

Shropshire Invertebrates Group

Annual Report

2005

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February 2006

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Field Meetings 2005

20 March 2005: Baveney Brook, Wyre Forest (present: D. Pryce, D. Harding, J. Mason, C. Derry, K. Claxton, N. Jones, I. Thompson, G. Blunt)

Winter's last day was warm but dull as our group set out to explore the Baveney Brook upstream from Furnace Mill. We started at the fishery, where three artificial ponds were tenanted by a good number of anglers and two pairs of Mallard. From there we dropped down into wet Alder woodland, picking our way across the damp mud in which Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage was starting to come into flower, and where we found an Engrailed moth wonderfully camouflaged against a tree trunk. As we traversed this wood a group of five Mandarins, including two males, circled over us calling anxiously, and a Goshawk passed quietly over a conifer plantation on the far side of the brook. Many birds were busy announcing their territories, among which we recognised Chaffinch, Pheasant, Wren and Coal Tit; while a single Chiffchaff sang nearby, a first of the year for most of us.

Our target species for the day was the terrestrial caddis *Enoicyla pusilla* (Limnephilidae), a Red Data Book RDB3 species confined in Britain to a small area of the Midlands around the Wyre Forest. David Harding, who has worked on *E. pusilla* for many years, joined us for this visit and directed us to the drier Sessile Oak-Silver Birch woodland on an embankment above the brook, where he showed us how to find caddis cases in leaf litter beside the tree trunks. At this time of year the caddis were in their third or fourth instars, and after a little practice we found good numbers on the soil surface under dry leaf litter – though some of the group became more adept at this than others. Working our way upstream as far as a remnant part of the impounding dam which once supplied water to the furnace, we sieved and searched leaf litter for the best part of three hours, at the end of which we had about 50 live caddis larvae. Most were on the drier slopes below Sessile Oaks and among Bramble tangle; but we found several on the banks of the Baveney Brook beneath Alders, where a surprising amount of Red Currant was growing, and where the trampled young leaves of Ramsons filled the air with their pungent scent.

Our search for the caddis brought us into contact with a several other terrestrial invertebrates. While sieving through leaf litter we came across woodlice of two species, *Trichoniscus pusillus* and *Oniscus asellus*, the former being fairly numerous though somewhat elusive; the centipede *Lithobius variegatus* and pill millipede *Glomeris marginata* were quite common; and in smaller numbers were the bristle-tail *Dilta hibernica* and harvestman *Nemastoma bimaculatum*. Four species of beetle were located, all as single specimens: the carabid *Agonum ruficorne*, rove beetle *Quedius molochinus*, a dead dung beetle *Geotrupes stercorosus*, and a fine specimen of Eyed Ladybird which made a good photograph. Molluscs were represented by a few slugs and a single specimen of the Garlic Snail *Oxychilus alliarius*, while a single ground bug *Drymus sylvaticus* was taken. A pseudoscorpion and several springtails came to light as we searched through the litter, but we were unable to identify them below Order level. Our remaining invertebrate finds consisted of Lepidoptera, including several neat larval cases of Incurvariidae in the sieved samples, from which we later reared *Adela reaumurella*; the mines of *Stigmella aurella* on Bramble; a large larva of the Ingrailed Clay, and a small one of November Moth. From the Baveney Brook we collected several mayfly nymphs, which we were able to identify as those of the Autumn Dun *Ecdyonurus dispar*, Large Green Dun *E. insignis*, Olive Upright *Rhithrogena semicolorata* and a *Baetis* species, probably *B. rhodani*.

At various places along the brook we found further plant species of interest, such as Colt's-foot in bloom on the embankment of one fishing pool; a fair amount of Wood Spurge plus a little Hazel and Hard-fern in the drier woodland; and Lesser Celandine and flowering Ground-ivy near the stream. In the soft ground and standing ground-water of the Alder wood we found three Common Toads and Frog spawn, while slots of Fallow Deer showed their abundance in this area, though we failed to see the animal itself. As we made our way back out of the wood we again disturbed the Mandarins, and saw Long-tailed Tits, Buzzard and Great Spotted Woodpecker; though bird-life in general was not abundant on the day.

Our visit ended with tea at the Forestry Commission centre at Callow Hill, where we were able to admire Blue, Great and Coal Tits and Robins at close quarters on the bird feeders.

24 April 2005: Maddock's Hill and Ercall Quarries (present: J. Mason, K. Claxton, N. Jones, I. Thompson, G. Blunt)

Our April field trip started from the roadside quarry at Lawrence's Hill to the south of The Ercall, from where we revisited part of the area we had explored the previous year (*see SIG Annual Report 2004 pp. 5-6*). Car-loads of people were enjoying the warm spring sunshine when we set out from the parking spot; but the crowds were soon left behind as we worked our way along the road towards Maddock's Hill.

Beneath a canopy of Pedunculate Oak, Ash and Hazel the roadside woods were just coming into bloom; Dog's Mercury, Dandelion and Greater Stitchwort were flowering in some abundance, mingled locally with Wood Anemone, Barren Strawberry, Garlic Mustard and Common Dog-violet. From the outset we readily came across invertebrate life: a large *Bombus terrestris* queen explored the woodland banks, a female *Adela reaumurella* marked an early emergence of this micro-moth, and further evidence of microlepidoptera came from the mines of *Stigmella aurella* on Bramble and a larval case of *Psyche casta*. The galls of the mite *Aceria crataegi* showed on leaves of a roadside Hawthorn, and a Seven-spot Ladybird was found by the road, the first of several during the day. Our interest was briefly drawn by a nearby stream whose banks supported just-budding Ramsons and a patch of well-open Marsh-marigolds: but soon we had reached our track-way up into the woods, and we turned along it towards Maddock's Hill quarry.

All day our activities were accompanied by the sound of birds, and the woods at this point echoed with songs of Blackcap, Blue Tit, Wren, Chiffchaff and Woodpigeon. A Nuthatch and Green Woodpecker called noisily; but the day's most frequent and characteristic sound was the mewing of Buzzards overhead, which hardly left us wherever we explored. In warmer glades along this track the first Bluebells, Ground-ivy, Wild Strawberry, Woodruff and Yellow Archangel were just breaking bud, though Blackthorn blossom now was nearly over; Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage flowered where impeded drainage gave surface run-off; while the disturbed nature of the soils was attested by the Ivy which grew prolifically here. A Yew and a couple of Rowans emerged above the tangle of trees and shrubs, which also included Honeysuckle and Dog-rose quite plentifully, plus some Dogwood and Gooseberry. Along this track the dappled sunlight proved a magnet for flying insects; the micro-moths *Eriocrania subpurpurella* and *Incurvaria pectinea* danced in the air, mocking our attempts to follow their flight; while among the many hoverflies here we took *Rhingia rostrata*, a Red Data Book RDB3 species. More sedentary invertebrates included a Fourteen-spot Ladybird, the centipede *Lithobius variegatus*, and the Big Bud galls of the mite *Phytoptus avellanae*. Later in the day we re-traced our steps here, adding the hoverfly *Epistrophe eligans* to our list.

Leaving behind this track we scrambled our way into Maddock's Hill quarry, through thickets of Gorse and Silver Birch where the year's first Willow Warblers were now in song. Daisy and Colt's-foot provided the main nectar sources for insects; though the several Peacock butterflies here spent more time drinking water from *Sphagnum* mats in an algae-infested pond beneath the slope. A couple of Small Tortoiseshells appeared; but as we lunched on the short turf amid Field Wood-rush our attention was drawn more to the abundant local bird-life. Blackbird, Chaffinch, Great Tit and Magpie were here evident; a Kestrel and several Jackdaws haunted the broken rocks along the quarry sides; and three Stock Doves, a couple of Swallows and a drake Mallard flew overhead. A pair of Bullfinches was a welcome sight in these scarce days; but our interest was perhaps most drawn by three cock Pheasants which looked black at a distance. Later we were to watch one at close range, admiring its dark, iridescently green-tinted mantle and underparts which were startlingly offset by vivid red wattles.

After lunch we picked our way through extensive stretches of mud across the quarry floor. Cowslips began to appear in small clumps, and the bees *Bombus lucorum*, *B. lapidarius*, *Andrena haemorrhoea* and a Robin's Pincushion gall of *Diplolepis rosae* on Dog-rose gave us more Hymenoptera records. Then a Grass Snake broke suddenly from its basking spot on a bank and headed into a narrow pond, where from beneath an overhanging branch it watched us staring back through our binoculars. We estimated its length at about 75 cm. Slots of deer, probably Fallow Deer, followed a track through the mud and upwards towards the quarry rim, which we ourselves took. Patches of flowering Wood Forget-me-not and dead Wild Teasels flanked the way, a male Brimstone flew by and an inquisitive Bank Vole peeped out from a hole. We tarried a while near the rim, where Long-tailed Tits and Song Thrush were encountered for the first time that day. But the prize at this point was another RDB3 hoverfly, *Cheilosia nebulosa*, proving once again the great potential of a site which less than 25 years earlier had been a bleak working quarry.

The way to Ercall quarry led us back towards the road, along it for a short distance, then up a path into Lawrence's Hill wood. On the way we passed a Badger latrine, encountered patches of flowering Yellow Pimpernel and Wood-sorrel, saw a couple of male Orange Tips and another Brimstone, and heard a Raven overhead. At Lawrence's Hill flowers of Lesser Celandine appeared, surprisingly for the first time that day, and the fungus *Dacrymyces deliquescens* was fruiting on dead logs. The path led through a grove of tall, straight-boled Corsican Pines beside which we found the extensive droppings and pellets of either a Tawny or Long-eared Owl, though we

were unable to locate the bird in the high canopy. More deer slots were here, smaller than those in Maddock's Hill quarry but, we thought, still of the same species.

By mid-afternoon we were at our second main destination of the day, Ercall quarry. Scrub was more dominant here, with much Goat Willow and some Sycamore and Elder beside the usual Ash and Silver Birch; and a single fruiting Wych Elm stood by the main track through the quarry. In one place the scrub had been cleared to expose a rock face of geological interest, and a couple of ponds were present, one polluted with iron leachate and the other choked with Common Duckweed. A mummified Common Frog by the latter was the only sign of amphibian presence.

