPS, have heard anything further. We shall have to await events.

NATURE GROUP ANNUAL EXHIBITION 2002

Those attending our AGM at The Old Schoolhouse,* Smethwick Photographic Society on the 27th April were able to view the accepted prints at their leisure and later see the accepted slides

Many thanks to the entrants, selectors and organizers for another excellent exhibition. Despite a large percentage of bird photographs (common nowadays with most nature exhibitions) the accepted pictures cover a range of subject matter.

Slide Awards

Gold Medal Winner - Ian Hulme FRPS - *"Emerging Four-spot Chaser"*

Second place - Phil McLean ARPS - *"Two Young Tawny Owls"*

Third place - Peter Jones ARPS - *"Male Lion at Sunrise"*

Peter Beasley ARPS Award - Bob Devine - *"Kestrel"*

Norman Prue FRPS Award - John Berry ARPS - *"Wolf Spider with Young"*

Frank Young ARPS Award - Anne Benn ARPS - *"Crepidotus variabilis"*

Print Awards

Gold Medal Winner - Richard Revels FRPS - *"Great Crested Grebe & Chicks"*

Second Place - Martin Withers FRPS - *"Leopard"*

Third Place - Tony Wharton FRPS - *"Orange-tip on Ladysmock"*

Peter Beasley ARPS Award - Roger Hance FRPS - *"Grass Snake - Head shot"*

Norman Prue FRPS Award - Dawn Osborn ARPS *"Southern Elephant Seal Pups"*

Frank Young ARPS Award - Tony Wharton FRPS - *"Zebra Dust bathing"*

Exhibition Secretary Peter Jones ARPS has arranged the following
Venues for the Travelling Exhibition:-

in 2002

31/07/2002	Bristol PS.
30/09/2002	Battle CC., St. Leonards on Sea.
11/10/2002	Leicester & Leics PS.
13/11/2002	LRWT Charnwood.
2 1/11/2002	LVNP.
28/11/2002	Keyworth CC.

in 2003

16/01/2003	Abingdon CC
27/01/2003	Sibleby PS.
07/02/2003	Mundesley CC.
13/02/2003	Tonbridge CC.
20/02/2003	Poulton-le-Fylde PS., Blackpool.
03/03/2003	Yeovil PS.
19/05/2003	Taunton CC.
27/05/2003	Bath CC.

Would members belonging to photographic clubs please remind their Programme Secretaries that archival exhibitions for past years can be hired. Please contact Kath Bull ARPS whose address is at the bottom of page 3.

[* Smethwick Photographic Society premises at 'The Old Schoolhouse' have excellent facilities and are available for hire. They include a 100 seat lecture theatre with both traditional and digital projection facilities; a licensed bar with light catering.; separate traditional darkroom and digital lightroom; studio with lighting. *For bookings and more information contact:- Judith Parry APAGB Tel:- 0121-427-4224.*]

CD-ROM - "AN INTERACTIVE GUIDE TO OBTAINING YOUR ASSOCIATESHIP IN NATURE PHOTOGRAPHY"

Report by John Myring ARPS

Further to the announcement in the last issue of The Iris I am pleased to report that the trial issue of this CD-ROM has now been completed and is undergoing checking. Colin Smith FRPS (Chairman of the Nature Distinctions Panel) and Tony Wharton FRPS (probably the current longest serving panel member) have contributed to the contents whilst Chris Mattison FRPS has acted as 'consultant'.

Thanks go to RPS President, John Page Hon FRPS, Barry Senior FRPS, Advisory Distinctions Chairman and Sally Powell, Marketing Manager, for their encouragement. To Carol Agar, RPS Distinctions Manager and her assistant, Guy Howard-Davies, who have been most helpful in advising on problems encountered with applications. Also to those who have freely provided their successful applications.

In producing this CD it was decided that no assumptions should be made regarding the range of photographic knowledge possessed by applicants. However I was surprised to learn, when talking to Carol, of the queries received on even basic matters such as spotting/masking slides. As a result the CD covers such items on the basis that they are there for those that need them whilst others can pass on to other aspects.

The contents consist of six main sections:-

- 1/. A copy of part of the Nature Panel Information booklet produced by the RPS.
- 2/. A copy of the Nature Photographers' Code of Practice.
- 3/. Print selection and presentation.
- 4/. Slide selection and presentation.
- 5/. A 'tutorial' set of images. In this section the viewer will have an opportunity to consider the whole set, noting good and bad aspects of individual pictures and decide which make the best fifteen for an application. Then they will be able to compare their thoughts to ours. 'Hot spots' are used on each picture to demonstrate aspects to be considered present. A selected set is shown with reasons as to why the other pictures were omitted.
- 6/. Finally there is a small selection of successful applications.

