Images from North Uist by Colin Smith FRPS
See page 8

Above: Common Gull in flight

Left: Redshank

Below: Oystercatcher
Publication information

'The Iris' is published by the Nature Group of the RPS three times a year. Copy and publication dates are as follows:

Winter  Copy deadline 20th August
        Published early November.
Spring  Copy deadline 20th December
        Published early March.
Summer Copy deadline 20th April
        Published early July.

All contributions (including Field Meeting reports) should be submitted to the Editor. Items covering any aspect of nature photography and/or natural history are welcomed, including reviews on equipment and relevant books.

Copy should be sent by email or on disc as .txt or .doc files or typed using double line spacing on one side of the paper only. Please do not send handwritten copy.

Digitally captured photographic images are preferred supplied as Tiff files on CD. They should be at least 2555 pixels on the longest side. Scanned transparencies are also acceptable providing they are scanned to the same specification. Original slides/transparencies are also acceptable, however, the Editor cannot specify how long they may be away from the author.

No payment will be made for material used and whilst every care will be taken, neither the Editor, the Nature Group or the Printers can accept liability for any damage that may occur to photographic material submitted.

The views expressed within The Iris are solely those of the contributor and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Nature Group Committee or the Editor.

Distribution:
'The Iris' is forwarded to members using address labels produced by the RPS Membership Dept in Bath. Any member not receiving their copy should contact that department so that their name appears on a label in the future. However the Secretary will be pleased to post single copies to those members who have failed to receive them.

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Printed by
Stanley L Hunt (Printers) Limited
Midland Road, Rushden.

Design & layout
by Dawn Osborn FRPS

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Cover  Tree Sparrows by Mike Wilkes FRPS

IFC  Common Gull in flight
     Redshank
     Oystercatcher
     by Colin Smith FRPS

IBC  Balranald Beach
     RSPB Centre, Balranald
     North Uist beach
     Sunset
     by Colin Smith FRPS

BC  Exhibition images.
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The Chairman of the A&F Nature Distinctions Panel, the President, Director General, Hon. Treasurer and Finance Officer of the Royal Photographic Society are also ex-officio members.

Nature Group Exhibitions
Copies of Nature Group Exhibitions dating back to 2000, are available to book for camera clubs/photographic societies. If you would like to book one of these or the current or next years’ Travelling Exhibition, please contact: Peter Jones ARPS, details above.

Editorial

Writing this column is invariably the last thing I do before getting The Iris off to the printers. It is the longest day today and the weather the last week or so has been dreadful! I do hope that you have been able to capture some worthwhile images this year.

This issue contains images which were successful in achieving awards at our recent annual exhibition plus a full list of the accepted entries. If you were unable to see the exhibition, you may be able to see a presentation of the slides, prints and digital entries at a camera club in your area. A list of venues showing the exhibition is listed on page 37. Members may purchase a copy of the digital section for £3 incl postage. from Andrew Parsons ARPS, The Lodge, 43 Main Street, Sutton on Trent, Newark, Notts NG23 6PF Cheques payable to Andrew please.

There are three articles in this issue. The first of these is an account of Colin Smith’s visit to North Uist, accompanied by some excellent images. The second is from overseas member Manfred Klindwort on the use of a vari-colour filter for use with landscape images containing sky and water. And finally, Robert Hawkesworth gives us all we need to know for constructing our own Moth Trap.

It is some time since I last made a request for articles and I know that a good many of you have been on travels to some fascinating places during the past year. Please don’t be shy, share your trip experiences and images with fellow members and see your pictures in print. Articles should ideally be between 1200 and 1500 words. Digital submissions on CD are preferred, but I still remember how to scan slides if you are unable to do this yourself. If you do not receive a copy of The Iris in November, it will be because I have nothing to put on the pages. So be warned!!

If you have an article to offer, please don’t delay in contacting me. I look forward to hearing from you soon.

There are two field meetings scheduled for July - both venues can be photographically very rewarding so do try to get to them.

Finally - have a good summer!
The Nature Group AGM was just over a month ago and yesterday I returned from a three and a half week trip to Arizona where my wife and I managed to clock up just over 4000 miles! As I sit here trying to compose my first ‘from the chair’, I am only just realising what I have taken on and wondering how it all happened! Well it did, so I had better get on with it.

To those who were unable to attend the AGM, I must say you missed a treat with a superb show in the morning by Mike Lane FRPS and the opening of the Annual Group Exhibition in the afternoon. It seems to me that the standard of the work submitted continues to go from strength to strength. Thank you to all those who took the time and effort to enter pictures, whether prints, slides or digital, as has been said before, the group, any group, is only successful when members are involved. I think we all owe Peter Jones ARPS, ably supported by Sue, a big thank you for all their efforts in running the annual exhibition over the years. Peter is now Vice Chairman of the group and is looking for someone to take over as Exhibition Secretary. Until we find a suitable replacement I do hope that Peter will continue - at least for the next year. Anyone who is interested in taking on this role will you please contact Peter and he will explain what is involved.

Andrew Parsons has taken control of the digital entries for the annual exhibition and I am sure you will all join me in thanking him for all his efforts. While on the subject of thanking people I would also like to thank Trevor Hyman LRPS for all his work as treasurer over the years, you will all be pleased to know that he has had a successful operation to remove a cataract. I am sure you will all join me in welcoming Margery Maskell ARPS who is taking over from Trevor as our new Treasurer. Finally, I would like to thank David for his two years as your Chairman.

There have been a couple of interesting articles in The Iris concerning the merits and downsides of using digital or film cameras. As someone who has been dragged kicking and screaming into using a digital camera, (I still use a film camera in tandem), I thought I would add my thoughts, for what they are worth, on the matter. Being reluctant to take up digital photography it was assumed, by those who had gone down that road, that I and others like me were totally against it. This was not the case! I just find sitting in front of a computer to be tedious in the extreme and at times would find watching paint dry more interesting! I also like the physical side of using film, opening the box of slides, arranging and sorting them on the light box. To me, viewing them on a computer screen seems to make them less personal and somehow remote. Having said that I am making the effort to get to grips with using the new technologies and can already see there are advantages and disadvantages with both systems. In short we are all different and what is right for some is not necessarily right for all so let’s live and let live and just enjoy taking pictures with which ever system we choose!

Due to a variety of reasons, the committee have decided not to hold a convention this year. As a result I will be hosting my Chairman’s Day on Saturday 3rd November 2007, for details see page 33. As far as the convention goes, we have been invited to combine with several other groups, including the NPP, for a joint convention on 3rd 4th and 5th October 2008. This is still in the early stages of planning so you may wish to make a note of the dates in your diary, all the relevant details will appear in later editions of The Iris.

I hope as many of you as possible will manage to support the Field Meetings that have been organised for the summer months and look forward to meeting people on some of them. As always we are looking to increase the number of Field Meetings for members so if you have a site in your area that would be suitable for such an event, please contact Colin Smith FRPS so that it can be included in the programme.

Finally I hope that this summer provides some stunning subjects for you all to capture with your camera, whether on film or digital.
The 31st Annual General Meeting of the Royal Photographic Society Nature Group was held at The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury, on Saturday 31st March 2007 at 2pm. It was chaired by David Osborn and attended by 55 members.

Apologies
These were received from John Bebbington, Terry Bickley, Kath Bull, Bert Crawshaw, Trevor Hyman, Nick Jarvis, Patricia Kreyer, Kevin Maskell, Margery Maskell, Andrew Parsons, Rosemary Wilman and Martin Withers.

Minutes of the 2006 AGM
The minutes of the 2006 AGM printed in issue 95 of 'The Iris' were accepted as a true and correct record of what then took place and signed by David Osborn.

Matters Arising
There were no matters arising.

Chairman’s Report
Good afternoon ladies & gentlemen and fellow Committee members. Welcome to the 2007 Annual General Meeting of the Nature Group of the Royal Photographic Society.

I’m not a great believer in drawn out speeches and reports so I’ll make this as brief as possible.

As you are all aware, every two years the group has a change of Chairman and this year is my last as Group Chair; this meeting will see me hand over the stewardship of the group to Geoff Trinder. This therefore seems an excellent opportunity to reflect on what the group has achieved during the last two years and to make one or two special thanks.

