

GENERAL / POLICY

- A **revised list of UKBAP Habitats and Species** was published in June 2007, nearly quadrupling the number of listed species to 1603 and increasing the listed habitats to 65. Of interest to everyone will be the addition of the *hedgehog*, *harvest mouse*, *starling*, *hedge sparrow*, *grass snake* and *common toad*, and to us in Warwickshire, the *grizzled skipper*. New priority habitats are *all types of rivers, ponds, all hedgerows, traditional orchards and wood pasture & parkland*, together making two thirds of our BAPs also UK BAPs (p.449). The new lists can be seen at: www.ukbap.org.uk/NewPriorityList.aspx
- **'Biodiversity Duty' guidance** – the NERC Act (2006) included a new duty upon public bodies in England and Wales to have regard to the purposes of conserving biodiversity. Two sets of **Guidance for Public Authorities on implementing the biodiversity duty** have now been issued, one aimed at local authorities and one containing more generic guidance for all public bodies affected (p.447). See: www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/biodiversity/index.htm
- **Biodiversity and Climate Change** – a new DEFRA publication (p.446): **'Conserving biodiversity in a changing climate: guidance on building capacity to adapt'** can be seen at: www.ukbap.org.uk/library/brig/BRIGGuidanceWebpdf.pdf

SPECIES

- **Bird Atlas 2007-11** – field work for this first winter starts on 1st Nov. and all birdwatchers are encouraged to sign up for a tetrad and/or take on a 10km square for *'Roving Records'* (p.394). Further details from the Atlas Co-ordinator, email: birdatlas@bto.org, or tel. 01842 750050.
- **Great Crested Newt** – for those interested in the management of sites, a new Environmental Stewardship leaflet has been produced (p.430). Email: dorothy.wright@herpconstrust.org.uk
- **Farm Wildlife Handbook** – a companion volume to the **2005 Management Guide to Birds of Lowland Farmland** (p.405). £19.99 plus £2 p&p, from Publications, RSPB, Unit 17, St Martin's Business Centre, St Martin's Way, Bedford MK42 0LF, tel. 01234 263616 or email: publications@rspb.org.uk, quoting stock number 24-287.
- The **Farm Wildlife website discussion forum** responds to questions and features case studies (p.405). See: www.farmwildlife.info
- **Scarce Arable plants** – Britain's most endangered group of plants with 54 species threatened and a further extinct. Recommendations for improving their prospects are outlined in Plantlife's report: *New Priorities for Arable Plant Conservation* (p.450). See: www.plantlife.org.uk.

HABITATS

- **Woodlands** – from DEFRA, *'A strategy for England's trees, woods and forests'*, supercedes the 1998 forest strategy (p.447). See: www.defra.gov.uk/wildlife-countryside/rddteam/pdf/0706forestry-strategy.pdf
- **Wood-pasture, Parkland & Veteran Trees** – the Ancient Tree Forum is stepping up its hunt for old trees (p.448). See: www.ancienttreehunt.org.uk for details of how to send in your records
- **Parks, & Public Open Spaces** - *'Getting Greens Registered'* is available from the Open Spaces Society for £17, including p&p. (p.448).
- **Gardens** – *'Let our gardens live! A manifesto for gardens, people and nature'* is published by The Forum for Gardening with Wildlife in Mind (p.448). See: www.naturalengland.org.uk/campaigns/breathingplaces/manifesto.htm
- **School Grounds** – the Dept. for Education & Skills Action Plan for Sustainable Schools in England: *'Sustainable Schools for pupils, community and the environment'* includes a new section on the importance of biodiversity (p.448). See: www.teachernet.gov.uk/sustainableschools/news/news_detail.cfm?id=144