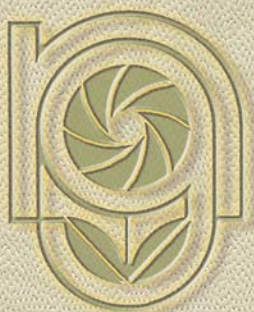


RPS



THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY



NATURE

GROUP



THE IRIS

*No. 80 - Summer 2001*



Photo:- Pete Cairns - “Golden Eagle” (subject is a controlled bird) - article page 26.



## NATURE GROUP COMMITTEE

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*The Royal Photographic Society's President;  
Secretary General; Hon. Treasurer and Finance  
Officer are also ex-officio members, as is the  
Chairman of the A & F Nature Distinctions Panel.*

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reviews on relevant books & equip-  
ment. Copy can be accepted on flop-  
py disc (RTF or Microsoft 'Word')  
accompanied by printed copy. As an  
E-mail (**please not as an attach-  
ment**) or simply typed, double  
spaced, on one side of the paper only.  
Please send submissions to The  
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those who have failed to receive  
them.

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**Front Cover Photo** by Roy Place FRPS - “Male & Female Black-winged Stilts”  
3rd Place Slide Section - Annual Exhibition.

**Back Cover Photo** by Peter Beasley ARPS - “Common Buzzard” *Buteo buteo*  
Gold Medal Winner - Annual Exhibition.

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## EDITORIAL

For many reasons it seems to have been a very strange year so far. It feels to me that the year never really started and then, suddenly, I realize that five months of it have gone! I suppose the dreadful weather combined with the appalling foot and mouth disease have combined to keep me indoors and create this feeling.

In Worcestershire, as in much of the country, much of the ground is still waterlogged. Spring didn't happen, even in early May trees and hedgerows seemed reluctant to show green; then there were those hot few days; now everything is in full leaf. Roadside verges are lush with some of the best displays of wild flowers for many years. What a pity we still cannot get into the countryside with our cameras.

Much has been written about the foot and mouth disease and its ramifications and many opinions, often contradictory, have been expressed. As nature photographers the minor inconvenience of having our activities temporarily curtailed cannot even be contemplated when considering the disastrous effects throughout the country. My hope is that the episode will provide such a shock to those in government, farming, tourism, and anything even remotely connected with the countryside and its ecology that they will all unite. That, together, they will take a clear, radical and holistic approach to introduce systems that will ensure an ongoing future for all that is best in British farming, the maintenance of our countryside and the preservation of our wildlife.

*Field Meetings.* This is being written on 21st May and there is still no clear indication of what areas will be opened, or when. Don't assume anything. *Please telephone leaders to ascertain if their meeting is on. That way they will also know what support they have.*

*Nature Group Silver Medal.* You will see from the report on page 15 that my colleagues have been so kind as to make me the recipient of this award. At the presentation at our AGM Martin Withers said many kind and generous things for which I was deeply appreciative. When I stood to acknowledge the award I knew exactly what I wanted to say but, as sometimes happens on these occasions, much remained unspoken. Therefore I will try to make good that omission now.

"Let me start by saying that I feel deeply honoured. In reality the award also belongs to all those that I have worked with in the Nature Group who have made it so easy for me to carry out my duties over the years. This includes not only colleagues during my twelve years on committee but also all those who have contributed in any way to The Iris during my editorship. Lastly, but as important, all the Nature Group members who I have been in contact with over the years who have made me feel that what I was doing was worthwhile.

Although I have never been one for entering many exhibitions I have received the odd award over the years. The one which has always taken pride of place is the Gold Medal I received for 'Best Slide' in the Nature Group Annual Exhibition 1988/89. That pride of place is now shared with my Silver Medal. Two awards that I shall always treasure above others. Those who regard certain birthdays as 'milestones' may be interested to know that I received the Silver Medal four weeks before my 60th birthday. There could not be a better birthday present.

My grateful thanks to you all." ❀

"FROM THE CHAIR" - DAWN OSBORN ARPS.

Members will understand when I explain that this will not appear in this issue due to the sudden death of Dawn's father. Please see page 22.

## ***“THE NATURE GROUP ON THE NET”***

*BY NICK JARVIS ARPS*

### ***Introduction***

The Nature Group now has its own Internet site, where members of the group can exchange information. Access to the site is restricted to Nature Group members only, unlike the main RPS site, there is no public access. The site is in effect a private virtual Notice Board, to which any member can post items at any time with immediate effect.

The site has been created using the “Groups” facility, recently introduced by AOL. You do not have to be an AOL subscriber to access it, nor do you need any additional software. However, you do need to have an e-mail address. If you do not have Internet access yet, you may like to file this article away for future reference.

### ***Jargon and terms used from hereon***

Nature Group	All members of the RPS Nature Group
Group	Members of the electronic virtual Group
Notice Board	The Internet site to which Group members have access

### ***Joining the Group***

In order to join the Group, you have to be sent a special e-mail (invitation) and reply to it appropriately. You are given 60 days to accept the invitation. You can choose to leave the Group at any time if you wish. To join the Group, please write to Robert Hawkesworth FRPS, who will confirm your membership of the Nature Group and send you detailed instructions on how to access the Notice Board.

### ***Sticking things on the Notice Board***

Any member of the Group can add items to the Notice Board in any of the following categories:-

*Events*:- Anything which will occur at a fixed time - e.g. field meetings. I do not expect this to replace the usual publication of field meetings in *The Iris*, but they could be included here also. You could use this facility to advertise meetings that are organised at too short notice to go in *The Iris*. If, for example, your meeting depends critically on the flowering of a particular flower, then you could give an approximate date for publication in *The Iris* and use the Notice Board to advertise the exact date nearer the time.

*Postings*:- Any text message – e.g. photo opportunities, requests for help or information, recent sightings, book reviews, indeed anything that might be of interest to members. You can include items for sale, but if you have a very long list or are doing it commercially, then please see “web links” below.

*Web links*:- A link to your own web site, or links to other sites of possible use to members. You can include commercial sites, either your own or other peoples, if these are in some way connected with nature photography. No “adult only” sites please!

*Photos*:- These are organised into collections. You can choose to add photos to an existing collection, or create a new one. The web space is limited to 8MB, so this facility will have to be used with discretion. It might for example be used to post a map related to an Event, which could then be removed once the Event had occurred. If you want to put lots of pictures on the web, then this is probably not the place. You could of course create your

own site for this, and supply a link as above. Alternatively, consider using the Portfolio facility on the main RPS site.

Items will appear more or less immediately on the Notice Board. You can edit or delete your own items at any time. When posting items to the Notice Board, please behave with the same courtesy and consideration for other members as you would when writing articles for the Iris. Also, please delete your own items if/when they become redundant.

### ***Other Group Facilities***

*View all members (who have joined):*-This allows Group members to see a list of all other members, including their e-mail addresses. You can change your personal details at any time. Note that if you supply a date of birth, you and the rest of the group will automatically be reminded of your advancing age each year!

*Instant messaging:*-Also known as chat. I do not expect to use this facility myself, but it is there if you wish to use it. Non-AOL-subscribers will need to download the Instant Messaging software if you wish to use this.

### ***And Finally ...***

I have primed the Notice Board with a few items, just to illustrate how it can be used. Do please send me an e-mail to let me know what you think, or of course if you have any problems with the Notice Board. Happy surfing! ☘

### ***ADDENDUM - IMPORTANT***

As stated the Notice Board is only available to Nature Group members. *Robert Hawkesworth, our Group Secretary, has emphasised that those wishing to join this facility must write (by 'snail mail' i.e good old fashioned letter) to him in the first instance quoting their RPS membership number and e-mail address.* He will then, after confirming that the applicant is a Nature Group member, forward the letter to Nick Jarvis . Nick, as stated above, will then send the e-mail invitation to join direct to the member.