As a group we have developed a great deal over the period and achieved many worthwhile goals. We have successfully incorporated a class for projected digital images in to the annual exhibition, and for this we must thank Andrew Parsons for his efforts. The annual exhibition itself goes from strength to strength; it is seen widely across the country and is now generally regarded as one of the best shows of natural history images available. This is not only due to the fact that the group members support the exhibition and enter first class images, but also due to the organizational skills, time and effort of Peter and Suzie, our Exhibition Secretaries.

We have secured council support for an update of the ‘Nature Photographers’ Code of Practice’, which thanks to a number of our Committee Members is now almost complete and should be printed and available by the end of the year.

We’ve also seen the ‘Royal’ produce an excellent illustrated handout advertising the group which was printed in the membership matters of the journal.

The Committee workloads have been spread a lot more efficiently to try to ensure that one person doesn’t get over committed unfairly.

A special vote of thanks must go to Nick Jarvis, whose efforts have given the group a quality website. This is a major group member benefit to those who use the site regularly. It’s a quality site so please sign up and use it often.

I’m not sure how many of you will have noticed, but sub-consciously ‘The Iris’ has been getting larger. ‘The Iris’ is certainly our flagship and always has been a quality product, but thanks to members’ offering good illustrated articles and to Dawn’s ongoing efforts as the Editor, our magazine gets better and better. We’ve a great deal to be thankful for, for this is a first class publication.

Unfortunately good committee members don’t last forever and most years we see someone standing down from a position. A few years ago Trevor Hyman expressed his desire to hand over his role as Treasurer. After a lot of time and effort we have found a suitable replacement and can let Trevor go and enjoy his retirement properly. I would like to thank Trevor on behalf of the group and his fellow Committee Members for all the time and effort he has put in on our behalf and his presence at Committee Meetings will be missed in the future. Although Trevor is unable to be with us today I would like to record our thanks and hopes that he will now enjoy a quieter life.

I would also like to thank and welcome Margery Maskell to the position and wish her all possible success in her future as group treasurer.
Could you please note that with effect from today, pending group approval, that all group monetary matters now be addressed to Margery.

As I mentioned earlier our thanks go to Nick Jarvis for setting up a wonderful group website. Nick has also decided that it’s time to move on and if anyone knows of suitable candidate for a group webmaster, then please let us know.

Thanks also go to Judith Parry and her team here at Smethwick Photographic Society for the support and hospitality shown to the group over the years. Without the use of their facilities, group meetings such as these would be very difficult to organise.

It would be inappropriate of me not to thank the membership for their support of the group activities. The committee works hard to ensure a quality varied programme but without support from the membership all our efforts are worthless. As I mentioned when I first took the chair, it’s your group so please get involved.

As a final act of thanks from the ‘Chair’, I would like to thank everyone who has served on committee for the time and effort that they have given on your behalf to ensure that the group is managed efficiently and progresses with strength into the future. Please may I remind members that everyone serving on the committee is unpaid and gives their time and effort freely.

Thank you all for making this one of the best and most popular groups within the RPS, and definitely, finally, thank you for allowing me to be your Chairman over the past two years. It has been a privilege and an honour. I would like to wish Geoff and the group every success for his period in charge.

**Treasurer’s Report**

In the absence of Trevor Hyman, David went through the Treasurer’s report. (Printed separately). Dickie Duckett proposed that it be accepted and Dawn Osborn seconded it. This was duly approved.

**Secretary’s Report**

Our current membership according to Bath on 2nd March is 614, 17 less than in October. It has fluctuated greatly during the last year - Bath tell me that they have been having a final tidy up of the database and archiving members who have not paid their subs for about 2 years, so this could be the effect of that. However they were not very thorough in their checking as some life members were taken off the list.

Many members are leaving the RPS which automatically means they leave the nature group. Again it’s the old, old story of having issues with the RPS and not with us as a group.

We have an average of about six new members each month. Newly joined members of the RPS often make contact about how to join the group and they are put in touch with Simon Bibb at RPS headquarters in Bath.

Trevor and I, but mainly Trevor, have spent a lot of time re-drafting the Nature Group’s Regulations and making sure that the wording was correct. The amendments were in the last issue of ‘The Iris’ for consideration today.

I often get e-mails from members about various issues, some with examples of their photography. I do enjoy these and feel more in touch with members whom we would otherwise meet only rarely.

Generally speaking the Nature Group has had a successful year and I look forward to the challenges of the next.

**Election of Officers & Committee 2007-2009**

The following Officers and Committee Members were duly appointed.

**Officers**

- Chairman: Geoff Trinder ARPS
- Vice-chairman: Peter Jones ARPS
- Treasurer: Margery Maskell ARPS
- Secretary: Margaret Johnson LRPS

**Committee**

- Webmaster: Nick Jarvis ARPS
- Rep to Advisory Panel: John Bebbington FRPS
- Programme Co-ordinator: Colin Smith FRPS
- Editor of ‘The Iris’: Dawn Osborn FRPS
- Exhibition Secretary: Peter Jones ARPS, John Jones ARPS, Tony Bond FRPS, Robert Hawkesworth FRPS
- Imm Past Chairman: David Osborn FRPS

**Proposed Changes to Rules & Regulations**

These were printed in Issue 96 of ‘The Iris’ for members’ consideration. Steven Deakin proposed that these be accepted and this was seconded by Robert Hawkesworth.
Any other Business
Colin Smith said that not many members had come forward to lead Field Meetings. If there was anyone prepared to lead one would they get in touch with him and the date could go in the next issue of ‘The Iris’ and onto the website. Colin himself would lead one on 14th July.

Geoff Trinder announced that there would be a joint weekend event with the ZPC, the NPP and the NPS on 3rd, 4th and 5th October 2008. He also proposed to have a Chairman’s Day on 3rd November 2007 at Smethwick.

Date and Venue for the 32nd AGM
This would be Saturday 26th April 2008 at The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury at 2.00pm.

The meeting was declared closed at 2.20pm.

Treasurer’s Report
General Comments: This year has not seen any major changes to the way our finances have to be recorded and so this report is fairly simple. It aims to expand and explain the Balance Sheet attached. As usual, the Balance Sheet is an overall summary of Receipts and Payments for the year. Because some items ‘straddle’ year ends, it cannot be a detailed Balance Sheet for each item.

Subscriptions: The Subscription Income shown in the Balance Sheet is that credited monthly to our Cash Book Account during the current Financial year - (which is, of course, the Nature Group Subscriptions paid to the RPS at Bath for December 2005 to November 2006). Because the Life Members’ sub. reimbursements for 2005 were included in the 2005 accounts, at RPS Bath’s insistence, (even though they were not paid to Nature Group until 13 Jan. 2006), two payments were included in last year’s accounts. The reimbursements for 2006 were not paid until 2007, so our 2006 Subscription Income was lower than in 2005 - even though our membership was substantially the same.

Lectures & Workshops: Two events have taken place this year. The first was the Residential Week-end held at the Kingcombe Centre in Dorset during late May/early June, when there were 16 participants. We must thank Kath Bull for organising this event, which was run at zero cost to the Nature Group. The second was the Chairman’s Day at Smethwick on 21st October, with a good attendance of 41 paying attendees.

The event was most successful and even made an overall profit (estimated as £131). It is not possible to derive this figure from the Balance Sheet as some of the Expenditure falls in 2007 Financial Year.

The Iris: Three editions of The Iris were published this year - (#94, #95 & #96). The cost of production and posting has risen as predicted. In the future, we should be able to offset some of the costs by direct sales of the magazine to people outside the Nature Group.

Annual Exhibition: Following the large expenditure last year, the Exhibition was in profit this year to the tune of £681 - the Travelling Exhibition brought in £355 of this.

Sundry Income: This includes VAT refunds and income resulting from sales of the ‘A’ Guidance Interactive CDs (£330) - these are still selling well (197 to the end of 2006). The CDs have recently been updated again to include a wider range of subjects from recently successful panels.

Interest: This contributed a most welcome £650. to our funds and results from the good Cash Book balance.

Legacy: Because Michael Shirley’s legacy of £500 was received last year, it does not appear explicitly in this year’s accounts. The money is part of our Cash Book balance and together with funds from RPS Bath should be spent in 2007, to print a revised version of ‘The Nature Photographers’ Code of Practice’. There has been some delay in this exercise, due to the need to obtain updates from a number of outside bodies.

