

# Shropshire Invertebrates Group



## Annual Report 2009

Report compiled by A.G. Blunt  
September 2010

Photo: SIG members at Catherton  
Common  
August 2009

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**29 March 2009: Badger Dingle (present: R. Kemp, D. Harding, I. Cheeseborough, W. Rudge, J. Mason, N. Walters, N. Jones, G. Blunt)**

Grid references: SO7699 (Dingle) and SO7698, (sewage works, field and lanes at Ackleton)

Our first field trip of 2009 aimed among other things to look for the Land Caddis *Enoicyla pusilla*, a regional speciality which is perhaps best sought in early spring when its larvae are at their greatest size. It is not known from Badger Dingle, or indeed anywhere north of Chorley, so we were breaking new ground as we set out from our meeting point at Bob Kemp's house in Ackleton and down the lane which leads to the Dingle. A Skylark sang overhead, and Chaffinch and Great Tit song came from the lane's hedgerows, where Damson blossom was already dropping, Lesser Celandine was in bud, and Ivy in berry.

We entered Badger Dingle in dappled sunlight beneath a canopy of oaks and the occasional Yew. Straight away we began sieving leaf litter at the foot of mature trees, and continued our efforts for some while, but little reward was had from them. The distinctive centipede *Lithobius variegatus* and harvestman *Nemastoma bimaculatum* were the only fauna we identified to species level, as we did not tackle the pseudoscorpions, woodlice, millipedes and wolf spiders which we also encountered. There was no sign of the Land Caddis.

Though our entomological efforts were unproductive we fared better with botany, finding Moschatel, Ground-ivy, Lesser Celandine, Primrose, Wood Anemone and Dog's Mercury in full flower, plus a single inflorescence of Red Campion. In the Dingle bottom Butterbur and Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage added to the floral show, and a single Marsh-marigold was blooming profusely at the edge of a pool. Some Daffodils under the trees were, however, clearly garden imports and not our native species. We did find a couple of invertebrates here, or at least traces of them, as an oak sapling was galled by the gall-wasp *Andricus kollari*, and a Holly bore the mines of the agromyzid fly *Phytomyza ilicis*.

Bird-life was also prolific in this stretch of woodland, with Great, Blue and Long-tailed Tits, Jackdaw and Carrion Crow, Pheasant, Green Woodpecker, Robin, and singing Chiffchaff and Wren. A Woodpecker called and flew over, revealing itself to be Lesser Spotted Woodpecker, an excellent sighting. As we followed the stream down we heard Buzzard and two more Chiffchaffs, and watched a Grey Wagtail by the water's edge.

Lunch was taken beneath a sandstone outcrop, and here we were able to add the Seven-spot Ladybird, the hoverfly *Eristalis tenax* and bee-fly *Bombylius major* to our day's invertebrate tally. Scarlet Elf Cups fungus was on soil here too. As we progressed further down the Dingle after lunch we found Navelwort and Hart's-tongue growing plentifully beside shaded rocks, and looked out for the Ostrich Fern which is a notable plant of the site, albeit introduced. We found it coming into leaf beside the stream.

At this point, with Rooks calling from their nests across the Dingle, we came into more open woodland, where patches of sunlight attracted the bumblebees *Bombus terrestris*, *B. lucorum* and *B. pascuorum*, the first in some numbers; the bee *Andrena fulva* was also located here; and two Commas and a Peacock were our first butterflies of the day. A male Blackcap sang. King Alfred's Cakes fungus was also recorded here.

At last we emerged from the wood and descended a clearing which held much Bramble and flowering Gorse, crossed the stream and scanned a small sewage works where both Pied and Grey Wagtails were present. In the field leading up to the road we encountered the fungus *Bolbitius vitellinus* on horse dung and added *Bombus lapidarius* to our bumblebee list. The minor road back to Ackleton was relatively unproductive, though we did find *Bombus hortorum* and a Robin's Pincushion gall of *Diplolepis rosae* on our way.

Back at Bob Kemp's house we sat in his garden enjoying tea and biscuits provided by his wife Jill, then as the sun weakened and the afternoon grew chilly we headed indoors to admire Bob's photography, chat, and finish our trip in the most congenial of company.

Godfrey Blunt

**26 April 2009: Nesscliffe and Hopton Hills (present: N. Jones, J. Mason, W. Rudge, I. Thompson)**

Grid references: SJ3819 (Nesscliffe, including the lane and Hopton Hill car park), SJ3920 (Hopton – Mount View) and SJ3919 (Shrugg's Coppice & field margin)

We left the Oak car park and set off through woodland up the steep track which is the principal route to the top of Nesscliffe hill. In the better-lit woodland margin next to the lane there were Broad Buckler-fern and Brambles and upon the leaves of the latter we noted the mines of the microlepidopteran *Stigmella aurella*. Also in the bright patches a Speckled Wood was seen. As we climbed the path we noted clumps of Great Wood-rush, and plants of Wood-sorrel and Bluebell indicated the earlier flora of the hill before extensive planting of conifers in the past. Near the top of our climb we found the hoverflies *Parasyrphus punctulatus* and *Melanostoma mellinum*.

On reaching the hill-fort site we searched the open area of former ditches and banks now covered with Bracken, Bramble and Rosebay Willowherb together with Gorse and some scrub. We found a newly-emerged adult Brown Silver-line (rather early), whose larva is a bracken feeder, and a Green-veined White. The most interesting find in this area was the nest of a Blackbird, with four eggs, built on the ground among Bracken and not particularly well concealed. Its chance of bringing off a successful brood seemed slim. In this open area we noted or collected the hoverflies *Eristalis pertinax*, *E. arbustorum* and *Rhingia campestris*, a tachinid fly *Gymnochaeta viridis*, the bee *Andrena haemorrhoa*, a Noon-fly *Mesembrina meridiana* (Diptera: Muscidae), an empid fly *Rhamphomyia sulcatella* and a queen *Bombus hortorum*.

From the open hill-fort site we followed a narrow woodland path which connects to a wide bridleway, a route to Hopton Hill. In the woodland were several individual Coastal Redwood trees and at one point a clonal clump of Wild Cherry. In the herb layer we noted Slender Speedwell. Both Chiffchaff and Wren were heard but not seen and along the more open bridleway St. Mark's fly *Bibio marci* (Diptera: Bibionidae) and several soldier-flies *Beris chalybeata* were seen.

We reached Hopton Hill via a short length of the lane from Great Ness to Hopton, with a sunny south-west facing verge and hedge. The verge was verdant with Greater Stitchwort, Cow Parsley, Gooseberry and Garlic Mustard. Here we noted a Seven-spot and two Fourteen-spot Ladybirds (the latter both of the 'clown face' variant) and a male Hairy-footed Flower Bee on Ground-ivy flowers. In the wood we found a cuckoo-bee *Nomada panzeri*, the dung-flies *Scathophaga suillia*, *S. stercoraria* and *Norellisoma spinimanum*, the last a mine in *Rumex* sp., and a mating swarm of *Rhamphomyia sulcata* (Diptera: Empididae). From the car park we followed another track through some dense conifer-dominated woodland, again noting Redwoods and a ground flora which included Common Dog-violet, Scaly Male-fern and much Climbing Corydalis, this last plant being found on many areas of the hill.

By way of this path we reached Shrugg's Coppice, an open area of broad-leaved trees dominated by Oak where we hoped to find our target species, the longhorn beetle *Grammoptera ustulata*. Despite extensive searching and examination of dead wood with loose bark, both on accessible trees and on the ground, we had no success. The black-and-red-marked beetle *Scaphidium quadrimaculatum* (Scaphidiidae) was found on a log and a photograph obtained of *Rhagium bifasciatum* (Cerambycidae). At this point we lunched at the woodland edge, a quiet spot save for two riders heading for The Cliffe and a Buzzard circling and mewing in the spring sunshine. Retracing our route back to the car park we then made a circuit of part of the top of Hopton Hill known as Mount View. We noted little in this area save some fine specimen trees, a Grey Squirrel and a single Large White. At the edge of the wood looking down onto the village of Hopton we observed many Rooks and Jackdaws and a Swallow.

The Hopton Hill car park is at the edge of the woodland, and the adjoining field, planted with Maize, had a wide uncultivated margin facing south and west. This proved very productive: two more Fourteen-spot Ladybirds with the clown face markings, a worker *Bombus pascuorum*, queens of *Bombus vestalis* (several), *B. pratorum* and *B. terrestris*, the mining bees *Andrena fulva* (males coursing along the woodland edge), one *A. cineraria* male and numbers of male *A. synadelpha*, a Hawthorn Shieldbug, a Het-bug

*Rhopalus subrufus*, and an Orange Tip, all caught our attention. Hoverflies were well represented also, with *Pipiza noctiluca*, numbers of *Melanostoma mellinum*, two more *Parasyrphus punctulatus*, *Cheilosia pagana*, *Syrphus ribesii* and a single of the scarce *Parasyrphus annulatus*. Two micro-moths were collected, a male *Incurvaria masculella* and another later identified as *Nematopogon schwarziellus*. Mines on Honeysuckle yielded *Chromatomyia aprilina* (Diptera: Agromyzidae) and a moth photographed by Nigel Jones was later identified as Least Black Arches – an early specimen of a local species at the northern edge of its main area of distribution.

As we headed back to Nesscliffe Hill the lane verge produced queens of *Bombus lapidarius* and *Bombus lucorum*, making our bumblebee tally for the day seven species, together with more hoverflies *Neoascia podagrica* (many) and *Syritta pipiens*. A Red Admiral was noted by the cottage at the edge of the wood. Just a little way beyond the woodland gate stands the remains of an old sawmill and a creosoting plant. Around the old timber buildings we found a cuckoo-bee *Nomada leucophthalma*, a female spider wasp *Priocnemis perturbator*, the hoverflies *Platycheirus tarsalis* and the uncommon *Pipiza luteitarsis*, and *Tachypeza nubila* (Diptera: Hybotidae).

From the sawmill we followed the perimeter of the wood back to our cars at the end of a fine spring day which had produced some worthwhile finds.

Ian Thompson

**7 May 2009: Kinlet Mine and New England, Highley, and Stanmore Country Park  
(present: R. Kemp, I. Cheeseborough, N. Jones)**

Grid references: SO733844 (car park of Castle Inn, Highley), SO7382 (Kinlet Mine), SO7283 (New England)

Three members gathered in Highley for what was the group's first-ever mid-week field meeting. The target species for the day was the saproxylic hoverfly *Chalcosyrphus eunotus*, which we had discovered at Kinlet Mine in 2003. We hoped to find it in the nearby area of New England, on the western edge of Highley.

The sun had broken through early, providing warm conditions, and before we set off for Kinlet Mine we investigated some bushes and garden plants opposite the pub car park. This got the day off to a promising start with records of the uncommon stilt-fly *Neria cibaria*, the lance-fly *Lonchaea chorea*, the hoverflies *Melanostoma scalare* and *Neoascia podagrica*, the soldier-fly *Beris chalybeata*, and a 22-spot Ladybird.

