

From: Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust info@lrwt.org.uk
Subject: Our Ospreys have fledged!
Date: July 31, 2025 at 7:45 am
To: Mary MARYANNSTEGGLES@ICLOUD.COM



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**Leicestershire
& Rutland**
Wildlife Trust

Dear ,

As July draws to a close, and August stretches before us, we are getting ready to say goodbye to our summer visitors. Many Cuckoos are already back in Africa, whilst the Swifts will be leaving shortly, and our newly-fledged Ospreys will start heading off in mid-August, taking on their first migration journey.

Even as we bid them adieu, there's still plenty of wildlife to see and admire around our two counties. Plus, we have lots of events where you can join experts on guided walks, family activities and, of course, Osprey cruises.

Osprey season update





3R7's first flight. Credit - Tom Marsh

July has brought both moments of joy and sadness for the Rutland Osprey Project.

The month began with the exciting news that we had our first fledging of the season. After a period of helicoptering and wing-strengthening, our eldest chick female 3R5, took her first flight on the 2nd July. The next day saw two more successful fledgings, with 3R7 taking to the skies first, followed closely by 3R6. With his siblings airborne, the youngest chick, 3R8, suddenly had a little more space on the nest.

Sadly, however, we experienced a tragic event just a few days later. On the evening of the 6th July, during wet and stormy weather, 3R6 was seen leaving the nest at 21:31. Shortly afterwards, a splash was heard from the live camera, and at 21:41 Maya was observed flying from the nest while 3R6 could be seen swimming towards the shoreline. At that time, 3R8 had not yet fledged, and any attempt to intervene risked prematurely flushing him from the nest before he was strong enough to fly. With the wet conditions ongoing, an immediate response was not possible without potentially endangering the other chicks.

At first light the following morning, Tim Mackrill searched the area and sadly found 3R6 dead on the shoreline, with a wound on the left side of his neck. Thanks to the support of Oakham Veterinary Hospital, we've been able to rule out any foul play, and we are now awaiting results from a post-mortem examination for further insight. Fledging is a critical and often perilous stage in

an osprey's life, and unfortunately, complications can occur despite our best efforts.

We're incredibly grateful for the outpouring of support and kind messages we've received during this difficult time. Your encouragement means a great deal to the entire team.

In more uplifting news, 3R8 fledged successfully on 8th July. After a morning of helicoptering and building confidence, we received word from a volunteer at our Waderscape hide that he had taken his first flight. Since then, all three fledglings - 3R5, 3R7, and 3R8 - have continued to grow in confidence, honing their flight skills and even practising dives to clean their talons in the water.



Maya brings a fish back to the nest for her three chicks

Now that all the chicks have fledged, we're beginning to see the nest empty for longer stretches, a bittersweet sign that they're becoming more independent. The fledglings will remain in the area and won't stray far from the Manton Bay nest until mid-August. At around that point, they will begin to depart one by one and start their remarkable journey south on migration to West Africa.

Thank you for continuing to follow and support the Rutland Osprey Project

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Rutland Ospreys YouTube Channel



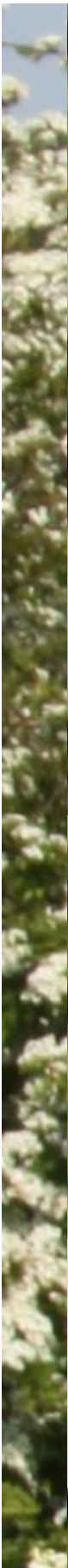
Our popular Evening Osprey Cruises will be drawing to an end in August! Don't miss this chance to join us as we sail aboard the Rutland Belle. A member of the Osprey Project team will be there to guide you through the trip, talking about the Ospreys and the Osprey Project at Rutland Water.

Sign up for an Evening Osprey Cruise



We also have a few Guided Osprey Walks and Mighty Minibeasts running from the Lyndon Visitor Centre this month, which are great events for discovering the wildlife of Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

Learn more about our events

Giving hedgehogs a helping hand



Create a wilder future
for hedgehogs



Together we can help hedgehogs thrive

With more wildlife friendly ways to help in your gardens, we can help save our hedgehogs from serious decline!