In the small open glades of the quarry floor insects were not infrequent, including three Peacocks and a Comma plus *Bombus pascuorum* and a couple of *B. terrestris* queens, while *Stigmella aurella* mines were again found on Brambles. The commonest flowering plants here were Daisy and Dandelion, with patches of Wood Forget-me-not more locally; the characteristic withered leaves of Reed Canary-grass and dead flower-spikes of Wood Sage were also in evidence. A broken Ash trunk sprouted fruiting bodies of King Alfred's Cakes. In the trees and overhead we recorded a similar range of birds to those at Maddock's Hill, though Carrion Crow surprisingly appeared for the first time that day, and five Lesser Black-backed Gulls flew over.

Shortly beyond the quarry we left the wood and headed back along the road to our cars. Holly now appeared at its most common in this stretch of hedgerow, and another male Orange Tip flitted by. A large roadside lake was scanned as we passed, but it yielded nothing save five Mallard and a Moorhen. And so, just after 4:00pm, we arrived back at our starting point and re-joined the crowds of parked cars, after a most enjoyable day during which we had had these woods and quarries almost to ourselves.

29 May 2005: Weir Coppice and Hook-a-Gate old railway site (present: J.Mason, W.Rudge, I.Thompson, N.Jones)

By arrangement with Mr. & Mrs. Mason, the owners of Weir Coppice, we approached the site via the secure vehicle entrance from Redhill Drive.

Before leaving the car park we could hear young Great Spotted Woodpeckers, already out of the nest, indicating their whereabouts to their parents. Along the made-up road access we noted several well-grown young Pedunculate Oaks, safe from grazing, and collected a currant gall of *Neuroterus quercus-baccarum* and a marble gall of *Andricus kollari*. We also kept for later identification what proved to be an immature gall of *Andricus curvator*. On Field Maple the gall of *Aceria aceriscampestris* was found. Familiar plant species along the access road were Hedge Mustard, Rough Chervil, Yellow Archangel, Hemlock and Hedgerow Crane's-bill. Several scorpion flies were evident on Brambles and a single Seven-spot Ladybird was noted.

At the end of the access road we diverted onto the old railway site (formerly a rail-welding depot). Since abandonment, this site has changed from having a vegetation of limestone specialists which were the early colonisers to one that now, due to the build up of plant material, is in many areas less diverse, with tall ruderal species and opportunistic grasses beginning to dominate. On one area of short vegetation we found a good amount of Kidney Vetch together with several other low-growing herb species as follows:

| | | |
|-------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|
| Cut-leaved Crane's-bill | Scarlet Pimpernel | Wall Speedwell |
| Parsley-piert | Black Medick | Germander Speedwell |
| Three-nerved Sandwort | Common Bird's-foot-trefoil | Thyme-leaved Speedwell |
| Field Forget-me-not | Hairy Tare | Ground-ivy |
| Early Forget-me-not | Lesser Trefoil | Common Cornsalad. |

Red Champion, Weld and Oxeye Daisy also were present on this part of the site. A Cinnabar moth and two bumblebees *Bombus lapidarius* and a worker of either *B. lucorum* or *B. terrestris* were active here.

We left the railway site via the track-bed of the old Llanymynech railway line, where the flora changed to one reflecting its woodland margin, and Wood Anemone, Ramsons, Wood Avens, Wood Spurge, Herb-Robert and Garlic Mustard were noted. Also found were the remains of Moschatel on an old tree stump. A Large White was

flying in this area and also, some way from the brook, a female Beautiful Demoiselle. At the end of the track we came upon an old multi-stemmed Beech bearing many inscriptions, the earliest dated being one from 1927. We also paused to admire the stone masonry of the Victorian railway bridge, work of fine quality, its cost perhaps too great on a railway system that was probably always uneconomic. Descending the wood to the Rea Brook we made a lunch stop at the site of the now long-demolished weir. Unfortunately an old Alder had fallen across the weir abutment and the stream, preventing easy access to the water.

The lunch stop provided several invertebrate sightings. Orange Tips and Green-veined Whites were in evidence, also both Beautiful and Banded Demoiselles. Some Ephemeroptera were hatching, the majority being a steady trickle of *Ephemera danica* of both sexes, many of the sub-imagines taking shelter on the underside of Sycamore leaves where we also found their moulted skins. A single newly-emerged male imago was noted. Also at this point we found a *Heptagenia sulphurea* imago and an Iron Blue *Alainites muticus* sub-imago. The last of our finds here was a Fourteen-spot Ladybird.

After lunch we proceeded up the Kingfisher Way footpath to the crossing over the Aberystwyth railway line and thence along the line to the bridge at the end of Weir Coppice, where the railway crosses the Rea Brook. On the way we noted the fern flora, mainly Male-fern and Broad Buckler-fern but also Hart's-tongue and several plants of Hard Shield-fern; but a careful search failed to reveal Soft Shield-fern which has been recorded at this site. By the bridge a mating swarm of male *Ephemera danica* imagines had formed and a female Broad-bodied Chaser was feeding above the shrub layer. Over the Chapel Field on the opposite bank of the brook a swarm of Swifts were observed.

At this point Nigel Jones joined us. He had come later and accessed the site by way of the pasture land along the Rea Brook from Hook-a-Gate bridge. In the fields he had noted the following uncommon hoverflies: *Helophilus hybridus*, *Orthonevra brevicornis* (several around buttercups), *Cheilosia bergenstammi*, *Chalcosyrphus nemorum* and *Lejogaster metallina*. There were also good numbers of several common species:

| | | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| <i>Eristalis tenax</i> | <i>Leucozona lucorum</i> | <i>Cheilosia albitarsis</i> |
| <i>E. pertinax</i> | <i>Epistrophe eligans</i> | <i>Melanostoma scalare</i> |
| <i>Myathropa florea</i> | <i>Rhingia campestris</i> | M. mellinum |
| <i>Syritta pipiens</i> | <i>Chrysogaster solstitialis</i> | Platycheirus albimanus |
| <i>Helophilus pendulus</i> | <i>Melanogaster hirtella</i> | |

Along the streamside he noted a Large Red Damselfly; and other Diptera he encountered were the Black Snipefly *Chrysopilus cristatus*, which was numerous, and the uncommon Yellow-legged Water-Snipefly *Atherix ibis* – which was photographed on the bankside vegetation. The former's close relative *Rhagio scolopaceus* occurred at the edge of Weir Coppice. Just before meeting up with the rest of the party he swept a single female of the local bee *Cheilosoma florisomme* from buttercups on the north side of the railway embankment. Other Hymenoptera at Hook-a-Gate were;

| | | |
|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Andrena chrysoseleis</i> | <i>Crossocerus cetratus</i> | <i>Nomada flava</i> |
| <i>Bombus lucorum</i> | <i>Halictus rubicundus</i> | |
| <i>B. pratorum</i> | <i>Nomada fabriciana</i> | |

And at Hanwood Bank across the disused railway were:

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <i>Andrena chrysoseles</i> | <i>Nomada fabriciana</i> |
| <i>Halictus tumulorum</i> | <i>Sphecodes ephippius</i> |

We re-entered Weir Coppice and followed the footpath throughout the length of the wood to the eastern end, noting the remnants of the spring flora species Lesser Celandine, Ramsons, Bluebells and Wood Anemone and finding also Woodruff, Lords-and-Ladies, Enchanter's-nightshade, Marsh-marigold and the shrubs Spindle and Guelder-rose. Throughout the wood the graceful Wood Millet panicles had opened and we found some early Meadowsweet in damper spots. There is much Ash in the wood and we found King Alfred's Cakes on dead wood. Through the trees at the edge of the wood we glimpsed the iridescent flash of a Kingfisher along the Rea Brook; and in one of the few hollows still holding water Common Frog tadpoles were found.

Hoverflies included a few *Portevinia maculata* still present on Ramsons, their host plant. A very notable record was of a single *Rhingia rostrata*. This species is considered a Red Data Book species, but has been recorded quite widely in recent years so it is likely to be on the increase. The common *Rhingia campestris* and *Xylota segnis* and the locally common *Ferdinandea cuprea* were also noted.

At a point where one of the wet spring flushes is dominated by Great Horsetail there were numerous Diptera in evidence. While we were in pursuit of these, our target species Herb Paris was found in a steep wet area. It is the first time this plant has been recorded on the site since the 1920s. There were three patches containing an estimated 350 plants. At the edge of the wood we encountered large numbers of the micro moth *Nemophora degeerella* and in the field margins, along the footpath leading from the Coppice to Hook-a-Gate bridge, we found the crane-fly *Tipula maxima*, another male Beautiful Demoiselle and Seven-spot and Two-spot Ladybirds, including the melanic form of the latter. Finally the uncommon capsid bug *Miris striatus* and a very colourful weevil *Rhynchites aequatus* were swept from Hawthorn at Hook-a Gate.

We had seen and heard Buzzards throughout the day. We walked back to the cars along the road after a long and worthwhile day.

19 June 2005: Leintwardine and Adley Moor (present: W. Rudge, G. Blunt)

The River Clun at Shropshire's boundary with Herefordshire was the site of our June field meeting. The day was very hot and humid as we began at Leintwardine road bridge, where Brown Trout, Hemlock Water-dropwort and Banded Demoiselle were located in and by the River Teme. From here we turned up a track which leads to a footbridge across the Clun. Swifts and House Martins swept over the town's main streets, to be replaced by an occasional Swallow as we left the buildings behind along a lane between gardens and sheep-pasture. Bullfinch and Nuthatch were seen and heard at this point. At length we found the footbridge spanning a quiet stretch of river overhung with Alders, where a startled Kingfisher sped off at our approach.

The river-banks near the footbridge supported more Hemlock Water-dropwort, with patches of Reed Canary-grass, Meadow Buttercup and Russian Comfrey in flower; and Mistletoe was growing on a Poplar on the river bank. Beautiful Demoiselles now predominated over their Banded cousins, and we also located the first Common Blue Damselfly of the day; the mayfly *Ephemera danica* turned up singly here and later elsewhere along the Clun; an umbellifer head attracted the longhorn beetle *Strangalia maculata*; and a male Brimstone butterfly passed by. Other invertebrates recorded here were the gall-mites *Eriophyes laevis* on Alder and *Phyllocoptes populi* on Poplar, the bumblebee *Bombus lucorum*, and the Silver-ground Carpet moth. However, the most numerous invertebrate along the lower Clun was the leaf-beetle *Gastrophysa viridula*, which had skeletonised most of the Broad-leaved Docks there; we found larvae in abundance, with a few imagines and egg clusters as well.