The above may seem a little cumbersome in today's electronic world but Robert currently doesn't have e-mail. However he does hold our membership list and it is felt important that the facility should not be accessed by non-members who might misuse it.

Nick and the rest of our Committee wish to stress that the Notice Board is an *additional* facility for those members with computers and e-mail who wish to use it. It is felt that it will prove a valuable means of allowing such members to communicate directly with each other.

*Please note though that those wishing to communicate with any committee member should make contact direct, not via the Notice Board. The Iris will remain as the primary means of communication to members.*

At such time in the future that we have our own web site I feel the Notice Board should remain. I would see the web site as being the Nature Group's 'advert' to the world at large whilst the Notice Board would be our 'secure' means of communication between members. *Editor.*

## **“ON PHOTOGRAPHING SOME FUNGI”**

BY KAREN CLELAND ARPS

As is the situation for so many people these days I do not have as much time for photography as I would like. I have been spending a lot of time recently concentrating on fungi and lower order plants. Fortunately near where I live there are a couple of locations which have exhibited over the last couple of seasons a wealth of fungi.

One of my favourite fungi is *Mycena leptocephala* due to its fragility and elegance and I enjoyed trying to capture that on film. I have read that they smell of ammonia but I have to say that I didn't notice. It is amazing how concentrating taking a photograph blocks out so many other things including marauding insects and very muddy knees!

Not surprisingly the colourful fungi catch everyone's attention. I was fortunate to find *Amanita muscaria* still with its white pyramidal warts on the cap. I have observed them a lot with disappointment with the cap smooth and the colour faded due to all the rain we have been having. The common name Fly Agaric is derived from the practice of breaking the cap into platefuls of milk to stupefy flies, the practice having been used since medieval times. I understand that reindeers are so partial to this fungus and its intoxicating effects that a wandering herd can be rounded up by scattering pieces of fly agaric on the ground. I have to say that I did not notice any Fly Agaric being used when I visited the reindeer in the Cairngorms!

I did not know at the time that I was photographing Amethyst Deceiver (*Laccaria amethystina*) that it is one of the most efficient accumulators of radioactive elements. Again the photograph was taken locally and on an outing with the Edinburgh Photographic Society. Needless to say it was one of the most popular subjects on the fungi foray.

The orange peel fungus (*Aleuria aurantia*) was discovered at the side of a forestry commission track in an area of bare soil and some grass. It is easy to see how it received its common name and I am glad I investigated it rather than dismissing it as remnants of a picnic. Although I did find it quite difficult to photograph.

The area I have been exploring recently has revealed a number of members of the *Hygrocybe* family. *Hygrocybe cantharellus* was found amongst some damp moss in autumn. I then went on to concentrate on the mosses, sliding along the ground in the process.

On another occasion I had the opportunity of photographing the bright scarlet *Hygrocybe miniata*. This is distinguished from the other small, bright red species in this genus by its dry scurfy cap. I photographed the Scarlet Hood (*Hygrocybe coccinea*) in late summer and I think it was nearing the end of its life as its gills were darker with a yellowish edge.

More recently I appear to have been photographing fungi on trees as opposed to the ground. I spent a Sunday morning with my feet in an extremely cold stream photographing Trooping Crumble Cap. As ever I did not notice how cold it was until I had finished taking the photographs. I took my first natural history photograph of 2001 on the 2nd of January of winter fungus and hope to take many more natural history photographs over the course of the year ❀





Photo:- Karen Cleland ARPS  
“*Mycena leptcephala*”.



Photo:- Karen Cleland ARPS  
“Amethyst Deceiver” (*Laccaria amethystina*).



Photo:- Karen Cleland ARPS  
“Scarlet Hood” (*Hygrocybe coccinea*).



Photo:- Karen Cleland ARPS  
“Orange Peel” (*Aleuria aurantia*).



## **MINUTES OF THE RPS NATURE GROUP 2001 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

The 25th Annual General Meeting of the Royal Photographic Society Nature Group was held at The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury, on Saturday 28 April 2001 at 2.00 p.m.. It was chaired by Martin Withers FRPS and was attended by 47 members.

### ***APOLOGIES***

These were received from Peter Basterfield, John Bebbington, Bert Crawshaw, John Fairbanks, David Mazey, Roy Place, Dorothy Place and Bert Wason

### ***MINUTES OF THE 2000 AGM***

The minutes of the 2000 AGM printed in issue 77 of The Iris were approved and signed by Martin Withers as a correct record of what then took place.

### ***MATTERS ARISING***

There were none.

### ***TO ADOPT THE NEW REGULATIONS OF THE NATURE GROUP***

These new Regulations having been circulated with issue 79 of The Iris were adopted unanimously following a proposal by Barbara Lawton which was seconded by Peter Jones.

### ***CHAIRMAN'S REPORT - MARTIN WITHERS FRPS***

My two-year term as Chairman of the Nature Group seems to have passed very quickly - the position, which I now relinquish to Dawn Osborn ARPS, proved to be far less onerous than I had initially envisaged. Working alongside Nature Group Committee Members has been a most satisfying and enjoyable experience.

During the last two years, I have witnessed at first hand the tremendous work undertaken by the Committee on behalf of members. We are indeed fortunate to have Nature Group members who are prepared to serve on Committee, giving their time and expertise to ensure the smooth running of the Group and who provide a varied events programme, an annual exhibition and a group magazine, that are the envy of many other RPS Groups. Dawn Osborn has proved to be a valued Vice Chairman, deputising for me on several occasions without complaint. She has also kept the profile of the Nature Group to the fore with her reports in the Society's Journal. John Myring has done magnificent work in his capacity as Treasurer and as Editor of 'The Iris', both producing and distributing, along with his wife Margaret, the excellent Group magazine. Robert Hawkesworth has worked tirelessly as the Group's Secretary, while Roy Place has produced a crop of varied and interesting Field Meetings. Peter Jones and Sue Wilson organised this year's Annual Exhibition with admirable skill, ably assisted by Tony Wharton whose wise counsel and enthusiasm over many years has been much appreciated. Kath Bull has organised some special events which have been very successful, as well as representing the interests of the Nature Group on the RPS Advisory Board. Barbara Lawton and Peter Basterfield have also provided the Nature Group with endless support on many occasions. Without exception, during my term in office, all members of the Committee have performed their duties to the very highest standards thereby making my position as Chairman a memorable experience. I convey heartfelt thanks to them all.

## ***TREASURER'S REPORT - JOHN MYRING ARPS***

The accounts are presented in their usual basic form covering the major items but, as always, I have a detailed breakdown and will be happy to answer any questions. Firstly let me comment on the revised banking arrangements.

In order to comply with various regulatory bodies the RPS and its Trustees have had to institute changes which led to the rewriting of our Constitution. Item 4 of today's agenda covered our new Regulations of which Article 11 - Finance details the technicalities.

The practical effects are that our bank account is now a 'memorandum' account within the RPS's current account at Barclays, Bath. The previous interest bearing accounts have been closed and surplus monies are now invested on our behalf by the RPS Finance Officer. A surplus which the RPS has confirmed in writing they would not use without the specific authority of the group. After using the new system for virtually twelve months I haven't found that it causes us any inconvenience and has meant that we've obtained marginally better interest rates.

*Subscriptions:-* At the time this report is being prepared there are continuing problems with the computer system at RPS headquarters. One of the results being that the membership department have been unable to provide me with individual details for those members renewing their group subscription in January and February. Instead the Finance Officer has made a 'lump sum' payment based on the number renewing their subscriptions for the same two months the previous year. An adjustment may have to be made once the system is running but (compared to my own records) I feel the figures appear reasonably accurate.

