

#### GENERAL / POLICY

- **Draft River Basin Management Plans** have been published for the 11 river basin districts in England and Wales under the European Water Framework Directive and are issued for consultation; the closing date is 22<sup>nd</sup> June 2009 (p219). See [www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33250.aspx](http://www.environment-agency.gov.uk/research/planning/33250.aspx)
- **Invasive species** – the European Commission’s communication ‘Towards an EU Strategy on Invasive Species’ describes the nature of this threat to biodiversity, puts forward policy options for tackling this and initiates the process for publishing an EU Invasive Species Strategy in 2010 (p221).
- **Reserves online (p221)** – a map showing all 2200 Wildlife Trust reserves can now be seen on [www.wildlifetrusts.org.uk](http://www.wildlifetrusts.org.uk)
- **Bring back the nature table** – the Field Studies Council, along with Country Living and Jordan’s Cereals, is promoting this initiative in every primary school (p221) See [www.allaboutyou.com/countryliving](http://www.allaboutyou.com/countryliving)

#### FARMING

- **Stewardship Update** – England’s Higher Level Scheme has been relaunched, introducing new target areas and revised objectives. There are 110 target areas but farmers outside these will continue to be eligible to apply, provided they meet enough of the criteria (p217). See [www.defra.gov.uk](http://www.defra.gov.uk)
- **Oxford Farming Conference** – Hilary Benn’s speech provided a good summary of where farming is in terms of current and future Government policy (p217). See [www.ofc.org.uk/images/stories/File/Benn%2009.pdf](http://www.ofc.org.uk/images/stories/File/Benn%2009.pdf)
- **CAP reform** – ministers have agreed minor changes as a result of the mid-term ‘health check’ review. Compulsory modulation (the switching of funds from supporting production to paying for environmental and rural development schemes) will increase to 14% by 2010, with the higher rate levied on those receiving more than £300K in their annual Single Payment (p218). See <http://cap2020.ieep.eu>. Payments to farmers and landowners may now be seen online at [www.cap-payments.defra.gov.uk](http://www.cap-payments.defra.gov.uk)
- **Farm wildlife on the up** – the Wildlife Trust’s Wildcare Scheme reports that habitat suitable for wildlife has increased by nearly one fifth (p219). See [www.wildcare.co.uk](http://www.wildcare.co.uk)
- **Priority Catchments** – under the England Catchment Sensitive Farming Delivery Initiative, new priority catchments have been announced and existing ones extended; they are mapped on [www.magic.gov.uk](http://www.magic.gov.uk) (p218) Also see [www.defra.gov.uk/farm/environment/water/index.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/farm/environment/water/index.htm)

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

- **Carbon footprints** – new guidelines have been launched enabling businesses to measure the carbon footprint of their products (p217). See PAS 2050 *Specification for the assessment of the life cycle greenhouse gas emissions of goods and services* at [www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/081029b.htm](http://www.defra.gov.uk/news/2008/081029b.htm)
- **The Committee on Climate Change** - the inaugural report ‘Building a low-carbon economy - the UK’s contribution to tackling climate change’ contains recommendations on options for achieving the 2050 emissions-reduction target (p220). See [www.theccc.org.uk/reports](http://www.theccc.org.uk/reports)

#### SPECIES

- **Spiders: The Ultimate Predators** - a beautifully illustrated book by S. Dalton (p224). Hbk, £19.99, ISBN 978-14081-06976.
- **Arable Bryophytes** - a highly recommended field guide to the Mosses, Liverworts and Hornworts of Cultivated Land in Britain and Ireland by R.Porley (p225). Pbk, £17.95, ISBN 978-1-903657-21-8.
- **Britain’s Bristle Mosses** – article by S.Bosanquet on the ID of the largely epiphytic genus *Orthtrichum*; members may be found in many scrub patches and woodlands throughout all but the driest parts of the southern half of Britain (p187-194).
- **Where have all the flowers gone?** – a guide to restoring wildflowers to the garden and countryside by Charles Flower (p226). Pbk, £24.99, ISBN 978-1901092820.
- **Mammal Society 2009 Conference** will be held at the University of Winchester on 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> April. Details from [www.mammal.org.uk](http://www.mammal.org.uk) or tel. Dr.S.Carter on 02380 237874 (p197).
- **Bird Atlas** –many areas still require help in the breeding season, starting April 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, both for Timed Tetrad Visits and Roving Records (p201). See [www.birdatlas.net](http://www.birdatlas.net) for a new facility ‘Any square summary’ which allows you to look at the species list for any 10km square or tetrad to help direct effort to where it is most needed.
- **Butterfly records for 2008** - don’t forget to send them in! The most commonly recorded species over the last 10 years is the red admiral (p206). Book your place for the annual National Butterfly Recorder’s meeting on Sat. 4<sup>th</sup> April 2009 at the Birmingham and Midland Institute; tel. Ian Middlebrook on 01929 400209 or email: [imiddlebrook@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:imiddlebrook@butterfly-conservation.org) (p206)
- **Dormice** have been reintroduced in 11 counties. In the *Dormouse Monitor - Spring 2008* R Wolton reports that hedgerows can be an important habitat for dormice nests and their management is therefore critical (p196).

#### HABITATS

- **England Woodland Strategy** - *A Strategy for England’s Trees, Woods and Forests* was issued by the Government in 2007; last December a Delivery Plan aiming to translate this into action was published by the Forestry Commission and Natural England (p218). See [www.forestry.gov.uk/etwf](http://www.forestry.gov.uk/etwf)
- **The Woodland Heritage Manual** - a spiral-bound practical guide to investigating the history and ecology of wooded landscapes (p225). £15 plus £3.50 p&p from Wildtrack Publishing (email: [info@hallamec.plus.com](mailto:info@hallamec.plus.com))
- **Woodland origins of meadows** – an article by G Peterken, arguing that both woods and meadows should be regarded as components of the original forest that have been teased apart by millennia of farming (p161-170)
- **Restoration techniques for beetles and plants in neutral grasslands** - summary of a paper by Woodcock et al. in *Oecologia*:154:773-783 which highlights differences in the way plants and insects become established during grassland restoration and the long term consequences of management treatments (p177). Email Ben Woodcock on [bawood@ceh.ac.uk](mailto:bawood@ceh.ac.uk)