Heading upstream we saw many more Common Blue Damselflies, and a shoal of tiny fish swarmed in the river shallows. Though Yellowhammer and Greenfinch sang, and the tell-tale signs of Moles were present, both vertebrate and invertebrate life was scarce in the burning heat of early afternoon. Another footbridge over the Clun offered a shady arbour where we lunched, and coincidentally picked up the Downlooker Snipefly *Rhagio scolopaceus* and sphecid wasp *Pemphredon lugubris* on a shady tree trunk. Afterwards, while crossing an open and very patchy wheat-field, we found a large Common Toad caught out in the baking heat, and made a rescue by moving it to the safety of the cool river-bank.

Beyond the wheat-field we stepped into a narrow country road and turned towards Jay House. Hedgerow Crane's-bill now appeared in the wayside verge, and we looked over a farm gate into an attractive, flower-rich hay meadow, but insects were surprisingly absent. Not until we reached the umbrous environs of Jay House did the oppressive stillness give way to activity from birds - Great Spotted Woodpecker, Chaffinch and others in the shrubberies - and butterflies, with single Small White, Speckled Wood and Red Admiral flying along the shady lane. As we left the lane into sheep-pasture a Buzzard flew off carrying a Weasel in its claws.

Across this field we entered the Shropshire part of Adley Moor, a triangular tongue of land which we found to consist largely of reclaimed arable ground under crops. A wide but overgrown drainage ditch provided some variety of habitat, with much Hemlock Water-dropwort and Wild Angelica, plus lesser amounts of Bittersweet and Common Valerian. A couple of skulking Sedge Warblers were probably recently-fledged birds; while

overhead passed a lone Swift and a Large White. As far as we could follow it, the footpath led us to a thick hedgerow where Field-rose was coming into bloom, and Common Blue Damselfly, Silver-ground Carpet and Vapourer moths were found, together with a large number of the tortricid moth *Pseudargyrotoza conwagana* in the lee of the hedge.

So much for the Shropshire side of Adley Moor, disappointing compared with the Herefordshire part into which we now passed - a rough, acidic grassland supporting much Heath Bedstraw and Tormentil, where our only Meadow Browns of the day were on the wing. A clear, shallow stream bore a good aquatic flora of flowering River Water-crowfoot, plus Lesser Water-parsnip and Water-starwort in leaf. By now distant thunder could be heard and the wind began to freshen. Quickening our pace, we turned back towards the Clun, re-joined our original footpath, and in the still-sultry heat found our way back to Leintwardine.

**10 July 2005: The Cliffe and Nescliffe (present: J. Mason, W. Rudge, I. Thompson,
N. Jones, C. Derry, G. Blunt)**

This isolated sandstone ridge mid-way between Shrewsbury and Oswestry was the location for our July field meeting. We started at Hopton Hill woods, which we found to consist largely of semi-natural stands of Pedunculate Oak and Silver Birch together with mature plantations of Beech, Scots Pine and other conifer species. Among the more natural vegetation we recorded Rowan, Field Maple, Bramble, Honeysuckle, and a mature Holly already full of red berries; while the field layer contained much Wavy Hair-grass, Bracken, Foxglove and Common Nettle; Climbing Corydalis occurred very sparingly here; and a single clump of Scaly Male-fern was found. A pungent smell betrayed the presence of Stinkhorn fungus, but we did not search for it. Chiffchaff, Blackcap and Nuthatch were the most vocal birds in the tree canopy, and a Grey Squirrel was glimpsed.

From the outset a good variety of insects was evident, though few species appeared in any numbers. A caterpillar of Green Silver-lines was found on Beech and mines of the micro-moths *Eriocrania subpurpurella* (Eriocraniidae) and *Phyllonorycter heegeriella* (Gracillariidae) were present on Pedunculate Oak, along with a medium-sized nymph of Oak Bush-cricket; Honeysuckle plants produced a few mines of the agromyzid fly *Chromatomyia aprilina*; while butterflies on the wing included Peacock, Large White, Ringlet and several Meadow Browns. A number of galls were obtained in the Hopton Hill woodlands, among which we identified the following:

Acari

Eriophyes sorbi on Rowan

Diptera

Macrodiplosis dryobia on Pedunculate Oak

Macrodiplosis volvens on Pedunculate Oak

Hymenoptera

Andricus curvator on Pedunculate Oak

Andricus lignicola on Pedunculate Oak

A. fecundator on Pedunculate Oak

As we headed northwards out of this woodland we followed a grassy lane whose hedges contained several introduced plants, notably Snowberry, Sycamore and Greater Celandine; on these acidic soils White Bryony came as a surprise, and we later found it also in the nearby roadside hedge. More Meadow Browns and a Small White flitted across the lane, a bumblebee *Bombus lucorum* worker gathered pollen from the abundant Brambles, and Silver Birches produced the withered but still characteristic leaf-rolls of the weevil *Deporaus betulae* (Attelabidae) and mines of the micro-moth *Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella*. Woodpigeon, Robin and Great Spotted Woodpecker were in nearby trees, and a Raven called overhead.

Crossing the road we took a track through a further belt of deciduous woodland towards the heathy summit of The Cliffe. The woodland canopy was noticeably lower here than on the deeper soils of Hopton Hill, and plantations of Beech and conifers were absent; Broad Buckler-fern now appeared in some quantity in the field layer; but otherwise this woodland supported a similar flora to that of Hopton Hill. We paused at a small pond much overgrown with Common Duckweed, where we found the Norwegian Wasp *Dolichovespula norvegica* (Vespidae) and a male cuckoo bee *Bombus vestalis*. A little way further on the path climbed abruptly out of the

wood onto the sandstone heath, which here reached its maximum altitude of 157 metres above sea level. Wavy Hair-grass, Bracken, Heather and Bell Heather formed the dominant vegetation, interspersed with several unvegetated areas of bare rock and sandy soil. Near the summit we looked down on the crowns of a few scrub Oaks, and spotted two or three Purple Hairstreaks, which showed little inclination to fly though the weather was sunny and warm. Meadow Browns were still the most numerous butterflies, though a few Ringlets and Gatekeepers occurred in shadier places, along with two Small Tortoiseshells and single Speckled Wood, Red Admiral and Small White. These last species suggested that the summit might be a congregation point for migrating insects, an impression enhanced by the appearance of a Brown Hawker and an Emperor Dragonfly plus a few Seven-spot Ladybirds. As we lunched here, families of Swallows hunted over the hill, joined occasionally by a few Swifts and House Martins; and a Common Lizard scuttled through the nearby grass.

Both Common Green Grasshopper and Mottled Grasshopper were singing on the heathy summit of The Cliffe, the former typically in taller vegetation and the latter in low, open sward; a single Common Field Grasshopper was also located. Several pyralid moths were disturbed from grass tussocks and proved to be the grass veneer *Agriphila geniculea*. Mating pairs of the Soldier Beetle were abundant on Bramble blossom, while Common Ragwort plants were stripped almost bare by caterpillars of the Cinnabar moth. In sandy ground the sphecid wasps *Oxybelus uniglumis* and *Cerceris rybyensis* were common, along with specimens of *Crossocerus dimidiatus*, *Lindenius albilabris* and the notable *Nysson dimidiatus*, a species rarely recorded in Shropshire. Other insects found on this summit included the Clay moth, the psychid moth *Narycia monilifera* on Oak bark, the robber-fly *Neoitamus cyanurus* and the hoverfly *Myathropa florea*. On the underside of an Oak leaf we found a tussock moth's egg-batch covered with dark hairs, which we took for breeding out. An unexpected find on this summit was a fully-grown Green Hairstreak caterpillar which was crawling on open sand.

After exploring this area for a good hour we headed northwards along the sandstone ridge which stretches towards Ruyton-XI-Towns. Recent conservation work had restored this to a fine open heath, now purple with much Bell Heather, where the bumblebees *Bombus lapidarius* and *B. pascuorum* were abroad, and Oak or Northern Eggar moths swept rapidly by without pausing to be identified to subspecies. A Fritillary which flew past could also not be determined but was thought to be Silver-washed Fritillary. The micro moths *Agriphila tristella* (Pyralidae) and *Argyresthia brockeella* (Argyresthiidae), however, could be specifically identified as was the Tree Wasp *Dolichovespula sylvestris*. In the afternoon's heat bird-life was not prolific, though we had good views of two Green Woodpeckers and encountered Long-tailed Tits and Magpies. Another Common Lizard was disturbed on the heath, and we saw a Stoat in the fringing woodlands. Near the northern end of the ridge a scrubby Rowan produced vacated mines of the nepticulid moth *Stigmella sorbi*, which appears to be a new species for Shropshire, and one of our best finds of the day. Other mines, galls and larval cases which we recorded on The Cliffe were as follows:

Acari

Aceria pseudoplatani galls on Sycamore

Eriophyes sorbi galls on Rowan

Diptera

Chirosia grossicauda gall on Bracken

Lepidoptera

Coleophora lutinella larval case on Pedunculate Oak

C. serratella larval case on Silver Birch

Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella mine on Silver Birch

Returning along the eastern foot of the heath we followed a path inside a boundary wall and ditch. Ash and Blackthorn were common here, the latter bearing galls of the gall-mite *Eriophyes prunispinosae*. Common Cow-wheat, Navelwort and Black Horehound were flowering very locally by the wayside, and we found the full-grown caterpillar of a Peacock butterfly, the hoverflies *Cheilosia illustrata* and *Eristalis intricarius*, another specimen of the Norwegian Wasp, a dead tortricid moth *Tortrix viridana*, and larval cases of the psychid moth *Taleporia tubulosa*. Two Badger setts were located along this track, and we saw our second Grey Squirrel of the day here. An adjacent, thistly meadow produced the Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet moth, and as we reached the road we found a Large White and a male specimen of the sphecid wasp *Crabro cribrarius*, plus the bees *Megachile centuncularis* and *Sphecodes monilicornis*. Finally, the walk back to our cars took us along a new track through Hopton Hill woods, where a Riband Wave moth proved our last encounter of a most productive day.

7 August 2005: Berrington Pool (present: N. Jones)

One member attended this field meeting, so records for the day are fairly limited. It was a very hot day, which drove many invertebrates to cover. A few insects were about in good numbers, however, and these included the common red-and-black fly *Eriothrix rufomaculata* (Tachinidae) and the hoverfly *Eristalis tenax*. There were also good numbers of Gatekeeper butterflies on the wing, along with a single Peacock and Common Blue.

As might be expected, Odonata were quite well represented around the pool, but even so, for most species numbers were low. These included single Emperor Dragonfly, Ruddy Darter and Beautiful Demoiselle, plus several Common Darter, Blue-tailed and Common Blue Damselflies.