I am aware that some members have suffered inconvenience and become frustrated in their attempts to have their group subscription renewed. Should anyone find themselves in that position please advise our Secretary who will liaise with other committee members thus hopefully ensuring that we don't lose contact whilst the computer problem is being rectified.

*Annual Exhibition:-* The re-timing of our annual exhibition has meant that the majority of expenditure for it falls into the following financial year therefore a straight annual comparison is not possible from the accounts. Obviously the financial position of each exhibition is monitored and, subject to receiving final invoices, I anticipate this year's will show a shortfall of some £250. Currently it is felt that as a major group event it should be subsidised when necessary.

That concludes my report on this year's accounts but before dealing with any questions I would add the following.

As some of you will know this is my final report as Treasurer, a position which I'm stepping down from after ten years. During this period we have had our financial ups and downs and purchased a couple of capital items. Despite this I noticed when looking back through our records that when I took over our balances totalled £9078 as against the £16222 shown in this year's accounts.

During that ten years members of the committee have changed from time to time but I've always received complete confidence and the utmost co-operation which has made my job so much easier. My grateful thanks to all.



# THE NATURE GROUP OF THE ROYAL PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETY

## Income and Expenditure Account for 1st April 2000 to 31st March 2001

	<u>Expenditure</u>			<u>Income</u>	
	<u>Yr. 99/2000</u>	<u>Yr.00/2001</u>		<u>Yr. 99/2000</u>	<u>Yr. 00/2001</u>
The Iris incl postage	5819.83	5992.10	Subscriptions 99/2000-635 // 00/01-643*	7002.16	7090.72
Lectures & Workshops	1506.21	246.99	Lectures & Workshops	1218.00	130.00
Annual Exhibition	565.65	1071.64	Annual Exhibition	573.78	822.33
General Administration	1981.65	1620.68	Interest received	631.46	984.28
			Sundry Income	524.20	404.62
<b>sub total</b>	<b>9873.34</b>	<b>8931.41</b>	<b>sub total</b>	<b>9949.60</b>	<b>9431.95</b>
Surplus	76.26	500.54			
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9949.60</b>	<b>9431.95</b>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>9949.60</b>	<b>9431.95</b>

### BALANCE AS AT:-

Year ended 31/3/00	15721.76	1/4/00 brought forward plus surplus year ended 31/3/01	15721.76 <u>500.54</u> <u>16222.30</u>
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### REPRESENTED BY:-

Balances at Bank C/A	-59.83	C/A	1657.72
B.P.A	4568.11	B.P.A closed	
H.I.B.A	4648.08	H.I.B.A closed	
Nat Savings Dep Bond	<u>7525.40</u>	Nat Sav D.B closed	
<b>sub total</b>	<b>16681.76</b>	Reserve - RPS CAF a/c	<u>15674.58</u>
less deposits held	<u>960.00</u>	<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>17332.30</u>
<b>TOTAL</b>	<u>15721.76</u>	less deposits held	<u>1110.00</u> <u>16222.30</u>

### NOTES

1/. Subscriptions \* due to computer problems at RPS 'estimated' renewals for January & February have been paid over. These amounts (and numbers of members) may need subsequent adjustment when the system is able to verify information.

2/. In line with our Accountant's advice the following have been excluded from the Income & Expenditure figures. Deposits of £1110 for Brooksby Convention Aug 01 (though VAT paid). Payment of all deposits previously held for both Dorset Weekend and Scottish Isles Trip of £1785 comprising £960 from previous year and £825 received this year.

### AUDITORS REPORT TO THE MEMBERS

We have examined the above Balance Sheet and Income & Expenditure Account and confirm that they have been properly prepared from the accounting records of the Group and are in accordance with the information and explanations presented to us.

*Woodall Davies & Bache - Chartered Certified Accountants - 25th April 2001*

## ***SECRETARY'S REPORT - ROBERT HAWKESWORTH FRPS***

The early part of the year was dominated by work on the new regulations and once they were on the way all went quite smoothly until the RPS had problems with their membership database. This has meant that we do not have any up-to-date information regarding our members. I can only ask for patience from all those who do not receive expected communications. New members will not have been contacted by me as usual simply because HQ have not been in a position to inform me of their membership. I have been informed that the problem has now been solved and hopefully we should soon be back to normal.

From time to time members contact me and I would like to take this opportunity to say that all members should feel perfectly able to do so whenever they feel they have a query or problem, if I am not able to help personally then I am quite sure that I can put the problem in the right quarter.

### ***THE ELECTION OF OFFICERS, COMMITTEE AND AUDITORS FOR 2001/3.***

The following had been duly nominated for Office;

Chairman, Dawn Osborn; Vice-Chairman, Roy Place; Hon. Secretary, Robert Hawkesworth; Hon. Treasurer, Trevor Hyman; Representative on the Advisory Council RPS, John Bebbington. There were no other nominations and in accordance with the Regulations all were declared elected. There were five nominations for Committee Members; Peter Basterfield, Sue Goody, Nick Jarvis, Barbara Lawton and Tony Wharton. Three scrutineers were appointed, Roger Jaques, Margaret Johnson and Ron Price and the following were elected; Sue Goody, Nick Jarvis, Barbara Lawton and Tony Wharton.

The following members of the Nature Group were declared as ex-Officio Members of the Committee; Immediate Past Chairman and Chairman of the A& F Panel, Martin Withers; Editor of The Iris, John Myring; Exhibition Secretary, Peter Jones.

Messrs. Woodall, Davies and Bache wished to retire as auditors for The Group having given their services freely for many years. A proposal from Kath Bull seconded by Peter Jones that C. S. Wilkinson Chartered Accountants and Registered Auditors of 49B Market Square, Witney should be the new auditors was approved. A letter of thanks to Messrs. Woodall, Davies and Bache would be sent.

### ***THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY CONVENTION***

Martin Withers reported that the Convention was almost fully booked as far as residential places were concerned. Members were encouraged to book quickly and also to attend on a daily basis.

### ***ANY OTHER BUSINESS***

An item for consideration had been received from John Fairbank that provision should be made for postal voting for Officers and Committee at AGMs. Some discussion took place ranging from those who felt that the situation should remain, to those who took the opposite view. A proposal from Prof. Brian Ferry that the Committee should, at their September meeting, consider introducing a postal system in which the nominations would be printed in the Spring issue of The Iris and members wishing to vote should then request a postal ballot paper, met with approval.

There being no other business Martin Withers then rose to make a presentation of a Silver Medal to John Myring ARPS. The citation is printed separately. John thanked Martin and The Group for the honour saying it would be treasured greatly.

### *DATE AND VENUE OF THE 26TH AGM*

This would be Saturday 27th April 2002 at The Old Schoolhouse, Oldbury.

Martin Withers then handed over to the new Chairman, Dawn Osborn ARPS. Dawn thanked all the Officers and Committee and expressed the hope that she would be as successful in office as Martin had been. The meeting closed at 2.55 p.m. ❀

### *CITATION FOR NATURE GROUP SILVER MEDAL*

In 1990, Gordon Dickson, then Chairman of the Nature Group, proposed the introduction of an award in recognition of exceptional service to other Nature Group members, to be known as Nature Group Silver Medals.

Since 1990 only three such medals have been struck, (Martin Withers FRPS (1990), Louis Rumis ARPS (1997) and Tony Wharton FRPS (1997)), this gives some indication as to the significance of this particular award.

