



THE IRIS

MAGAZINE OF THE NATURE GROUP OF THE RPS

Issue No. 98
Summer 2007



The
Royal
Photographic
Society

Patron: Her Majesty The Queen. Incorporated by Royal Charter

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:

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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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by Dawn Osborn FRPS

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Picture Information

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!



From the chair

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.



Minutes of the RPS Nature Group 2007 AGM

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

Year 2005

Year 2006

Receipts

6,109.46
907.79
4,536.00
1,014.16
765.51
670.45
500.00

Subscriptions 5,446.76
Life Subs. -
Lectures & Workshops 3,228.00
Annual Exhibition 1,022.36
Interest received (to Cash Book) 650.17
Sundry Income 1,170.98
Legacy -

14,503.37

sub totals

11,518.27

Payments

6,156.82
4,551.24
1,200.51
3,529.23

The Iris incl. postage 6,952.33
Lectures & Workshops 2,633.00
Annual Exhibition 519.45
General Administration 3,180.53

15,437.80

sub totals

13,285.31

-934.43

Receipts minus Payments

-1,767.04

Balance Sheet at 31st December 2006

Nature Group Cash Book

£

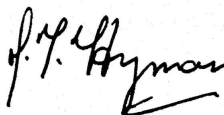
Balance brought forward from 2005 15,455.17
Cleared Credit from 2005 907.79
Cleared Cheque from 2005 -27.78
Income minus Expenditure 2006 -1,767.04

Total

14,568.14

Total Carried Forward To Financial Year 2007

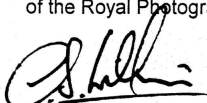
14,568.14



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.

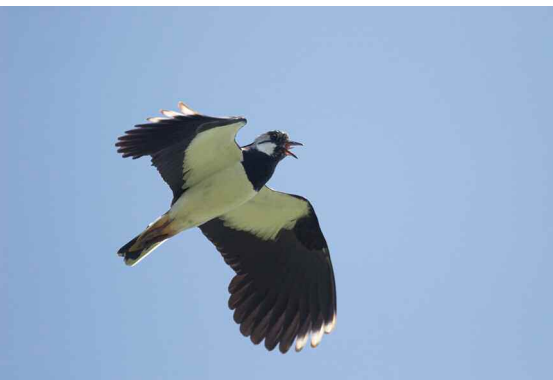
My wife, Joan, and I visited north Uist in June 2006. There are no high mountains on the island, the highest point being around 3,000 feet and that is a 'one off' hill. The island has many small fresh water lochans surrounded by wet moorland, as well as some more typical heather moorland on the higher 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.

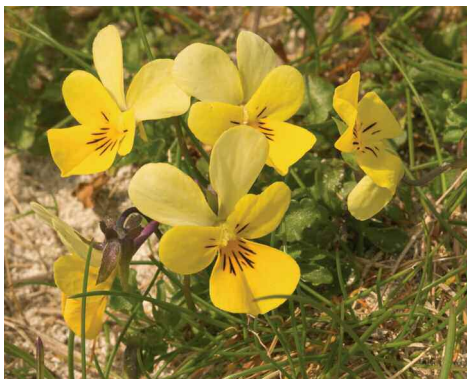
Another of our favourite haunts was the RSPB reserve at Balranald. The road leading to the reserve is lined with fence posts which were often occupied by Redshank which had young nearby or by a few Common Snipe looking out for danger in protection of their young. On arrival at the reserve Centre on one 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 SouthUist 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