We then drove to Kinlet Mine, parking on the roadside at Netherton at grid reference SO734823. From here we walked downhill along a track towards the Borle Brook and into woodland dominated by displays of Ramsons, Red Campion and Bluebells. There had been a very large emergence of hoverflies, so we proceeded slowly through the woodland, along an old mineral line, stopping frequently to observe the bonanza of spring syrphids and to photograph specimens. We were pleased to note two of the uncommon *Criorhina asilica* and a few *C. berberina* as well as *Cheilosia antiqua*, a local hoverfly associated with Primrose, and another local hoverfly *Neoascia obliqua*, this time associated with Butterbur. Other hoverflies noted were:

<i>Baccha elongata</i>	<i>Leucozona lucorum</i>	<i>Platycheirus scutatus</i>
<i>Cheilosia berberina</i>	<i>Melanostoma mellinum</i>	<i>Portevinia maculata</i>
<i>C. variabilis</i>	<i>M. scalare</i>	<i>Rhingia campestris</i>
<i>Dasysyrphus venustus</i>	<i>Neoascia podagrica</i>	<i>Sphegina clunipes</i>
<i>Epsitrophe eligans</i>	<i>Pipiza lugubris</i>	<i>Syritta pipiens</i>
<i>Eristalis horticola</i>	<i>P. noctiluca</i>	<i>Xylota segnis</i>
<i>E. pertinax</i>	<i>Platycheirus albimanus</i>	
<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>	<i>P. clypeatus</i>	

Beside the abundant hoverflies there were many other species on the wing including the tachinid fly *Gymnochaeta viridis*, the heleomyzid fly *Suilla variegata*, the dolichopodid flies *Argyra diaphana*, *Rhaphium appendiculatum* and *R. crassipes*, and the bee-fly *Bombylius major*. Ian Cheeseborough caught a tantalising glimpse of a large *Conops vesicularis* as it flew past through the woodland. This is a nationally scarce conopid fly, thought to be a parasite of Hornets. This was only the second Shropshire record for this impressive yellow, brown and black fly. Other insects noted were the shield bug *Dolycoris baccarum*, the bees *Bombus lapidarius*, *B. pratorum*, a queen bumblebee *Bombus lucorum*, and *Andrena haemorrhoea*. We eventually reached the edge of the wood and walked through a rough meadow bordering the stream at grid reference SO742819. Here we noted further hoverfly species: *Chalcosyrphus nemorum*, *Cheilosia albitarsis*, *C. fraterna* and *Lejogaster metallina*. Also in this meadow were Small Copper, *Bombus pratorum* and the cuckoo-bee *Nomada striata*. From here it was a short walk to the spot where the group had previously found a number of our target species, *Chalcosyrphus eunotus*. Today there was no sign of the fly, and we noted that much of the stream's partly-submerged pieces of wood, which this hoverfly requires, had been swept away or removed. Nonetheless nearby parts of the stream still held plenty of suitable deadwood. We returned through the woodland stopping to photograph a splendid *Criorhina asilisca* and collected a lance-fly *Lonchaea chorea*. On approaching the parked cars we picked up and photographed the nationally scarce longhorn beetle *Anaglyptus mysticus*. Above us in trees on the roadside it was very pleasing to hear the gentle purring call of a Turtle Dove.

We had experienced an excellent morning. We hastily took our lunchtime refreshments, being anxious to move on and explore further ground whilst such favourable conditions prevailed. On arriving at our second destination, New England, to the west of Highley on the Borle Brook (SO726837) we immediately encountered *Criorhina berberina* and more evidence of a huge emergence of spring Syrphidae with spectacular numbers of *Rhingia campestris*, *Melanostoma mellinum*, *Platycheirus albimanus*, *Eristalis pertinax* and *Portevinia maculata* flying amongst a wonderful display of Bluebells, Red Campion and Ramsons. We were able to pick out a single *Rhingia rostrata* among its far more abundant cousins. Soon we came across a *Brachyopa* at rest on an ash trunk, which Bob Kemp photographed. It flew off before it could be captured, but fortunately Bob's photo was clear enough for us later to determine that it was the nationally scarce *B. bicolor*, a saproxylic hoverfly whose larvae live in accumulations of tree sap. As in the morning, there were many species of hoverfly on the wing and we also recorded:

<i>Baccha elongata</i>	<i>Eristalis tenax</i>	<i>Parasyrphus punctulatus</i>
<i>Cheilosia albitarsis</i>	<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>	<i>Pipiza noctiluca</i>
<i>C. bergenstammi</i>	<i>Leucozona lucorum</i>	<i>Platycheirus tarsalis</i>
<i>C. variabilis</i>	<i>Melanostoma scalare</i>	<i>Syritta pipiens</i>
<i>Dasysyrphus venustus</i>	<i>Myathropa florea</i>	<i>Xylota segnis</i>
<i>Epistrophe eligans</i>	<i>Neoascia obliqua</i>	
<i>Eristalis interruptus</i>	<i>N. podagrica</i>	
<i>Heringia</i> (♀) probably <i>H. heringi</i>		

We next turned our attention to the Borle Brook where we hoped to find *Chalcosyrphus eunotus* in its classic stream and streamside habitat. A diligent search of deadwood and vegetation overhanging the brook eventually provided us with a single *C. eunotus*, which sat on overhanging Comfrey leaves, frequently flying off and returning to the same spot to bask in the sun. Well pleased with our success, we walked back into the woodland and almost immediately Ian Cheeseborough netted a large fly, which gave us our second *Conops vesicularis* of the day. A Hornet flew overhead shortly afterwards and later Nigel Jones glimpsed a large yellowish fly which could well have been a third *C. vesicularis*. Contentment with our day's work ran strongly through us, but further thrills were to follow when Ian Cheeseborough netted a splendid red-and-black hoverfly, the very locally distributed saproxylic species *Brachypalpoides lentus*, and we soon afterwards had good views of a handsome male *Phasia hemiptera* (Diptera: Tachinidae). We ventured further along the brook and found a small sunny clearing where by the stream we collected several flies: the stilt-fly *Neria cibaria*, a dolichopodid fly *Rhaphium crassipes*, the tachinid fly *Gymnochaeta viridis* and two lance-flies *Lonchaea chorea* plus a probable *L. iona*, which if confirmed will be a new county species.

During the afternoon at New England we also noted Orange Tip, Brimstone, the bumblebees *Bombus pratorum*, *B. hortorum*, *B. pascuorum*, *B. terrestris* and *B. vestalis*, the solitary bees *Andrena haemorrhoea*,

*Andrena carantonica* and *Nomada ruficornis*, the Common Wasp, the spider-hunting wasp *Priocnemis perturbator* and the attractive red-and-black leaf-roller weevil *Apoderus coryli*. We returned to our cars with the sun still shining and providing ample warmth. As conditions were so good for insects we decided to squeeze another site into our excursion and drove to nearby Stanmore Country Park (parking place grid reference SO740927). Nigel Jones had a few weeks earlier encountered the rare saproxylic hoverfly *Brachyopa pilosa* on a felled poplar within the woodland, so the group visited this tree and were not disappointed, finding three male *B. pilosa*, one of which Bob Kemp managed to photograph. There were a number of other insects in the vicinity of the fallen poplar and we recorded the hoverflies *Chalcosyrphus nemorum*, *Epistrophe eligans*, *Eristalis interruptus*, *Leucozona lucorum*, *Melanostoma mellinum*, *Merodon equestris*, *Myathropa florea*, *Platycheirus tarsalis* and *Xylota segnis*. The dead poplar was ideal territory for lance-flies, several being taken and later determined as *Lonchaea sylvatica* and *L. contigua*. A Hornet plus the bees *Andrena synadelpha* and *Osmia rufa* were also recorded. Finally, to top off a superb day, Bob Kemp viewed another *Conops vesicularis* which flew off before he could photograph it, while Nigel Jones captured a small hoverfly which was later determined as the extremely scarce *Meligramma euchromum*. Stanmore Park makes only the second Shropshire site for this fly. Ian Cheeseborough found the bees *Andrena haemorrhoa*, *Bombus lucorum* and the digger wasp *Argogorytes mystaceus*.

We returned to our cars after a long but extremely rewarding day that will live long in our memories for the sheer quantity of insects flying in the woodlands we visited. For the Diptera aficionados this had been a spectacularly successful field day with some forty-seven species of hoverfly encountered, including numerous scarce and rare species. The encounters with three, possibly four *Conops vesicularis* were an extraordinary occurrence, considering that between the three of us we could only muster a single previous record in many cumulative years observing Conopidae.

Nigel Jones

### **17 May 2009: Rhos Fiddle (present: R. Smith, I. Thompson, M. Webb, G. Blunt)**

Grid reference: SO2085

Heavy rain fell shortly before we were due to meet, and though the sun had emerged when we set out belatedly from our cars the temperature remained cool because of the wind – certainly not a day for good insect activity. Needless to say, our entomological records for the visit were sparse, though we did have compensations in terms of some attractive flowers and interesting vertebrates.

Robin Smith, who lives nearby, led the way on drier ground, pointing out to us the marker stones which once defined an ancient boundary. Flowers of Lousewort, Tormentil, Heath Milkwort and especially Mountain Pansy delighted us, the last in its all-yellow form; while other plants we found flowering included Wavy Bitter-cress and Field Wood-rush. A Holly seedling was a sign of natural regeneration, though mature Hollies were very few nearby. Typical birds of upland heath were present, and we saw or heard Yellowhammer, Linnet, Skylark and Curlew, all holding territory, while an alarming Stonechat clearly had a nest nearby. A Reed Bunting was also singing near the main pond on the reserve, which was full of water. At one point we came across a Common Lizard so torpid in the cool conditions that Ian Thompson was able to catch it in his net as it made a feeble effort to escape.

Later we began to descend the heath towards the woodland edge which runs along its southern boundary, and investigated a Silver Birch spinney on our way. Here we encountered a Willow Warbler in song and spotted a witches' broom on one of the trees. As we gained the fence-line along the lee of the wood a few insects were on the wing, notable St Mark's Fly *Bibio marci* (Diptera: Bibionidae) and the Common Heath moth. Two Buzzards were overhead at this point, and a few Redpolls flew over calling.

Then the rain came again and we had to hurry off Rhos Fiddle, cursing the elements for waiting until we were at the furthest point from our cars. We did pause long enough to record Common Cottongrass in fruit. As we ended our trip we accepted Robin Smith's invitation to his home, where tea and biscuits were provided by his wife Polly and we were able to dry out a little.

Our invertebrate records for the day were completed by the cranefly *Euphyllidorea meigenii*, two specimens of which were collected from the edge of the pond by Ian Thompson and later identified by Peter Boardman, and a Wasp Beetle found by Robin at his home.

Godfrey Blunt

**14 June 2009: Clarepool Moss (present: N. Jones, J. Mason, W. Rudge, I. Thompson)**

Grid reference: SJ4334

The wildlife observations began before we reached our site; whilst driving down the narrow lane from the A495 main road we noted at the margin of a small pool a Buzzard harrying a Moorhen pair with young. The parents were putting up some spirited resistance but we did not see the outcome of the encounter. On our return later in the afternoon there were no signs of the Moorhens or their brood.

We left our cars on a field track leading to the woodland at the southern side of the Moss. Along this track at the crop margins we noted Bugloss, Common Field-speedwell, Scarlet Pimpernel and Field Pansy. The hoverflies *Eristalis tenax*, *Xylota sylvorum* and *X. segnis* (in numbers) were present, together with the bumblebees *Bombus lapidarius* and *B. pascuorum*, the longhorn beetle *Alosterna tabacicolor* and the micro-moth *Nemophora degeerella*.

The track continued through the wood, where we found a single Speckled Wood, to the eastern edge, which we followed until we came to the open area of the Moss. The day was warm and humid, and along the woodland edge we recorded a wide variety of invertebrates of various orders as follows:-

Diptera – the conopid fly *Sicus ferruginea*, the robber-fly *Dioctria atricapilla* and the snipe-fly *Rhagio tringarius*

Coleoptera – *Oedemera nobilis* and *Phyllopertha horticola*

Hoverflies – *Helophilus pendulus*, *Rhingia campestris*, *Sericomyia lappona* (a large, uncommon specialist of bogs), *S. silentis* (its larger and commoner relative), *Chalcosyrphus nemorum*, *Episyrphus balteatus* and *Cheilisia albitarsis*

Mecoptera – Scorpion flies were numerous but not identified to species

Bumblebees – very small workers of *B. pascuorum* and workers of either *B. terrestris* or *B. lucorum*

At a corner of the adjacent field, where the deciduous woodland ends and the Moss proper begins, the wide field margin was well-grassed together with buttercups and other ruderal herbs and a clump of Bracken. We found a Green Hairstreak, a Large Skipper and a Common White Wave here. On the Bracken were a few Large Red Damselflies and numerous Azure Damselflies. After much searching a single teneral Common Blue Damselfly was located.