The Nature Group Committee unanimously endorsed my proposal that a Nature Group Silver Medal be awarded this year to John Myring ARPS. John's record of service to the Group goes back to 1989, when he was first elected to the Committee. He took over the reins of Treasurer in 1991, a position he held until the AGM of this year when he finally stood down from this office. As well as giving freely of his financial expertise, in 1996, John also took on the Editorship of the Iris, the Group magazine, a position he still holds. During the course of the last twelve years, John has given a tremendous amount of time to all matters relating to the smooth running of the Nature Group and in recognition of this outstanding service, I have pleasure in welcoming John as the fourth recipient of a Nature Group Silver Medal ❀



There is now a poignancy to this photograph. Roy Osborn ARPS, who took the original colour photo at our AGM, died a few days later.

Both Joyce and Dawn Osborn were insistent that Roy would wish the photograph to be published.

John Myring ARPS (Left) receiving the Nature Group Silver Medal from Chairman Martin Withers FRPS at our AGM.

## ***NATURE GROUP ANNUAL EXHIBITIONS***

**AVAILABLE FOR HIRE BY PHOTOGRAPHIC SOCIETIES**

### **ALL RPS NATURE GROUP ANNUAL EXHIBITIONS**

Not all members may be aware that each year accepted entries into our Annual Exhibition are copied to form an archival record which is available for hire at a modest cost (currently £15 plus return postage). Each consists of copies of the Accepted slides and prints, the Exhibition catalogue, and the taped and written commentaries

### **ARCHIVAL EXHIBITIONS**

The following past Annual Exhibitions are held by the archivist.

1983-84	1987-88	1991-92	1995-96
1984-85	1988-89	1992-93	1996-97
1985-86	1989-90	1993-94	1997-98
1986-87	1990-91	1994-95	1998-99

Current and future exhibitions will be added to the list.

For the years listed above please contact:-

*Mrs. Kath Bull ARPS - "Segsbury" St. John's Road, Crowborough, East Sussex, TN6 1RT. Tel:- 01892-663751.*

### **VENUES FOR OUR CURRENT EXHIBITION 2001:-**

01/08/2001 Bristol PS.	21/09/2001 Leicester & Leics PS.
01/10/2001 Battle CC., St. Leonards on Sea.	08/10/2001 Caernarfon CC.
19/10/2001 Fosse CC., Leicester.	08/11/2001 Tonbridge CC.
13/12/2001 Loughborough PS	04/01/2002 Menai Bridge CC., Anglesey.
10/01/2002 Abingdon CC.	21/01/2002 Poulton-Le-Fylde PS., Blackpool.
25/01/2002 South Birmingham PS.	13/02/2002 LRWJT Charnwood, Loughborough.
04/03/2002 Yeovil PS	12/03/2002 Leamington Spa PS.
08/04/2002 Cornwall WT., Garras.	11/04/2002 Heiston CC.
28/05/2002 Bath CC.	

Anyone interested in hiring the current exhibition should contact:-

*Peter Jones ARPS - 3, Curlew Close, Mountsorrel, Loughborough,  
Leicestershire, LE12 7ED. Tel:- 01509-412286.*

### ***AWARD WINNERS FROM OUR 2001 EXHIBITION***

Those photographs awarded 1st 2nd & 3rd places and Selector's awards in the Print and Transparency sections can be seen on the front and back outer covers and on pages 17 to 20 and 35.





Photo:- Sandy Cleland FRPS - "Ichneumon Fly Oviposting"  
Annual Exhibition - Gold Medal Winner - Slide Section.

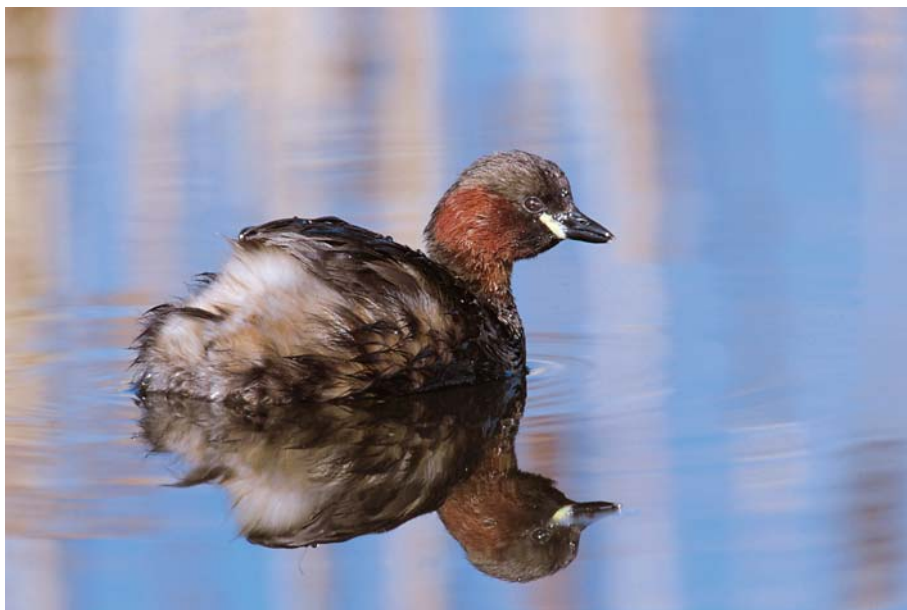


Photo:- Mike Lane FRPS - "Little Grebe"  
Annual Exhibition - Second Place - Slide Section



Photo:- Kevin Woods ARPS - “Green Lestes Damselfly”  
Annual Exhibition -Robert Hawkesworth FRPS - Selector’s Award - Print Section.



Photo:- Dennis Johnson ARPS - “Red-Legged Partridge”  
Annual Exhibition Martin Withers FRPS - Selector’s Award - Slide Section.



Photo:- Richard Revels FRPS - “Black Hairstreak Butterfly”  
Annual Exhibition -Second Place - Print Section.



Photo:- Stephanie Clack ARPS - “Chimpanzee at Chimfunshi - Zambia”  
Annual Exhibition -Colin Smith FRPS - Selector’s Award - Print Section.





Photo: - Peter Beasley ARPS - "Red-bellied Woodpecker"  
Annual Exhibition - Martin Withers - Award - Print Section.

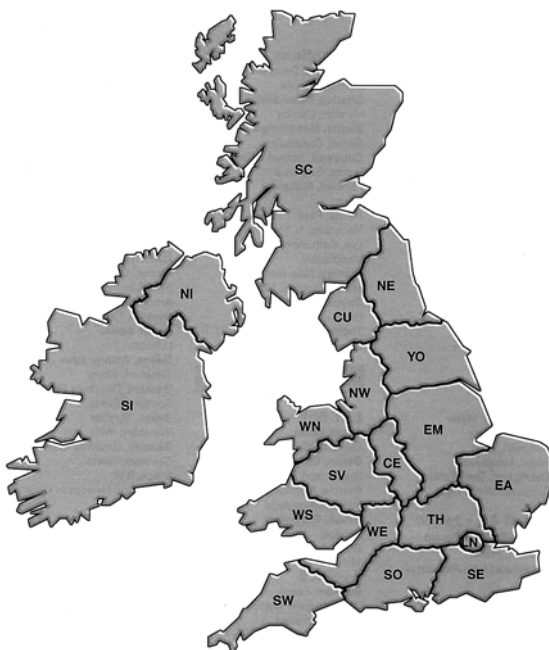


Photo: - John Hill ARPS - "Great Blue Heron"  
Annual Exhibition - Colin Smith FRPS - Award - Slide Section.