Among the Diptera recorded there were several of the dark-coloured spiky fly *Eurithia anthophila* (Tachinidae) on thistle flowers. Other flies were *Thereva nobilitata* (Therevidae), three *Conops quadrifasciatus* (Conopidae), the horseflies *Haematopota crassicornis* and two *Chrysops relictus*, which were netted as they attempted to take advantage of the human flesh on offer. There was also a fairly good variety of hoverflies about, among which it was pleasing to find the uncommon *Parhelophilus versicolor*; while the following further species were noted:

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| <i>Cheilosia illustrata</i> | <i>Melanostoma mellinum</i> | <i>Sphaerophoria scripta</i> |
| <i>Episyrphus balteatus</i> | <i>M. scalare</i> | <i>Syritta pipiens</i> |
| <i>Eumerus funeralis</i> | <i>Neoascia tenur</i> | <i>Volucella pellucens</i> |
| <i>Eupeodes latifasciatus</i> | <i>Platycheirus clypeatus</i> | <i>Xylota segnis</i> |
| <i>Helophilus pendulus</i> | <i>P. rosarum</i> | |

Several aculeate Hymenoptera were abroad, with the wasps *Ancistrocerus gazella* (Vespidae) and *Rhopalum coarctatum* (Sphecidae) and a number of *Bombus pascuorum* bumblebees being noted. Ian Cheeseborough subsequently determined the identity of four bee species, which proved to be *Lasioglossum calceatum*, *Sphecodes ephippius*, *Andrena denticulata* (considered a local species) and *Hylaeus communis*. The day's records are completed by the Field Grasshopper and the shield bug *Palomena prasina*.

Appendix: Berrington Pool records from 1999

Visits were made on 4 July and 30 August 1999 by I. Thompson, G. Blunt, W. Rudge and J. Mason, yielding the following previously unpublished invertebrate records:

Coleoptera

Cantharis thoracica
Chilocorus renipustulatus
Lagria hirta
Rhagonycha fulva
Strangalia maculata

Dermaptera

Forficula auricularia

Diptera

Eristalis pertinax
Ptychoptrea contaminata
Scathophaga stercoraria
Volucella pellucens
Xylota segnis

Hemiptera Heteroptera

Palomena prasina
Zicrona caerulea

Hemiptera Homoptera

Philaenus spumarius

Hymenoptera

Pontania bridgmanii galls on Grey Willow

Lepidoptera

Cinnabar

Clouded Border

Gypsonoma dealbana

Large White

Nettle-tap

Olethreutes lacunana

Peacock (larvae)

Red Admiral

Ringlet

Silver Y

Snout

Odonata

Azure Damselfly

Blue-tailed Damselfly

Common Blue Damselfly

Emperor Dragonfly

Trichoptera

Mystacides longicornis

Acari

Aculus tetanothrix galls on Grey Willow

Araneae

Pisaura mirabilis

18 September 2005: The Stiperstones (present: J. Mason, I. Thompson, G. Blunt)

From the moment we met at the car park below Cranberry Rock we knew that very few invertebrates would be recorded on our migration watch day. The weather was dull and overcast, and we were to have little more than five minutes' sunshine all afternoon. At this altitude (430 metres above sea level) the exposed nature of the hillside, more exposed still from the recent clear-felling of nearby Gatton Plantation, was expected to be too cold for insect activity: and so it proved. Throughout our stay we encountered only a few bumblebees and the odd crane-fly; of the latter we attempted no identifications, but we did catch and identify examples of the former, which proved to be the common *Bombus lucorum*, the localised moorland bumblebee *B. monticola*, and the puzzling *B. magnus*, treated by some authorities as a subspecies of *B. lucorum*, by others as a full species.

For the rest of our stay, therefore, we concentrated on recording bird migration from our vantage point, which after some initial observations we set up along the path from the car park, on the col between the first small rocky outcrop and Cranberry Rock, but nearer the former than the latter. This appeared to be the best focal point for birds moving across and along the Stiperstones ridge; indeed, many parties of Swallows flew past so low at this point that they almost skimmed the top of the Heather. Our watch lasted about three-and-a-half hours from midday, during which period we recorded the following migrants on the move:

Swallow - 356 in 49 parties of from 1 to 40 individuals, mostly moving west

House Martin - 19 in seven parties of from 1 to 10 individuals, mostly moving south

Meadow Pipit - 329 in 59 parties of from 1 to 60 individuals, moving west, south and south-east

Linnet - 1 moving south-east

Sparrowhawk - 1 moving south

Kestrel - a male and female moving south together

Jay - 1 moving south

In addition, a Wheatear hopped among the rocks around us, and three Ravens plus a single Buzzard hunted along the ridge. We saw and heard a number of Red Grouse during our visit – at least half a dozen, though they were difficult to count: one or two gave us excellent close views.

We were pleased to see that the Stiperstones showed some positive results of the county's "Back to Purple" campaign; the covering of Heather looked healthy, though by this date it was well past its peak flowering period. Bilberry was also not uncommon, and we found some plants of Cowberry in both flower and fruit. Several bushes of Western Gorse were also in bloom. A small and somewhat wayward group of cattle, which showed great skill in eluding their farmer, added a different grazing regime to that of the sheep, whose numbers had been reduced from their peak of four or five years earlier.

9 October 2005: The Long Mynd at Wildmoor Pool and Gogbatch (present: J. Mason, I. Thompson, D. Pryce, G. Blunt)

A late switch of venue saw the group gathering at Wildmoor Pool for our last outing of the year. The sky was dull, and a cold wind blew. Recent rains had left the ground soggy underfoot, and we had to exercise care when working among the seepages upstream of the pool. Here we found a typical acid marsh flora, with Star and Carnation Sedges, Marsh Pennywort, Bogbean and Bog Pimpernel in small patches of short turf, which opened up suddenly amid a tall vegetation of rushes and a few late-flowering Marsh Thistle and Lesser Spearwort. A dry heath above this marsh was composed chiefly of Heather and Bilberry, with Bracken locally; the lichens *Cladonia chlorophaea* and *C. pyxidata* were present here, but in small quantity; and we located on decaying Heather litter the tiny but distinctive fungus *Setulipes (Marasmius) androsaceus*. Small patches of Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage and Wood-sorrel on wet and dry banks respectively suggested an earlier woodland phase to this location.

Our first task was to search for leaf-mines of the micro moth *Stigmella myrtillella* (Nepticulidae), a Bilberry-feeding species found only once in Shropshire, at Burwarton in 1889. Needless to say, David Pryce located a mine of *S. myrtillella* within ten minutes, a clear case of beginner's luck – especially as a longer search failed to reveal further examples. We did, however, turn up six well-grown larvae of Fox Moth and one of Northern Eggar on vegetation mats below Heather and rushes, basking in what little warmth they could find; and we added a caterpillar of Broom Moth to our list in the same way. Also trying to resist the advance of autumn was a male Black Darter, very torpid, clinging to a rush stem and providing our group's photographers with an easy subject. More evidence of Odonata was provided by an exuvium of Brown Hawker on the margin of Wildmoor Pool. The dung beetle *Geotrupes stercorarius* was crawling around in search of horse dung, of which there was a good supply in the neighbourhood, though its producers were notably absent.

By sweeping marshy vegetation we found the Cinnamon Sedge *Limnephilus lunatus* (Trichoptera: Limnephilidae), plus a couple of *Sepedon sphegea* (Diptera: Sciomyzidae). But our best capture was undoubtedly the bizarre *Ochthera mantis* (Diptera: Ephydriidae), an unmistakable predatory fly with hugely developed front legs, used for capturing its mosquito prey. Considered an extremely local species nationally, this insect is rare in Shropshire with very few records.

Vertebrate life was not abundant at Wildmoor: a Common Frog was in the marsh, and a Reed Bunting plus some twenty Meadow Pipits were flushed from the taller rush vegetation. A couple of Skylarks passed over in a desultory migration, while the updraught along a nearby ridge was enjoyed by three Ravens, a Buzzard and a Kestrel. Then just as we were ending our visit to Wildmoor Pool our attention was caught by a Merlin which sped by in pursuit of a Meadow Pipit. For some three or four minutes we watched the aerial manoeuvres of the pair as they passed down the valley, falcon attacking again and again, pipit jerking away at the last moment until, when almost beyond range of our binoculars, the Merlin suddenly dropped into the Heather. We never knew if it had caught its prey or landed from exhaustion, but the exhilarating chase left us well pleased as we drove on to our next destination.

Gogbatch is the most northern and briefest of valleys on the National Trust's Long Mynd property, and here we arrived for the second stage of our outing. We lunched at a road-side car park, taking time out to examine the small stream and its neighbourhood. The Parasol Mushroom was growing in adjacent pasture, a flowering patch of Round-leaved Mint attracted the hoverflies *Eristalis tenax* and *E. pertinax* plus a Small Copper, and kick-sampling of the stream yielded nymphs of two mayfly species: *Electrogena lateralis* (known to fishermen as

the Dark Dun or Dusky Yellowstreak) and *Ecdyonurus dispar* (Autumn Dun). Meanwhile, five Buzzards, four Ravens and a couple of Carrion Crows floated above the hillside opposite; a hunting Kestrel landed with prey; and thickets of Bracken were haunts of Robin, Wren and a male Stonechat.

After lunch we walked down the stream to a small tree-lined enclosure where Meadowsweet and Brooklime attested to its marshy nature. Some old Alders which fronted the stream here had been recently pollarded, and we searched their bark and new shoots for resting insects, finding another mayfly species - *Nigrobaetis niger* (one of two species known as Iron Blue) - plus a Red-green Carpet moth in pristine condition. By now a late afternoon sun was shining, and hundreds of flies of two or three species were swarming on sunny patches of tree bark: most went unidentified, but we did note *Mesembrina meridiana* (Diptera: Muscidae) among them. Sweeping produced a few common invertebrates: the hoverfly *Platycheirus albimanus*, the spider *Araneus diadematus* (Araneidae) and the snail *Cepaea nemoralis* (Helicidae). A few foraging Hymenoptera were on the wing, among which we observed the Common Wasp *Vespula vulgaris* and a dark-bodied specimen of the bumblebee *Bombus pascuorum*; but an example of the sphecid wasp *Mellinus arvensis* quite surprised us by the lateness of its flight period.