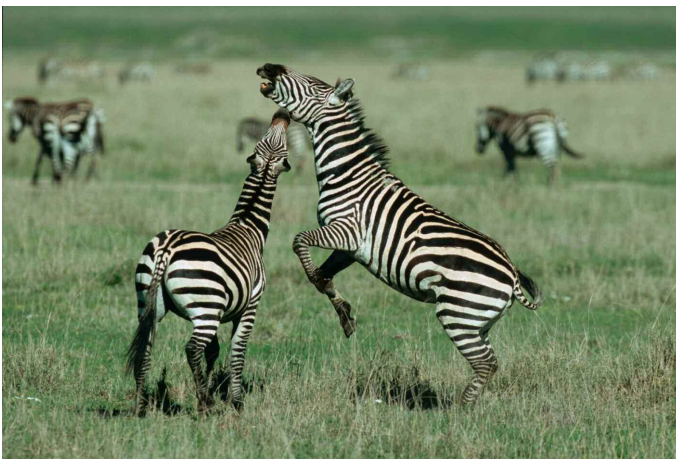
Bronze Medals



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



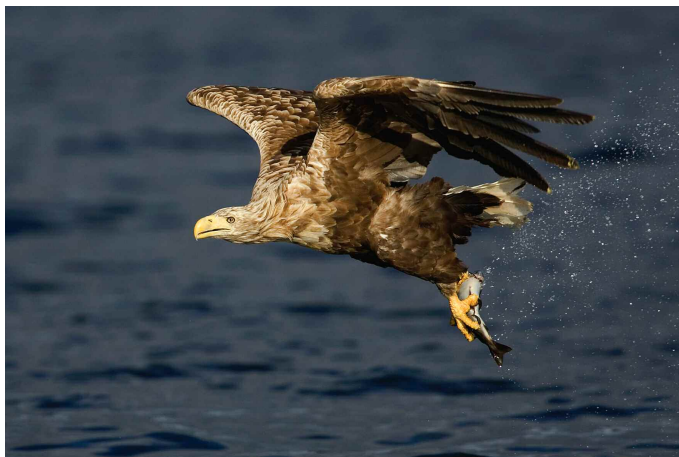
Opposite:
Best Group C Print
Cauliflower Fungus
Sparassis crispa
John Jones ARPS



Left:
Best Group B Slide
Zebra sparring
Gordon Follows ARPS

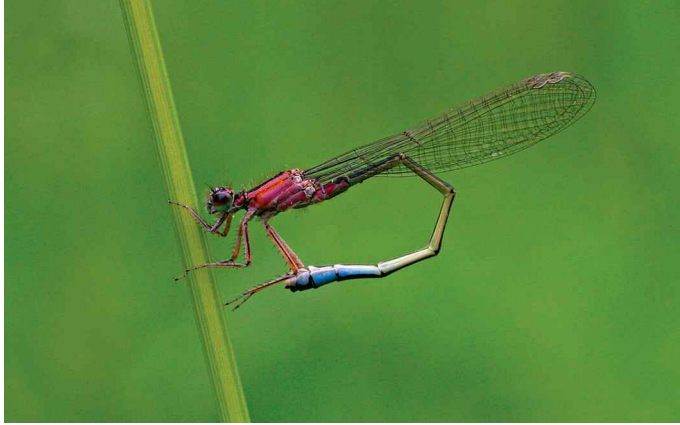
Selectors' Awards - Group A Prints

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





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

Selectors' Awards - Group C Prints

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

Class A

Dawn Osborn FRPS
Striated Caracara
Displaying

Class B

Sandy Cleland FRPS
Brown Hare
grooming after rain

Class C

John Jones ARPS
Cauliflower Fungus
Sparassis Crispa

Selectors' Awards

Roger Hance FRPS

Terry Bickley ARPS
Meadow Pipit

John Bulpit FRPS
Blue tailed damselfly
cleaning abdomen

Sheila Weir
Dryad's Saddle

Richard Revels FRPS

Dickie Duckett ARPS
White-tailed Eagle & fish

Dickie Duckett ARPS
Red Fox

John Jones ARP
Golden Scalycap
Pholita aurivella

Margret Sixsmith ARPS

David Osborn FRPS
Osprey with nesting
material

Michael Huggan ARPS
Lion on Termite mound

John Jones ARPS
Common Spotted Orchids

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:

Author

Karen Berry ARPS

Terry M Bickley ARPS

Title

White Browed Coucal

Anthus pratensis Meadow Pipit

Clytus arietis Wasp Beetle

Asilidae Robber Fly

Award

Roger Hance Award

HC

Peter Bland FRPS	Startled Zebra, Etosha Namibia	
John Bulpit FRPS	Black-backed Jackals Harassing Seals, Namibia	
	Martial Eagle	
	Royal Tern displaying	
	Zebras, Ngorongoro	C
	Agama Lizard with Beetle	
	Blue-tailed Damselfly cleaning abdomen	Roger Hance Award
	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	Bronze Medal
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	C
	Bengal Tiger, Bandhavgarh India	C
Dickie Duckett ARPS	Pintail formation	
	Black Grouse displaying	HC
	Gulls feeding at sea	
	Puffin in flight	C
	White-tailed Eagle and fish	Richard Revels Award
	Red Fox	Richard Revels Award
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	Margaret Sixsmith Award
	Leopard	
	Gerenuk	
	Black Rhinoceros	
John Hunt ARPS	Kingfisher arising from water	
	Watching Kingfisher	
Peter Jones ARPS	Arctic Fox	HC
	Fluke of a Humpback Whale	
John Jones ARPS	Common Spotted Orchids	Margaret Sixsmith Award
	Cauliflower Fungus <i>Sparassis Crispa</i>	Bronze Medal
	Golden Scalycap <i>Pholita Aurivella</i>	Richard Revels Award
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	GOLD Medal