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

CE - CENTRAL	63
CU - CUMBRIA	9
EA - EAST ANGLIA	47
EM - EAST MIDLANDS	30
IN - IRELAND (NORTH) combined	4
IS - IRELAND (SOUTH)	
LN - LONDON	20
NE - NORTH EAST	13
WN - NORTH WALES	8
NW - NORTH WESTERN	49
SC - SCOTLAND	19
SV - SEVERN VALLEY	28
SE - SOUTH EASTERN	84
WS - SOUTH WALES	18
SW - SOUTH WESTERN	17
SO - SOUTHERN	51
TH - THAMES VALLEY	53
WE - WESTERN	33
YO - YORKSHIRE	20
<b>TOTAL UK</b>	<b>566</b>
OVERSEAS	51
<b>TOTAL MEMBERSHIP</b>	<b>617</b>



The statistics on this page are as at 31st January 2001  
and based on information provided by  
the RPS membership department.

Complimentary Members	1
Life members	13
Life members (Free)	78
Honorary FRPS	3
FRPS	86
ARPS	198
LRPS	150
Non Distinction holders	88
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>617</b>

*Map courtesy of the RPS Journal January / February 2001.*

## OBITUARIES

### **ROY OSBORN ARPS.**

Members will be saddened to learn of Roy's sudden death on the 6th May. Only the previous week he had attended our AGM enthusing on matters photographic in his usual gregarious manner.

He enjoyed wide ranging interests which included classical music, all aspects of the countryside and, of course, photography. Many of us will remember him for his love of all natural history, not only to photograph but also to simply observe and enjoy. Skills and a love which he shared with his family and it always seemed to me that he was far prouder of the achievements of Joyce, Dawn and David than of his own. He was delighted when David gained his FRPS; at Joyce receiving her ARPS, and at Dawn's election as Chairman of the Nature Group.

A Nature Group member of many years he came to our rescue in 1994 by offering to fill the empty position of Exhibition Secretary. Only a few of us know and appreciate the hard work and problems that he and Joyce initially encountered. Having resolved these they ran the exhibition in their typically friendly, efficient manner until 1998 when Roy was forced to relinquish the post through a period of poor health.

His photography covered a broad spectrum. A member of Wednesbury Photographic Society for over thirty years he was well known in Midland photographic circles for his lectures, audio-visual presentations and judging. In fact his APAGB recognized services to club photography and he received an MCPF award for judging. Always keen to explore new areas of photography he had recently become a regular attendee at RPS Digital Group meetings.

It is impossible to do justice to Roy with these words. Those attending the service heard a far fuller and better appreciation of his life. He was a man I am (as are so many others) proud to have known and call friend .

Our sympathy goes to Roy's family. I know they will understand what I am trying to express in the following. It seemed so appropriate that after the service a mallard was found nesting in a flowering basket hanging just a few paces from the crematorium chapel.

*John Myring ARPS*

### **DEREK TURNER ETTLINGER FRPS.**

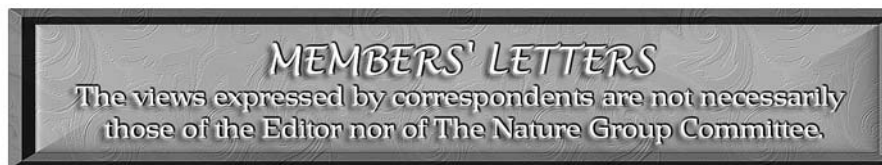
It was with great sadness that I learned in late January that Derek had died on the 23rd of that month. He began his interest in nature photography in the late 1940s whilst still serving in the RAF as a pilot instructor, building his own field camera which he reconstructed annually. He used an 8½" lens and a Luc shutter and fitted a 3½" x 2½" roll film back. His early work was almost exclusively on birds at the nest and then later in flight and for this approach he used 35 mm cameras. As his expertise grew he widened his photographic interests, taking a large range of natural history subjects moving from B & W to colour.

He had long since had an interest in orchids and this was developing into what was to become an all abiding passion in later years, publishing a book on the subject in the early 1970s. His love of orchids and his great knowledge continued to grow and he was amassing a huge collection of photographs, all of which culminated with the publication in 1997 of a splendid book "Notes on British and Irish Orchids" followed one year later by "Illustrations of British and Irish Orchids" both of which are quite indispensable to those interested in the subject. His transparencies of orchids he has left in his will to Kew and Edinburgh.

Derek served on the RPS 'A & F' Distinctions Panel later becoming its Chairman, in addition to which in 1974 he was elected President of the Nature Photographers' Portfolio in which position he continued to serve for 26 years.

It was a delight to accompany Derek in the field, he was quiet and scholarly but with a lovely twinkle in his eye and a quite disarming sense of humour. He was in every sense of the word a Gentleman. I shall not be alone in missing him enormously

*. Robert Hawkesworth FRPS.*



Dear John

I joined the Nature Group recently and have much enjoyed the editions of Iris that I have seen. John Fairbank's letter on the topic of digital photography was of great interest. I too have wrestled with the problems he mentions. It is easy enough to scan a transparency or colour negative, improve its contrast, brightness and acutance and crop it with Photoshop and then produce an excellent A4 print. Converting the result back into an acceptable transparency for lecture purposes (or publication as editors seem to prefer slides) is quite a different matter. Images may look perfect on the screen, but photographing them directly on to reversal film leads to an indifferent result - often with a blue cast that was not present on the monitor.

I have had some success with a copying stand however. Matt A4 inkjet prints from an Epsom Stylus 1270 were copied with a Pentax ME super camera loaded with Fujichrome MS 100/1000 film. I bracketed up and down one stop. The results were acceptable, but still showed an overall blue cast and a slight 'flatness' compared with the originals. I shall continue to experiment as this seems to be the best way forward for me. The other matter John mentions in his letter concerns the convenience of being able to see what you've got before leaving the location. On a recent trip to South Africa, my wife used a digital Fuji film Finepix 4700 zoom camera for 'general' photography. Our problem was not so much being able to check an image on the LCD - this was fairly easy using the zoom facility. Of more importance was the need to download images. We quickly filled up our smart media cards despite being able to delete unwanted frames and then had great difficulty in finding a photo lab that would put our images on a zip disc or CD, eventually locating one in Durban. Since our return, we have acquired a Toshiba lap top that is small and very light (less than 2 Kg) and had we had this machine in the Kruger we would have been able to obtain many more images as the Finepix was remarkably good at photographing the large mammals.

My main camera is a Canon EOS. As the Canon EOS D30 will be able to use the same lenses, I shall certainly get one when the prices come down. I might even sell my comprehensive Bronica ETRS outfit and put the proceeds towards it as I have little use now for medium format. In my view going entirely digital is the way forward for me and I certainly don't miss my chemical darkroom.

Yours sincerely, John Woodward LRPS (Hythe)

## ***THOUGHTS ON ATTITUDES .....***

### ***..... TO NATURAL HISTORY PHOTOGRAPHY.***

*BY MICHAEL SHIRLEY A.R.P.S.*

The article in *The Iris* by Nick Cloran FPSA raises many interesting issues in chronicling the difference in attitudes of Nature Photographers either side of the Atlantic.

The three grades of participation which he mentions apply equally as well over here though I prefer to be more brutal in reducing them to two. There are Naturalists who may also be photographers; on the other hand there are now in increasing numbers photographers who sometimes turn their attention to natural history subjects. As Rick suggests, these latter are not very likely to know much about their subject or for that matter have sufficient interest to want to find out more than is necessary for the production of a title, other than a trite one. They are a breed which not so long ago did not exist. The emergence of this group has been made possible only by the onset of the technological revolution which now makes relatively easy and commonplace aspects of photography previously demanding a specialised approach.

It is probably as true to say today as at any time that Naturalists are more likely to be born than made. A passion for the Natural Sciences, if it is to persist, usually shows itself at a very early age and the longer this interest is pursued the greater the foundation of knowledge based on observation which is accrued. One knows of many Photographers producing work of high quality who have been practising their craft for a relatively short time and I can recall only Lartigue as having started as a small boy. For Naturalists photography is merely but one means by which they can communicate aspects of their knowledge to others. Some, such as Gilbert White, Darwin and Wallace chose to write. Others have used brush or pencil to create their images and during the last century many more have chosen the photograph. Happily for some, photography has been the means of awakening an interest in the natural world which might otherwise have lain forever dormant.

