

GENERAL / POLICY

- **Marine Strategy Directive** - the final text will oblige Member States to ensure that EU marine waters are in a healthy state by 2020 and requires the establishment of clear environmental targets and monitoring programmes (p218). See http://ec.europa.eu/environment/water/marine/index_en.htm.
- **'Preparing for the CAP Health check'** – this mid-term review aims to investigate the Single Payment Scheme and market support instruments and will look at how the CAP will address the challenges of climate change, biofuels, water management and biodiversity conservation (p219). See http://ec.europa.eu/agriculture/healthcheck/index_en.htm
- **Planning Reform Bill** – contains legislation for the planned independent Infrastructure Planning Commission and introduces a new planning charge, the Community Infrastructure Levy; alongside the bill are proposals to revise the Local Development Framework process (p221). See the full text at: www.pm.gov.uk.
- **An 'ecosystems approach action plan'** published by DEFRA in December seeks to encourage the recognition of the services provided by the natural environment in future policy making by DEFRA and across Government (p221). See www.defra.gov.uk
- **Blueprint for Water** – for the Wildlife & Countryside Link, 2008 is the start of a process for setting new 5-yr plans for the water industry (p221). See www.blueprintforwater.org.uk
- **'Learning lessons from the 2007 flood'** – interim report of the independent Government review (p222). See www.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/thepittreview.aspx
- **Outside the classroom** (p222) – for various publications addressing the decline of outdoor teaching, see www.ase.org.uk/hm/teacher_zone/outdoor_science/outdoor_science.php

CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Birds on the Move – a Climatic Atlas of European Breeding Birds** – maps potential changes in the distribution of all the continent's regularly nesting bird species, revealing that ¾ of are likely to suffer declines in range (p223) See www.rspb.org.uk
- **Offshore Wind** – the government is aiming for half of Britain's energy to come from this source by 2020 (p223). Information on research can be seen at www.offshorewindfarms.co.uk
- **'Sustainable Biofuels – Prospects and challenges'** - issues raised by Biofuel Watch are considered in this recent Royal Society report (p223). See <http://royalsociety.org/document.asp?id=7366>
- **Bali Climate Change negotiations – Dec 2007** (p223) – a summary of the Bali 'roadmap' can be seen at <http://news.bbc.co.uk/1/hi/sci/tech/7146132.stm>

SPECIES

- **'On a Bat's Wing - poems about bats'** edited by M. Baron. ISBN 978-190551227-0. £7.99
- **'Conservation of Bats in British Woodlands'** – article by D. Hill & F. Greenaway suggesting that the entire community of woodland bats may be adversely affected by the clearance of understorey. Describes a new technique that overcomes the difficulties of surveying woodland for bats (p161-169).
- **Creating artificial bat hibernacula** to provide roost sites in areas with good foraging opportunities (p170). Email: mogulickx@hotmail.com
- **Discussion of the legal protection afforded to bats** which does not currently cover important foraging habitat and connecting corridors by L Garland & S Markham (p197)
- **Harlequin Ladybird** – article by H Roy et al. following the 2005 survey of this alien invasive species that has established itself in large numbers in Britain (p182-186).
- **More records of dormice in unusual places!** (p198)
- **Concern about misinformation about foxes** (p199) – Prof S Harris has launched a new website: www.thefoxwebsite.org
- **Badger culling – winners and losers** – this randomised trial has resulted in a doubling of fox and hedgehog numbers (p220). See: www.defra.gov.uk/animalh/tb/research/summary/zf0531.htm

HABITATS

- **'Guide to Garden Wildlife'** by R. Lewington. ISBN 978-0-9531399-7-2. £12.95 or £11.95 incl. p&p from Books Dept. British Wildlife Publishing, the Old Dairy, Milton on Stour Gillingham, Dorset SP8 5PX
- **Woodland Management Handbook and 9 new Woodland management advice sheets** (p171). From the RSPB. Email: publications@rspb.org.uk
- **Commons Foundation** – a research contract has been awarded by Natural England to a partnership of commoners' bodies for the setting up of a Foundation for British Common Land (p219).
- **Heathlands still in decline** – a survey of heathlands across England that are not Sites of Special Scientific Interest, SSSIs (p220). See: www.naturalengland.org.uk/press/news2008/210108.htm