A careful search of the trees in this neighbourhood yielded a number of leaf-mines and galls, among which we identified the following:

Acari (galls)

Acalitus brevitarsus on Alder

Aceria pseudoplatani on Sycamore

Phyllocoptes goniothorax on Hawthorn

Hymenoptera (galls)

Diplolepis rosae on Dog-rose

Pontania proxima on Crack-willow

Lepidoptera (leaf mines)

Parornix devoniella on Hazel

Phyllonorycter nicellii on Hazel

Stigmella floslactella on Hazel

Many Sycamore leaves bore the blotches of Tar-spot Fungus, and we also found Honey Fungus and Dryad's Saddle on decaying wood. An old nest of a Blackbird was retrieved by John Mason from a tree stump; our first impression was that the nest material had been re-used after the Blackbirds had left; and the range of rodent fleas found in it seemed to confirm this view: we extracted the following, later identified by R.S.George:

Hystrichopsylla talpae talpae (1♀)

Megabothris turbidus (1♂, 1♀)

Megabothris walkeri (1♂, 1♀)

Ctenophthalmus nobilis agg. (1♀)

Malareus pencilliger mustelae (1♂)

Shortly afterwards our meeting finished with good views of Green Woodpecker and Pied Wagtail as we headed back to our cars.

Additions and Corrections to 2004 Annual Report

Page 10: add *Halictus rubicundus* (Hymenoptera: Halictidae) to species recorded at Prees Heath.

Page 11: add *Sphcodes monilicornis* (Hymenoptera: Halictidae) to species recorded at Brown Moss.

Page 17, last paragraph: the *Megachile leachella* has been re-determined as *Osmia coerulescens*
(correction also applies to 2003 Annual Report)

Members' individual activities 2005

John Mason

Shropshire

Birds

January brought spectacular flocks of Waxwings to the UK. Outside Monkmoor Police Station on the 6th I watched around 65, the largest flock of these birds I have ever seen. They were resting in tall trees but swooping down in small groups to some Whitebeams and swallowing their fill of berries in quick succession before returning to the security of the taller trees. Some birds were up-ending like parrots in their efforts to reach berries. On 11 February I returned to Jinlye Guest House on the Long Mynd to collect a Crow's nest I had seen with a sitting bird early in 2004. It was near the top of an Ash tree, but I lifted it out cleanly with my set of "squirrel poles" and retrieved it more or less in one piece. Hundreds of Lapwings were flying over my house in Bayston Hill on 2 February, and on the last day of the month a Goldfinch fed on seed heads of French Lavender in my garden. In the first week of May I recorded several summer visitors: Swallows at Wolverton on the 1st, Cuckoo heard at the Ercall (5th), and Swifts seen distantly at Bayston Hill (6th). On return migration in September, masses of Swallows and Martins gathered at Woolstaston on the 18th. My remaining bird sightings were from the River Severn near Emstrey, where there was a Goosander with eight ducklings on 26 June and two Kingfishers nearby on 3 July.

Mammals

My best mammal sighting of the year was a Greater Horseshoe Bat, seen at Llanymynech during a Shropshire Bat Group's exit count at Swan Hill mines (9 June). I picked it up on my bat detector just before I saw its black shape skim through the trees in the quarry below me. It was also a delight to watch Lesser Horseshoe Bats emerging from Black Radley mine on another SBG exit count (30 June).

Invertebrates

This year I took more interest in hoverflies and enjoyed seeing a succession of different species during the year. In spring I found *Portevinia maculata* in several places including Weir Coppice and the Ercall woods; *Epistrophe eligans* was looking very smart in my garden - and even smarter was *Leucozona lucorum*, looking magnificent when freshly emerged, also in the garden. Here too several butterflies appeared in warm sunny conditions in April: Brimstone, Orange Tip and Peacock on the 24th, and Speckled Wood and Holly Blue five days later. On 3 July a queen Hornet *Vespa crabro* (Hymenoptera: Vespidae) was hunting along the Severn at Emstrey; while on 3 August during a walk beyond the glider station on the Long Mynd I spotted the large black fly *Tachina grossa* (Diptera: Tachinidae) in the grass. Lastly, my wife Ann picked up a dead Hummingbird Hawkmoth by the A49 at Bayston Hill on 13 September, and a Migrant Hawker dragonfly visited our garden on 15 October.

During the year I published an account of my studies of the fleas (Siphonaptera) of Shropshire since 1992, a period in which I recorded 34 species in the county: see Mason & George (2005).

Botany

At Edge Wood on 1 May Toothwort was just "going over" and plenty of Herb Paris was in flower on a damp slope. I located some of last year's flower-spikes of Greater Broomrape in an area new to me at Old Oswestry Hill Fort, but the only fresh spike I could find had been severed by recent scrub clearance. This year Ivy Broomrape in my garden surpassed all previous records with 98 flower spikes.

Elsewhere in the United Kingdom

During 2005 I spent a good deal of time away from home dealing with family matters, partly at Cottingham, Hull (East Yorkshire) and partly at Barnet (North London).

Birds

At Cottingham, various birds appeared in my late mother-in-law's garden and nearby fields. I watched a male Sparrowhawk basking on a fence post with its back to the morning sun - but next day it was drying itself after a heavy afternoon shower. Several birds nested in the garden, including Dunnock, Robin and Long-tailed Tits (these last were later predated, perhaps by Magpies). Collared Doves built a precarious nest in a Hawthorn near the house. On 11 May they had an egg balanced on the pathetic little platform of sticks; to my astonishment it survived to hatch, and in early June there was a well-grown squab on the nest. However, on 4 June the squab disappeared just after I saw the parents driving a Magpie from the tree: I imagine this bird had spotted the egg and subsequent squab weeks earlier.

On a walk from Saltburn in North Yorkshire along the top of Hunt Cliff (a major seabird nesting site) I found lots of predated Kittiwake eggs littering the cliff-top grassland. On 29 July I visited Hampton Bishop (Herefordshire) after seeing RSPB publicity about nesting Bee-eaters there. I had good views of the parent Bee-eaters making feeding flights from their perches to and from their nesting hole, which was about three feet above a bare sandy beach by the River Wye. In the opposite bank was a Sand Martin nest colony where there was much evidence of Fox predation, the Sand Martin holes having been extensively dug out; and as the Bee-eaters' nest hole was so perilously low down it came as no surprise to learn that, the night after my visit, the nest was raided and the brood taken. My other bird records included a Little Egret flushed by a passing boat while I was at the Bee-eater site; and on a brief trip to Pembrokeshire in late October I watched Choughs flying in the up-draught along a cliff edge, an exhilarating sight.

Invertebrates

Nearly all my non-Shropshire invertebrate sightings were from my mother's garden and neighbourhood in Barnet. Here on 19 June a Red-belted Clearwing settling on a leaf was the first clearwing moth I have ever seen away from the site of emergence (which was the only easy way to see them prior to the advent of lures). There was also a good crop of hoverflies here during spring and summer: on 25 May there were plenty of *Merodon equestris* in a variety of colour forms, and *Epistrophe eligans* appeared at the same time. On a June visit I saw a couple of specimens of the colourful soldierfly *Chloromyia formosa* as well as lots of *Syrirta pipiens* hovering around the flowers of Mexican Fleabane. In late summer I decided to attract the huge hoverfly *Volucella zonaria* to the garden, knowing it was present in another part of north London. I planted a couple of strongly-scented Buddleia bushes, and within a few hours a specimen of *V. zonaria* arrived on the flowers. However I soon discovered an even more potent attractant was near at hand: a mass of Ivy in the nearby back alley, already coming into flower on 7 August, was pulling in huge numbers of hoverflies and wasps. The masses of *Myathropa florea* almost obscured the flowers in places, and they were joined from time to time by *V. zonaria* and even a few other species such as *V. inanis* and *V. pellucens*. The specimens of *V. zonaria* were so weighty that they couldn't alight on top of the flower clusters and had to hang beneath. They arrived with a satisfyingly deep buzz, and the females had vivid yellow faces that were reminiscent of a Hornet. The Ivy was also attracting masses of "superwasps" (*Dolichovespula media*) and a few actual Hornets (the first I have seen at Barnet). This bonanza continued into early September, when the Ivy was still flowering well ahead of other Ivy in the area.

On my drive back to Shropshire on 9 August I stopped at the service area on the M6 toll road at Norton Canes (Staffordshire), and as I was stretching my legs I noticed in a ditch a shiny black fly behaving like a hoverfly, which it turned out to be - *Eristalinus sepulchralis*, with distinctive spotted eyes.

Ian Thompson

Mammals

On 2 March I found a very flattened road traffic accident (RTA) victim near King Street crossroads (Berrington area) - there was virtually only the pelt left. At first I thought that it was a Polecat, but on the basis of the underfur I decided it was probably a Mink, as later confirmed from a digital photograph by Johnny Birks of the Vincent Wildlife Trust. This autumn I was struck by the great numbers of smallish Grey Squirrels featuring as RTAs: in September, on the road from Plowden to Asterton - a narrow quiet lane without high-speed traffic - I found three dead in 1.5 miles. I imagine this has been a good breeding year and these were young dispersing from their parents' territories.

While walking my son's dog on Haughmond Hill on 20 February I saw a large number of Fallow Deer; they were crossing the path from one block of forestry to another; we were downwind and they were unaware of us and walking slowly. I did not count the first group, but when after a short pause more followed them I counted thirteen, certainly making a total of more than 20. I noted two mature bucks and one young buck, the remainder being does with two well-grown fawns.

Birds

Among my first dates for migrants were:

- 20 April - Swallow at Boulden, S. Shropshire; Curlew at Cound Brook near Conover.
- 4 May - Cuckoo at Hunger Hill; House Martin along the Hunger Hill - Conover lane.
- 9 May - Swift at Welsh Bridge, Shrewsbury

This has been a good year for raptors for me. Our local Sparrowhawks have been very active. The male took a House Sparrow at no distance from the house while my wife and I were sitting at an open doorway, and a few days later the hen took a Woodpigeon perched on a branch in our apple tree. The remains of a Blue Tit were also found in the garden. On holiday in June in a cottage in Cwm Irfon (Powys) we had the pleasure of seeing Red Kites, which were nesting on the hill opposite us, performing aerial acrobatics every day; and later, on 28 December, I saw three at Stokenchurch (Buckinghamshire) on the M40. My best raptor sighting was the Merlin pursuing a Meadow Pipit during the SIG field trip at Wildmoor Pool.

It has been a good year for woodpeckers too, and I recorded the following:

Lesser Spotted – on 23 January at Nobold I heard what I believe to be this species; on 10 July one was at Hopton Hill
Great Spotted – on 18 March at Highley; 29 May with young at Redhill near Hook-a-Gate; and mid- June at Cwm
Irfon

Green – several heard at Highley on 18 March; young birds on 9 June at Windmill Meadow, Much Wenlock; young
birds again on 25 June at Cross Gates (Powys).