Does it really matter whether a picture of a bird, flower, mammal or fish etc. is made in a zoo or other enclosed space, or out in the wilderness, if such now can be found. The important thing is the picture. Are David Shepherd's magnificently vibrant paintings of elephants less worthy because they may have been produced in a studio? The important point is whether or not the picture, in whatever medium, portrays its subject in an accurate and informative manner.

A life-size picture of a Botfly biting the backside of a Baboon in Botswana is hardly likely to be different from a picture of the same event captured in the Johannesburg Zoo or the Kruger Game Reserve. It might well be easier to procure and therefore be a better representation. So what!!!!?

The answer lies unstated toward the end of the article when the demanding rules and regulations of Competitions and Exhibitions are given a mention. These are probably necessary in some degree if only to give the Selectors some datum by which to judge. They may also be designed so as to try to eliminate advantage that one competitor might have over another. There are after all, prizes and accolades to be awarded. How dastardly that one competitor using relatively simple and inexpensive equipment might produce a winning picture of a Silver back Gorilla in the local zoo at the expense of a competitor with the financial means to own a supreme long-focus IS lens and the means to book a trip to Equatorial Africa where, in the company of knowledgeable locals as guides and safe escort, a similar or lesser picture might be procured. Neither person need to know much



about gorillas or their habitat. What is important is beating others to the post. That surely is the aim of COMPETITION? In the world of competition there are no handicaps awarded. All, whether naturalists or not must strain at the gate together and abide by the rules, if they wish to have a chance of reaping the rewards. Presumably consideration of such rules and regulations must determine to some degree how one photographs one's chosen subject, and even the choice of subject. However brilliantly photographed a *Colembola* is hardly likely to beat a less well photographed *Merops*!

So we are back to categories again. On the one hand the desire to illustrate in the best possible manner that which we have observed in the Natural World. And the desire to produce pictures for the purpose of competing against others in the hope of some kind of reward.

Nick finally brings home the difference in attitudes by reference to the acceptance on the one hand of portrait images or images attempting to show habitat. These are just trends of the moment and in essence are of little serious consequence. They will pass and undoubtedly make way for others. When, a long, long time ago I was taught photography and sought to apply it to my passion for Natural History, it was Dark Subdued Backgrounds which were the "in" thing. So called "habitat" pictures were not given much thought for the simple reason that good wide-angle lenses were not available and colour film and 35 mm cameras were only just becoming widely available at reasonable prices.

The Baboon biting Botfly may not appear as beautiful as the White-throated Bee-eater but it is probable that far less is known about it and photographs of its life cycle would be of great worth. Of course they won't win competitions. Who wants to look at nasty creepy-crawlies like that? ❀

### *ASSOCIATE & FELLOWSHIP - APPLICATION RESULTS*

The Associateship and Fellowship Nature Panel met on Tuesday March 13th 2001. The Panel was comprised of: Martin Withers FRPS (Chairman), Tony Wharton FRPS, Margaret Hodge FRPS, Harold Grenfell FRPS, John Bebbington FRPS and Dr. Anne Owen FRPS (co-opted).

The results of the assessments are detailed below:-

**Fellowship Prints – 3 submissions, none successful.**

**Fellowship Slides – 5 submissions, none successful.**

**Associateship Prints – 6 submissions, 4 successful.**

Mr. R.G. Srikantha - Mysore, India.

Rowland Willis - Buxton, Derbyshire.

John Jones - Kegworth, Derbyshire.

Emanuel Maria - Amanzimtoti, South Africa.

**Associateship Slides – 10 submissions, 2 successful.**

Ray Lightfoot – Peterborough.

Richard Duckett – Henley on Thames.

## ***“THE SCOTTISH SERENGETI ?”***

*BY PETE CAIRNS*

A gently swirling mist hung close to the ground, periodically enveloping the ghostly silhouettes grazing the lush spring grass. The taste of a crisp spring dawn and the earthy smell of the herd was palpable.

I could have been looking out across the extensive plains of the Serengeti during a wildebeest migration, instead I was hanging out of my bedroom window watching fifty Red Deer munch through my newly planted trees!

Any notion that these animals might be photographable with the same ease of their African cousins, disappeared (as did the deer) once they got my scent. Make no mistake, the Scottish Highlands may be blessed with a far greater abundance of wildlife than other areas of the UK but successful photography is never easy.

Living in Strathspey in the Central Highlands, I am indeed fortunate to have access to the local wildlife all year round. This makes it easier to study behaviour and movements at different times of year - this in turn, allows me to target certain species when they either look their best or are most approachable. This “local knowledge” is crucial for many species and I rely heavily on information given to me by local farmers or gamekeepers. This principle applies wherever you live and time spent in the field acquiring such knowledge will ultimately show in your photographs.

One of my favourite local subjects has to be Red Squirrels. They have their last remaining UK stronghold in The Highlands and are benefiting from expanding woodland cover. They are best photographed between November and March when their tails are bushy and their ear tufts give them that mischievous appearance. They can be attracted with peanuts and hazelnuts and regularly visit forest edge bird tables. Once they are accustomed to being fed regularly, they can be photographed at close quarters and in most cases, without the use of a hide. I have maintained two feeding stations for several years and can now use a 200 mm lens by lying quietly on the ground - I have even had a squirrel sit on my head! They rarely stand still however and you must work for your pictures.

Another forest-dwelling mammal high on most photographers’ “list” is Pine Marten, again expanding following legal protection. My personal view is that these handsome creatures look much more attractive using natural light rather than flash. As they are primarily nocturnal, this creates a problem! During late June and early July however, females with young will often appear at food sites in early evening with the young sometimes leaving the den at dawn to play. Having said this, I spent two weeks last summer waiting close to a den site and produced only a handful of decent shots in daylight - perseverance is definitely the key. As with the squirrels, martens can become very tolerant of human presence and it is possible to photograph them using a medium length zoom lens. Again they can be attracted with food and although they are reputed to thrive on jam sandwiches and custard creams, a mixture of nuts, eggs and meat scraps more closely resembles their natural diet! Although now present in Strathspey in reasonable numbers, Ardnamurchan on the west coast is recognized as something of a marten “hot spot”

If you are reasonably fit (and slightly mad), you may be tempted to walk into one of the Scottish mountain ranges in search of Ptarmigan or Mountain Hare. As the approachability of both species is unpredictable to say the least, you should take your longest lens. The downside of this is of course weight! Ptarmigan are generally not found lower than 1000m (3000 ft) so even in the Cairngorms where you can drive to almost 700 m (2000 ft) a



Photo:- Pete Cairns - "Ptarmigan in Mist"  
A 'grab' shot in appalling conditions it has an atmospheric quality.



Photo:- Pete Cairns - "Red Squirrel"  
Taken with a 80-200mm zoom lying on ground with beanbag support. Halzenuts as bait.



Photo:- Pete Cairns - “Capercaille”. These ‘rogue’ birds will attack anything from a deer to a Landrover.



Photo:- Pete Cairns - “Red Deer” - Early evening in a west coast glen with background hill to show habitat.



reasonably arduous walk lies ahead of you. Arguably, these mountain grouse look best in their all-white winter finery but to capture them on film at this time, you will have to cope with the snow, the cold and very often, the wind. Keep a keen eye on the weather and pick a bright, calm day otherwise mountain photography is no fun. Once you have located your quarry (no easy task), a very slow, careful approach may result in the bird accepting your presence and allowing extensive photography. Then again, it may not! An ill timed, hurried approach however, will almost certainly see the bird flying rapidly over the furthest ridge, causing frustration on your part and unnecessary exertion on your subject.