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

Overall Financial Situation: The Balance Sheet shows an excess of Expenditure over Income of £1,767.04 - more than last year because of the Life Members’ reimbursement situation, explained above. The Cash Book shows a healthy credit balance of £14,568.14 at the end of 2006 (c.f. £15,455.17 at the same time the previous year).

Trevor Hyman LRPS Hon. Treasurer 21.01.2007
THE NATURE GROUP OF THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

Receipts and Payments Accounts for 1st January 2006 to 31st December 2006

Nature Group 'Cash Book' at RPS Bath

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<th>Year 2005</th>
<th>Year 2006</th>
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<td>4,536.00</td>
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<td>-</td>
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<td><strong>Receipts minus Payments</strong></td>
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</tr>
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Balance Sheet at 31st December 2006

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<th>Nature Group Cash Book</th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Balance brought forward from 2005</td>
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</tr>
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<td>Cleared Credit from 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cleared Cheque from 2005</td>
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<tr>
<td>Income minus Expenditure 2006</td>
<td>-1,767.04</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,568.14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total Carried Forward To Financial Year 2007

<table>
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<tr>
<th></th>
<th>£</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>14,568.14</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

J T Hyman (Hon Treasurer)

Independent Examiner's Report to Members

The financial statement for the year ended 31st December 2006 set out above has been prepared from the books and records of the Nature Group of the Royal Photographic Society and is in accordance therewith.

C S Wilkinson
North Uist, Outer Hebrides

by Colin Smith FRPS

Situated out in the Atlantic ocean, west of Skye and the Scottish mainland, the Outer Hebrides consist of a string of small islands receiving all the weather the Atlantic can throw at them. This can vary from severe winter gales to balmy sunny weather interspersed with heavy rain at almost anytime of the year. For anyone wanting to visit somewhere unspoilt, quiet and out of the way, then the Outer Hebrides maybe for them. Probably due to the remoteness of the islands and the low population, there is a varied and prolific amount of natural history interest in the form of many species of breeding birds and mammals, with a good sprinkling of interesting flora and insect life to be found.

My wife, Joan, and I visited north Uist in June 2006. There are no high mountains on the island, the highest point being around 3,000 feet and that is a ‘one off’ hill. The island has many small fresh water lochans surrounded by wet moorland, as well as some more typical heather moorland on the higher ground. There are few trees due to poor soil and the strong winds which are a regular feature of the weather here. The white shell beaches are magnificent and, for the most part, empty of people. It is possible to walk for miles, without seeing another person, with just the sea, the wind and the birds for company. North Uist is connected to Benbecula and South Uist by causeways along which you can easily drive if you wish to visit these two islands.

We broke our outward journey at Ft. William spending the night in a B&B and then driving to Uig on the far side of Skye to pick up the ferry the next day. The crossing was smooth and took about two and a half hours. On arrival at our cottage we unloaded the car, lit a fire in the stove and generally settled in for our first night of our two week stay. At this point I would like to remind you of the very hot and dry weather the mainland enjoyed over this two week period. It was different on North Uist! We did have some sunshine but generally it was cloudy and sometimes drizzly. However we made full use of the time we had there, getting out of bed at 6 every morning and driving over a moorland road with the unlikely name of ‘Committee Road’.

Each morning was different, we saw Red Deer, Curlew, a Hen Harrier once or twice, but always Short-eared Owls quartering the moor in search of Voles. Sometimes these magnificent birds landed on roadside posts and occasionally stayed long enough for a picture - I had my 500mm lens and bean bag at the ready each morning for just such an opportunity. A few times I was able to photograph them perched on a heather tussock (a much more natural perch), and on one occasion I managed some flight shots as well. This is when using a digital camera allowed me to take shots I would otherwise have missed with my film camera. I set the ISO to 400 as the light level was quite low at times and coupled with the 1.6 magnification effect of my 20D camera, my 500mm f4 lens became an 800mm f4 lens - mind blowing or what? This daily circular trip took us about an hour and then we returned to the cottage for breakfast.

Another of our favourite haunts was the RSPB reserve at Balranald. The road leading to the reserve is lined with fence posts which were often occupied by Redshank which had young nearby or by a few Common Snipe looking out for danger in protection of their young. On arrival at the reserve Centre on one occasion I saw a couple of other photographers with long lenses and tripods trained onto the garden area next to the Centre. I soon discovered they were photographing a Corncrake which was behaving in a very un-Corncrake manner. Instead of hearing the call but not seeing the bird, which is the usual scenario, this individual stood proudly on a rock in full view and called for minutes at a time allowing us to take pictures from about 15 feet away. From the Centre it is possible to drive towards the coast, through the machair and park near some dunes and then walk around the coast. The machair is itself very interesting; oats and potatoes are grown in what appears to be pure sand. It is fertilised by collecting seaweed
which storms throw up the beaches each winter and this is enough to enable crops to grow. Amongst the crops are Dune Pansies and Northern Marsh Orchids, very stunted due to the windy conditions, and also Rock Doves feeding on whatever seeds they can find. It is alleged these are pure Rock Doves as many less isolated colonies have interbred with feral pigeons.

On our walk around the coast we encountered a variety of waders including Dunlin, Redshank, Oystercatcher and Ringed Plover, many of which were nesting or had young nearby suggested by their aggressive behaviour towards our presence. In one place near a small lochan we found a colony of Arctic Terns which were breeding. Common Gull and Fulmar were also present, the latter nesting on some low cliffs. Out at sea we saw a Red-throated Diver and Gannets fishing; Raven and Buzzard were never far away. On the rocks we saw Wheatear and Rock Pipit carrying food to feed to their offspring in some sheltered hole or rock crevice. In short it was a super place to see wildlife and we both thoroughly enjoyed the day, which incidentally happened to be one of the sunny ones.
North Uist is a very quiet island and when driving there are few other vehicles on the roads, on Sundays there are none at all except for the occasional visitor we met doing the same as ourselves. The Islanders respect the Sabbath, do no work and seemingly rarely leave their homes. The majority of people on North Uist are Protestants while South Uist is mainly Roman Catholic.

There is a kind of supermarket in the area where it is possible to replenish supplies as they run low. We took quite a lot of food with us including frozen meats which we carried in a freezer box. We knew there was a freezer compartment in the fridge at the cottage, so it was very convenient for us to do it this way. It seems I forgot to pack some white wine which Joan likes (I prefer red, which I took). At the shop I collected a couple of bottles of white in the hope my sins would be forgiven. What I didn’t realise was I had inadvertently selected two bottles of non-alcoholic wine which we only discovered on our return, this added insult to injury and to this day it has not been forgotten.

The whole fortnight was most enjoyable and I have just described some of our walks and visits. We did visit Benbecula and South Uist as well each with splendid scenery, wildlife and characteristics of their own.

In short, North Uist is a place we would happily return to and I can recommend it to all who enjoy peace, tranquillity and an abundance of wildlife.

As a footnote, I should add, the day we returned to the mainland was the day the heatwave ended and we drove south in rain all the way home.
The Nature Group Annual Exhibition 2007
Gold Medal Awards

Best Print
Stranded iceberg, South Orkney Islands
Ian MacWhirter ARPS

Best Slide (cover)
TreeSparrows
Mike Wilkes FRPS

Best Digital Image
Gordon Bramham - Guillemot in flight
Bronze Medals

Above:
Best Group A Print
Striated Caracara displaying
Dawn Osborn FRPS

Opposite:
Best Group C Print
Cauliflower Fungus
*Sparassis crispa*
John Jones ARPS

Left:
Best Group B Slide
Zebra sparring
Gordon Follows ARPS
Selectors’ Awards - Group A Prints

Right:
Margaret Sixsmith Award
Osprey with nesting material
David Osborn FRPS

Above:
Richard Revels Award
White-tailed Eagle and fish
Dickie Duckett ARPS

Left:
Roger Hance Award
Meadow Pipit
Terry Bickley ARPS
Left:
Roger Hance Award:
Blue-tailed Damselfly cleaning abdomen
John Bulpitt FRPS