Also on 18 March near Highley I observed three Mistle Thrushes – a pair and an intruder – which were mixing
courting with sparring. On 2 January while driving along the A458 near Venus Pool I noted a flock of over 100
Lapwings circling over fields to the east of the road. Several hundred were also present in large groups on most of the
pools at Wood Lane reserve near Ellesmere in October. On 14 May a Great Tit was feeding young in a nest located
inside a tubular steel gate-post in Meole Brace; the adult had to turn sideways to squeeze through the vertical aperture
made for the sliding gate fastening. Fortunately the gate was locked, so the birds were not disturbed by the latch plate
being slid to and fro.

Invertebrates

This year I have embraced a new form of recording: during spring I built a Skinner-type moth trap which, in
consideration for my neighbours, I equipped with a 12-volt 15-watt actinic tube light source. It has been used a total of
nine times. Initially my intention was to trap every fortnight, later amended to once per calendar month; but weather
and visitors meant that I did not trap after 16 October. I recorded a total of 63 species of macro moths in the trap and
found a further two, plus the larva of an Elephant Hawkmoth, while gardening. This seems a good tally given the type
of light used. There were usually several caddis in the trap as well, and on 15 May a Common Cockchafer *Melolontha
melolontha* (Coleoptera: Scarabaeidae). The most unusual catch was on 28 June when around twenty specimens of the
Blue-winged Olive *Serratella ignita* (Ephemeroptera: Ephemerellidae) were found; all were females with extruded
egg sacs, and virtually all had died overnight. What had attracted them to the trap I do not know since they should
have been heading for a water body to oviposit. A fishing friend of mine experienced the same species laying eggs on
wet tarmac on a lane near the River Morda this summer – a more explicable event.

The highlight of my mothing was finding a Galium Carpet on the Farley Road verge at Much Wenlock on 24 May.
Riley (1991) gives only six records for the last century (post VCH,) but Peter Boardman has had eight further records
submitted in the last 18 months: is this species increasing or overlooked ?

Around home the usual early Small Tortoiseshells and Peacocks were conspicuously absent this year: I did not see the
former locally until 16 July. However, I did find a Peacock and some Brimstones near Highley on 18 March, my
earliest records for the year. A week after the SIG trip to The Cliffe I saw Purple Hairstreaks again at Spring Coppice
on Lyth Hill – a good view at close quarters of them at rest and in flight. It seemed to be a good year for Gatekeepers
and Meadow Browns, but otherwise 2005 was a disappointing year for butterflies.

My earliest records for various bumblebee species were:

Bombus lucorum – a dead queen on 19 March at home; a queen in our garden on 2 April.

B. terrestris – a queen in our garden on 2 April and one on 4 April at Alveley footbridge.

B. lapidarius – queens on 4 April near Highley and 5 April at Bayston Hill.

B. pratorum – a queen on 25 April at Llynclys Hill.

B. pascuorum – 27 April at Attingham Park.

B. vestalis (or *bohemicus*) – 4 May near Condober.

B. sylvestris – 13 May at Blackemore Gate on Stiperstones.

I also had some good early and late wasp records. Indoors at home on 24 April a large German Wasp *Vespula
germanica* queen was captured and released outside. On 28 November after a very cold spell a male of the same
species was dislodged from a trailer where it had been on the chassis or under a mudguard with no insulation. It was
still alive (just).

Black-tailed Skimmers are still being noted at new sites, and a neighbour of mine has found a probable breeding site in
one of the quarry pools at Mousecroft Lane, Shrewsbury.

I continued sampling for Ephemeroptera this year but with no remarkable or unusual finds. Most of the records just
filled in some of the huge gaps in the recorded distribution (the national recording scheme only started in 2000).

Among the Diptera (Bibionidae) St. Mark's Fly *Bibio marci* was evident rather early in the season on Llynclys Hill (25 April) and again in Attingham Park (27 April); they were numerous on 4 May near Condover; and rather late specimens were at Cwm Irfon on 22 June. Other interesting finds included a Cream-spot Ladybird in some broccoli purchased from Sainsburys on 13 April, and an Eyed Ladybird from Attingham Park to add to the record from the SIG Wyre Forest trip.

Botany

This year I have again been involved in training days for helpers for the Shropshire Verge Survey. My wife Jo and I have undertaken to record a tetrad local to us for the update of the Shropshire Flora, recording to be completed by the end of 2010. We have done two outings and plan to survey the trees during this winter. Among other botanical surveys with which we have been involved was the New Flora of Attingham Park. The Flora uses the same compartments as those of Franklyn Perring's original work of 1969 – 1972 so as to allow meaningful comparisons to be made.

The Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem site at Highley, which suffered some damage from the building of a cycle track, was cleared up on the 4 April: hopefully some recovery of the plants will now take place.

The botanical highlights for me this year were the finding of Herb Paris on the SIG fieldtrip to Weir Coppice; my first encounter with Orange Balsam at the Lea Valley Country Park in Essex (it was also in Attingham Park – a new 10km square record); and being with Pat Parker and Jane Ing when Dropwort was re-found at its only known Shropshire site, in Windmill Meadow, Much Wenlock.

Godfrey Blunt

Alveley, Highley, Dudmaston

Besides the SIG field meetings, my Shropshire fieldwork this year was mostly confined to my home village and neighbourhood. Two new bird species appeared in my Alveley garden, starting with a cock Pheasant which spent over an hour there on the afternoon of 7 March. It was clearly intent on establishing my garden as part of its territory, as between bouts of feeding it spent much time crowing, shivering its wings and chasing other birds away. However, a local cat frightened it off and it never returned; though I continued to hear a Pheasant, possibly the same bird, crowing from the nearby churchyard periodically to the year's end. Another unexpected garden visitor was a Tree Sparrow which joined a group of House Sparrows drinking from my main pond on 6 July: unexpected because Tree Sparrows are very scarce indeed in my local woods and hedgerows.

By mid-April a specimen of Wild Plum along Daddlebrook Road, Alveley, bore numerous elongated pouch-like galls of the fungus *Taphrina pruni* (Taphrinales: Taphrinaceae); and galls of *Syntrichium mercurialis* (Chytridiales: Synchytriaceae) were passed to me by Ian Thompson from Dog's Mercury at the Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem site near Highley across the River Severn.

I recorded several invertebrates in and around the village at various times of year. For the second spring in succession larval webs of the Hawthorn Ermine festooned hedges along the main road entering Alveley from the north; I counted four, and also found a single web at Dudmaston nearby. In July the hoverfly *Volucella pellucens* was in my garden on the 11th, and on the 16th a splendid horsefly *Tabanus autumnalis* drank from the edge of my main pond in the afternoon - the first of this species I have seen in the county, where large *Tabanus* are generally scarce. On 23 July there was a good movement of Green-veined Whites through the garden, along with a Brown Hawker dragonfly. While digging in October I found several larvae of Buff Ermine among grass tussocks; and a Small White caterpillar pupated on my garage door in the first week of November.

Several friends passed me records or specimens from various parts of Shropshire during the year, and I summarise here the most interesting of these:

Heath Mynd, Shelve, Rowley

Jeremy D. H. Brown of Sheffield made a visit to these localities on 30th and 31st May along with H. McConnel. At Heath Mynd (SO3393) they watched a family of five Stoats, the youngsters nearly full-grown, exploring a collapsed stone wall atop their den; later they heard the family calling inside. A pair of Wheatears were alarming nearby, and two Buzzards, a Kestrel and a Raven were overhead; while Lepidoptera on Heath Mynd were a Peacock and Brown Silver-line. Both these Lepidoptera species also occurred at Forestry Commission woodland near Shelve (SO329999), along with Green Hairstreak and Small Heath; Jay was present there too, and the flora included a good amount of Climbing Corydalis. Just north of Rowley (SO3007) they heard two Quails calling at 15:00hrs on 31 May from young crops in fields which maintained wide grass margins under the government's Stewardship Scheme. Two Skylarks sang from the same area. Lepidoptera along the nearby roadside verge included Holly Blue and Silver-ground Carpet.

Meole Brace, Shrewsbury

Ian Thompson's moth-trapping efforts at Meole Brace (SJ478101) yielded a few interesting species including Nutmeg on 6 June and *Epiphyas postvittana* on the surprisingly late date of 2 December: this latter moth continues to occur frequently in Shropshire, and has clearly established itself in some strength. Eric Steer's moth trap at Shrewsbury (SJ510105) contributed many useful distribution records for the county's microlepidoptera, turning up species such as *Epiblema trimaculana* and *E. rosaecolana* (Tortricidae).

Nigel Jones

During 2005 I managed to get out into the field fairly frequently, but because it was a poor season for insects I had to work hard to find representatives of most Orders. Nonetheless I encountered some notable species as follows:

Orthoptera

Until finding one at Cound in 2004 I had never seen the Speckled Bush Cricket in Shropshire, but this year I recorded it on three occasions – several nymphs on Brambles at Stevenshill Wood (near Cound) on 13 May; one at Venus Bank (21 June) and one at Sutton Grange, Shrewsbury (17 July). From these observations it would appear that this insect could be spreading in the Shrewsbury area.

Lepidoptera

Several Green Hairstreaks were in Ercall Quarry, Wellington (6 May) and Dinky Skippers in a meadow beneath The Ercall (7 June). In the Wyre Forest on 27 May I saw several Pearl-bordered Fritillaries in Earnwood Copse, while others were in Birchen Vallets along with Grizzled Skipper, Dinky Skipper and a Yellow-legged Clearwing. Several colourful micro-moths on Hogweed flowers in Attingham Park (17 June) were *Cydia aurana* (Tortricidae); while in a riverside meadow at Redhill, Shrewsbury, on the following day I found many larvae of *Depressaria daucella* (Oecophoridae) in silken nets underneath the flower-heads of Hemlock Water-dropwort. Whenever they were touched they would violently thrash about and fall from their "homes".

Coleoptera

A single *Oiceoptoma thoracicum* (Silphidae) was at Eastridge Wood on 22 April. In a meadow beneath The Ercall I had the longhorn beetles *Judolia cerambyciformis* and *Clytus arietis* on 6 June and the striking weevil *Apoderus coryli* (Attelabidae) a day later. Other *J. cerambyciformis* and a *Rhagium bifasciatum* were in Stevenshill Wood on 13 May; *Strangalia melanura* at Redhill (30 May); and *Anaglyptus mysticus* at Venus Bank on 21 June, my first encounter with this "common" species!