These same principles apply to Mountain Hares. They are often found at lower altitudes but are equally unpredictable. If there is a best time, it is probably between January and April. The Monadhliath Mountains west of the River Spey hold good populations of Mountain Hares. Again, be careful of the weather and don't venture into the hills without telling someone of your planned route and timetable.

A more leisurely pursuit is photographing Red Grouse which can often be done from the comfort of your car. These handsome birds inhabit the large expanses of heather moorland that are maintained to keep Grouse numbers high for shooting. A drive through any such habitat across Speyside or Deeside can produce good roadside opportunities using a 500 mm lens and window mount.

There is no shortage of deer in Scotland and, from a conservation viewpoint, this is not necessarily good news. Photographically however, they provide endless potential. Many sporting estates feed their Red Deer during the winter and with little food out in the hills they congregate in the valleys often close to roads. This is useful as cars make excellent mobile hides. To this end, a window clamp and/or beanbag is very useful. The stags look fantastic between October and late March with a full head of antlers. Many will take little notice of cars but will not tolerate you getting out. The hinds (females) are often less inclined to come close but can be photographed in groups using a long lens. In some of the more spectacular glens, you might consider a wider shot of Red Deer taking in the drama of the setting, rather than a more prosaic portrait.

Roe Deer are a different matter altogether! They are far more restricted to forest and woodland edge and are therefore more difficult to find initially. They are generally very wary of human presence and have superb senses of smell and hearing. Stalking, therefore, can be a very frustrating and fruitless experience. One way of photographing this most attractive of all deer is to set up a platform hide. Roe Deer very rarely look up and from above your scent passes over them. They tend to browse in favoured areas at dawn and dusk and their whereabouts are therefore easy to predict. I was fortunate enough to have a fawn born very close to my house and she has grown up to be relatively tame. This is the exception rather than the rule and even this has its drawbacks as it is virtually impossible to get her to look up!

Many other "Specialities" are high on the priority list of wildlife photographers, amateur and professional alike. Black Grouse, Capercaillie, Osprey, Crested Tit, Wildcat, Bottle Nosed Dolphins.... there is no shortage of subject matter. As with many places however, the seemingly endless flow of quality wildlife photography from The Highlands perhaps gives the impression that frame filling shots are easy to come by. This is not the case - successful images are, more often than not, attributable to the skill and perseverance of the photographer over many years.

By the side of a forest lochan in spring, the dawn mist slowly clears to reveal the ghostly form of a lone Red Throated Diver. His haunting, wailing call abruptly breaks the solemn silence. As spine tingling a moment as any experienced on the African plains ☘

## ***“LEAVE ONLY FOOTPRINTS”***

*BY SUE GOODY ARPS.*

It occurred to me recently that some photographers will go to great lengths to get a picture and, indeed, in some cases to almost any lengths.

We are all seduced by the plethora of wildlife images that bombard us from glossy magazines and our television screens. As nature photographers we are happy to be bound by a code of conduct to ensure that all we leave behind are footprints. By definition we have some understanding of the needs of animals and plants, plus the disposition to gain more knowledge that will ultimately enhance our enjoyment of photographing nature. From this greater knowledge a code of ethics develops that elevates the safety and welfare of the subject above capturing it on film. Effectively we prefer to protect, not destroy, what we love.

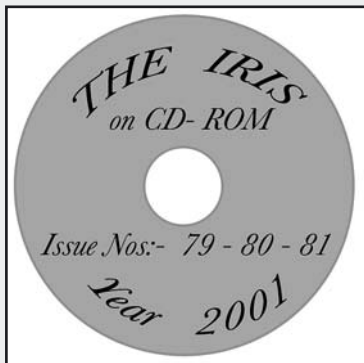
To be a good bird photographer, for example, requires an insight into behaviour and an anticipation of what is likely to happen at the instant we fire the shutter. A close approach to a subject with a standard lens would undoubtedly cause a bird great stress, but as nature photographers we respect what we capture on film. It would be unthinkable to expose a nest to the elements or keep parents away from their young. Or, in botanical photography, for a plant to be dug up and moved to a more photogenic site. And yet...

At a recent seminar, I was among an audience of photographers enthralled by some stunning, creative images covering many diverse subjects. One particular photograph of an arctic tern alighting the nest was particularly impressive. Clearly, here was a superb example of patience and great understanding of the subject on the part of the two photographers giving the lecture. Before I could ask the inevitable question, however, all was revealed in one horrific sentence. Whilst one claps their hands in order to scare the nesting bird into flight, the other takes the photograph. A further, similar photograph was shown later in the lecture and this same procedure was confirmed.

Disbelief! Is any photograph worth the risk of the parent fleeing the nest permanently? Humanity has encroached into the natural world far enough, in my opinion, by wholesale destruction of habitat through global warming, pollution, war and rampant population explosion. This apparent exhibition of a maniacal passion to get a picture at any cost is clearly contrary to our own code of conduct, by which these people are not bound. It perhaps reflects our 21st century culture of wanting instant results; no need to wait for the bird to leave the nest in search of food, for example, or for the mate to return. No need to enjoy the anticipation of what the subject might naturally do, just make it happen NOW. It is hard to walk away without getting the shot, but sometimes necessary and in the best interests of the subject.

Perhaps the most disappointing aspect of this whole affair is the fact that both these photographers are Fellows of The Royal Photographic Society ❀

*Editor:- I have spoken to Sue and am happy to confirm that the photographers in question are not members of the Nature Group; not that this makes their actions any more acceptable. I shall be writing to Roy Green, Editor of the RPS Journal, to see if he will print a piece advising all RPS members of the existence of 'The Nature Photographers' Code of Practice' and where copies may be obtained.*



## WOULD YOU LIKE AN ARCHIVAL COPY OF THE IRIS ON CD-ROM ?

*Don't panic* - There is no suggestion that we discontinue the printed magazine.

No, I'm considering producing an annual CD-ROM for members to purchase if they wish. It would cost about £5 including postage and packing and would contain the three issues for the preceding year.

The files on the CD would be in Adobe Acrobat format together with the reader application in case you didn't already have that on your computer. Possibly all photographs from the three issues could be put

together into a small slide show.

All of this has to be put to the committee but before doing so I want to see if it is of any interest to members. If not I would be wasting the committee's time discussing it.

SO, is anyone interested? If so please let me know by letter, e-mail or telephone before the 1st September. Why then? Well our next committee meeting is in early September and I need to know what members reactions are before then.

Given sufficient interest I hope the first CD-ROM, with the three issues for this year (2001), would be available around next March. More information in the next issue ❀

## FIELD MEETING UPDATE

**Tuesday 16th October** - *previously Clumber Park* **NOW Rufford Park.**

Change of venue due to foot and mouth disease.

*Meet:-* 10 am in Car Park - entrance just off A614. Grid Ref OS 120 644 647. Bring own lunch; alternatively there is a restaurant serving light lunches.

*Interest:-* Fungi and autumn colour also waterfowl. *Cost:-* Car Park charge.

*Leader:-* Robert Hawkesworth FRPS. Please telephone Robert on 0115-928-1050 after 5th October for update on situation.