For a limited time only, for all new memberships starting during July and August, we are including a Wild about Gardens Hedgehog booklet which outlines all the small steps we can take together to help save our hedgehogs. Plus, we have teamed up with Prickleback Urchin Hedgehog Rescue in Rutland who are providing more information on how you can help hedgehogs in need.

Together we can help hedgehogs thrive and secure a better future for one of the UK's most iconic species

Join today and claim your free Hedgehog booklets

Found a hedgehog? Advice from Prickleback Urchin Hedgehog Rescue

Happy birthday to our Volunteer Training Centre!





We celebrated 10 years of the Volunteer Training Centre in July!

This building has revolutionised the way we operate at Rutland Water Nature Reserve and in the east of our counties. Before it was built, we were working out of a cow shed, so it has given us an amazing warm, clean, modern environment to work in. We run courses and work parties, build hides, mend machinery, hold events and yes, even train volunteers!

Thanks to everyone who made this happen and here's to many more years of it!

Take a step back in time and enjoy the photos from the opening day, with Sir David Attenborough himself doing the honours!





Restoring the Soar



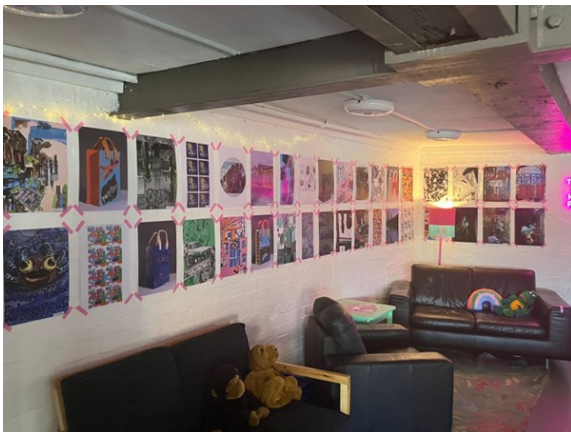
In partnership with Leicester City Council and the Canal & River Trust we are joining forces to improve the urban stretch of the river that runs through our city. We are combining our expertise in waterway and habitat

our city. We are combining our expertise in waterway and habitat management, landscape design, and community engagement to look for new ways to involve everyone in making the area a better place for all.

As a Trust, we've been actively engaging with communities along the catchment to understand their hopes for the river, its wildlife, and local people.

It's been a busy events season, with fantastic interest across the city. A highlight is our new art exhibition at Bitsy's Emporium of Awesome, featuring creative responses from Leicester College Art and Design students. Their work brings the river into focus through photography, print ceramics, textiles, and more.

The exhibition is open throughout the summer and is well worth a visit.



We've also been connecting with residents of the new Waterside development through green initiatives - making seed balls for gardens and upcycling pallets into planters.

We're enthusiastic about developing these relationships and supporting the community's bigger ideas for strengthening their connection to nature and the river.





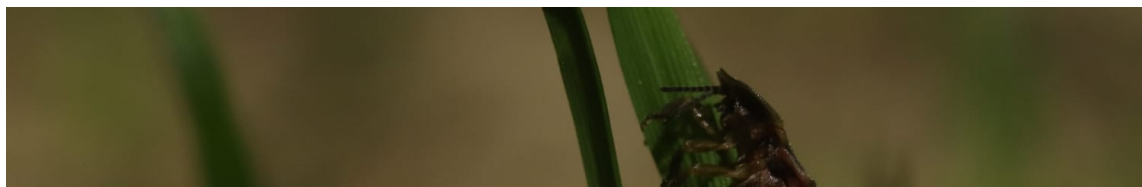
These are just a few of the ways we're building meaningful connections to explore how people can better engage with the river and its catchment.

Restoring the Soar is made possible with The National Lottery Heritage Fund. Thanks to National Lottery players, a new partnership project called Restoring the Soar has been put together to develop plans for enhancing the river corridor from West Bridge, near the centre of Leicester, out to Watermead Park.