Alongside the Rea Brook at Redhill were many iridescent *Donacia simplex* (Chrysomelidae) on 14 June, while at least fifty adults and larvae of Orange Ladybird were in my Shrewsbury garden in October. This formerly scarce and local species appears to be expanding in numbers in our area.

Diptera (Syrphidae)

2005 seems to have been a good year for *Parasyrphus punctulatus*, which I recorded on eight occasions in April to mid-May – localities were Grinshill, Wellington, Polesgate Farm, Eastridge Wood (Minsterley – Habberley), Stevenshill Wood, Shrewsbury, and in the Mortimer Forest at Mary Knoll Valley. Also in this last locality was a *Melangyna lasiophthalma* on 18 April, and just over the border in Herefordshire, several *Chrysotoxum arcuatum*.

My various visits to the Habberley area yielded the uncommon *Criorhina ranunculi* on the edge of Eastridge Wood (22 April); two *Sphegina clunipes* and one *S. verecunda* in Brown's Coppice (9 May); and *Chrysotoxum bicinctum* plus my first Shropshire *Cheilosia scutellata* also at Eastridge (5 August). In the same month *C. bicinctum* was also at Pulverbatch and in Attingham Park, this latter locality further yielding the uncommon *Eupeodes nitens* on 21 July.

Another fruitful area for hoverflies was Wellington, where in Ercall Quarry on 6 May I recorded my only *Dasysyrphus tricinctus* of the year, plus *Cheilosia bergenstammi*, described as “very local” by Stubbs & Falk (2002). In a wooded valley between Lawrence Hill and The Wrekin I found several good hoverflies on 12-13 May, notably *Rhingia rostrata*, *Criorhina berberina*, *Heringia heringi*, *Ferdinanda cuprea*, *Dasysyrphus venustus* and *C. bergenstammi* again. In a small meadow below The Ercall (7 June) I found *Pipiza austriaca*, *Helophilus hybridus*, *Xylota sylvarum*, *Chalcosyrphus nemorum* and *Epistrophe diaphana*, this last species being my first Shropshire record of an insect expanding its UK range. *F. cuprea* also turned up here and on the lower slopes of The Wrekin.

Birchen Vallets in the Wyre Forest produced *Paragus haemorrhous* and *Xylota jakutorum* (27 May), together with five *Sphegina sibirica* swept off Rowan flowers at about 4 metres height. This last species arrived in the UK in 1992 and has been turning up at scattered localities nationally. Several other *X. jakutorum* were noted along a ride in nearby Earnwood Copse. Stevenshill Wood on 13 June produced, among a good variety of hoverflies, the following: *Criorhina berberina*, *Xylota sylvarum*, *Chrysotoxum bicinctum*, *Pipiza austriaca* and *P. bimaculata*. My best finds in other localities included the Red Data Book Notable species *Orthonevra brevicornis* at Garbett Hall near Llanfair Waterdine (10 May); *Chrysotoxum festivum* in my Shrewsbury garden (31 May); and *Anasymyia lineata* and *Parhelophilus frutetorum* at Redhill on 13-14 June.

Diptera (other families)

The Wyre Forest at Birchen Vallets on 27 May produced a single *Myopa buccata* (Conopidae) plus *Tephritis neesii* and *T. vespertina* (Tephritidae). Other Conopidae of note during the year were *Physocephala rufipes* (Uffington, 27 June), *Conops quadrifasciata* (Attingham Park, 21 July) and *Thecophora atra* (Eastridge Wood, 5 August). My recording of Tephritidae, which I began in 2005, also yielded a few more common species – *Tephritis formosa* (Welloington, 2 May), *Anomoia purmunda* and *Terellia tussilaginis* (both at Shrewsbury, 17 July).

2005 also yielded several robberflies of note. I had not seen *Dioctria atricapilla* in the county for some years, so I was pleased to find it in an old sand pit at Venus Bank on 21 June, when there was also a gathering of some forty to fifty *D. baumhaueri* on the leaves of a solitary Sallow tree from which they were launching at any small prey that flew by. *Dysmachus trigonus*, a mainly coastal species, was also present on site. At Redhill on 18 June I swept *Leptogaster cylindrica*, while there were at least six *Choerades marginatus* around a large dead Beech in Attingham Park on 25 August.

I photographed an impressive male soldierfly *Stratiomys potamida* (Stratiomyidae) in a meadow by The Ercall reservoir (7 June), and the species occurred again at Attingham Park on 20 June. Another very local soldierfly *Oxycera rufa* was taken by Ian Cheeseborough at Wood Lane Nature Reserve near Colemere on 22 June, along with *Chrysops viduatus* (Tabanidae). The delicate snipefly *Chrysopilus asiliformis* was present among the ubiquitous *C. cristatus* in damp grassland on 13 May. By the Rea Brook at Redhill (14 June) I found the distinctive *Coremacera marginata* (Sciomyzidae); while below The Ercall on 6 June, and later in August at Eastridge Wood, I encountered the large and distinctive *Phasia hemiptera* (Tachinidae). Other Tachinidae of note this year were *Tachina ursina* in Mary Knoll Valley (just inside Herefordshire, 18 April), the huge *T. grossa* near Pulverbatch (3 August), and the rarely-recorded *Mintho rufiventris* in my garden (27 August).

Hymenoptera

Given the cool conditions in March and April there was a surprisingly early start to the season for bees; I saw *Anthophora plumipes* (Anthophoridae) in my garden on 25 March, when it was with a *Chrysis* species (*ignita* group). Others of note this year included *Andrena cineraria* at Garbett Hall near Llanfair Waterdine (10 May), *A. labiata* in Birchen Vallets (27 May), *Chelostoma florissomme* at Stevenshill (13 June), and *Bombus rupestris* at Hookagate (30 May) - these last two species perhaps on the increase in Shropshire. However, my most interesting finds of 2005 were rare species: *Nomada integra* ("Notable A" status) in Earnwood Copse on 27 May (RDB Notable) and *Stelis phaeoptera* (RDB2), which has only a dozen UK records since 1970. The latter investigated bee posts in my garden on 21 August - the same day as another uncommon cleptoparasitic bee, *Coelioxys inermis*.

On 21 June I visited an old sand pit at Venus Bank, Cound, with Ian Cheeseborough, and the first bee we encountered was a new Shropshire record – *Andrena bimaculata*. This site appears to be very good for aculeate Hymenoptera, also yielding *A. labiata*, *Hylaeus confusus* and the solitary wasps (Sphecidae) *Crabro cribrarius*, *C. rybyensis*, *Lindenius albilabris*, many *Oxybelus uniglumis* and *Tachysphex pompiliformis*, with a single *Tiphia minuta* (Tiphidae). A *Chrysis* species (Chrysididae), which I am reasonably confident is *C. angustula*, was searching in and out of rabbit burrows.

At Redhill on 18 June I caught a solitary wasp which Ian Cheeseborough identified as *Ectemnius rubicola*, the first known record for Shropshire; while on 27 September late Sphecidae in Attingham Park included *Crossocerus megacephalus*, *C. annulipes* and *C. quadrimaculatus*, along with the bee *Lasioglossum calceatum* (Halictidae).

My year's fieldwork is completed by records of *Zaraea fasciata* (Cimbicidae) for the second year running at Eastridge Wood in August; a ruby-tailed wasp *Pseudomalus auratus* (Chrysididae) at home on 26 June; and a queen Hornet *Vespa crabro* (Vespidae) which I photographed at The Wrekin.

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Appendix

Scientific names of species mentioned in the text

Flora

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| Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | Bog Pimpernel <i>Anagallis tenella</i> |
| Apple <i>Malus</i> species | Bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i> |
| Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> | Bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. |
| Barren Strawberry <i>Potentilla sterilis</i> | Broad Buckler-fern <i>Dryopteris dilatata</i> |
| Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | Broad-leaved Dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> |
| Bell Heather <i>Erica cinerea</i> | Brooklime <i>Veronica beccabunga</i> |
| Bilberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i> | Buddleia <i>Buddleja davidii</i> |
| Bittersweet <i>Solanum dulcamara</i> | Buttercup <i>Ranunculus</i> species |
| Black Horehound <i>Ballota nigra</i> | Carnation Sedge <i>Carex panicea</i> |
| Black Medick <i>Medicago lupulina</i> | Climbing Corydalis <i>Ceratocarpus claviculata</i> |
| Blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i> | Colt's-foot <i>Tussilago farfara</i> |
| Bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> | Common Bird's-foot-trefoil <i>Lotus corniculatus</i> |
| Bogbean <i>Menyanthes trifoliata</i> | Common Cornsalad <i>Valerianella locusta</i> |