Selectors’ Awards - Group B Prints

Above:
Richard Revels Award
Red Fox
Dickie Duckett ARPS

Right:
Margaret Sixsmith Award
Lion on Termite mound
Michael Huggan ARPS

www.thenaturegroup.org
Selectors’ Awards - Group C Prints

Top:
Richard Revels Award
Golden Scalycap
*Pholiota aurivella*
John Jones ARPS

Below: left
Margaret Sixsmith Award
Common Spotted Orchids
John Jones ARPS

Below right:
Roger Hance Award:
Dryad’s Saddle
Sheila Weir
The RPS Nature Group Annual Exhibition 2007

Print Section

**Gold Medal - Best Print in the Exhibition**
Ian MacWhirter ARPS
*Stranded Iceberg, South Orkney Islands*

**Bronze Medals**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Class A</th>
<th>Class B</th>
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<tr>
<td>Dawn Osborn FRPS</td>
<td>Sandy Cleland FRPS</td>
<td>John Jones ARPS</td>
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<tr>
<td><em>Striated Caracara</em></td>
<td><em>Brown Hare</em></td>
<td><em>Cauliflower Fungus</em></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><em>Displaying</em></td>
<td><em>grooming after rain</em></td>
<td><em>Sparassis Crispa</em></td>
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</table>

**Highly Commended Prints:**
Dickie Duckett ARPS *Black Grouse displaying*
Dawn Osborn FRPS *Gentoos Porpoising*
Terry Bickley ARPS *Asilidae Robber fly*
Kevin Maskell FRPS *Doubled-crested Cormorant with Yellow Bullhead Catfish*
Peter Jones ARPS *Arctic Fox*
Caroline Yates LRPS *Tree and Dunes Namibia*

**Commended Prints:**
Dickie Duckett ARPS *Puffin in Flight*
Dawn Osborn FRPS *King Penguins on a South Atlantic beach*
Kevin Maskell FRPS *Piping Plover*
Lous Rumis ARPS *Bar-tailed Godwit*
John Bulpit FRPS *Zebras, Ngorongoro*
Roy Dorkins LRPS *African Elephant and calf*
Roy Dorkins LRPS *Bengal Tiger, Bandhavgarh*
Andrew Parsons ARPS *Wild Arum*

**Accepted Prints:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Author</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Award</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Karen Berry ARPS</td>
<td><em>White Browed Coucal</em></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td>Terry M Bickley ARPS</td>
<td><em>Anthus pratensis</em> Meadow Pipit</td>
<td>Roger Hance Award</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Clytus arietis</em> Wasp Beetle</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td><em>Asilidae Robber Fly</em></td>
<td>HC</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

www.thenaturegroup.org
Peter Bland FRPS  
Startled Zebra, Etosha Namibia  
Black-backed Jackals Harassing Seals, Namibia

John Bulpit FRPS  
Martial Eagle  
Royal Tern displaying  
Zebras, Ngorongoro  
Agama Lizard with Beetle  
Blue-tailed Damselfly cleaning abdomen  
Speckled Wood  

Gill Cardy ARPS  
Great Spotted Woodpecker  
Red Deer in Snow

Sandy Cleland FRPS  
Red Deer Hind with yearling  
Young Rabbit  
Stoat  
Brown Hare grooming after rain  

Bert Crawshaw ARPS  
African Hoopoe  

John Cucksey ARPS  
Pilot Whale Skeleton  
Camelthorn Acacia and Dune, Sossusvlei

Kenneth Day ARPS  
Great Blue Heron  
Red Bellied Woodpecker

Roy Dorkins LRPS  
Chital Stag, Bandhavgarh India  
Common Langer Bandhavgarh India  
African Elephant and calf, Samburu  
Bengal Tiger, Bandhavgarh India  

Dickie Duckett ARPS  
Pintail formation  
Black Grouse displaying  
Gulls feeding at sea  
Puffin in flight  
White-tailed Eagle and fish  
Red Fox  

Chuck Eccleston ARPS  
African Fish Eagle  
Elephant Hawkmoth

Roy Hodgkiss ARPS  
Red Kite preparing to dive  
Orange Birch Bolete

Michael Huggan ARPS  
Cheetah on Termite mound  
Lion on Termite mound  

John Hunt ARPS  
Kingfisher arising from water  
Watching Kingfisher

Peter Jones ARPS  
Arctic Fox  
Fluke of a Humpback Whale  

John Jones ARPS  
Common Spotted Orchids  
Cauliflower Fungus Sparassis Crispa  
Golden Scalycap Pholita Aurivella  

Ian MacWhirter ARPS  
Black-browed Albatross confrontation  
Juvenile Antarctic Fur Seals play-fighting  
Grass Snake attacking Common Toad  
Cinnabar Moth Caterpillar on Ragwort  
Stranded Iceberg, South Orkney Islands  

Roger Hance Award  
Speckled Wood  

Bronze Medal  
Brown Hare grooming after rain  

HC  
Black Grouse displaying  

Richard Revels Award  
Red Kite preparing to dive  

Margaret Sixsmith Award  
Cheetah on Termite mound  

Margaret Sixsmith Award  
Black Rhinoceros  

Margaret Sixsmith Award  
Cheetah on Termite mound  

Margaret Sixsmith Award  
Common Spotted Orchids  

GOLD Medal  
Stranded Iceberg, South Orkney Islands  

Richard Revels Award  
Cinnabar Moth Caterpillar on Ragwort  

Richard Revels Award  
Cinnabar Moth Caterpillar on Ragwort  

Margery J Maskell ARPS  
Great Egret with twig
King Penguins brooding
Migrant Hawker hovering
Maidenhair Spleenwort Fern
*Stereocaulon Vesuvianum* Lichen

Kevin I Maskell FRPS  
Great Blue Heron landing at nest
Doubled-Crested Cormorant with yellow bullhead catfish
King Penguins coming ashore
Piping Plover

Dave McKay ARPS  
Leopard and cub
Spotted Hyena grooming

Ian McLean LRPS  
Emerald Damselfly *Lestes sponsa*
Peppered Moth *Biston betularia*
Mountain Dappled White *Euchloe simplomia*

Richard Merritt FRPS  
*Risbecia Tryoni* Nudibranchs
*Amphiprion Perideraion* Anemonefish
Commensal Crab in tube sponge
Cuttlefish eye and chromatophores

Milke Middleton LRPS  
Snowdrops in Dimminsdale

David Osborn FRPS  
Osprey with nesting material
Great Egret
Willet in flight

Dawn Osborn FRPS  
Striated Caracara displaying
Clarke's Nutcracker calling
King Penguins on a South Atlantic beach No3
Gentoos Porpoising
Great White Egret in flight
Eastern Meadowlark in song

Andrew Parsons ARPS  
English Grey Partridge
Male Chaffinch singing in blackthorn bush
Male Banded Demoiselle
Wild Arum

Norman J Prue FRPS  
Red-backed Hawk female
Greater Flamingo flight
Hippo confrontation No1

Kay Reeve FRPS  
Common Toads, female with two males in amplexus
Larva of Southern Hawker Dragonfly
Amyethyst Deceiver

Louis Rumis ARPS  
Bar-tailed Godwit
Marbled Murrelet
Cheetah, Ngorongoro crater
Zebra drinking at river crossing
Grizzly family, early morning light

John Weir ARPS  
Black-necked Stilt
Willet

Sheila Weir  
Dryad's Saddle

Caroline Yates LRPS  
Swallow Tailed Bee Eater Namibia
Greater Kestrel with a lizard, Namibia
Feeding Lion, Namibia
Tree and dunes Namibia

