

# Penzance B.S.A.C. Conservation Officers Report November 2011

Amplification of Global Warming by Carbon-Cycle feedback is significantly less than thought. A recent study came up with a new estimate of the feedback between temperature and atmospheric carbon dioxide (CO<sub>2</sub>) concentration, derived from a comprehensive comparison of temperature and CO<sub>2</sub> records spanning the last millennium. The result, which is based on more than 200,000 individual comparisons, implies that the amplification of current global warming by carbon-cycle feedback will be significantly less than recent work has suggested. Whereas the International Panel of Climate Change (IPCC) used measurements from about 100 weather stations in America, 70% or more of which were at university campus's or other urban areas, thus getting the urban effect of high readings, to arrive at their predictions of climate change, the Berkeley University in California team carried out a project the Berkeley Earth Surface Temperature project, (BEST). The BEST project carried out more than 1.6 billion temperature recordings collected from more than 39,000 weather stations around the world. BEST's findings showed that since the Fifties global temperatures had risen by about 1 degree Celsius, a figure which is in line with NASA and the Met Office. Prof Curry, a member of the BEST team, who chairs the Department of Earth and Atmosphere Sciences of America, says that the research shows that there has been no increase in world temperatures for the last 13 years. This has been confirmed by a report published by the Global Warming Foundation which is based on BEST'S findings including a graph of world temperatures over the past 10 years and it is absolutely flat, suggesting that temperatures have remained constant. **This issue is crucial, because the levels of carbon-dioxide in the air have continued to rise rapidly over the last decade, and if temperatures have remained constant during that period it would suggest there is no link between carbon gas emissions and global warming.** Environmentalist David Bellamy is among others who have been publicly lynched as a climate change denier, He said "I'm sceptical about man-made climate change, there's no proof that carbon dioxide will kill us all. It's not a poison, it's the most important gas in the world. Carbon dioxide is an airborne fertiliser. How can farmers grow increasing amounts of food without a rise in CO<sub>2</sub>.

Humming Birds are famous for their mid-air hovering during hunting, but they have another trait that is not so well known. Males of some humming bird species generate loud sounds with their tail feathers while courting females. They only produce fluttering sounds during their elaborate courtship rituals. During such a display the male will climb into the air anything up to 40 metres and then quickly dive-bomb down quickly past a perched female, when he reaches the lowest point of the dive he rapidly spreads and closes his tail feathers. This spreading exposes the feathers to air which causes them to flutter and generate the sound.



Buffelhead

A rare visitor to our shores, a small duck, called a Buffelhead *Becephala albeola* was seen off The Lizard on the 26th and 27th of October and also at Loe Pool, Helston on the 29th. October, and has been seen almost daily at Loe Pool throughout November right up to the 30th November. This duck is normally found in America, is on the British Accidentals list and has been seen before in Great Britain . The male has a high crowned head and a large white patch behind the eye, and around back of the head, and at rest looks chiefly white with a black back. This female is brown above with dusky flanks a white cheek spot and white wing patch.

November was a very poor month for marine sightings, there being only 5 reported sightings. Two Harbour Porpoises were seen off The Lizard on the 5th, a large pod of about 150 Common Dolphins was seen off Porthwarra on the 7th, 4 Bottlenose Dolphin were seen off Botallack on the 13th, and 4 or more Harbour Porpoise were seen off Pendeen Watch on the 29th and also on the 30th.