[Find out more](#)



Record-breaking Glow Worms!





A glowing female Glow Worm. Credit - Tim Sext

At the start of July, we recorded 86 glowing female and 8 male Glow Worm at our Ketton Quarry Nature Reserve - a record count in Rutland for female on any one site!

“The thriving glow worm population at the nature reserve is just one example of how careful habitat management can benefit a whole unseen, delicate ecosystem and increase the biodiversity and natural value of a once industrial landscape,” says Sarah Bedford, our Senior Reserve Office who looks after Ketton Quarry.

Visit our Ketton Quarry Nature Reserve

Rutland Water Nature Reserve Annual Wildlife Report 2023





Discover the wonders of Rutland Water Nature Reserve with our Annual Wildlife Report 2023.

Packed with photographs and detailed information, this report provides brilliant insights into one of the UK's most treasured nature reserves, and the hard work of our staff and volunteers.

We were honoured to host Dr Sarah Furness PhD, His Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Rutland, for the launch, who said:

“What a treasure Rutland, England, the UK and indeed the world has in Rutland Water Nature Reserve! No wonder it is a site of Special Scientific Interest! It is a treat to listen to the bird song as one walks around the water and to glimpse the mighty Ospreys. The insect life is remarkable, the abundance of wildflowers wonderful.

Thank you to Tim Sexton for my informative and enjoyable tour to celebrate the official launch of the Annual Wildlife Report 2023. Over 120,000 wetland birds were counted, over 1300 Sand Martin chicks fledged, over 450 species of moth recorded – to name but a few examples of the valuable data contained within the report.

I thank both the staff and volunteers of Leicestershire & Rutland Wildlife Trust who help to preserve and develop this special area of our county. I know Anglian Water is rightly proud of what has been created on their land and water.”



By purchasing a copy, you're not only getting an in-depth report on Rutland Water's wildlife - you're also helping support our vital conservation work.

Get your copy today at Lyndon Visitor Centre or at the Anglian Water Birdwatching Centre.

Visit our Lyndon Visitor Centre

Local Nature Recovery Strategy



This month, the Local Nature Recovery Strategy for Leicestershire, Leicester and Rutland was approved and launched by local authorities.

We've been working with Leicestershire County Council and other partners for the past two years on this strategy, which will now go to the Secretary of State for approval to publish.

We look forward to the next stages, and Making Space for Nature in our counties.

[Find out more](#)

Bid thanks for our brushcutter

A big thanks to our benefactor.



A big thanks to the Charnwood Local Group, whose fabulous fundraising efforts have funded the purchase of a brand new brushcutter for the team at Charnwood Lodge nature reserve.

This great piece of equipment will allow us to undertake large-scale scrub clearance to maintain the SSSI heathlands at Charnwood, and will also prove invaluable for strimming and path clearance jobs to keep the paths around the reserve clear for visitors to enjoy.

Pictured (l-r) are LRWT volunteers from Charnwood Lodge; Lindsa Donovan, Dave Pennack, Peter Proudlove and Margaret McLoughlin admiring their new piece of kit which will allow them to double the impact of their work, which has made them all very happy indeed!

Thank you so much!

Join our team



Credit - Mark Hamblin/2020VISIC

We are recruiting for an Office Assistant to join our team.

This role will provide efficient and proactive administrative support to help ensure the smooth running of the charity's day-to-day operations.

Find out more and apply

Photo of the month



This month's photo features a Lesser Emperor dragonfly, spotted by Tony Clark at Rutland Water Nature Reserve.

This is only the seventh sighting of this species in Leicestershire and Rutland! The last photo of the species in the counties - also taken by Tony Clarke - was an already dead one, being eaten by a European Hornet!

Submit your wildlife sightings to NatureSpot

Share your photos with us

Share your photos with us

You can share your images with us at any time, either email info@lrwt.org.uk, on social media, or you could join the wonderful community of photographers on Flickr.

View the gallery and share your photos with us on Flickr

We cannot always promise to share every photo we receive, but we definitely enjoy seeing them and will aim to pick out a few each month to share.