Margaret Sixsmith Award

Bronze Medal

Roger Hance Award
Slide Section

Gold Medal - Best Slide in the Exhibition
Mike Wilkes FRPS
Tree Sparrows

Bronze Medals

Group A
David Cantrille FRPS
Reddish Egret fishing

Group B
Gordon Follows ARPS
Zebras sparring

Group C
Kay Reeve FRPS
Scarlet Elf Cups
in stream bed

Selectors’ Awards

Richard Revels FRPS
Gill Cardy ARPS
Tawny Owl in snowstorm

Margaret Sixsmith ARPS
Louis Rumis ARPS
Juvenile Bald Eagle

Roger Hance FRPS
Norman Lock ARPS
Fledgling Kestrels

David Cantrille FRPS
Gautam Biswas ARPS
Grizzly skinning Salmon

Gordon Follows ARPS
Gloria Cotton ARPS
Elephants tussling

Terry Bickley ARPS
Tawny Owl in snowstorm

Kay Reeve FRPS
Gautam Biswas LRPS
Cheetah hunting

Group C
Kay Reeve FRPS
Scarlet Elf Cups
in stream bed

Highly Commended Slides
Bob Devine
Goliath Heron

David Cantrille FRPS
Avocets Mating

Gloria Cotton ARPS
Cheetah with tiny cub

Gautam Biswas LRPS
Cheetah and cubs with kill

Jean MacWhirter LRPS
Driblets and Rope Lava

John Bebbington FRPS
Frozen Dew on Spiderweb

Rosemary Simpson
Encrusting Sponge patterns

Commended Slides
Jean MacWhirter LRPS
Black-tailed Godwit

Reg Mellis ARPS
Short-eared Owl

Norman Lock ARPS
Dipper with food

Terry Bickley
Drone Fly

Gautam Biswas LRPS
Cheetah hunting

Gordon Follows ARPS
Brown Bear eating salmon

Ron Tear ARPS
Atlantic Grey Seal in moult

Accepted Slides

Author
John Bebbington FRPS

Title
Garden Snail
Grasshopper Nymph with parasitic Mites
Globeflower Pennine Alps
Frozen Dew on Spider’s web

Award
HC
Terry M Bickley ARPS  
*Eristalis tenax* Drone Fly  
*Zygaena filipendulae* 5-Spot Burnet Moths  
*Tetragaena pinicola* Orb Weaver  
*Strobilomyces flocopus*  
Old Man of the Woods  
*Magnificent Sixsmith Award  
*Rhodotus palmatus* Wrinkled Peach  
*Sedum acre* Biting Stonecrop

Gautam Biswas LRPS  
Cheetah Hunting  
Cheetah and cubs with kill  
*HC*  
*Margaret Sixsmith Award*

Tony Bond FRPS  
Rockhopper taking a shower  
Engrailed  
Buff Tip  
*Russula Sanguinea*  
*Coprinus Micascous*  
*Richard Revels Award*

Gordon Bramham ARPS  
Great Grey Shrike  
Road Runner  
Giant Panda  
Cougar

Kath Bull ARPS  
European Hare  
Germander Speedwell  
Meadow Cranesbill fruit detail  
Perennial Rye Grass with mature anthers

Arthur G Butler ARPS  
*Gomphus vulgatissimus* general stage  
Wolf Spider carrying young

Andy Callow FRPS  
Empid Fly  
Black ant and Aphids

David Cantrille FRPS  
Avocets Mating  
Willets fighting  
Reddish Egret fishing  
European Spoonbill feeding  
Godwits fighting  
*Bronze Medal*

Gill Cardy ARPS  
Tawny Owl in snowstorm  
Bloody Cranesbill, The Burren

Gloria Cotton ARPS  
Cheetah with tiny cub Masai Mara  
Reticulated Giraffe, Samburu  
Elk Stag, Yellowstone  
Wildebeest, Masai Mara  
Elephants Tussling, Etosha  
*Magnificent Sixsmith Award*

Bob Devine  
Curlew  
Goliath Heron  
Ringed Plover  
At a Waterhole in Savuti

Gordon W Follows ARPS  
Corn Crake calling  
Amorous Grey Seals  
Brown Bear eating Salmon  
Zebras sparring  
*Bronze Medal*

Jane Greatorex ARPS  
King Penguin  
*Margaret Sixsmith Award*

Robert Hawkesworth FRPS  
Queen of Spain Fritillary  
Grey Dagger  
Early Purple Orchids  
Clustered Brittlegill

Barbara Hawkesworth ARPS  
Fly Agaric  
Beech Jelly Disc
Barbara Hawkesworth ARPS  *Psathyrella candollena*  
Margaret Hodge FRPS  Hedgehog Fungus  
Bark Beetle tracks  
John Jones ARPS  Compass Jellyfish feeding frenzy  
Hairy Curtain Crust *Stereum hirsutum*  
Shaggy Scaly Cap *Pholiota Squarrosa*  
Prunus Serrula  
Roger Hance Award  
Norman E Lock ARPS  Tricoloured Heron  
Bullfinch male  
Fledgling Kestrels  
Dipper with food  
Roger Hance Award  
Jean MacWhirter LRPS  Black-tailed Godwit  
Secretary Bird  
Driblets and Rope Lava  
HC  
Tony McDade FRPS  *Aoronicum grabiflorum*  
Reg Mellis ARPS  Marsh Tit  
Short-eared Owl  
Kentish Plover  
Stone Curlew  
Richard Merritt FRPS  Dwarf Lionfish in Eel Grass  
Leaf Scorpionfish  
Loop Coral Detail  
William E Middleton ARPS  3 Bananaquits  
Southern Lapwing  
Male Redstart on perch  
*Dilocera viscosa* Yellow Antler Fungus Group  
Dawn Osborn FRPS  Southern Elephant Seal pair  
Early Purple Orchids  
Common Spotted Orchid  
Norman J Prue FRPS  Land Iguana  
Diving Humpback Whale  
Greater Kudu Bull  
Flowering Quiver Trees no 3  
Kay Reeve FRPS  Hawthorn Shield Bug  
Poplar Hawk Moth  
Scarlet Elf-cups in stream bed  
Bronze Medal  
Louis Rumis ARPS  Juvenile Bald Eagle, Alaska  
Nightjar yawning  
Bald Eagle in flight  
Grizzly skinning Salmon  
Margaret Sixsmith Award  
Richard Revels Award  
John Scotten ARPS  *Amanita Rubecens*  
Lesley Simpson ARPS  Broad-bodied Chaster in habitat  
Mantis Religiosa pair  
Small Gold Grasshopper  
Argiope Bruennichi and prey  
Rosemary Simpson  Pair of Shrimps Indonesia  
Encrusting Sponge patterns  
HC  
Ron Tear ARPS  Atlantic Grey Seal in moult  
Kay Thompson ARPS  Net-winged Beetle  
Water Buck
Geoff Trinder ARPS  Silver Gull bathing
Reticulate Python in habitat
John Weir ARPS  Glistening Inkcap
Mike Wilkes FRPS  Grey-backed Fiscal Shrike displaying
Fieldfare
Sally Lightfoot Crab
Cheetah Hunting
Rosemary Wilman ARPS  Wildebeest drinking by Flamingoes
Yucca White sands

Digital Section

GOLD MEDAL - Best Digitally Projected Image
Gordon Bramham ARPS  Guillemot

Selectors’ Awards
Highly Commended
Richard Revels  Ian MacWhirter ARPS  Black-browed Albatross in flight
Margaret Sixsmith  David Robinson ARPS  Grey Seal
Roger Hance  David Osborn FRPS  Male Merlin

Colin Smith FRPS  Broad-bodied Libellula
Dawn Osbourn FRPS  Great Blue Heron in flight
Terry Bickley ARPS  Common Spotted Orchid

Commended
Colin Smith FRPS  Nemoptera coa

Accepted Digital Entries
Name  Author  Award
Peter Asprey  Turstops Truncatus
George Backshall  Common Blue Butterfly  Polyommatus icarus
John Berry ARPS  Black-tailed Skimmer
Finnish Goshawk
Peppered Moth on moss
Porcelain Fungus
Terry Bickley ARPS  Common Spotted Orchid
Common Blue
Psathyrella hydrophila
Long-jawed Orb Weaver
Gautam Biswas  Great Egret with Fish
Great Blue Heron With Catch
Osprey with catch
Les Borg  Canada Goose flying
Gordon Bramham  Bald Eagle
Guillemot
Mountain Lion
Panda, China
Siberian Tiger

www.thenaturegroup.org  23  The Iris  -  Summer 2007
Gill Cardy
Crested - Tit in snowstorm

David Cantrille FRPS
Little Stint Reflection
Anhinga in full flight
Gannet in Flight

Sandy Cleland FRPS
Aranaeus Quadratus

John Cucksey
Lava Lizard & Marine Iguana
Blue-cheeked Bee-Eater

Joe Curtis
Goldfinch
Grey Heron
Magpie with Goldfinch
Curlew
Goldfinch

Dickie Duckett ARPS
Black Grouse displaying
White-tailed Eagle striking
Pintail formation
Grey Seal in surf
Mallard Drake landing
Puffin in flight with Sandeels