From this point we went onto the Moss. The boundary ditch between the woodland and the Moss, now dry and largely filled in, had a good show of Foxgloves and Red Campion. The Moss surface was dry at first but became progressively wetter as we went towards the small pool which is situated on the eastern side. We proceeded with some difficulty among the bog pools, negotiating fallen dead pines and checking the stability of the standing ones before trusting them as handholds. All over this area were numbers of Four-spotted Chasers, the males holding and disputing territories. The small black solitary wasp *Psen dahlbomi* (Hymenoptera: Sphecidae) was taken from a dead birch. Our progress was very slow and as the open water appeared to have a wide margin of emergent vegetation we abandoned our intention to reach it and retreated. We walked across the centre of the largest part of the area, now cleared of the former conifer plantation, to the deciduous woodland fringing the western edge. The ground was disappointingly dry and we would have expected a greater degree of re-wetting to have occurred since removal of the conifers given the recent two wet summers. The uneven ground surface had some Brambles and a large amount of Climbing Corydalis all over the dry Moss surface. Records were rather few: the Red Mason Bee, a snipe-

fly *Chrysopilus cristatus*, a dung-fly *Scathophaga inquinata*, and the hoverflies *Chrysogaster virescens* (an uncommon bog specialist), *Eristalis intricarius*, *Syritta pipiens* and *Melanostoma scalare*.

We sat on tree stumps to have lunch at the woodland edge. Here we noted a Brown Silver-line, the bumblebees *Bombus terrestris* (a daughter queen) *B. lapidarius* (a male and a daughter queen), cuckoo bumblebees *B. vestalis* and *B. sylvestris* (both males), and *B. bohemicus* (a queen) – which was retained for later identification being a dark specimen – together with Common Wasps. Hoverflies seen were *Myathropa florea*, *Merodon equestris*, *Melanostoma mellinum* and *Anasimyia lineata*.

At the northern end there were some small water-filled hollows where we watched four male hoverflies *Helophilus trivittatus* disputing territory from dead branches overhanging the water. Several attempts were needed before capture of a specimen for identification. From the north-east corner of the site we tried again to reach the open water; again we were frustrated, this time by flooded perimeter ditches. We made our way off the Moss and followed the boundary round to the outfall ditch, noting Large and Green-veined Whites and a bracken sawfly, a *Strongylogaster* species (probably *S. lineatea*), on uncultivated areas adjacent to the boundary fence. The outfall ditch was flowing quite strongly and given that its level is controlled by a plastic 'sheet-piled' dam we considered that the water level on the Moss as a whole could be raised easily by an adjustment to this feature.

Towery Moss is only a short distance from Clarepool Moss, and we walked across to its boundary. Because of substantial fencing access could not be gained, but along much of the fence there were rough and wet patches of vegetation on the field side. We had an excellent view of a perched female Broad-bodied Chaser and also noted a Painted Lady, a Four-spotted Footman, Seven-spot and Fourteen-spot Ladybirds, the robber-fly *Dioctria rufipes*, a bee *Lasioglossum fulvicorne* (Hymenoptera: Halictidae) and the longhorn beetle *Leptura maculata*. We retraced our route back across the dry Moss and along the track to the cars. In the final few yards we recorded a Silver-ground Carpet and another longhorn beetle, *Grammoptera ruficornis*.

During the day we collected tipulids which Peter Boardman subsequently identified as *Tipula oleracea*, *T. lateralis* and *T. unca*. Micro-moths had also found their way into our collecting tubes and were subsequently identified as *Aphelia paleana*, *Celypha lacunana* (an untypically small specimen), and *Crambus lathoniellus*. Rolled leaves of Alder were found to contain the weevils *Deporaus betulae* (Coleoptera: Attelabidae).

Ian Thompson

**19 July 2009: Nesscliffe Training Area (present: R. Kemp, G. Ludgate, M. Fallon, J. Mason, M. Webb, I. Thompson, G. Blunt)**

Grid reference: Conservation area and pond SJ3716; other sites SJ3815

Access to this restricted military area was obtained for us by Graham Ludgate courtesy of his links through Walford College, where we parked then transferred to the site by minibus. Reporting at the guard-house we were given instructions where we could go that day, and consequently headed for the south of the training area near the River Severn.

We found the site criss-crossed with tracks of long-disused railway lines which enabled us to travel easily if a little bumpily from place to place. Much of the area is now managed as low-intensity farmland, its unimproved pastures contrasting strongly with intensive cultivation on farmland across the river. Rain-showers earlier that morning had cleared by the time we alighted at our first stop, and we began to explore a flowering patch of Brambles in the lee of an old brick wall where shelter, warmth and humidity combined to produce a wealth of invertebrate activity. Gatekeepers were common here and other butterflies included Large and Small Whites, a couple each of Meadow Brown and Ringlet, and three Small Tortoiseshells. Common Ragwort supported caterpillars of Cinnabar moth, and a Silver Y imago fed at Bramble flowers.

Hoverflies were numerous, particularly *Helophilus pendulus*, *Eristalis tenax* and *Episyrphus balteatus*, while the Common Froghopper was abundant. Our sweep-net was busily deployed and produced lots of specimens, especially the common soldier beetle *Rhagonycha fulva*. In nearby woodland we heard Chiffchaff and a young Buzzard calling.

Beyond the wall we explored an open field which was wonderfully lush with Creeping and Spear Thistles in flower, and investigation of these gave us a Small Copper in immaculate condition, a Green Hairstreak, Comma, Green-veined White and the distinctive hoverfly *Chrysotoxum bicinctum*. These were outdone, however, by the find of a Painted Lady caterpillar, and empty larval webs showed that this species had been breeding in numbers here. The micro-moths *Agriphila tristella* and *Eucosma cana* and the Common Green Grasshopper were here too, along with the bumblebees *Bombus lucorum* and *B. lapidarius* and the Seven-spot Ladybird, and we located a puffball *Bovista* species which we were unable to determine beyond genus. A Green Woodpecker called in trees nearby.

At this point came the shower which had been threatening for some while, and we hurried to shelter in an old building which had served as a store in wartime. As the rain eased we returned to our minibus where we ate our sandwiches. Then we moved on to our second stop of the day, at a site immediately adjacent to the River Severn.

The hedgerows at this point were tall and unmanaged, and included both Hawthorn and Spindle, the former carrying galls of the gall-mite *Phyllocoptes goniothorax*. Chiffchaff was audible here too, and near the river we came across a large mixed party of Blue and Long-tailed Tits. A Raven called in the distance. On the river bank we found emergent Reed Canary-grass and Amphibious Bistort, but Indian Balsam, though lush on the opposite bank, was absent from our side. Broad-leaved Docks had one or two leaf-beetles *Gastrophysa viridula*, with plenty of old damage to leaves indicating that larvae of this insect had been abundant here. Mating pairs of White-legged Damselfly were a good find, and Ian Thompson spotted an old shell in the mud which proved to be that of the Painter's Mussel *Unio pictorum*.

After exploring 100m or so of river bank we turned inland towards the edge of a shelter-belt of pines. Here we spotted the remnants of the nest of Common Wasp, with a few adults still lingering around, and rough herbage in the adjacent field yielded Large Yellow Underwing, the micro-moths *Chrysoteuchia culmella* and *Agapeta hamana* and the grass-bug *Leptopterna dolabrata*. Two micro-moths from the adjacent hedgerow were Bird Cherry Ermine and *Ancylis achatana*. A Nuthatch called from the woodland, and as we worked our way along the field edge towards a tall disused hedgerow we saw Song Thrush and heard the subsong of either Blackcap or Garden Warbler – we were unable to determine which.

We now turned back in the general direction of our vehicle, but the unmanaged herbage and shrubberies continued to hold our attention. We found Small Tortoiseshell, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Small White and Ringlet butterflies, the bumblebee *Bombus lucorum/terrestris*, plus the hoverfly *Helophilus trivittatus*, the spider *Enoplognatha ovata*, and an attractive Robin's Pincushion gall on a small Rose bush. Some scorpion flies went unidentified as to species. Three or four tiny Common Frogs hopped out of our way, while on a fallen branch we found a well-camouflaged Common Rustic moth. Just beyond this we paused to investigate the bole of a large Ash and discovered, to the delight of the party's photographers, a splendid Lesser Stag Beetle. As we examined it to our satisfaction the rain began to threaten again, and we hurried back to our minibus, encountering signs of Badger excavations beneath a hedgerow on the way. We paused long enough here to examine a Small Fan-footed Wave moth too.

We were a little tired by this time but our spirits were high, so we drove on to a woodland site known as the Conservation Area. This proved to be a wise choice. A Goldcrest was singing as we parked in a dark, damp mixed woodland, passed through the gate and pushed between tall herbage down to the pond. On our way we found old webs of Bird Cherry Ermine festooning trees of its namesake species, and as we arrived at the pond five Mallard took flight noisily.

We spent some time investigating the vegetated banks and shallows. Floating on the water surface was a mat of Common and Greater Duckweeds, the latter sparsely distributed in Shropshire, while Bulrush and Water-plantain were the main emergent plants, and wet mud on the bank supported a jungle of Meadow-

sweet, Tufted Vetch, Indian Balsam and Meadow Vetchling, with Alder and Hawthorn as the main woody species. Several moths flying among the emergent vegetation drew our attention; after some effort balancing ourselves precariously by the open water we secured a couple and found them to be the Small China-mark, a very localised moth in the county. Blue-tailed Damselflies were threading their way through the same vegetation, but these were the only Odonata on show. The bank-side herbage held the attractive homopterans *Cicadella viridis* and *Evacanthus interruptus* plus a nymph of the shieldbug *Troilus luridus* and a worker bumblebee *Bombus pascuorum*, but a less welcome presence was the horse-fly *Haematopota pluvialis* which tried to take advantage of the sudden blood-feast which we represented. Mines of the agromyzid fly *Phytoliriomyza melampyga* were found on Indian Balsam and those of the sawfly *Fenusa dohrnii* on Alder. This tree also played host to galls of the gall-mites *Acalitus brevitarsus* and *Eriophyes laevis*, while gall-midges included *Dasineura ulmaria* on Meadowsweet and *D. urticae* on Common Nettle. The characteristic leaf-mine of the micro-moth *Parornix anglicella* was found on Hawthorn. Two craneflies taken in this area were subsequently identified by Peter Boardman as *Nephrotoma flavescens*, a summer grassland species, and *Limonia macrostigma*, which is more typical of damp habitats.

And so we made our way back to the main road, checked out at the guard-house and returned to our cars at Walford College, where the rains again set in. All agreed that the Training Area was well worth further investigation if access can again be obtained.

Godfrey Blunt

**16 August 2009: Catherton Common (present: I. Thompson, M. Webb, G. Blunt, A. Jacques, W. Rudge, N. Walters, G. Ludgate, R. Kemp)**

Grid reference: SO6374

Meeting at Crumpsbrook in fine weather we set out to investigate parts of the site which the Shropshire Wildlife Trust is seeking to purchase. As we parked and looked over the area south of the road it was evident that the vegetation had moved in recent years from over-grazed rough pasture to a recovering heathland; Western Gorse was now the dominant species of the area, its numerous low bushes in full blossom and spangling the slope with spots of yellow. Heather, Bell Heather and Cross-leaved Heath added touches of mauve and purple to the scene; on the upper slope near the road these dwarf shrubs grew within hummocks of gorse where they gained protection from grazing by sheep and cattle, whose signs were present though the beasts themselves were not; lower down, however, grazing pressure was clearly much less and these three species grew in the open, Heather and Cross-leaved Heath commonly so. Purple Moor-grass was the dominant grass, while Bracken, Soft-rush and Marsh Thistle were abundant in localised patches, and in the field layer Tormentil was widespread, Heath Milkwort local and Harebell confined to one dry bank.