A decision was taken to confine the contents to text and images without any audio commentary. Using 'Illuminatus Opus' software the whole contents are compiled into a single file on the CD thus preventing image extraction and protecting applicants' work.

If the CD-ROM is to be produced under the auspices of The Nature Group / RPS as an RPS 'publication' it has to receive approval from both the RPS Council and the Distinctions Advisory Board before it can be sold. Such approval is currently being sought. How long it will take to receive such approval is, at the time of writing, unclear. I cannot therefore, in this issue, give a precise date as to availability. However I am hopeful that a completed version will be available around August or September. The cost, including VAT and postage and packing, will almost certainly not exceed £15.

It is difficult to gauge likely demand. A decision has to be made whether an initial run should be produced commercially or individual CDs 'home produced' for orders as received. Demand of course will not be confined to Nature Group members and in due course it will hopefully be promoted in the RPS Journal. However, to assist in gauging possible demand, it would be most helpful if anyone who might be interested in purchasing could let me know as soon as possible. This would not constitute an order, nor a commitment to place a future order. Please do not send any money, yet!❀

“NATURAL VISIONS”

**Oxford University Museum of Natural History
Parks Road, Oxford OXI 3PW. Tel:- 01865 272950**

23rd May - 31 July 2002. Open 12 noon to 5.00 pm Monday - Sunday

A major exhibition of work by award-winning wildlife photographer Heather Angel FRPS *Natural Visions* is a display of remarkable wildlife images taken by Heather from the poles to the tropics.

Renowned for capturing dramatic lighting and seeking exquisite close-ups, Heather has captured many memorable moments on her travels around the world. Amongst the striking images are dolphins leaping at sunset, a panda frolicking in snow, red-bodied sockeye salmon and a study of storks feeding on insects leaping from an African grassland fire, shot through the heat haze.

In addition to more classically-taken wildlife pictures, the exhibition includes some interesting interpretations of the natural world. Amongst these are innovative digital art images of flowers, which ‘blur the boundaries between reality and art’. An intriguing study of lupins taken in New Zealand - achieved by making 30 exposures on a single frame - has transformed the flowers into an impressionist image.

For more than a quarter of a century, Heather Angel has been at the forefront of nature photography in Britain and her work has been recognised by many worldwide honours and awards. She was President of the Royal Photographic Society from 1984-86. Bath University conferred an honorary Doctorate of Science on Heather Angel in 1986. In 1994, Nottingham University made her the first British wildlife photographer to be appointed a professor.

The exhibition - based on Heather’s latest book, *“Natural Visions”*, published by Collins and Brown comprises 50 digital prints made on Lyson Fine Art paper using Lyson archival inks. Archival digital prints can be specially ordered.

For further information please contact:-

Valerie West at Heather Angel’s Office. Tel:- 01252 716700; Fax: 01252 727464
E-mail: Natvision@btinternet.com Website:- www.naturalvisions.co.uk

PHOTOGRAPHS FROM THE NATURE GROUP ANNUAL EXHIBITION

Photographs appearing on the outer covers, the inside rear cover and the four centre pages are all from this years exhibition. Some pictures may have been slightly cropped to fit magazine format. Credits for cover pictures are given elsewhere but details of the centre pages appear below:-

- Page 17** - Gold Medal Winner in the Nature Group Annual Exhibition - Slide Section
“Emerging Four-spot Chaser” by Ian Hulme FRPS.
- Page 18** - Selector (Peter Beasley ARPS) Award in the Nature Group Annual Exhibition - Slide Section - *“Kestrel”* by Bob Devine.
- Page 19** - Second Place in the Nature Group Annual Exhibition - Print Section
“Leopard” by Martin Withers FRPS.
- Page 20** - Third Place in the Nature Group Annual Exhibition - Print Section
“Male Orange-tip on Ladysmock” by Tony Wharton FRPS.

ADVERTISEMENTS

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The Secrets of Wildlife Photography is a multimedia CD for PC computers illustrating techniques for photographing birds and mammals.

It provides details of the equipment modern wildlife photographers use, how they use it, where they go to and what they do when they get there. A major feature of the CD is a site location guide for the UK.

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www.nature-photography.co.uk

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“River of Grass” Photography & Wildlife in the Everglades

A course tutored by Adrian Davies MSc, FBIPP, ARPS

The Florida Everglades are a magnet for naturalists and photographers alike. The sub-tropical climate and amazing ecosystems combine to offer unlimited subject material.

Adrian Davies is a college lecturer who regularly tutors for the FSC. He has written extensively on the fauna and flora of North America and his books on digital photography are well reviewed.

The course focuses on photography from tricky exposure problems to the correct use of long lenses and challenge of close-up work. You will return with images of frogs and alligators, stunning snowy egrets and the elusive snake bird, butterflies, orchids and trees and dramatic sunsets across the Florida Keys.

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