Margery J Maskell ARPS	Great Egret with twig King Penguins brooding Migrant Hawker hovering Maidenhair Spleenwort Fern <i>Stereocaulon Vesuvianum</i> Lichen	
Kevin I Maskell FRPS	Great Blue Heron landing at nest Doubled-Crested Cormorant with yellow bullhead catfish King Penguins coming ashore Piping Plover	HC C
Dave McKay ARPS	Leopard and cub Spotted Hyena grooming	
Ian McLean LRPS	Emerald Damselfly <i>Lestes sponsa</i> Peppered Moth <i>Biston betularia</i> Mountain Dappled White <i>Euchloe simplomia</i>	
Richard Merritt FRPS	<i>Risbecia Tryoni</i> Nudibranchs <i>Amphiprion Perideraion</i> Anemonefish Commensal Crab in tube sponge Cuttlefish eye and chromatophores Snowdrops in Dimmingsdale Fulmar	
Milke Middleton LRPS David Osborn FRPS	Osprey with nesting material Great Egret Willet in flight	Margaret Sixsmith Award
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	Bronze Medal C HC
Andrew Parsons ARPS	English Grey Partridge Male Chaffinch singing in blackthorn bush Male Banded Demoiselle Wild Arum	C
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 Black-necked Stilt Willet	C
John Weir ARPS	Dryad's Saddle	Roger Hance Award
Sheila Weir Caroline Yates LRPS	Swallow Tailed Bee Eater Namibia Greater Kestrel with a lizard, Namibia Feeding Lion, Namibia Tree and dunes Namibia	HC

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

Louis Rumis ARPS
Grizzly skinning Salmon

Tony Bond FRPS
Coprinus micaceus

Margaret Sixsmith ARPS

Louis Rumis ARPS
Juvenile Bald Eagle

Gloria Cotton ARPS
Elephants tussling

Terry Bickley ARPS
Old Man of the Woods

Roger Hance FRPS

Norman Lock ARPS
Fledgling Kestrels

Mike Wilkes FRPS
Cheetah Hunting

John Jones ARPS
Shaggy Scalycap

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 **Dribbles 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	<i>Eristalis tenax</i> Drone Fly	C
	<i>Zygaena filipendulae</i> 5-Spot Burnet Moths	
	<i>Tetragaena pinicola</i> Orb Weaver	
	<i>Strobilomyces floccopus</i>	
	Old Man of the Woods	Margaret Sixsmith Award
	<i>Rhodotus palmatus</i> Wrinkled Peach	
	<i>Sedum acre</i> Biting Stonecrop	
Gautam Biswas LRPS	Cheetah Hunting	C
	Cheetah and cubs with kill	HC
Tony Bond FRPS	Rockhopper taking a shower	
	Engrailed	
	Buff Tip	
	<i>Russula Sanguinea</i>	
	<i>Coprinus Micascous</i>	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	<i>Gomphus vulgatissimus</i> general stage	
	Wolf Spider carrying young	
Andy Callow FRPS	Empid Fly	
	Black ant and Aphids	
David Cantrille FRPS	Avocets Mating	HC
	Willetts fighting	
	Reddish Egret fishing	Bronze Medal
	European Spoonbill feeding	
	Godwits fighting	
Gill Cardy ARPS	Tawny Owl in snowstorm	Richard Revels Award
	Bloody Cranesbill, The Burren	
Gloria Cotton ARPS	Cheetah with tiny cub Masai Mara	HC
	Reticulated Giraffe, Samburu	
	Elk Stag, Yellowstone	
	Wildebeest, Masai Mara	
	Elephants Tussling, Etosha	Margaret Sixsmith Award
Bob Devine	Curlew	
	Goliath Heron	HC
	Ringed Plover	
	At a Waterhole in Savuti	
Gordon W Follows ARPS	Corn Crake calling	
	Amorous Grey Seals	
	Brown Bear eating Salmon	C
	Zebras sparring	Bronze Medal
Jane Greateorex ARPS	King Penguin	
Robert Hawkesworth FRPS	Queen of Spain Fritillary	
	Grey Dagger	
	Early Purple Orchids	
	Clustered Brittlebill	
Barbara Hawkesworth ARPS	Fly Agaric	
	Beech Jelly Disc	