From the very outset we encountered butterflies in some quantity, with Gatekeeper and Small Copper most numerous in dry areas and Green-veined White in damper spots; Meadow Brown, Large and Small Whites also appeared in fair numbers, and we found one or two Peacocks and Painted Ladies, plus a Small Tortoiseshell adult and several nests of larvae of this species. Silver Y moths were common, whirring away when disturbed from patches of *Erica* and *Calluna*. Two or three Chevrons also took wing at our approach, and we found the distinctive caterpillar of the Broom Moth. A male Vapourer moth was located along with a few Common Carpets, one female of which laid ova in a collecting tub while being examined. Sweeping turned up an array of invertebrates, including the Common Green and Meadow Grasshoppers and the spiders *Xysticus cristatus*, *Meta segmentata*, *Zygiella atrica*, *Araneus quadratus* and *A. diadematus*. The micro-moths *Agriphila straminella* and *Cydia succedana* were readily encountered, the harvestman *Opilio parietinus* was found well camouflaged on a gorse stem, and characteristic mounds betrayed the presence of the Meadow Ant. Other than this ant, however, Hymenoptera were generally few in number, bees consisting only of the honeybee *Apis mellifera*, workers of the bumblebees *Bombus pascuorum* and *B. lapidarius*, and a daughter queen of *B. lucorum*.

Neville Walters found several tiny fungi on a dead thistle stem and on cow-dung, identifying *Coprobria granulata* and *Pilobolus crystallinus* among them. A Southern Hawker patrolled the slopes. Overhead flew three Mistle Thrushes, while other birds in the tall hedges which marked the boundaries of intakes included Magpie, Wren, Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers. On the heath we disturbed a Pheasant with two very small chicks, while a Stonechat uttered its alarm call and refused us a close approach.

On the upper slope we found clumps of gorse festooned with webs which puzzled us since no occupants were seen. Some had patches of frass, though this may have come from larvae on nearby vegetation, where we did indeed find a larva of the Heather Beetle; however, the likeliest cause of the webs was the spider *Agelena labyrinthica*, though we were unable to confirm this. Curiously they were present only on gorse bushes near the top of the slope: further down we saw none.

As we neared the bottom of the slope we began to encounter seepages where the vegetation cover changed; Sharp-flowered Rush now began to appear along with Marsh Pennywort, Gipsywort, Sneezewort, Common Marsh-bedstraw and a small amount of Skullcap. A gall of the gall-midge *Rhopalomyia ptarmicae* was located on Sneezewort, a good find at the time, but quickly topped by the Bog Bush-cricket, of which we located two specimens and which is clearly spreading from its core population at nearby Cramer Gutter. The large, impressive hoverfly *Sericomyia silentis* was in reasonable numbers, and a Fox Moth caterpillar and the well-named Beautiful Yellow Underwing were admired by the group. Then Graham Ludgate trumped everything by finding on Heather a distinctive caterpillar, which a quick reference to Porter's *The Colour Identification Guide to Caterpillars of the British Isles* confirmed as the Light Knot Grass, a moth little known in Shropshire away from the Long Mynd.

We had been so busy with recording that time had flown by, and most of us were feeling very hungry as we arrived at the short open stretch of Crumps Brook at the bottom of the common, so we halted on an open slope nearby to have lunch. This was soon interrupted by the sighting of a young Grass Snake, the first of two we found in this spot, adding to the Common Lizard we had encountered a little earlier. Tony Jacques subsequently found the shed skin of a Grass Snake in this area too. Our nets turned up a horde of insects here, from common species such as the micro-moth *Agriphila tristella* and homopteran *Cicadella viridis* to the local crane-flies *Pedicia rivosa* and *Prionocera turcica*, plus two specimens of the highly distinctive and unusual fly *Acrocera globulus* whose larvae are parasitic on spiders. Two Golden-ringed Dragonflies patrolled this area, one of which was so busy eating a *Sericomyia silentis* that Bob Kemp was able to pick it up. We did not explore the edges of the brook itself, but noted much Bog Asphodel and Star Sedge there, both well over flowering.

After thoroughly exploring this area we began making our way along the boundary on the southern edge of this stretch of common. It consisted of a water-filled ditch backed by a raised bank on which grew Hazel, Rowan and Pedunculate Oak, on the last of which we found galls of the gall-wasps *Neuroterus anthracinus*, *N. numismalis* and *N. quercusbaccarum* plus a mine of *Stigmella atricapitella* / *ruficapitella* (Lepidoptera: Nepticulidae). Hard-fern and Male Fern also grew here. A family party of Long-tailed Tits noisily worked its way along the hedgerow, and Bullfinch, Nuthatch, Wren and Great Tit were heard calling in the same area.

Our way back was over rather difficult terrain, which claimed a victim when Bill Rudge fell into a ditch (happily he survived), and we were glad to make it to firm ground when we reached the track leading back to the road. Insect life was abundant here too, and we recorded three Small Heaths, a couple of Common Darters, single Large Skipper, Straw Dot and melanic Two-spot Ladybird, plus three empty pupal cases of an unidentified leaf beetle on Grey Willow. Further up the track we paused to observe a Holly Blue settling on wet mud, while a movement in the grass nearby led us to a large *Araneus quadratus* spider busily wrapping up a hapless Silver Y which had blundered into its web.

During the day Ian Thompson assiduously collected hoverflies which were later identified by Nigel Jones as belonging to the following species:

*Episyrphus balteatus*  
*Helophilus pendulus*  
*Neoascia podagrica*  
*Paragus haemorrhous*  
*Platycheirus granditarsus*  
*P. occultus*

*Platycheirus scutatus*  
*Rhingia campestris*  
*Sericomyia silentis*  
*Sphaerophoria interrupta*  
*S. philanthus*  
*Syrirta pipiens*

Many of these species are widespread, but *Platycheirus occultus* and *Sphaerophoria philanthus* are typical of moorland and heath, with few Shropshire records for *S. philanthus*, and none in the south of the county. Craneflies taken for subsequent identification by Peter Boardman included two good species, *Pedicia rivosa* and *Prionocera turcica* as noted above, and the rather commoner *Tipula montium*.

Three Swallows swept across the common, a Rabbit sped away from a clump of gorse and a young Buzzard called as we finally reached our cars, tired but satisfied with a most productive trip. We were very impressed by the habitat quality of the area which we had worked, and had found so much of interest that we covered only a small proportion of the part in which the Shropshire Wildlife Trust is interested.

Godfrey Blunt

### **29 August 2009: Catherton Common (present: N. Jones, I. Thompson)**

Grid reference: SO6177

This outing, for an afternoon only, was an addition to the programme and arranged at short notice to look at the area of the common to the west of the Crumpsbrook to Cleeton St. Mary road, which is part of the site Shropshire Wildlife Trust has now purchased. One of the targets for the trip was to find the three small pools indicated on the OS map on Magpie Hill and to look for Odonata, particularly the Black Darter.

The day was pleasantly warm but not sunny, and the wind at the lower elevations was negligible. Our first finds were a Fox Moth caterpillar on short grazed turf at the roadside, and a Brown China-mark. We left the road (305m ASL) and followed the boundary uphill on the north side of the site. This feature comprises a rather grown-out hedge with a ditch and a poor fence. An area of gorse and Bramble with some patches of small willows forms a margin of variable width along much of this boundary. The vegetation on the lower part of the hill is dominated by coarse tussocky grasses and much Marsh Thistle, and at the time of our visit showed little sign of grazing. Among these tussocks we found Mat-grass, which became more frequent as we climbed higher. We also noted several slender stems of the pink-flowered Lesser Skullcap. The only birds seen along this boundary were Woodpigeons which we disturbed from the hedge.

Many butterflies were in evidence around the Bramble patches and we noted Small, Large and Green-veined Whites, a mating pair of Small Heath, Small Copper and several Meadow Browns, now very worn. A few Silver Ys were also disturbed as we pushed through the thicker patches. One of the marginal willow scrub patches was more extensive and the surrounding ground quite wet, with many bryophytes. In this area we collected two craneflies. These were sent for identification and found to be *Tipula lateralis* and *Dicranomyia affinis*. This latter species is the first modern record for the county since it was found on Whixall Moss in 1933 by C. H. W. Pugh. His specimen is in the Liverpool Museum collection (P. Boardman *pers. comm.*): a notable find.

In the first part of our climb we also noted or collected the hoverflies *Sphaerophoria interrupta*, *Platycheirus clypeatus*, *Neoascia podagrica* and *Eupeodes latifasciatus*, two more craneflies *Tipula paludosa* and *T. fulvipennis* and the tachinid fly *Exorista larvarum*. Our last find in this area was the shieldbug *Pentatoma rufipes*.

A firm, wide track suitable for private cars crosses the common from the public road to Aerial Cottage, which is just off the site at 375m ASL. Beside this track near the northern boundary on a large clump of Creeping Thistles we found Seven- and Two-spot Ladybirds, singles of Small Tortoiseshell and Painted Lady, and our only bumblebees of the day – workers of *Bombus lapidarius* and *B. pascuorum*. The track

turns uphill for a short way parallel to the boundary and here we found several Common Darters hunting along the hedgerow.

Above the track the nature of the hill (designated on the OS map as Magpie Hill) changes. The unevenness of the ground, with hollows and trenches, appears to be a result of past mining or quarrying operations. The depressions are densely vegetated with rushes, nettles and thistles while the paths and former trackways are covered in short, well-grazed grasses. In this area for the first time we encountered grazing animals, there being a good number of sheep. The wind was stronger and the woodland shown on the map, which we hoped might provide shelter, proved to be sparsely treed with short, grazed vegetation beneath. We saw Carrion Crows and a Kestrel and heard a Raven over our immediate horizon.

We pushed on to find the pools which we came across at an elevation of 430m ASL. These pools differ from each other in size and character. The largest is roughly rectangular in shape with a peninsular on one long side. It has a large water area with much emergent vegetation including Water Horsetail, Soft-rush, coarse grasses and some *Sphagnum* mosses around the margins. There is a considerable amount of Broad-leaved Pondweed. The second was originally rectangular but is now much overgrown with *Sphagnum* mosses leaving only a small rush-fringed area of water clear in the centre. This pool had several plants of Lesser Spearwort in flower on a muddy margin. The smallest pool is little more than a water-filled hollow, so choked with Soft-rush and Water Horsetail that no water is visible until one stands on the edge.

At all three pools we found the Emerald Damselfly in good numbers with more than ten copulating or tandem pairs noted. On both the larger pools we also found our target species, the Black Darter, both males and females in good numbers. On the largest pool a single Common Hawker was observed for some time ovipositing into the emergent plant stems well away from the pool margins.

We retraced our route down to the vehicle track and followed this to the public road. Goldfinches could be heard among the scrubby vegetation, our last record of the day.