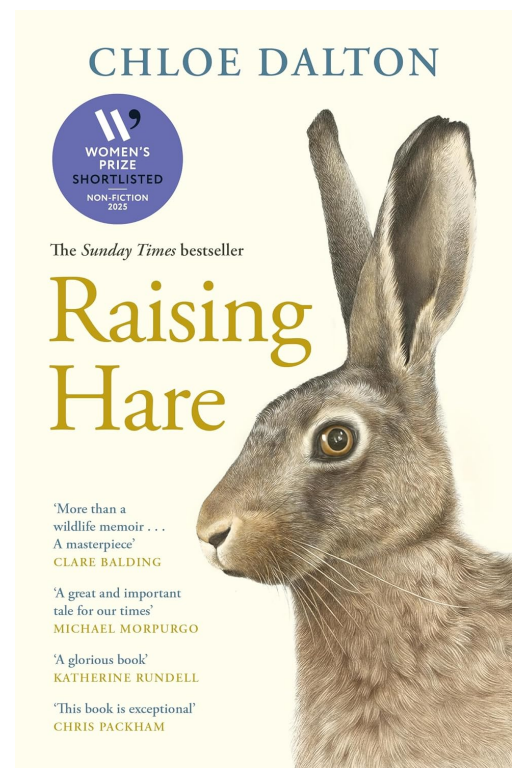
Book of the month

Raising Hare, by Chloe Dalton

The author finds herself back in the countryside in an isolated cottage during the pandemic, missing her high-powered London job as a political advisor, when she discovers a tiny abandoned leveret.

She commits to trying to raise it on her own with no experience, helped by her vet sister - and a poem by 18th-century poet William Cowper, who kept hares as pets.

Allowing her hare to roam free in her house, garden and beyond, she records how it learns to co-exist



records how it learns to co-exist
with her and find its own life.

Beautifully written, and full of insight
concerning our ambiguous
relationship with this mysterious
elusive mammal.

Book Club

Don't miss these events



Credit - Tom Marshall

**Find out more about the
Thornton Reservoir Bat
Walk**

**Find out more about the
Moira Furnace Bat Walk**

**Find out more about the
Watermead Park Bat Walk**

Bat Walks

The Leicestershire and Rutland
Bat Group have regular bat walk
in August and September at a
variety of locations and times.

Thornton Reservoir

Friday 8th August, 8.45-10.00pm

Moira Furnace

Friday 15th August, 8.30-10.00pm

Watermead Park

**Saturday 30th August, 7.45-
9.45pm**

**Free for Leicestershire and Rutland
Bat Group members, £3 for non-
members. Booking essential.**



Credit - Amy Lewis

[Find out more](#)

Dry Stone Walling for Beginners: 2-day course

Join us for our 2-day Dry Stone Walling Course at Rutland Water. You will learn the basic principles of the craft with a skilled and knowledgeable instructor.

**Saturday 9th - Sunday 10th
August
9.30am - 4.00pm**

Volunteer Training Centre, Rutland Water, LE15 8TL
£99, plus Eventbrite fees



Credit - David Tipling/2020VISION

[Book now](#)

Ibstock Summer Safari

The Palace Community Centre invites all explorers to join in with this event, to enter into the wild of Ibstock to spot and learn about the wildlife of India.

**Saturday 9th - Sunday 10th
August
10.00am - 4.00pm**

The Ibstock Palace, Ibstock

Cossington Bird Survey



Credit - Chris Gommersall

[Book now](#)

Cossington Bird Survey Walk

Join Andrew Nielsen, one of our conservation volunteers who undertakes a monthly bird survey at Cossington Meadows, to discuss the latest annual report and how the results might assist us in managing the reserve.

Friday 29th August
10.00am - 12.00pm

Cossington Meadows, Cossington
£10 per person, plus Eventbrite booking fees.

Find out more or get involved ...

[Local Groups](#)

[Job Opportunities](#)

[Upcoming Events](#)

[Visiting Nature Reserves](#)



Volunteering Opportunities

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We don't want you to miss a thing



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and dedication to nature & wildlife
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