Chuck Eccleston Aprs
Glanville Fritillary

James Foad
Head of Emperor Dragonfly

Steve Harrett ARPS
Arctic Tern 5
Green Bee-Eaters

Roy Hodgkiss ARPS
Bullfinch
Red Kite
Shaggy Pholiota

Michael Huggan ARPS
Elephant & calf
Martial Eagle
Ostrich pair

Margaret Johnson LRPS
Cloud Formation, South Georgia
Bladder Wrack

Peter Jones ARPS
Arctic Fox
Blue Iceberg
Polar Bear

Malcolm Kitto
Great Green Bushcricket repelling Bee
Scarlet Hood Fungi
Spider with Banded Demoiselle Prey

Dave Mckay
Lioness & cub

Ian Macwhirter
Black-browed Albatross in flight
King Penquin Group
King Penquin Rookery, South Georgia
Emerging Amanita muscaria

Kevin Maskell FRPS
Bladder Wrack
Mallards mating

Margery Maskell ARPS
Eastern Meadowlark singing

Reg Mellis
Kingfisher
Yellow Wagtail
Demoiselle Agrion

Richard Merritt FRPS
Coral Crab carrying eggs
Scalloped Hammerhead Shark
Chromodorid nudibranch
Schooling Barracuda
Whaleshark feeding on plankton

Philip Mugridge ARPS
Swallow chicks
Great Grey Owl

Richard Revels Award
Philip Mugridge ARPS  Little Owl
    Tawny Owl chicks
    Waxwings
    Lammergeier

David Osborn FRPS  Falkland Skua
    Gentoo Penquin
    Male Merlin
    Northern Fulmer
    Osprey

Dawn Osborn FRPS  Bull Elk calling
    Great Blue Heron in flight
    Laughing Gull in flight
    Laughing Gull pair

Andrew Parsons ARPS  Young Leveret
    Emperor Moth Larva on Hawthorn

Monica Pepper  Arctic Fox
    Walrus
    Polar Bear
    Polar Bear

Jane Rees  Hericium erinaceous

David Robinson  Northern Fulmar
    Grey Seal
    Little Grebe
    Whooper Swans

Ian Tait  Black-bellied Bustard displaying
    Red-billed Oxpeckers at work on Cape Buffalo
    Grey Heron
    Magpie with Goldfinch
    Curlew

John Scotten ARPS  Cardinal Beetle
    Mayfly
    Orange Tip
    Pholiota squarrosa
    Speckled Wood

Mervyn Seltzer  Impala Ram & family
    Polar Bear with kill
    Polar Bear

Colin Smith FRPS  Nemoptera coa
    Natterjack Toads in Amplexus
    Earth Star discharging Spores
    Kingfisher flying from nest
    Common Tern
    Broad-bodied Libellula

Stephen Street  Arctic Tern
    Ice Flow
    Ptarmigan

Monique Vanstone  Sandhill Cranes
    Avocet & reflection
    Banded Demoiselle
    Black - Veined White On Orchid
    Little Egret
    Marbled White on Scabious

Helen Williams  Hoopoe
    Kori Bustard

Roger Hance Award

Margaret Sixsmith Award
Above:
Bronze Medal
Reddish Egret fishing
David Cantrille FRPS

Opposite:
Margaret Sixsmith Award
Juvenile Bald Eagle, Alaska
Louis Roumis ARPS

Right:
Roger Hance Award
Fledgling Kestrels
Norman Locke ARPS
Selectors’ Awards Group B Slides

Above:
Margaret Sixsmith Award
Elephants Tussling
Gloria Cotton ARPS

Left:
Roger Hance Award
Cheetah hunting
Mike Wilkes FRPS

Below:
Richard Revels Award
Grizzly skinning salmon
Louis Roumis ARPS
Selectors’ Awards
Group C Slides

Top:
Roger Hance Award
Shaggy Scalycap
John Jones ARPS

Bottom:
Richard Revels Award
Coprinus micaceus
Tony Bond FRPS
Selectors’ Awards - Digital Images

Top: Richard Revels Award
Black-browed Albatross in flight
Ian MacWhirter ARPS

Centre: Margaret Sixsmith Award
Grey Seal
David Robinson ARPS

Below: Roger Hance Award
Male Merlin
David Osborn FRPS
The Mono Lake Filter
by Manfred Klindwort ARPS
Many photographers today are inclined to lose themselves in the technology that is available, and in doing so they forget something fundamental - photographers are telling a story. Authors emphasise their stories through use of vocabulary, punctuation and phrase in their composition; photographers use the light and technology in order to compose their scene.

Ansel Adams said:
“A great photograph is the artistic equivalent of the emotion of the photographer at the moment of exposure.”

Often, when our films are returned from processing, we find ourselves disappointed with the results. What we see when we look at our images is not what we felt with our heart at the moment of exposure. We want to communicate some of the feelings we experienced but how can we do this? If we look at the works of old masters, we determine that the pictures are an interpretation of the scene more than a documentation of the facts. In order to enable this in our work as photographers we should use every tool available to us. This should be of importance to all photographers but particularly photographers of the landscape.

A few years ago, my wife and I attended a photo-workshop in the Grand Teton National Park. We stood at the Snake River overlook with some American colleagues and photographed the fascinating mountain world of the Rockies. I watched with interest as a colleague turned his Cokin filter round and round in front of his lens. He noticed my interest and allowed me to look through his lens. The Tetons and the terrain of the Snake River showed a better color-demarcation, more intensive colors and a stronger contrast. This changed with a turn of the filter. I was pleasantly surprised, especially because I did not hold with the use of color-effect filters. The colleague told me something of the use of this filter for “preferred objects” of “mountain, heavens and water.” It was called the Cokin P173 Blue-Yellow Colorpolarizer. My first view through the filter showed me only an orange picture but with a turn of the P173 one way into the blue or to the other side to yellow-orange, two extremes are gained, enhancing the mood and colors.

I finally got this filter for myself. The exact name is Cokin P173 Blue-Yellow Color-polarizer. The filter and holder are available in two sizes - series A and P. I recommend the larger size P in order
to avoid vignetting. If a new lens with a different filter thread side is obtained, only a new adapter-ring needs to be purchased and the filter is still employable. The costs for the filter is about £35.

A short time later we undertook a trip to Yosemite and also visited Mono Lake. The pictures that I saw before me of the lake and the stone formations did not agree with pictures I had seen. Where were the vibrant colors? Then I remembered the advice of colleagues at the workshop in the Grand Teton National Park and the Cokin a P173 filter for use with “water and mountains”. I attached the filter to my EF 28-105mm lens looked through the viewfinder and slowly turned the filter - I was astonished. The lake, which minutes before seemed dull, suddenly appeared in the most beautiful colors, just as I had seen in pictures. Also my emotions told me, that now I am standing in this original landscape with the ability to transform my pictures. The water became a splendid blue, the heavens appeared like in the sunset and the stone formations were turned warmer although it was only midday. You can extend the active shooting time perceptibly with the help of such a filter. But caution is advised: an overdose of colors can destroy any picture and may not be appropriate in nature photography. Furthermore, the Varicolor-Filter has a restriction through the strength of the filter. Also, with wide-angle-lenses you should watch out for possible vignetting caused by the filter holder. I know of some photographers who have removed all but the first groove in order to avoid vignetting when using wide-angle lenses.

I now let other photographers look through my camera. The reactions vary between aaaahs and oooohs and sometimes someone will remark that such effects can be achieved digitally with the use of Photoshop. I cannot export what I felt at the time of capturing the image into a picture some time in the future when I am at home. I want to show friends the landscape as I felt it. I feel that if tools are necessary in order to achieve this, then we should consider it.

I call my Cokin P173 Blue-Yellow Polarizer my ‘Mono Lake filter’. I can recommend each photographer to try it for themselves and form their own opinion.

I am happy to be contacted for questions.
Manfred Klindwort GDT
Mkwildlife@aol.com
CHAIRMAN’S DAY

A full day of Nature Photography hosted by Geoff Trinder ARPS
Saturday 3rd November 2007, 10 a.m.
Smethwick Photographic Society,
The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury, West Midlands

PROGRAMME

10.00 am  Arrival - Coffee/Tea
10.30 am  Introduction & presentation from the Chairman,
           Geoff Trinder ARPS
11.15 am  Birding in North-west Spain -
           Susan & Alan Parker ARPS
12.00 noon Orchids of the Peak District
           John Jones ARPS
12.45 pm  Lunch
2.00 pm  Wildlife of the Falkland Islands
         by Dawn Osborn FRPS
         Dawn's FRPS Panel will also be on display.
3.00 pm  John Tinning will show a selection of his work
4.00 pm  Coffee/Tea and finish time

Tickets are available now, priced at £15 each incl Lunch, Teas and Coffees.
Ensure your place - Book now!