Barbara Hawkesworth ARPS	<i>Psathyrella candollena</i>	
Margaret Hodge FRPS	Hedgehog Fungus	
	Bark Beetle tracks	
John Jones ARPS	Compass Jellyfish feeding frenzy	
	Hairy Curtain Crust <i>Stereum hirsutum</i>	
	Shaggy Scalycap <i>Pholiota Squarrosa</i>	Roger Hance Award
	Prunus Serrula	
Norman E Lock ARPS	Tricoloured Heron	
	Bullfinch male	
	Fledgling Kestrels	Roger Hance Award
	Dipper with food	C
Jean MacWhirter LRPS	Black-tailed Godwit	C
	Secretary Bird	
	Driblets and Rope Lava	HC
Tony McDade FRPS	<i>Aoronicum grabiflorum</i>	
Reg Mellis ARPS	Marsh Tit	
	Short-eared Owl	C
	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	
	<i>Calocera viscosa</i> 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
	Sulphur Polypore	
	Fallen Horse Chesnut leaf	
Louis Rumis ARPS	Juvenile Bald Eagle, Alaska	Margaret Sixsmith Award
	Nightjar yawning	
	Bald Eagle in flight	
	Grizzly skinning Salmon	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	C
Kay Thompson ARPS	Net-winged Beetle	
	Water Buck	

Geoff Trinder ARPS	Silver Gull bathing	
John Weir ARPS	Reticulate Python in habitat	
Mike Wilkes FRPS	Glistening Inkcap	
	Tree Sparrows	Gold Medal
	Grey-backed Fiscal Shrike displaying	
	Fieldfare	
	Sally Lightfoot Crab	
	Cheetah Hunting	Roger Hance Award
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 Osborn 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	<i>Turstopus Truncatus</i>	
George Backshall	Common Blue Butterfly <i>Polyommatus icarus</i>	
John Berry ARPS	Black-tailed Skimmer	
	Finnish Goshawk	
	Peppered Moth on moss	
	Porcelain Fungus	
Terry Bickley ARPS	Common Spotted Orchid	HC
	Common Blue	
	<i>Psathyrella hydrophila</i>	
	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	Gold Medal
	Mountain Lion	
	Panda, China	
	Siberian Tiger	

Gill Cardy	Crested - Tit in snowstorm	
David Cantrille FRPS	Little Stint Reflection	
	Anhinga in full flight	
	Gannet in Flight	
Sandy Cleland FRPS	<i>Aranaeus Quadratus</i>	
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	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	Richard Revels Award
	King Penguin Group	
	King Penguin Rookery, South Georgia	
	Emerging <i>Amanita muscaria</i>	
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	
	<i>Chromodorid nudibranch</i>	
	Schooling Barracuda	
	Whaleshark feeding on plankton	
Philip Mugridge ARPS	Swallow chicks	
	Great Grey Owl	

Philip Mugridge ARPS	Little Owl Tawny Owl chicks Waxwings Lammergeier	
David Osborn FRPS	Falkland Skua Gentoo Penguin Male Merlin Northern Fulmer Osprey	Roger Hance Award
Dawn Osborn FRPS	Bull Elk calling Great Blue Heron in flight Laughing Gull in flight Laughing Gull pair	HC
Andrew Parsons ARPS	Young Leveret Emperor Moth Larva on Hawthorn	
Monica Pepper	Arctic Fox Walrus Polar Bear Polar Bear	
Jane Rees	<i>Hericum erinaceous</i>	
David Robinson	Northern Fulmar Grey Seal Little Grebe Whooper Swans	Margaret Sixsmith Award
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 <i>Pholiota squarrosa</i> Speckled Wood	
Mervyn Seltzer	Impala Ram & family Polar Bear with kill Polar Bear	
Colin Smith FRPS	Nemoptera coa C Natterjack Toads in Amplexus Earth Star discharging Spores Kingfisher flying from nest Common Tern Broad-bodied Libellula	C HC
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	