Common Cow-wheat *Melampyrum pratense*
 Common Dog-violet *Viola riviniana*
 Common Duckweed *Lemna minor*
 Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*
 Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*
 Common Valerian *Valeriana officinalis*
 Corsican Pine *Pinus nigra laricio*
 Cowberry *Vaccinium vitis-idaea*
 Cowslip *Primula veris*
 Crack-willow *Salix fragilis*
 Cut-leaved Crane's-bill *Geranium dissectum*
 Daisy *Bellis perennis*
 Dandelion *Taraxacum* species
 Dog-rose *Rosa canina*
 Dog's Mercury *Mercurialis perennis*
 Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*
 Dropwort *Filipendula vulgaris*
 Early Forget-me-not *Myosotis ramosissima*
 Elder *Sambucus nigra*
 Enchanter's-nightshade *Circaea lutetiana*
 Field Forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis*
 Field Maple *Acer campestre*
 Field-rose *Rosa arvensis*
 Field Wood-rush *Luzula campestris*
 Foxglove *Digitalis purpurea*
 French Lavender *Lavandula dentata*
 Garlic Mustard *Alliaria petiolata*
 Germander Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*
 Giant Horsetail *Equisetum telmateia*
 Goat Willow *Salix caprea*
 Gooseberry *Ribes uva-crispa*
 Gorse *Ulex europaeus*
 Greater Broomrape *Orobanche rapum-genistae*
 Greater Celandine *Chelidonium majus*
 Greater Stitchwort *Stellaria holostea*
 Grey Willow *Salix cinerea*
 Ground-ivy *Glechoma hederacea*
 Guelder-rose *Viburnum opulus*
 Hairy Tare *Vicia hirsuta*
 Hard-fern *Blechnum spicant*
 Hard Shield-fern *Polystichum aculeatum*
 Hart's-tongue *Phyllitis scolopendrium*
 Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna*
 Hazel *Corylus avellana*
 Heather *Calluna vulgaris*
 Heath Bedstraw *Galium saxatile*
 Hedge Mustard *Sisymbrium officinale*
 Hedgerow Crane's-bill *Geranium pyrenaicum*
 Hemlock *Conium maculatum*
 Hemlock Water-dropwort *Oenanthe crocata*
 Herb Paris *Paris quadrifolia*
 Herb-Robert *Geranium robertianum*
 Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium*
 Holly *Ilex aquifolium*
 Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*
 Ivy *Hedera helix*
 Ivy Broomrape *Orobanche hederae*
 Kidney Vetch *Anthyllis vulneraria*
 Lesser Celandine *Ranunculus ficaria*
 Lesser Spearwort *Ranunculus flammula*
 Lesser Trefoil *Trifolium dubium*
 Lesser Water-parsnip *Berula erecta*
 Lords-and-Ladies *Arum maculatum*
 Male-fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*
 Marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*
 Marsh Pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*
 Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre*
 Meadow Buttercup *Ranunculus acris*
 Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*
 Mexican Fleabane *Erigeron karvinskianus*
 Mistletoe *Viscum album*
 Moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina*
 Navelwort *Umbilicus rupestris*
 Oak *Quercus* species
 Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage *Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*
 Orange Balsam *Impatiens capensis*
 Oxeye Daisy *Leucanthemum vulgare*
 Parsley-piert *Aphanes arvensis*
 Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*
 Poplar *Populus* species
 Ramsons *Allium ursinum*
 Red Campion *Silene dioica*
 Red Currant *Ribes rubrum*
 Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*
 River Water-crowfoot *Ranunculus fluitans*
 Rough Chervil *Chaerophyllum temulum*
 Round-leaved Mint *Mentha suaveolens*
 Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*
 Rush *Juncus* species
 Russian Comfrey *Symphytum x uplandicum*
 Sallow *Salix* species
 Scaly Male-fern *Dryopteris affinis*
 Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*
 Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*
 Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*
 Silver Birch *Betula pendula*
 Snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*
 Soft Shield-fern *Polystichum setiferum*
 Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*
 Star Sedge *Carex echinata*
 Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*
 Thistle *Cirsium* species
 Three-nerved Sandwort *Moehringia trinervia*
 Thyme-leaved Speedwell *Veronica serpyllifolia*
 Toothwort *Lathraea squamaria*
 Tormentil *Potentilla erecta*
 Wall Speedwell *Veronica arvensis*
 Water-starwort *Callitriche* species
 Wavy Hair-grass *Deschampsia flexuosa*
 Weld *Reseda luteola*
 Western Gorse *Ulex gallii*

Whitebeam *Sorbus* species
White Bryony *Bryonia dioica*
Wild Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*
Wild Plum *Prunus domestica*
Wild Strawberry *Fragaria vesca*
Wild Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum*
Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*
Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*
Wood Forget-me-not *Myosotis sylvatica*
Wood Millet *Milium effusum*

Woodruff *Galium odoratum*
Wood Sage *Teucrium scorodonia*
Wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*
Wood Spurge *Euphorbia amygdaloides*
Wych Elm *Ulmus glabra*
Yellow Archangel *Lamium galeobdolon*
Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*
Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem *Gagea lutea*
Yew *Taxus baccata*

Fungi

Dryad's Saddle *Polyporus squamosus*
Honey Fungus *Armillaria mellea*
King Alfred's Cakes *Daldinia concentrica*

Parasol Mushroom *Lepiota procera*
Stinkhorn *Phallus impudicus*
Tar-spot Fungus *Rhytisma acerinum*

Coleoptera

Cream-spot Ladybird *Calvia quattuordecimguttata*
Eyed Ladybird *Anatis ocellata*
Fourteen-spot Ladybird *Propylea quattuordecimpunctata*

Orange Ladybird *Halyzia sedecimguttata*
Seven-spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*
Soldier Beetle *Rhagonycha fulva*
Two-spot Ladybird *Adalia bipunctata*

Odonata

Azure Damselfly *Coenagrion puella*
Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*
Beautiful Demoiselle *Calopteryx virgo*
Black Darter *Sympetrum scoticum*
Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*
Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*
Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*

Brown Hawker *Aeshna grandis*
Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum*
Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*
Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator*
Large Red Damselfly *Pyrrosoma nymphula*
Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*
Ruddy Darter *Sympetrum sanguineum*

Orthoptera

Common Green Grasshopper *Omocestus viridulus*
Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*
Mottled Grasshopper *Myrmeleotettix maculatus*

Oak Bush-cricket *Meconema thalassinum*
Speckled Bush-cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*

Lepidoptera

Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*
Broom Moth *Melanchra pisi*
Brown Silver-line *Petrophora chlorosata*
Buff Ermine *Spilosoma luteum*
Cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae*
Clay *Mythimna ferrago*
Clouded Border *Lomaspilis marginata*
Comma *Polygonia c-album*
Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*
Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages*
Elephant Hawkmoth *Deilephila elpenor*
Engrailed *Ectropis bistortata*
Fox Moth *Macrothylacia rubi*

Galium Carpet *Epirrhoe galiata*
Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus*
Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*
Green Silver-lines *Pseudoips prasinana*
Green-veined White *Pieris napi*
Grizzled Skipper *Pyrgus malvae*
Hawthorn Ermine *Yponomeuta padella*
Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*
Hummingbird Hawkmoth *Macroglossum stellatarum*
Ingrailed Clay *Diarsia mendica*
Large White *Pieris brassicae*
Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*
Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet *Zygaena lonicerae*

Nettle-tap *Anthophila fabriciana*
Northern Eggar *Lasiocampa quercus* f. *callunae*
November Moth *Epirrita dilutata*
Nutmeg *Discestra trifolii*
Oak Eggar *Lasiocampa quercus*
Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*
Peacock *Inachis io*
Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne*
Purple Hairstreak *Quercusia quercus*
Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*
Red-belted Clearwing *Synanthedon myopaeformis*
Red-green Carpet *Chloroclysta siterata*
Riband Wave *Idaea aversata*

Reptiles

Common Lizard *Lacerta vivipara*
Grass Snake *Natrix natrix*

Fish

Brown Trout *Salmo trutta*

Mammals

Badger *Meles meles*
Bank Vole *Clethrionomys glareolus*
Fallow Deer *Dama dama*
Fox *Vulpes vulpes*
Greater Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*
Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*
Lesser Horseshoe Bat *Rhinolophus hipposideros*

Birds

Bee-eater *Merops apiaster*
Blackbird *Turdus merula*
Blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla*
Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*
Bullfinch *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*
Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone*
Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*
Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
Coal Tit *Parus ater*
Collared Dove *Streptopelia decaocto*
Crow *Corvus corone corone*
Cuckoo *Cuculus canorus*
Curlew *Numenius arquata*
Dunnock *Prunella modularis*
Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*
Goosander *Mergus merganser*
Goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*

Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus*
Silver-ground Carpet *Xanthorhoe montanata*
Silver-washed Fritillary *Argynnis paphia*
Silver Y *Autographa gamma*
Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*
Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*
Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*
Small White *Pieris rapae*
Snout *Hypena proboscidalis*
Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*
Vapourer *Orgyia antiqua*
Yellow-legged Clearwing *Synanthedon vespiformis*

Amphibians

Common Frog *Rana temporaria*
Common Toad *Bufo bufo*

Mink *Mustela vison*
Mole *Talpa europaea*
Polecat *Mustela putorius*
Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*
Stoat *Mustela erminea*
Weasel *Mustela nivalis*

Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
Great Tit *Parus major*
Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*
Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*
House Martin *Delichon urbica*
House Sparrow *Passer domesticus*
Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*
Jay *Garrulus glandarius*
Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
Kittiwake *Rissa tridactyla*
Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*
Lesser Black-backed Gull *Larus fuscus*
Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*
Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*
Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Long-eared Owl *Asio otus*
Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*
Magpie *Pica pica*

Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Mandarin *Aix galericulata*
Martin – see House Martin, Sand Martin
Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*
Merlin *Falco columbarius*
Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*
Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*
Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*
Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*
Quail *Coturnix coturnix*
Raven *Corvus corax*
Red Grouse *Lagopus lagopus scoticus*
Red Kite *Milvus milvus*
Robin *Erithacus rubecula*
Sand Martin *Riparia riparia*

Sedge Warbler *Acrocephalus schoenobaenus*
Skylark *Alauda arvensis*
Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*
Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Stock Dove *Columba oenas*
Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*
Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Swift *Apus apus*
Tawny Owl *Strix aluco*
Tree Sparrow *Passer montanus*
Waxwing *Bombycilla garrulus*
Wheatear *Oenanthe oenanthe*
Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*
Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*
Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*
Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Scientific names of taxa other than species

Agromyzid Flies Diptera: Agromyzidae
Beetles Coleoptera
Bristletails Thysanura
Bumblebees Hymenoptera: Apidae
Caddis Flies Trichoptera
Capsid Bugs Hemiptera Heteroptera: Miridae
Carabids Coleoptera: Carabidae
Centipedes Chilopoda
Crane-flies Diptera: Tipulidae
Cuckoo Bees Hymenoptera: Apidae
Dung Beetles Coleoptera: Geotrupidae
Fleas Siphonaptera
Gall-mites Acari: Eriophyoidea
Grass Veneers Lepidoptera: Pyralidae
Harvestmen Opiliones
Horseflies Diptera: Tabanidae
Hoverflies Diptera: Syrphidae
Ladybirds Coleoptera: Coccinellidae
Leaf Beetles Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae

Longhorn Beetles Coleoptera: Cerambycidae
Mayflies Ephemeroptera
Micro Moths Lepidoptera
Millipedes Diplopoda
Mites Acari
Molluscs Mollusca
Nepticulid Moths Lepidoptera: Nepticulidae
Pseudoscorpions Pseudoscorpiones
Psychid Moths Lepidoptera: Psychidae
Pyralid Moths Lepidoptera: Pyralidae
Robber-flies Diptera: Asilidae
Rove Beetles Coleoptera: Staphylinidae
Scorpion Flies Mecoptera: Panorpidae
Shield bugs Hemiptera: Pentatomidae
Slugs and Snails Gastropoda
Snipeflies Diptera: Rhagionidae
Soldier Beetles Coleoptera: Cantharidae
Soldierflies Diptera: Stratiomyidae
Sphecid Wasps Hymenoptera: Sphecidae

Solitary Wasps Hymenoptera: Sphecidae
Spiders Araneae
Springtails Collembola
Tortricid Moths Lepidoptera: Tortricidae
Tussock Moths Lepidoptera: Lymantriidae
Wasps Hymenoptera: Vespidae
Water-Snipeflies Diptera: Athericidae
Weevils Coleoptera: Curculionidae
Woodlice Isopoda Oniscoidea