Ian Thompson

***13 September 2009: Sowdley Wood (present: W. Rudge, J. Mason, I. Thompson, M. Webb, N. Jones, G. Blunt)***

Grid references: SO3380 (mainly), SO3180 (lunch area and uphill track), SO3280 (return track)

Though sunshine was bathing the valley of the River Clun a distinct feel of autumn hung in the air as we met on the edge of Sowdley Wood nearest Clunton (grid reference SO336807). The wood lies on a north-facing slope, and little sunlight was able to filter through the canopy onto the bridleway which we followed along its northern edge. We had already logged our first species of the day with a Kingfisher flying across the bridge in Clunton, and calls in conifers at the car park soon added Siskin and Nuthatch to the list; Buzzard and Raven were heard overhead and three Swallows headed south apparently on migration. Near the start of the bridleway we encountered a number of Broad-leaved Helleborines, nearly all in fruit though one plant still had a single, lingering flower. Other blossoms in this area included Rosebay Willowherb (the only stand of this species we found), Hogweed, Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil, Common Hemp-nettle and Herb-Robert. Near the car park an Eyed Ladybird and a dung-beetle *Geotrupes stercorosus* were a good start to the day's entomology, a Silver Y moth was on the wing and two *Bombus pascuorum* bumblebees, one a young queen, foraged for nectar. In a clearing we found Marsh Cudweed heavily infested with woolly aphids, and a Speckled Wood basked in the sunlight.

Sowdley Wood is essentially a Sessile Oak - Silver Birch woodland on damp, acidic and shaly soils, with frequent Rowan and Honeysuckle and an understorey containing much Hazel and a little Wych Elm. However, large parts of the woodland are now a mature plantation of Douglas Fir, Beech and Larch (both Japanese and hybrid Larches), with lesser amounts of other conifers including Noble Fir, Western Hemlock-spruce, Scots Pine and Coastal Redwood. We paused to admire the huge cones produced in quantity on a couple of Noble Firs, and we were impressed at the sight of a Douglas Fir whose towering

trunk was smothered by a pillar of flowering Ivy for some 12 metres up to its crown. Rhododendrons dominated the shrub layer at one point but had not spread widely into the wood. In the field layer Heather and Bilberry became increasingly abundant, while Enchanter's-nightshade, Self-heal and a Wood-rush (probably Great) were widespread; Wood-sorrel grew more locally along with Slender St John's-wort, Yellow Pimpernel, Common Figwort, Cleavers, Foxglove and an unidentified Violet. Beside a small rannel we found Remote Sedge, and by the track a Red Campion bore a solitary late flower.

The damp, cool conditions were ideal for ferns and cryptogams, and on the woodland bank on one side of the bridleway we readily encountered Bracken, Male-fern, Lady-fern, Broad Buckler-fern and especially Hard-fern, this last species growing in greater quantity than any of us had seen in the county. Among the abundant mosses and liverworts we noted *Thuidium tamariscinum*, *Dicranum majus*, *Pellia epiphylla*, *Diplophyllum albicans* and a large *Polytrichum* species, while the lichen *Cladonia squamosa* was spreading over the lower bole of a fir. Mark Webb found a group of Chanterelles, but pronounced them tasteless after taking a nibble. Under an overhanging bank John Mason spotted a specimen of the distinctive Old Man of the Woods, a somewhat rare fungus in Britain and one of our best finds of the day.

We spent some time beating the trackside vegetation, and though invertebrates were not numerous we did encounter some interesting species. Hazels harboured the micro-moth *Ypsolopha parenthesella*, leaf-roller weevil *Apoderus coryli*, mirid bug *Pantilus tunicatus* and a nymph of the Green Shieldbug, but beating Wych Elm produced the best species with a caterpillar of the Clouded Magpie. In patches of sunlight the hoverflies *Baccha elongata* and *Rhingia rostrata* were on the wing, along with *Episyrphus balteatus*, *Eristalis pertinax*, *Leucozonia glauca*, *Melangyna cinctella*, *Melanostoma scalare*, *Platycheirus albimanus*, *Syrphus ribesii*, *Xylota segnis* and an as yet undetermined *Sphegina* species. Nigel Jones also collected the crane-fly *Limonia nubeculosa* along this track.

Though we saw no standing water in the vicinity, the field layer of the wood was clearly damp enough for Common Frogs, and we found several widely dispersed among the ground vegetation. Evidence of Grey Squirrels was provided by shredded cones of Douglas Fir, and in the wet mud we saw deer slots large enough to be those of Fallow Deer. At one point a dark shape ran across the path, seen briefly by just two of us: it was probably a Polecat but we could not be sure. Throughout the woodland birds were not particularly numerous, but Coal and Marsh Tits, Bullfinch, Wren, Woodpigeon, Green Woodpecker and Song Thrush were all noted.

We followed the bridleway to the western part of the wood, where a group of fallen logs provided a welcome place to sit and have lunch (SO317804). Here Brambles and Greater Plantain were abundant, the hoverfly *Platycheirus albimanus* appeared, and the leaf beetle *Chrysolina varians* was swept from St. John's-wort. Above us a Great Spotted Woodpecker was calling. After our lunch we made our way up a steep slope to join the main forest road, which ran more or less parallel with the bridleway and by which we could return to our starting point. By the track up the slope we found Toad Rush and Wavy Bitter-cress growing in some quantity, we captured a specimen of the distinctive crane-fly *Tipula fulvipennis* and located a single mine of *Stigmella aurella* on Bramble, the only evidence we saw during the day of this normally common micro-moth.

Where we joined the forest road (SO3280) the tree canopy opened up a little and a clump of Gorse grew at the junction, though beating it produced nothing. The forest road was more open than the bridleway we had followed earlier, producing some differences in vegetation. Common Mouse-ear, Crested Dog's-tail, Red Clover and Pineapple-weed now appeared on the road surface, Tormentil, Wood-sage, Heath Bedstraw, False Brome and Pendulous Sedge in the woodland sward. On the roadside verge a few flowers were still present on Wild Angelica and Marsh Thistle, though Spear Thistle had gone to seed. New woody species included a couple of Holly seedlings, a young Red Oak which we examined for galls and mines to no avail, and a Guelder-rose from which we beat only the common earwig *Forficula auricularia*.

By this time the sunshine had become weak and sporadic, though when it appeared it produced some brief insect activity, including the hoverflies *Melangyna cinctella* and *Leucozonia glauca*, a Red Admiral and a couple of Silver Y moths, while two Speckled Woods engaged in their own aerial ballet. Nigel Jones captured specimens of the distinctive silphid beetle *Oeceoptoma thoracica*, the plume moth *Amblyptilia*

*punctidactyla* and the Hymenoptera *Vespa vulgaris* and *Myrmica ruginodis*, while John Mason found *Neuroctena anilis* (Dryomezidae). A Nettle Tap was taken around Common Nettle, and a few nettles were also galled by the gall-midge *Dasineura urticae*, though the relative scarcity in Sowdley Wood of these normally abundant insects mirrors that of other upland localities in Shropshire. Along the roadside bank a stand of Bilberry grew to half a metre in height or more, but neither searching nor beating it produced anything of note.

At length we arrived at another junction where a track led downhill through a very promising stretch of deciduous woodland (SO3380), the only place on our excursion where Silver Birch was present; although the day was too advanced for us to work this area we made a mental note that a future visit here could be productive. As we neared the car park soft calls from the fir canopy revealed that Siskins were again present in good numbers, and we captured and examined a Southern Hawker, probably the same individual we had seen earlier on the forest road but had failed to identify there.

In the late summer sunshine a few craneflies were on the wing, specimens of which were subsequently identified by Peter Boardman as *Tipula paludosa*, *T. fulvipennis*, *Trichocera annulata* and *Phylidorea fulvonervosa*. Throughout the day we also collected galls and leaf-mines which we determined as follows:

Galls (both gall-wasps)

*Andricus fecundator* on Sessile Oak

*Neuroterus numismalis* on Sessile Oak

Mines (L = micro-moths, D = gall-midges)

*Chromatomyia aprilina* (D) on Honeysuckle

*Liriomyza eupatorii* (D) on Common Hemp-nettle

*L. strigata* (D) on Common Hemp-nettle

*Parornix devoniella* (L) on Hazel

*Phyllonorycter coryli* (L) on Hazel

*P. heegeriella* (L) on Sessile Oak

*Phyllonorycter nicellii* (L) on Hazel

*Phytomyza ranunculivora* (D) on Creeping Buttercup

*P. spondylii* (D) on Hogweed

*Stigmella floslactella* (L) on Hazel

*S. tityrella* (L) on Beech

Godfrey Blunt

**11 October 2009: Stanmore Country Park and Dudmaston (present: A. Jacques, M. Webb, I. Thompson, G. Blunt)**

Grid references: Stanmore Country Park SO742927 Dudmaston SO7490

With major road-works on the A442 affecting access to the National Trust car park at Dudmaston we decided to meet at Stanmore Country Park near Bridgnorth, a former RAF base where Ian Thompson had been stationed in the 1950s. Now partly occupied by an industrial estate, the site also has regenerating woodland and plantation which forms a small country park.

A light drizzle before our arrival had dampened the vegetation enough to discourage our use of sweep-nets and beating trays, so our fieldwork was carried out entirely by searching. We found the natural vegetation of the site to consist of Silver Birch, Pedunculate Oak and Ash with Hawthorn, Hazel, Bramble, Goat Willow and more locally Dog-rose as the natural shrub cover. Council planting had, however, introduced other woody plants: Dogwood, Burnet Rose, Sycamore, Wild Cherry, an Apple cultivar and an undetermined *Sorbus*. In the field layer were some late flowers of Red Clover, Yarrow and Lady's Bedstraw, along with much seeding Rosebay Willowherb and Creeping Thistle.

Searching a shrubbery by the car park we were surprised to find two fruiting spikes of a Helleborine species together with a small amount of Musk-mallow, suggesting that the ground flora might be richer than we first supposed. Here too we found our first invertebrates of the day: the snail *Cepaea nemoralis* and a Seven-spot Ladybird; while a roll-gall on Silver Birch yielded a pupa from which emerged a week later

the tortricid moth *Acleris tripunctana*. Also by the car park leaves of Sycamore were covered with Tar-spot Fungus, while investigation of a line of young Horse-chestnuts along the road nearby showed them to be infested by the micro-moth *Cameraria ohridella*, a sign that this rapidly-spreading alien had now reached eastern Shropshire.

This road approached the entrance to Stanmore Industrial Estate and was flanked on the south side by a relatively mature woodland. Examining fence-posts along this woodland edge we discovered a diverse invertebrate community: a powdery green alga covering the posts hosted colonies of aphids which in turn attracted a range of predators including many hoverfly larvae (later determined as *Syrphus ribesii*), many Seven-spot Ladybirds and several Harlequin Ladybirds, both species represented by adults and larvae. A Kidney-spot Ladybird and two Birch Shieldbugs completed this interesting fauna. It was noticed that north-facing posts in the lee of the mature wood had more alga and many more insects than south-facing ones on the opposite side of the road.

It was this opposite side, however, which produced our best finds of the morning. Searching the bole of a large Pedunculate Oak which grew on the open verge clear of the wood we were surprised to find the tenanted case of a psychid moth, one unfamiliar to us. Moments later another was spotted, and as we “got our eyes in” we found many more, all apparently of the same species. Then a case with a different profile was found, and a further search on a nearby fence-post added yet a third type. Later these were identified as *Narycia duplicella* (the numerous species), plus a single *Luffia ferchaultella* and, on the fence-post, a *Psyche casta*. It is hard enough finding one psychid species per trip, and to have three in such a short space of time was quite remarkable.

Other invertebrates of interest along this roadside included egg-cases of Vapourer moth on the large Oak tree, the spider *Pisaura mirabilis*, a Green Shieldbug and one very worn and moribund bumblebee *Bombus pascuorum*. A wasp, probably Red Wasp, flew away before it could be closely examined, but a Grey Shoulder-knot moth roosting on a fence-post was more obliging. Harlequin Ladybirds continued to turn up and included the forms *succinea* and *spectabilis*, plus a third variant as yet unnamed. Comfrey and Osier were added to the list of plants here, but no invertebrates were found on either. Among birds we recorded Green and Great Spotted Woodpeckers, Magpie and parties of Long-tailed Tits, while Grey Squirrel and signs of Mole represented our only mammals.