Complete the reply slip below and send with your cheque to arrive not later than 30th September 2007.
Please send to: Geoff Trinder ARPS, The Croft, Carrhouse Road, Belton, Doncaster, DN9 1PG
Please make cheques payable to: The RPS Nature Group

Please send me ________ tickets for Chairman’s Day     I enclose my cheque for £ ________________

Name

Address

Postcode

Telephone

Email
‘An Interactive Guide to Obtaining your Nature Associateship’

Recently updated CD-ROM now available - for PC only.

Approved by the RPS Council as an official RPS publication.

Over 140 copies sold to date.

The best advice for anyone considering applying for an Associateship in Nature Photography is to attend a Nature Distinctions Workshop. However for many it is not always possible to attend, and this CD is designed to cater for such applicants.

The guide is the result of collaboration between past panel members and RPS Distinctions Manager, Carol Agar, and produced by John Myring. Benefiting from the authors’ extensive experience of viewing numerous applications, both successful and otherwise, the Guide leads the user through all of the aspects that need to be considered. Advice on selection and presentation of both prints and slides as well as the additional requirements needed to make a Digital application.

The CD-ROM (PC only) is available for only £10 - including p&p.

To purchase your copy send a cheque for £10 payable to ‘RPS Nature Group’ to:

Trevor Hyman LRPS, 3 Northcourt Lane, Abingdon, Oxfordshire, OX14 1QA.
Moth Trapping and Photography in a suburban garden

by Robert Hawkesworth FRPS

In the Spring issue of ‘The Iris’ 2006, No. 94, my good friend Tony Bond FRPS, wrote a splendid article about the moths he had photographed which had been trapped close to his home in Leigh, Lancashire. Tony does not have a trap himself but has a friend who does the trapping and when anything interesting turns up a quick phone call is all that is necessary.

My interest in moth trapping goes back only to 2003 when Nick Jarvis ARP S ran a group field meeting at his home and had arranged for some of his chums to bring along some moths which had been trapped overnight. I was hooked - the opportunities for some good and different photography were obvious. The downside seemed to be that moth traps were quite expensive and, from what I could discover, not all that easy to obtain. However I was soon to find that I was wrong and that it was quite feasible to make one as all the components were easily available from local sources. My information came from another good friend, Martin Withers FRPS, who supplied me with a set of plans which he had obtained from a local member of the Leicestershire Moth Group.

Construction details
The plan of the trap is shown below. The sides are made from 5-6 mm thick weatherproof plywood cut 47 cm x 30.5 cm and the corners can be re-inforced with suitable stripwood; the bottom can be fitted in the same way. The removable perspex or acrylic panels should be of such a size that they overlap the sides by no
more than 1.5 cm at the same time ensuring that an angle of 60º is maintained and that the distance apart at the bottom is from 2-3 cm and no more. Construct two small bearers, to support the panels, and attach them to the two ends. The bearer board for the lamp should be 4.5-5 cm wide. I also constructed a perspex rain cover for the trap, not essential for if the weather forecast is for rain I don’t use the trap.

Electrical details
You will require the following:
• one 80watt mercury vapour lamp, preferably screw fit.
• One ceramic screw fit lamp holder.
• One 80watt choke. You can either build a small box for the choke or buy one. The choke plugs into the mains supply and the bulb plugs into the choke. Do not plug the bulb directly into the mains. You will need the necessary plugs and cable. If you are in any doubt whatsoever ask a qualified electrician. You can also purchase ready fitted chokes.

All the necessary electrical equipment an be obtained from:
BioQUIP, 1 Clive Cottage, London Road, Allostock, Knutsford, Cheshire, WA16 9LT
Telephone: 0871 734 0111.
E-mail: www.bioquip.net.
You may also obtain the equipment locally.
BioQUIP will also supply ready built moth traps. In 2003 I built my moth trap for a cost of £54, the electrics being the largest expense.

Running the moth trap
You will need to fill the box with cardboard egg-boxes; the moths will collect on them, often on the undersides. Do make quite sure that you do not disturb surrounding houses with the light. I have one place in my garden from which there is no line of sight to any neighbouring windows. If you have no such place do not despair for you can purchase a ‘black’ mercury vapour lamp, the catches are a little down on the normal lamp but not significantly. I run mine on a timer switch set to come on at sunset and go off at sunrise. My experience is that the moths are quietest in the early hours of the day, so getting up early may well give the best results in terms of photography.

The photography
A 100 mm or 180 mm Macro lens is probably the most appropriate for the job, plus your tripod of course. You will need a good and varied supply of suitable perches - twigs and flat surfaces such as bark or rocks. I’ve been collecting them for some time, they need occasional renewal of course simply because you can’t keep using the same perch or all your moths will be the same picture! I am still experimenting with lighting, overcast is often the best. As far as flash is concerned I seem to have had the most success with fill-flash at about 1 stop under on the flash. A warming filter also can be useful, but not always! I refer you here to Tony’s article for he gives excellent advice on the photography and on the selection of perches. A question you are bound to ask is “how do you get the moth onto the perch?”. Experience! Just keep trying. Some moths are very steady, others very flighty. They will let you know if they don’t like the perch, they will simply walk off it, or fly off it! Do try to release all your moths into cover.

In conclusion
I started trapping in 2004 and have now recorded 76 species, but there have been several which I have not been able to identify and many micro moths which again I have not identified. Do remember that I live on the western edge of Nottingham and consequently there is some light pollution. We are not entirely surrounded by buildings and we have open country within easy walking distance. Wollaton park is also about a mile away.

The best book for identification is ‘Field Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland’ by Paul Waring and Martin Townsend, published by British Wildlife Publishing ISBN 0 9531399. However, the illustrations from that book together with brief notes have now been published separately as ‘Concise Guide to the Moths of Great Britain and Ireland’, the same publisher, ISBN 978 0 9531399 6 5. I am now using this book for identification simply because it is smaller and more convenient.

I do hope this has been useful and should you decide to try your hand, I wish you good trapping.
Forthcoming Nature Group Events:

- **Saturday July 14th 2007 10.30am. Ainsdale Local N.R.**
  Meeting Place: Aisdale Beach
  Grid reference: SD 293123
  Leader: Colin Smith FRPS
  Cost: £3 Car parking
  Subjects of interest: Dune flora
  Items to bring: suitable footwear and sunblock (dependant upon weather), packed lunch and drinks.
  Contact: Colin Smith Tel: 01257 271981
  Directions: From the Formby by-pass, A565, or the coast road, follow the signs to Ainsdale Beach. Pay the parking fee at the small kiosk on entry to the beach, turn left and drive along the beach for about half a mile. The meeting point is about 100 yards before the fence which runs across the beach.

- **Tuesday 24th July 2007, 10.30am. Millers Dale and River Wye.**
  Meeting Place: Millers Dale Station Car Park.
  Grid Reference: Sheet 119 SK 138 733.
  Leader: Robert Hawkesworth FRPS.
  Cost: £3 approx for Car Parking
  Subjects: Summer limestone flowers, dragonflies, damselflies and butterflies.
  Items to bring: Strong footwear, waterproofs, packed lunch.
  Other info: Toilets at the Station.
  Please call leader to book: 0115 928 1050
  Mobile (for use on day only): 07952 811055

- **Sunday 21st October 2007***
  **Fermyn Woods & Brigstock CP**
  Meeting place: Main Car Park at Visitor Centre
  Grid Ref: SP 954847
  Leader: Nick Jarviss FDPS
  Cost: Car Parking
  Subjects: Fungi
  Other info: Bring packed lunch, etc.
  Many paths are surfaced for wheelchairs, but there are some moderately steep slopes.
  Joint meeting with Kettering NHS.
  Contact leader: 01933 651477

- **Sunday 18th November 2007 10.30 East Blean Woods**
  Grid Ref: Sheet 179 TR 194 642
  Meeting place: Turn right into Hicks Forstal Road, drive for about 500 yards, the car park is on the right. Meet at 10am for 10.30 start
  Leader: James Foad
  Cost: nil
  Subjects: Fungi
  Other info: Bring a packed lunch. Strong footwear and waterproofs recomended.
  Contact leader: 01843 292762
  Email: james Cf@zen.co.uk
  Mobile on the day only: 07952 811055

For full details on future Field Meetings check the Nature Group website regularly and register to receive notices.

