

## Review of Autumn 2008 from Richard Smithers (Conservation Advisor)

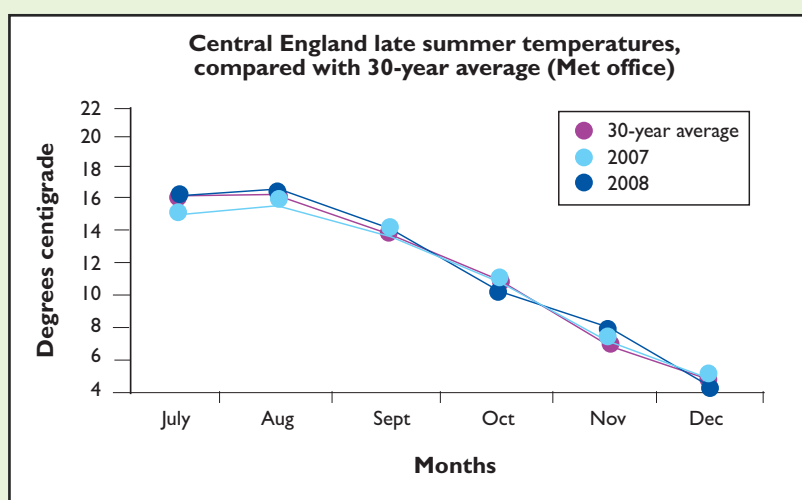
### Autumn 2008 results

Advances in the date of spring phenology have been very marked, both in the UK and elsewhere. But changes in autumn phenology have been less clear. Autumn is a harder season to assess because recording has always been less popular than in spring and consequently there are fewer historic dates available.

A total of 34,000 records of individual autumn events were submitted to Nature's Calendar in 2008. This has declined from 48,000 in 2007 and 60,000 in 2006. We particularly need you to continue recording autumn events and to encourage your friends and family to do likewise, so that we can gain as good a grasp of what is happening as in relation to spring events.

### Weather

Temperatures in July-December 2008 were very close to the 30-year (1961-90) average, only 0.19 degrees centigrade below it.



### Events in 2008 compared to 2007:

#### Classic autumn events (October-December)

On average:

- Departing migrants left 2 days earlier
- Wintering migrants arrived 3 days later
- First tint, full tint and bare trees all occurred on the same day as in 2007 with leaf fall starting one day earlier

### Summer-autumn fruiting (August-September)

On average:

- Fruit ripe was 4 days later

It is thought that later flowering in spring delays fruiting in autumn. Consistent with this idea, January-June 2008 was 0.82 degrees cooler than in 2007, which was the warmest spring on record. Fruiting in 2008 was 19 days earlier than our benchmark year of 2001.