We lunched back at our cars, having explored only the car park shrubbery and a few score yards on either side of the adjacent road. Nonetheless, our tally of leaf mines and plant galls for this location was impressive and included:

#### Leaf Mines

*Ectoedemia occultella* on Silver Birch  
*Lyonetia clerkella* on Apple, Silver Birch and Wild Cherry  
*Mompha raschkiella* on Rosebay  
*Parornix anglicella* on Hawthorn  
*P. betulae / loganella* on Silver Birch  
*P. devoniella* on Hazel  
*Phyllonorycter blancardella* on Apple

*P. cerasicolella* on Wild Cherry  
*P. harrisella* on Pedunculate Oak  
*P. muelleriella* on Pedunculate Oak  
*P. nicellii* on Hazel  
*P. ulmifoliella* on Silver Birch  
*Stigmella floslactella* on Hazel  
*S. 'fragariella'* on Raspberry

#### Galls (D= gall-midges, H = gall-wasps)

*Andricus curvator* (H) on Pedunculate Oak  
*A. kollari* (H) on Pedunculate Oak  
*Diastrophus rubi* (H) on Bramble  
*Neuroterus anthracinus* (H) on Pedunculate Oak

*N. quercusbaccarum* (H) on Pedunculate Oak  
*Rhabdophaga auritae* (D) on Goat Willow  
*R. cinerearum* (D) on Goat Willow

After lunch we transferred in a single car to Dudmaston estate, where we started out from a small parking area beside the A442 south of Quatford at grid reference SO741899. Here we found the felled bole of a

large White Poplar with new growth springing from it; we searched for leaf mines of the micro-moth *Phyllonorycter comparella*, spotting them easily from the pustules they made on the leaves' upper surface, though the mines beneath were much harder to detect; some were betrayed only by the dark, empty pupal cases protruding from them. This was an excellent find of a species very local in Britain, and a first record for Shropshire. It was to herald a highly successful afternoon.

From here we walked up a sandy track, between hedgerows of Hawthorn and sloe-laden Blackthorn and past a semi-natural woodland with much Pedunculate Oak, Silver Birch and Wych Elm towards the open land surrounding Heath Farm (SO7490). A large Norway Maple bearing mines of *Phyllonorycter platanoidella* stood at the point where the track widened and the woodland changed to plantations of Larch, Spruce, Scots Pine and Sweet Chestnut. The ground flora included flowering Red and White Campions, plus abundant Rosebay Willowherb and Common Nettle. A log pile produced nothing of interest, but as we emerged into a clearing we found some flowering Wild Pansy, Molehills and a basking Small Tortoiseshell. A Buzzard and ten Siskins flew overhead.

Across the clearing a farm outbuilding drew our attention, and in particular a large Pear beside it which bore an abundance of rotting fruit. Examination of its leaves produced a most distinctive and unfamiliar gall which we later determined as the aecidial stage of the European pear rust *Gymnosporangium sabinae* – another potential county first record. The Pear also bore one or two leaf mines of *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella*, while a neighbouring Apple cultivar had mines of another micro-moth, *Stigmella malella*. We continued along the track into more plantation woodland, where Sweet Chestnuts produced yet another county first, a mine of *Stigmella samiatella*. At length we took a rest on the edge of more mature oak woodland, which included a single Red Oak whose leaves wore the autumnal colours of its name. Long-tailed Tits moved noisily through the woodland canopy here, two Jackdaws flew overhead and a Grey Squirrel chattered nearby. At this point we turned back towards our car, continuing to search for mines and galls on our way and adding to those already mentioned the following:

#### Mines

*Caloptilia alchimiella* / *robustella* on Pedunculate Oak  
*Phyllonorycter cerasicolella* on Wild Cherry  
*P. corylifoliella* on Hawthorn  
*P. muelleriella* on Pedunculate Oak

*P. oxyacanthae* on Hawthorn  
*P. tristigella* on Wych Elm  
*Stigmella aurella* on Bramble  
*S. oxyacanthella* on Hawthorn  
*Tischeria ekebladella* on Pedunculate Oak

#### Galls (A = gall-mites, D = gall-midges, H = gall-wasps)

*Macrodiplosis dryobia* (D) on Pedunculate Oak  
*Neuroterus anthracinus* (H) on Pedunculate Oak

*N. quercusbaccarum* (H) on Pedunculate Oak  
*Phyllocoptes goniothorax* (A) on Hawthorn

In summary the results of this last field trip of the year were excellent, especially given that everything was found by searching. Two, perhaps three county first records were the highlight, all being located on introduced trees and shrubs: perhaps a foretaste of an increasing trend for the future.

Godfrey Blunt



Four splendid hoverflies (Diptera - Syrphidae) of old woodlands, photographed during the mid week field meeting to the Highley and Bridgnorth area, 7 May 2010.

Above left: *Brachyopa pilosa* at Stanmore Park.  
Above right: *Brachypalpoides lentus* at New England, Highley.  
Bottom left: *Criorhina asilica* at Kinlet Mine.  
Bottom right: *Criorhina berberina* at Kinlet Mine.

Photos by Bob Kemp



## Members' Individual Activities

### Godfrey Blunt

#### Shropshire

My first records of note this year were at Alveley on a very warm Easter Sunday, 11 April, when my neighbourhood had a Siskin in song, plus the first Swallows and Small White of the year. On the same day I investigated a colony of bees which had made a nest in the crumbling mortar beside my neighbour's door: they proved to be the Red Mason Bee, and I am happy to say that my neighbours left them alone. On 18 April a Snow Goose, showing a wing pattern characteristic of this species, flew low over my house accompanied by three Greylags; while the following day saw the first Holly Blue of the year in my garden.

2009 will be remembered as the best summer for butterflies for at least two decades. Huge numbers of Large and Small Whites passed through Alveley in late July and early August; the peak of this migration occurred on 30 July. I have only one previous record of Small Skipper for my garden, and very few Gatekeepers, so to see them together there on 25 July was exceptional. Late in the year I encountered a couple of Juniper Carpets in my garden, evidence that this moth is now well-established on my Common Juniper shrubs. I infrequently see Hedgehogs nowadays, even as traffic victims, so I was delighted on returning late at night on 7 October to find a very large specimen on my drive; it shuffled to one side but refused to leave as I parked and entered the house, passing it by less than a metre. On 10 October, I found the distinctive caterpillar of the Spectacle moth in my garden, and a couple of Ravens flew overhead.

Away from Alveley, I ran a moth-trapping session on 30 May at the Secret Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms as part of the Shropshire Biodiversity Project. This yielded only common species, with Pebble Hook-tip as the most interesting; but numbers of moths were far exceeded by those of caddis flies, including several *Phryganea grandis*. In spring I also investigated the invertebrate fauna of a small former industrial site at Malinslee, Telford, where I encountered by far the largest colony of Burnet Companion I have ever seen: on 14 June I estimated between 200 and 300 on the wing in less than an acre of rough grassland. Other good insects from this site included a reasonable population of Small Heath, a small one of Dingy Skipper, plus single specimens of Slender Groundhopper; the shieldbug *Neottiglossa pusilla* (probably the second county record); a larva of the Green-brindled Crescent moth; the distinctive leaf-roller weevil *Rhynchites aequatus*, which may be quite uncommon in the county; and a *Hypsosinga* spider which I could not identify to species but which was most likely to be *H. pygmaea*; as no species of this genus is common it would be worth looking out for this spider in Shropshire again.

On 19 September I walked along the disused railway at Northway Wood, Wenlock Edge; the day was very quiet and the air still, so that the calls of a Raven resonated powerfully, almost palpably across the otherwise silent wood. In under an hour I recorded the following leaf mines:

#### Micro-moths

*Phyllonorycter coryli* on Hazel

*P. muelleriella* on Pedunculate Oak

*P. nicellii* on Hazel

*P. sylvella* on Field Maple

*Stigmella floslactella* on Hazel

#### Agromyzid flies

*Phytomyza agromyzina* on Dogwood

*P. harlemensis* on Honeysuckle

*P. lappae* on Lesser Burdock

*P. ranunculivora* on Creeping Buttercup

*P. spondylii* on Hogweed

In addition, mite galls of *Aceria macrochelus* were present on Alder; but an interesting serpentine mine on Wood Avens could not be specifically determined. Later, on 16 October, I discovered a vacated dipterous mine on Snowberry in Bridgnorth, just one on a large bush; it was possibly that of *Phytomyza hendeliana*, but I could not be certain.

Micro-moths from Meole Brace, passed to me by Ian Thompson, included *Cydia pomonella* and *Myelois circumvoluta*, both infrequently reported in the county. Among photographs of specimens taken in 2008 by Tony Jacques at Beacon Hill (SO 630939) were *Ectoedemia decentella* (Nepticulidae), new to Shropshire, while a second photo dated 1 July 2008 appeared to be a specimen of *Phlyctaenia perlucidalis* (Pyrilidae), also potentially a county first.

A surprising report came from Simon Barker, the National Trust's Regional Conservation Officer, via my brother Edwin: apparently a colony of Essex Skipper has been found on Dudmaston estate, perhaps the first record for Shropshire. Unfortunately I heard about it after their flight period was over so was unable to check it out personally – a task awaiting me in the future.

### Staffordshire

Together with my brother I carried out a few moth-trapping sessions at Kinver Edge to see if some of the regional specialities formerly recorded there were still present. On 13 April our catch included a Pale Pinion of the form *semibrunnea*, along with Blossom Underwing and Lead-coloured Drab, plus several commoner species. Our second trapping on 24 May yielded large numbers of mostly common species, but among them we were pleased to find Pale-shouldered Brocade and Great Prominent, while six Orange Footman moths were a new species for the site. On the same day we took some pheromone lures onto the heath to see if Large Red-belted Clearwing was still present, and though we failed to find this species our lure surprisingly attracted the micro-moth *Triaxomera fulvimitrella* (Tineidae)! I am not aware of other records of this species being attracted to clearwing lures, and I puzzle about its significance – maybe the moth was investigating the clearwing scent as a guide to finding decaying wood, the larval habitat of both species. Green Tiger Beetles and Garden Chafers were abundant on Kinver Edge that day, and we also recorded two common longhorn beetles: the Wasp Beetle and *Rhagium mordax*.

Kinver Edge also held huge numbers of butterflies in early August, with Peacocks being particularly abundant. Eleven species were in the Warden's garden on 8 and 9 August, including, unusually, a Purple Hairstreak. While on the neighbouring heathland were a further three butterfly species, one of them Brown Argus, which appears to have colonised the site this year. An overnight moth-trapping session the same weekend turned up Black Arches, Dinky Footman, White-lined Dart, Gold Spot, Red Twin-spot Carpet and Scalloped Hook-tip among the catch. A single White Admiral was also present in the Warden's garden on a couple of dates around the same time.

### Elsewhere

In the last week of April I stayed at Portland Bird Observatory (Dorset). Indifferent weather conditions restricted entomological work, but the Observatory moth traps did operate on my last night and produced Maiden's Blush, Least Black Arches and Chamomile Shark among others. I also found a Bloody-nosed Beetle, two larvae of Scarlet Tiger and one of Knot Grass in nearby hedgerows, and a single Small Blue was on the wing on 1 May. Among the flora, Portland Spurge was not difficult to find along the coast, and I was pleased to see Yellow Vetchling, Small-flowered Buttercup, Toothed and Spotted Medicks in the Observatory's fields. Thrift was in bud at most localities, but fully in flower on nearby Chesil Beach, where it gave a superb showing. Unfamiliar evergreen plants by the Chesil Beach car park proved to be Shrubby Sea-blite. Birdlife at the Observatory was unremarkable, apart from a vagrant Collared Flycatcher which I did not see, but a visit to Radipole lake in Weymouth produced a drake Hooded Merganser, of uncertain origins, and rather brief views of Bearded Tit.