## THE IRIS "FIVE SLIDE" COMPETITION IS BACK !

*THIS YEARS SELECTORS ARE:-*

**TONY BOND FRPS - CLIFFORD HEYES ARPS - COLIN SMITH FRPS**

*Colin Smith FRPS is kindly organizing this year's competition. -  
see enclosed entry form for full details.*

**REMEMBER:-**

*It is purely for enjoyment. There is no entry fee. No report cards. No catalogues. JUST PRIZES.*

*First Prize £25 - Second Prize £15 - Third Prize £10.*

## MEMBERS' LECTURES

*Editor:- In the last issue I commented on the lack of information especially RPS Region details. The information was originally requested, together with cost of event, as it had been envisaged that lecture details would be passed to Roy Green for possible inclusion in the RPS Journal. This is now not considered practicable.*

*Mike Lane FRPS has e-mailed me quite rightly pointing out that lecturers rarely know the cost of admission, and that it can be difficult deciding the RPS Region for a venue which is close to a region boundary.*

*Members wishing to avail themselves of this facility need no longer supply details of the cost or RPS Region.*

### LECTURES BY ROBERT HAWKESWORTH FRPS

Wednesday 19 th September 2001 - *"Aspects of Nature"* - 8.00 p.m. - Chapel Camera Club, The Squirrels Hotel, Chinley, High Peak. Contact No:- 01298 24946.

Thursday 4th October 2001 - *"Aspects of Nature"* 7.30 p.m. Loughborough Photographic Society, Centre for the Deaf, Forest Road, Loughborough. Contact No:- 01509 551045.

Tuesday 23d October 2001 - *"Confessions of a Nature Photographer"* - 7.30 p.m. Sutton Coldfield Photographic Society. (Venue not known). Contact No:- 0121 308 0404.

Monday 5th November 2001 - *"Aspects of Nature"* & *"F Panel"*. - 7.30 p.m. Derby Photographic Society, The Engineers' Club, 214 Osmaston Road, Derby. Contact No:- 01332 574362.

### LECTURES BY MIKE LANE FRPS

10th September 2001 - *"A Florida Lane"* (Florida wildlife) - 1930 hours - North West Region - Stockport RSPB Lecture Theatre A, - Stockport Coll of Technology, Wellington Rd Stockport.. Tel:- 0161 485 4024.

12th September 2001 - *"A Lane in a Polish Marsh"* (Polish wildlife) - 1930 hours Central Region - Wolverhampton RSPB - Newman Centre, Thomas of Canterbury Church, Tettenhall, Wolverhampton. Tel:- 01902 772265.

22nd September 2001 - *"A Lane in a Polish Marsh"* 1930 hours - South Wales - Gwent Ornithological Society - Goytre Village Hall, Penperlleni, Gwent. Tel:- 01600 716266.

5th October 2001 - *"A Lane through Bharatpur"* (India) - 1930 hours - East Midlands Region - Leicestershire and Rutland Ornithology Society. - College of Adult Education Wellington Street, Leicester. Tel:-01664 851869.

10th October 2001 - *"A Lane in a Polish Marsh"* - 1930 hours - Central Region Dunchurch Photographic Society - Venue varies. Phone for details. Tel:- 01788 521688.

15th October 2001 - *"A Country Lane Returns Again"* (British wildlife) - 2000 hours Thames Valley Region - Shillington and District Camera Club. - Village Hall, High Road, Shillington, Bedfordshire. Tel:- 01462 454223.

22nd October 2001 - *"A Lane in a Polish Marsh"* - 1930 hours - Central Region Walsall Photographic Society - Lecture Theatre, Central Teaching Tower, Walsall Campus of the University of Wolverhampton, Gorway Road, Walsall, Tel:- 01902 630746.



EDITOR:- Readers may remember that in Issue No. 78 I wrote about the colour reproduction problems when using digital files for magazines such as ours.

*"Outdoor Photography"* and Stephen Dalton have very kindly given me permission to reproduce the following.



### **"Why I'm sticking to trannies in OP".**

Rarely in my experience are pictures submitted in digital form reproduced well. Scanned images may be satisfactory for newspapers but to obtain good quality reproductions like those in *Outdoor Photography*, the transparency is superior and far more reliable.

I can produce superb drum scans up to 100 MB with the full range of tones of a Velvia transparency, neatly pegged highlights and shadows and with every grain crisply resolved from corner to corner, yet reproduction houses nearly always make a pig's ear out of them - including this magazine !

My picture of a couple of fallow deer wandering across a frost-covered field that appeared in the January issue of *OP* is a good example. It bore little resemblance to the original transparency - all the subtle detail and atmosphere of the original picture had completely vanished.

The trouble is that nobody has yet come up with a sensible formula for presenting a scanned photograph in a standard way. Of course, the situation is beset with complexities, but if we can crack the DNA code, surely we can crack this one. It seems that unless the scan is CMYK and full details and profiles of the specific output devices are known, together with gamuts, gammas, colour spaces, GCRs and the moon phase, there is little chance of the reproduction looking anything like the original.

I think the transparency has plenty of life in it yet!

From page 60 of 'Outdoor Photography' No 10 March 2001

*Should any of you not yet have discovered "Outdoor Photography" it is a superb magazine with excellent articles and photographs which I'm sure you would enjoy. Stephen Dalton is a highly respected natural history photographer who leads the field in high speed flash photographs of moving insects, birds etc.,*

### ***RPS NATURE GROUP MEETING IN SINGAPORE MARCH 2002***

JOHN ARIFIN ARPS is planning a meeting mainly for overseas members but UK members would be extremely welcome. Probable dates 9th - 16th March 2002.

There will be lectures and an 'A & F' Distinctions advice session with a member of the panel travelling out to Singapore. Probably a trip into the rain forest. Further details in Winter edition but anyone seeking earlier information e-mail John at [john\\_arifin@hp.com](mailto:john_arifin@hp.com).

*OMNIUM GATHERUM CONTINUED*

*Roland Cooke ARPS*

*"Echoes" Exhibition at the Blyth Gallery*

TO BE HELD AT AMAZON HOUSE, BRAZIL STREET, MANCHESTER, M1 3PJ.

3RD JULY TO 28TH JULY -

A JOINT EXHIBITION BY A PHOTOGRAPHER AND AN ARTIST.

Roland Cooke ARPS has used the dawn light of the Plumley Lime Beds nature reserve for many of his subjects. In others he shows an awareness of both the abstract and patterns in nature using close up techniques.

*Further information from Gallery Director - Tel:0161-236-1004.*

*An Exhibition of Nature Photography by Bert Wason FRPS.*

TO BE HELD AT THE EAST DORSET HERITAGE TRUST AT MARKET HOUSE,  
CORN MARKET, WIMBORNE MINSTER DORSET.

FROM SATURDAY 30TH JUNE TILL FRIDAY 27TH JULY 2001.

Monday to Saturday 9 am to 12-30 and 1-30 to 5 p.m.. Tel/fax 01202 888992.

It is an exhibition of framed pictures mainly of botanical subjects i.e. wild flowers, fungi, lichen and woodlands, with the odd insect and landscape. Bert will also show pictures of a more abstract form, still of nature subjects but creating designs and patterns not always obvious to the eye.

**ADVERTISEMENTS**

*Advertisements are accepted subject to suitability, availability of space and in good faith by the Editor. However neither he, nor The Nature Group, nor the RPS accept liability in any respect for any advert printed in this magazine. Please contact the Editor for rates etc.,*

*MIKE WILKES FRPS*

*WOLF PHOTOGRAPHY DAY - 22ND SEPTEMBER 2001*

This one day charity course is based in Shropshire and consists of a slide presentation and practical sessions photographing the wolves. All profits are donated to the centre.

Course costs £60 including lunch.

Tel/fax 01926 842413. e-mail: oaktreefarm@btinternet.com



Photo:- Richard Revels FRPS - “Ringlet Butterfly”  
Annual Exhibition -Robert Hawkesworth FRPS - Selector’s Award - Slide Section.



Photo:- Kevin Woods ARPS - “Green Tree Frog”  
Annual Exhibition -Third Place - Print Section.