Awards Group A Slides



Above:
Bronze Medal
Reddish Egret fishing
David Cantrille FRPS



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

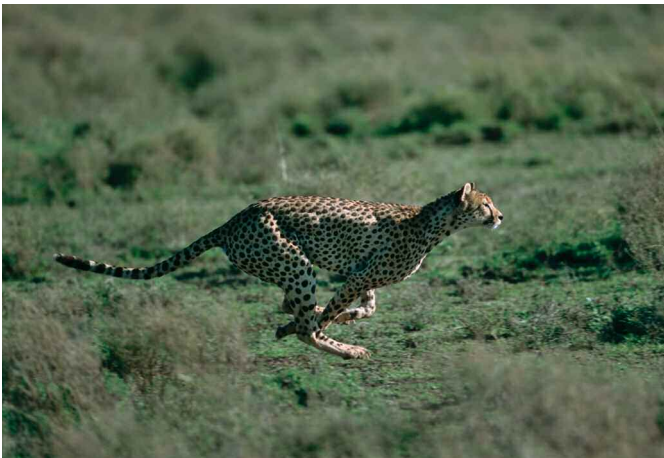


Right:
Roger Hance Award
Fledgling Kestrels
Norman Locke ARPS

Selectors' Awards Group B Slides



Above:
Margaret Sixsmith Award
Elephants Tussocking
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

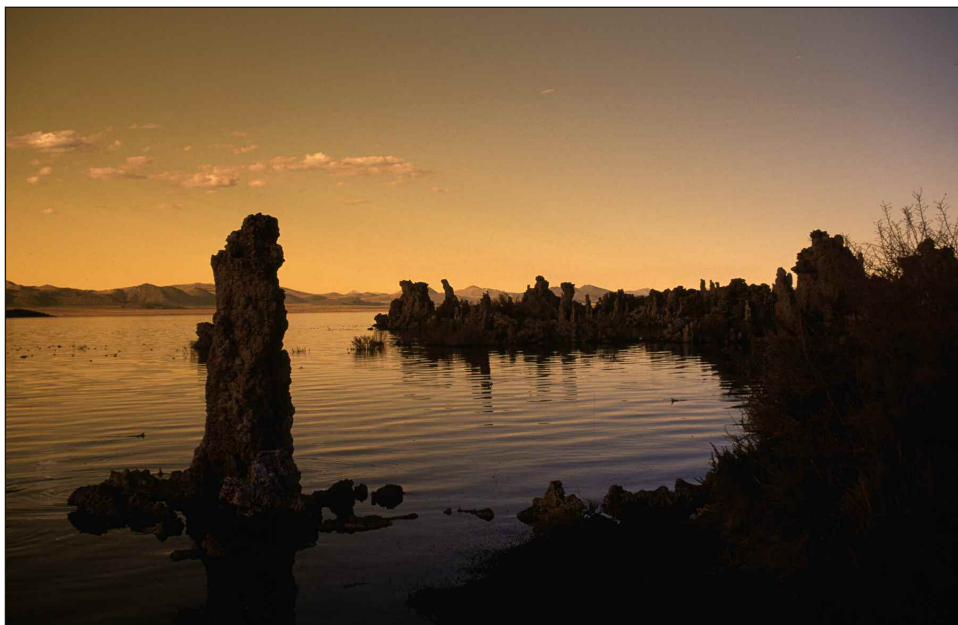




The Mono Lake Filter

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	2.00 pm	Wildlife of the Falkland Islands by Dawn Osborn FRPS Dawn's FRPS Panel will also be on display.
10.30 am	Introduction & presentation from the Chairman, Geoff Trinder ARPS		
11.15 am	Birding in North-west Spain - Susan & Alan Parker ARPS	3.0 pm	John Tinning will show a selection of his work
12.00 noon	Orchids of the Peak District John Jones ARPS	4.00 pm	Coffee/Tea and finish time
12.45 pm	Lunch		

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 _____



Tiger hunting begins 6th and ends 19th April 2008

Nicholas Reuss ARPS will lead this photographic tour to Kaziranga, Ranthambore, Keoladeo Ghana Bird Sanctuary, Bandhavgarh and Khana. As well as tiger we expect to get shots of rhinoceros, buffalo, elephant, gaur, deer, antelope and boar. There will be a plethora of birds, reptiles and insects on show. For full details of this and all our other Asian expeditions visit:

www.toursforphotographers.com

or email us at

office@toursforphotographers.com



'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

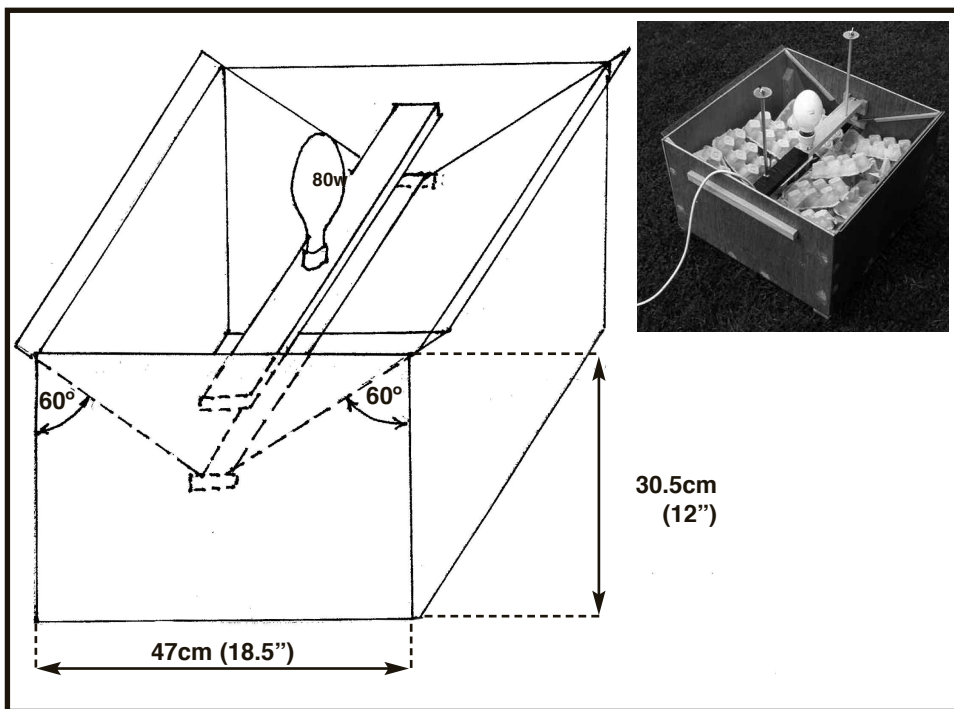
In the Spring issue of 'The Iris' 2006, No. 94, my good friend Tony Bond FRPS, wrote a splendid article about the moths he had photographed which had been trapped close to his home in Leigh, Lancashire. Tony does not have a trap himself but has a friend who does the trapping and when anything interesting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

My interest in moth trapping goes back only to 2003 when Nick Jarvis ARPS 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 60° 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 in to 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 can 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: Ainsdale Beach

- Grid reference: S D 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, dragons, damsels 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): 07960 177291

- **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

- **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 194642

- 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 recommended.

- 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.

- **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

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

Birds of Florida

March 2008 Fully Booked
Reserve now for April 2009

Yellowstone

September 2008

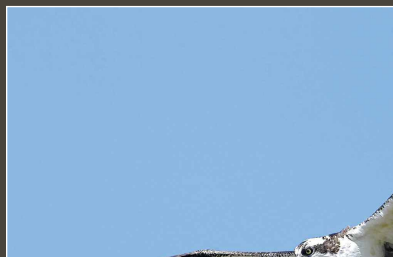
Canadian Rockies

September 2009

Wildlife of the Falkland Islands

November 2008 and
November 2009

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

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.

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

**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 Ingrams 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 International 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 Ukraine.
- Atsinanana Rainforest, Madagascar.

- **Planet Earth Explorer**

Check out the BBC's Planet Earth webpages: www.bbc.co.uk/nature/animals/planetearth/

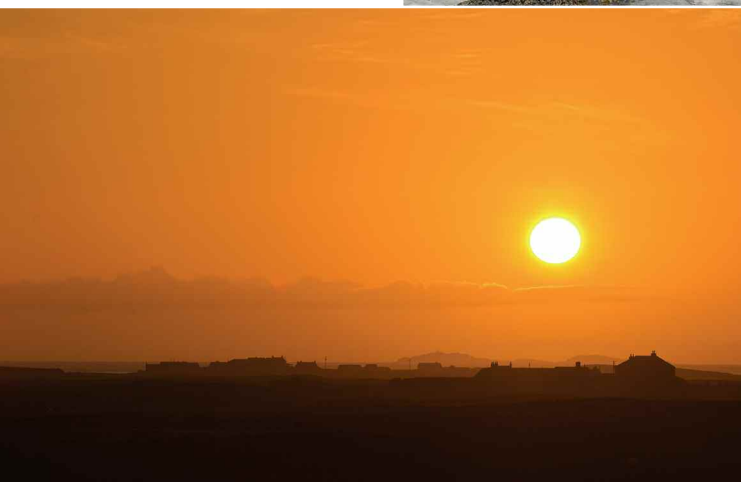
Right:
Balranald beach



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