The year seems to have been particularly good for Harlequin Ladybirds. From late October to the end of the year I found them occasionally indoors in Wolverhampton (West Midlands) and Kidderminster (Worcestershire); but these records were easily surpassed by the large numbers reported emerging at Kingstone, Barnsley (South Yorkshire) in early November; my friends Bob and Gill Boreham reported at least 120 on a short stretch of wall at this locality. I also saw two Old Lady moths in Wolverhampton (West Midlands), one in mid-July and one on 5 August.

## ***Ian Thompson***

For family reasons my activities, outside the organised SIG field trips and botanical surveys, were severely restricted this year. Accordingly these notes are somewhat brief.

Some first sightings for the year:

- Bumblebee – *Bombus lucorum* – in our garden at Meole Brace, 27 February
- Orange Tip ♂ in garden, 11 April, and Comma there on 13 April
- Peacock on Long Mynd, 19 April
- Holly Blue in Meole Brace, 21 April
- Swallow at Nesscliffe, 26 April
- Large Red Damselfly at Weir Coppice, 2 May
- House Martins and Swifts in Meole Brace, 17 May – a rather late date

I moth-trapped in the garden on four occasions during the year. The catches were not exceptional, the best being on 24/25 June with a total of 86 individuals of 30 species. It is interesting that on each occasion (and on two other days in addition) we are still, in our fifth year, recording species new to this site. I also took part in a trapping event on the Long Mynd on the night of 24/25 July, stopping up all night this time. I found this very tiring and not something I would lightly undertake again. The results of this joint event have been written up elsewhere, but the highlight for me was having three Garden Tigers in the trap (the first time I have ever caught this now relatively uncommon species), and the sunrise, which was beautiful.

Yet another Mistletoe plant (the third) has appeared on my apple tree. I have no record of when this particular seed was placed there but it may be as long as five years ago.

## Outside Shropshire

On 29 March I walked around the now-full Bethnal Green cemetery in London, which has been made a nature reserve. Nothing that I would consider unusual was seen (although this may be viewed differently in this part of the East End) but I was struck by the early appearance in flower of Comfrey and Honesty. Some of the other plants noted in flower were Lesser Celandine, Cuckooflower, Wood Anemone, Sweet Violet, Colt's-foot, Grape-hyacinth and Primroses. On this day the commonest birds were corvids, amongst which the most interesting were Jays, one pair plus a singleton.

## ***John Mason***

My wife and I finally parted company with our Bayston Hill home of the last twenty-five years at the end of a hectic week in October. It was a bit of a wrench leaving such a comfortable and satisfactory house with its magnificent views of the South Shropshire Hills. The removal of the rest of our house contents has meant our Somerset house is piled high with boxes in almost every room. It is a bigger house but has very limited storage. Now that we are no longer dividing our time between two homes we can concentrate on building cupboards!

On the day when we took the last car-load of belongings from Shropshire we interrupted our journey to drive over the Long Mynd. In brilliant sunshine Shropshire laid on a memorable parting shot: the sight of two Red Kites soaring over the far side of the ridge. I have seen plenty of these magnificent birds in mid-Wales, and in recent years around Aston Rowant in the Chilterns, but these were the first I have seen in Shropshire.

During the year we enjoyed many days out in the countryside and in towns and gardens. From our Shropshire base the best were Anglesey and Cemlyn Bay, the gardens of Powis Castle near Welshpool, and the Dower House garden at Morville, plus the Darwin celebrations in Shrewsbury. From Wedmore (Somerset) we travelled to Dartmoor, the Wiltshire chalk hills, and the Dorset coast, parts of South Wales and of course the Somerset countryside.

## *Nigel Jones*

For me, 2009 was a very productive year for interesting insects, despite the poor summer weather. The spring in particular proved most rewarding with a good number of early-season hoverflies. My report includes the most notable finds and a few interesting observations, mainly of Diptera. Records from Ian Cheeseborough are denoted IC in this report.

### Diptera (Two-winged Flies)

#### *Tachinidae (Parasitic Flies)*

On 11 April I encountered *Tachina lurida* in a field beneath Eastridge Wood at Lower Vesson. This is the first Shropshire record for this early season Tachinid. Its less scarce cousin *T. ursina* was found in a wet, scrubby pasture at Blackhurst beneath the Lawley on 21 May. On 11 May there were high numbers of the slender, long-legged *Medina collaris*, a parasite of the Heather Beetle, basking on bare sand at The Cliffe, Ruyton-XI-Towns. Extraordinarily, on 28 June and 10 September the scarce *Mintho rufiventris* appeared in exactly the same spot in my Shrewsbury garden for the fourth year of the last five.

#### *Syrphidae (Hoverflies)*

During 2009 I made a concerted effort to find *Brachyopa* species. These hoverflies are associated with sap runs on trees and can be found by searching sunlit tree trunks in parkland and old woodlands. I am pleased to report that I found all four British species of *Brachyopa* in Shropshire, as follows: at Stanmore Park, Bridgnorth on 21 April several male *B. pilosa*, regarded as nationally scarce, were flying about a dead poplar. SIG members encountered this hoverfly again at the same location on 7 May; while on 28 May I found two *B. pilosa* males about the same tree plus a *B. insensilis* on a sap run on Sycamore. On seven days between 23 April and 16 June another nationally scarce species, *B. bicolor*, was seen on an oak weeping copious sap at Attingham Park near Shrewsbury, but only once was a female present. At Stevenshill, Cound on 1 May there were several *B. scutellaris* males at an Ash tree, along with one *B. pilosa*. Further *B. scutellaris* were at Glynmorlas near Ifton on 11 May (at Sycamore); on the next day several on Ash at Mary Knoll Valley (Herefordshire); and two at Ash and Sycamore on 23 May at Big Wood, Eaton Mascott. In this last locality was also a *B. pilosa* at Ash.

*Platycheirus ambiguus* had not been recorded in Shropshire, so I was pleased to find one near Blackthorn flowers at Astley on 12 April, and three days later several hovering about flowering *Prunus* at Lower Betton Farm, Cross Houses. Also on 12 April I encountered *Eristalis abusivus* at Wheatley near Upper Astley, a second county record. The nationally scarce woodland hoverfly *Cheilosia chrysocoma* has eluded me for decades, so it was a red-letter day to find this attractive tawny fly at Big Wood, Eaton Mascott on 23 May. This may be a first record for Shropshire, pending details of an earlier claim from David Pryce. New Shropshire sites for *Cheilosia semifasciata* were found as follows: at Grinshill Hill on 12 April; at The Cliffe, Ruyton-XI-Towns on 11 May; and by Dan Wrench at The Rock, Bridgnorth, confirmed by me on 20 May. At the last two sites the larval mines were found on Navelwort. These bring the number of Shropshire sites for *C. semifasciata* to nine, making the county a national hotspot for this rare species.

In my garden on 13 April I was surprised to catch *Cheilosia psilophthalma*, a rarely recorded species new to Shropshire. Hoverflies associated with rotting timber appeared to fare well in 2009 and I made records of *Criorhina asilica* at Stevenshill, Cound on 1 May, another at Maddox's Coppice, Habberley on 25 June (where *Criorhina berberina* and *Brachypalpoides lentus* were also present) and three at Big Wood, Eaton Mascott on 23 May. Also at this last site were *Criorhina floccosa* and *C. berberina*. Earlier in the season I met with five magnificent *Criorhina ranunculi* on *Salix* flowers at Maddox Hill Quarry below The Ercall on 7 April and made a further record from Eastridge Wood, Habberley, on 11 April. *C. floccosa* was also recorded from The Cliffe, Ruyton-XI-Towns (11 May), Weir Wood, Hook-a-Gate (21 May), Earls Hill (29 May) and Attingham Park (10 June). On 18 August the scarce *Xylota xanthocnema* was at Maddox's Coppice. The nationally scarce *Meligramma euchromum* was at Stanmore Park, Bridgnorth on 21 April and 7 May, the second year the species has been found at this site. IC reported *Brachypalpoides lentus* at Benthall Edge on 4 June.

*Parasyrphus nigratarsis* is rarely recorded in the UK and I was surprised to find one on 1 May at Stevenshill and two more (male and female) at The Cliffe, Ruyton-XI-Towns on 11 May. Another uncommon *Parasyrphus*, *P. annulatus*, occurred at Mary Knoll Valley (Herefordshire) on 12 May and again in Attingham Park on 16 June. Captures of these uncommon flies were probably facilitated by the scarcity of confusingly similar-looking *Syrphus* species in the spring of 2009, though numbers of *Syrphus* recovered well later in the year. During 2009 I again recorded the very uncommon dark-winged *Cheilosia cynocephala* in central Shropshire, taking a specimen from farmland at Lower Betton, Cross Houses, two more at Berwick New House Farm by Attingham Park on 3 and 25 August, plus a fourth specimen from Attingham Park pasture on 28 August. There is clearly a well-established population in the Cross Houses – Atcham area. Also at Attingham Park I took two uncommon hoverflies: *Trichopsomyia flavitarsis* from a small pond on 5 June and *Eupeodes nitidicollis* on 14 July.

*Heringia sensilis* was first seen in Britain in 1999 and has seldom been recorded since. It was thus highly surprising for me to take a male specimen in my garden on 18 July. *Scaeva selenitica* is seldom encountered in Shropshire but during 2009 I came across it on four occasions: 12 June at Prees Heath, 25 June at Snailbeach, 16 July at Attingham Park and 2 August at Blakeridge Wood near Bishops Castle. The boggy pool specialist *Sericomyia lappona*, uncommon in Shropshire, was at Snailbeach on 25 June. The conifer specialist *Sphegina sibirica* continues to expand its range in the UK and was recorded on five occasions at four sites: Overton Common, Mortimer Forest (Herefordshire), 12 May; Sunny Hill, Clunton, 20 June; Maddox's Coppice, Habberley, 25 June and 18 August; and Stiperstones, 15 July (IC). The nationally scarce sap-feeding *Ferdinandea ruficornis* was found again at Stevenshill, Cound on 2 August, indicating that the species is well established at this old woodland site.

A new site for the nationally scarce *Chalcosyrphus eunotus* was discovered at Mary Knoll Valley (Herefordshire) on 12 May. I was also able to reconfirm the species at Stevenshill, Cound, on 1 May and Habberley Valley, Pontesford, on 29 May. There are now eleven known sites in and very close to Shropshire for this species of dead logs in woodland streams. *Neoascia geniculata* is one of the scarcest members of its genus, and my capture of several specimens (including males) from Mousecroft Community woodland, Shrewsbury, on 21 May was my first positive identification of this fly in the county. Finally, *Rhingia rostrata* continues to maintain its widespread presence in Shropshire. I made records on four occasions: Stevenshill, Cound (2 August); Eastridge Wood (18 August); Hook Coppice, Billingsley (19 August) and Pulverbach (30 August).

#### *Conopidae*

*Myopa tessellatipennis* is considered a widespread conipid fly, but I had never seen this species before 15 April, when I took a specimen from *Prunus* blossom at Lower Betton Farm, Cross Houses. The much scarcer *M. extricata* was taken from soil bunds at Stanmore, Bridgnorth on 21 April. At The Cliffe, Ruyton-XI-Towns, on 11 May I briefly saw a splendid *Conops vesicularis* on Rowan flowers.

#### *Scathophagidae*

On 16 June, in Attingham Park, I swept a rather unpromising small wet patch with emergent rushes. From here I collected several distinctive dark *Cordilura* species and on further inspection these proved to be the rare *C. pictipes*, considered as red data book status. Stuart Ball of the Joint Nature Conservation Council knows of very few recent records, the last being in similar habitat in Moccas Park, Herefordshire, in 2006.