- **Tuesday 16th October 2007, 10.30am. Rufford Park.**
  Meeting Place: Main Car Park, the entrance is off the A614 and is well signposted.
  Grid Reference: Sheet 120 SK 643 647.
  Leader: Robert Hawkesworth FRPS.
  Cost: Car Parking in 2006 was free.
  Interest: Fungi.
  Items to bring: Strong/Waterproof footwear, waterproofs, packed lunch.
  Additional Info: Restaurant, snack bar and toilets on site.
  Call leader to book Tel: 0115 928 1050
  Mobile (for use on day only): 07960 177291

- **Nature Group Exhibition Venues:**
  3/9/07 Sileby PS, Sileby
  Contact: M Sherrington 01509 211724
  12/9/07 LRWT Charnwood,
  Contact: Peter Jones 01509 414715
  21/9/07 Hoylake PS, Wirral
  Contact: Tremaine Cornish 01516 532613
  28/9/07 Leicester & Leicestershire PS
  Contact: Peter Jones 01509 412286
  10/10/07 Spalding
  Contact: David Bratley 01775 767441
  16/10/07 Sutton PS, Sutton Coldfield
  Contact: David Grounds 0121 3532167

www.thenaturegroup.org
RPS East Anglia Region present

‘A day with the Nature Group’

4th November 2007 at Chamberlin Hall, Bildeston, Suffolk.

Guest speakers:
• David Osborn FRPS
• Richard Revels FRPS and
• Roger Hance FRPS

David, Richard and Roger are all accomplished wildlife photographers and also members of the Nature Distinctions panel.

For full details contact Regional organiser Joy Hancock FRPS
Tel: 01263 822507 Email:joyandmike@woodview24.freeserve.co.uk

David Osborn Photo-tours

spectacular wildlife photo-tours organised by David Osborn FRPS EFIAP

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<th>Birds of Florida</th>
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In order to maintain the exclusivity of photo-opportunities, the group size for all of the above tours is limited.

For full details on these and other tours
Tel: 01263 511221 Email:Poppyland3@aol.com or visit www.davidosbornphotography.co.uk
Congratulations

The following members have received a Distinction in the nature category.

Associateship - March 2007
From 17 submissions only 5 were successful, one of these was Nature Group member:

Stephen Street Whitby

Fellowship - Autumn 2006
7 submissions resulted in 3 awards on of these from:

Andy Callow Surbiton

Fellowship - Spring 2007
4 submissions no awards

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Obituary

Geoffrey T Smith 1919-2006

Geoff Smith was born in Tettenhall, Wolverhampton on May 27th 1919.

Following school he worked as a clerk in a Law firm until the outbreak of WWII when he joined the Army. He met his wife Kay in 1939 and they were married in 1941.

After leaving the Army in 1945, Geoff returned to the Law and qualified as a Solicitor in 1947. He went on to found his own Law Practice from which he eventually retired at 80 years of age.

Geoff developed an interest in photography as a boy, but it was during a family holiday in 1959 that his interest in nature photography was ignited, particularly in botanical subjects.

Although retirement came late this was no barrier to Geoff who commenced travelling the world in search of nature subjects for his camera. He travelled to India, Namibia, Florida, Yellowstone and much of Europe, but considered the Galapagos Islands to have been his most memorable destination of all.

Geoff was a founder member of Wednesfield Rotary Club and Lions International and was an active member of Smethwick Photographic Society for many years.

In memory of Geoff, his wife Kay has donated his collection of botanical slides to Keele University and many of his fine collection of books to Cannock Wildlife Trust. Members of the Trust are planning a slide evening of Geoff’s work in February 2008.

With permission of the Forestry Commission an oak tree has been planted at Geoff’s final resting place, on his beloved Cannock Chase.

Many of us will miss Geoff for his good humour, for his knowledge of photography and as a very special travelling companion – one of life’s true gentlemen.

Bert Graham & Martin B Withers FRPS.

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Eastbourne Photographic Society and the Nature Group present

The Falkland Islands a photographer’s tale by David Osborn FRPS

Tuesday 6th November 2007 7.30pm
Hailsham Community Centre
Tickets £6.50 in advance from J W Staples,
99 Ingams Way, Hailsham, East Sussex BN27 3NX
Tel 01323 841068 or email:
jwstaples@waitrose.com

David is a past Chairman of the RPS Nature Group and a member of the Nature Distinctions Panel.
• Rare Butterfly makes early appearance
The UK’s rarest of butterflies, the Large Blue (Maculinea arion), made a record early appearance this year on 2 June, at Collard Hill, a National Trust site in Somerset.

• Out of place Plover
A White-tailed Plover has been recorded at Caerlaverock nature reserve - possibly the first ever sighting of this species in Scotland. This bird is normally found in Iraq, Iran and southern Russia, and has only been seen in the UK on a few rare occasions.

• Record breaking Goose
A Barnacle Goose has crossed the North Sea in record breaking time, making the trip from Caerlaverock to Norway in an unbelievable five hours. A satellite tracking device attached to the goose recorded an average speed of over 75mph.

• Wildlife at risk
1,149 species of birds, mammals, insects and plants are at risk in the UK according to a new study by the UK Biodiversity Action Plan. Species include the Pine Marten, Water Vole, Bottlenose Dolphin, Horseshoe Bat, Dormouse, Red Squirrel and Smooth Snake. Fifty-nine species of birds are now said to be endangered, incl. Lesser-spotted Woodpecker, Skylark, Corn Bunting, Black Grouse, even Red Grouse. More than 400 invertebrates are also at risk. A number of factors are blamed including climate change, loss of habitat and lack of food caused by farming techniques and inappropriate rural and urban planning. The number of endangered habitats has gone from 49 to 67 and includes hedgerows, pine woodlands, meadows and sand dunes.

• WildPhotos in London
WildPhotos 2007 - Friday 26th & Saturday 27th October, Royal Geographical Society, Kensington, London. An exciting two-day event aimed at wildlife and nature photographers; amateur and professional alike. For more details please visit the website: www.wildphotos.org.uk

• Beware of ticks
Lyme disease is transmitted to humans by a bite from a Tick infected with the bacteria Borrelia burgdorferi. 684 cases of Lyme disease were reported in England and Wales last year, with another 177 cases reported in Scotland. Although the disease can be treated effectively with anti-biotics, left undiagnosed/untreated the infection can lead to problems with the nervous system and the heart. A common symptom of infection is a rash which radiates slowly out from the bite; other symptoms can include headache and fever. Lyme Disease is known to be prevalent in places such as Exmoor, the New Forest, South Downs, the Lake District, the Yorkshire moors and Scottish Highlands.

• International Projected Image Exhibition
The RPS has introduced a Digital Open class to its Exhibition now renamed the Intenational Projected Image Exhibition. Nature Group members may enter nature images in the Digital Open class but it is hoped that this will be addressed and that a class for digitally captured nature images will be included next year. Other classes include General Open Slides and Nature Slides. The closing date for entries is 31st July 2007.

• Nominated for World Heritage status
The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has nominated five sites to be included on the UN World Heritage list. These are:
• Teide National Park, Tenerife;
• The Karst of South China
• Jeju Island, a volcanic island off the southern coast of South Korea
• Beech forests of the Carpathian mountains of Slovakia and Ukrain.
• Atsinanana Rainforest, Madagascar.

• Planet Earth Explorer
Check out the BBC’s Planet Earth webpages: www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/planetearth/
Right:
Balranald beach

Below:
RSPB Reserve Centre, Balranald.

Right:
North Uist beach
Digital Image Awards

Highly Commended:

Above:
Great Blue Heron in flight
Dawn Osborn FRPS

Left:
Broad-bodied Libellula
Colin Smith FRPS

Bottom left:
Common Spotted Orchid
Terry Bickley ARPS

Commended

Above:
Nemoptera coa
Colin Smith FRPS