#### *Limoniidae and Tipulidae (Craneflies)*

On 28 May I collected one of a number of medium-sized, dark craneflies flying about a dead poplar trunk at Stanmore Park, Bridgnorth. This was identified by Peter Boardman as the scarce Limoniid *Gnophomyia viridipennis*. I encountered further specimens about a dead Sycamore bole at Attingham Park on 23 June. The large and colourful Tipulid fly *Ctenophora pectinicornis* and its equally impressive cousin *Tanyptera atrata* are rarely recorded in Shropshire, so it was a real treat to see both species at two sites – Big Wood, Eaton Mascott on 23 May and beneath Earls Hill, Pontesford on 29 May.

### *Lonchaeidae (Lance-flies)*

Following my first efforts at collecting and identifying Lonchaeidae in 2008 I found a member of a new genus for Shropshire on 4 June, when I swept a specimen of *Dasiops hengii* from lush emergent vegetation around a small pool at Lower Betton Farm, near Cross Houses, south of Shrewsbury.

### *Other Diptera*

I recorded a new species of Clusiidae for Shropshire, *Clusiodes verticallis*, from Preston Montford Field Centre on 9 June. *Neurogina pallida* (Dolichopodidae) is considered widespread in the UK, but there are very few Shropshire records. I swept a specimen from under old Beeches at Attingham Park on 16 June. At the same locality on 18 August I found the distinctive *Leucophanga maculata* (Drosophilidae), a fly associated with decaying timber in old woods. New records for the uncommon *Megarina dolerium* were made for Ifton Meadows Nature Reserve, St Martins, 24 June (IC), and Maddox's Coppice, Habberley, 25 June. On 20 June, during a hoverfly training day at Sunny Hill, Clunton, Dan Wrench pointed out some unusual galls in the flower buds of Figwort. These were later identified as *Contarina scrophulariae* (Cecidomyiidae). Bob Kemp and I visited Lea Quarry at Presthope on Wenlock Edge on 26 June; on a wet and cool day we managed to find a splendid *Stratiomys potamida* (Stratiomyidae) and several *Herina lugubris* (Ulidiidae). I again visited the quarry on 18 September with IC, and was pleased to record the snail-killing fly *Dichetophora obliterate*, an uncommon species of calcareous grasslands, only once previously recorded from Shropshire. The nationally scarce *Tetanocera punctifrons* (Sciomyzidae) was also present. The uncommon robber-fly *Leptarthrus brevirostris* (Asilidae) was present beneath Earls Hill, Pontesford on 29 May. Finally, during September the shining green soldier-fly *Sargus bipunctatus* swarmed in precisely the same spot in my garden for the fifth year running.

### Coleoptera (Beetles)

*Platyrhinus resinosus* (Anthribidae) is an extraordinary-looking fungus-weevil, patterned like a piece of damaged twig. I photographed this nationally scarce beetle by the River Severn just south of Bridgnorth on 3 June. At Earls Hill on 29 June I photographed another distinctive beetle, the rhino-like *Sinodendron cylindricum* (Lucanidae). At Attingham Park on 1 July I noticed on Hogweed several particularly dark leaf beetles which I later determined as the nationally scarce *Chrysolina oricalcia*. The very attractive *Chrysolina fastuosa* was at Snailbeach on 25 June, a widespread but by no means common species associated with Hemp- and Dead-nettles. The uncommon longhorn beetle *Leptura quadrifasciata* was seen on three occasions: Attingham Park (7 August), Grinshill Hill (8 August), and in the Craven Arms Discovery Centre fields in early August (IC). I found the widespread longhorn beetle *Leiopus nebulosus* for the first time on 14 July at Attingham Park. The Harlequin Ladybird showed its remarkable colonizing powers by over-running my garden this autumn after just a few were seen in 2008.

### Lepidoptera (Butterflies and Moths)

On 18 August I discovered numbers of Elephant Hawk-moth larvae on Willowherb at Maddox's Coppice, Habberley. Accompanying them was a large Ichneumon wasp which proved to be the moth's parasite *Amblyjoppa potens*, a rather spectacular black-and-white-marked wasp. The summer of 2009 provided a welcome change from the long run of seasons when butterflies have been generally very sparse. In August particularly there were wonderful displays of hundreds of butterflies on Thistles, Common Ragwort and other field-edge flowers by Attingham Park, culminating on 3 August with huge numbers of Painted Ladies, Small, Large and Green-veined Whites, accompanied by numerous Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Ringlets, Small Coppers, Small Skippers, Peacocks, Speckled Woods and Red Admirals. Later in the season Small Tortoiseshells showed signs of recovery from the almost complete population collapses of recent years, with at least fifteen individuals counted in the walled garden at Attingham Park on 11 September. Other notable sightings were good numbers of Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries at Cramer Gutter and Catherton Common on 12 June (where I also photographed a very fresh Keeled Skimmer dragonfly), Purple Hairstreaks at Attingham Park on 14 July, and four Walls at Sunny Hill, Clunton on 21 August.

## Hymenoptera (Bees, Ants and Wasps)

Apart from some *Bombus* species, aculeate Hymenoptera appeared in depressingly low numbers during 2009, almost certainly a result of the predominately wet and cool weather in the preceding summer. There were few highlights, but the season got off to an early start on 14 March when I visited Lyth Hill with IC, where beneath Spring Coppice we found several bee species flying to Lesser Celandine flowers at the edge of the wood. Amongst these was a male *Andrena trimmerana*, a nationally scarce species. Numerous male *Andrena praecox* were flying up and down the trunks of trees at Stanmore Park, Bridgnorth on 21 March. At Nesscliffe military training area on 26 March I took a single male *Andrena apicata* from a Lesser Celandine flower. This is considered a scarce species nationally, but appears to be fairly widespread in Shropshire. On 18 April there were huge numbers of males of the common *Andrena fulva* flying around *Prunus* blossom near Asterton.

My Shrewsbury garden provided several interesting records of aculeates: on 26 June, 12 & 18 July *Hyleaus signatus* was recorded for the third year running, with several males and the odd female flying about Lovage and *Eryngium* flowers. The nationally rare *Stelis phaeoptera* continued to visit the garden, being seen on several occasions. My first-ever sightings of the little black-and-red solitary wasp *Rhopalum clavipes*, were made on 28 June, 1 and 19 September, when females were seen provisioning nests. On 15 June a cuckoo-bee *Coelioxys inermis* investigated *Megachile* nests in search of a host for its offspring.

Away from my garden I encountered a queen *Bombus rupestris* at Weir Wood, Hook-a-Gate on 21 May, and on 3 and 8 June I again recorded *B. hypnorum* at the same location as in 2008, near Daniel's Mill, Bridgnorth. A few days later, IC found the species at Benthall Edge, indicating that this bee may be spreading along the corridor of the Severn. On 25 June a female *Anthophora furcata* was flying to Hedge Woundwort flowers at Eastridge Wood, Habberley. *Ancistrocerus parietum* is seldom recorded in the county, but there were several in the walled garden at Attingham Park on 16 and 21 September, one of which I photographed. These wasps were all feeding from extra-nectary sources on *Helichrysum* plants.

## Phalangidae (Harvestmen)

The non-indigenous harvestman *Dicranopalpus ramosus* has spread across the UK in recent decades. I saw my first Shropshire specimen in woodland at Attingham Park on 17 August. It is easily recognisable with very large, forked pedipalps giving it the appearance of having a fifth pair of legs. It also has a characteristic way of sitting with its legs fanned widely out around it, so SIG members should keep an eye open for this harvestman, which is sure to be present elsewhere in the county.

## Records from Earlier Years

This year I determined a small picture-winged fly (Heleomyzidae) collected during 2006 as *Trixoscelis obscurella*, which in the UK is uncommon and almost exclusively coastal. The specimen had been swept from the disused sand quarry at Venus Bank, Cound, where it is probably established as conditions mirror those on sandy coasts. I sent three specimens of a tachinid fly to Chris Raper, the National Recording Scheme organizer, who confirmed them as *Bithia spreta*, a new species for Shropshire and one which appears to have enjoyed a surge in records across England in recent years. The specimens were from Sutton Grange, Shrewsbury (17 July 2005), Venus Pool (30 July 2006), and Redhill, Hook-a-Gate (27 July 2008). Guy Knight of the National Museum Liverpool identified a sawfly collected by me on 7 July 2006 from an old limestone quarry near Rhydycroesau (SJ 239295) as the rare *Dolerus anticus*, a threatened species last recorded in the UK in 1969.



**Above left:** *Rhagium bifasciatum*, SIG April field meeting, Nesscliffe Hill.

**Above right:** *Ancistrocerus parietum*, kitchen garden, Attingham Park.

**Below left:** *Stratiomys potamida*, missing a wing, Lea Quarry, Presthope.

**Below right:** *Ctenophora pectinicornis*, Big Wood, Eaton Mascott.

**Bottom left:** *Sinodendron cylindricum* Earl's Hill Nature Reserve.

**Bottom right:** *Platyrhinus resinus*, near Daniel's Mill, Bridgnorth.

Photos by Nigel Jones



## Appendix

### Scientific names of species mentioned in the text

#### Flora

Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Dogwood <i>Cornus sanguinea</i>
Amphibious Bistort <i>Persicaria amphibia</i>	Douglas Fir <i>Pseudotsuga menziesii</i>
Apple <i>Malus</i> species	Enchanter's-nightshade <i>Circaea lutetiana</i>
Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	False Brome <i>Brachypodium sylvaticum</i>
Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>
Bell Heather <i>Erica cinerea</i>	Field Pansy <i>Viola arvensis</i>
Bilberry <i>Vaccinium myrtillus</i>	Field Wood-rush <i>Luzula campestris</i>
Birch <i>Betula</i> species	Foxglove <i>Digitalis purpurea</i>
Bird Cherry <i>Prunus padus</i>	Garlic Mustard <i>Alliaria petiolata</i>
Blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Goat Willow <i>Salix capraea</i>
Bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Gooseberry <i>Ribes uva-crispa</i>
Bog Asphodel <i>Narthecium ossifragum</i>	Gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Grape-hyacinth <i>Muscari</i> species
Bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Greater Bird's-foot-trefoil <i>Lotus pedunculatus</i>
Broad Buckler-fern <i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>	Greater Duckweed <i>Spirodela polyrhiza</i>
Broad-leaved Dock <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Greater Plantain <i>Plantago major</i>
Broad-leaved Helleborine <i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Greater Stitchwort <i>Stellaria holostea</i>
Broad-leaved Pondweed <i>Potamogeton natans</i>	Great Wood-rush <i>Luzula sylvatica</i>
Bugloss <i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Grey Willow <i>Salix cinerea</i>
Bulrush <i>Typha latifolia</i>	Ground-ivy <i>Glechoma hederacea</i>
Burnet Rose <i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>	Guelder-rose <i>Viburnum opulus</i>
Butterbur <i>Petasites hybridus</i>	Gypsywort <i>Lycopus europaeus</i>
Buttercup <i>Ranunculus</i> species	Hard-fern <i>Blechnum spicant</i>
Cleavers <i>Galium aparine</i>	Harebell <i>Campanula rotundifolia</i>
Climbing Corydalis <i>Ceratocarpus claviculata</i>	Hart's-tongue <i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>
Coastal Redwood <i>Sequoia sempervirens</i>	Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Colt's-foot <i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>
Comfrey <i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Heather <i>Calluna vulgaris</i>
Common Cottongrass <i>Eriophorum angustifolium</i>	Heath Bedstraw <i>Galium saxatile</i>
Common Dog-violet <i>Viola riviniana</i>	Heath Milkwort <i>Polygala serpyllifolia</i>
Common Duckweed <i>Lemna minor</i>	Hedge Woundwort <i>Stachys sylvatica</i>
Common Field-speedwell <i>Veronica persica</i>	Helleborine <i>Epipactis</i> species
Common Figwort <i>Scrophularia nodosa</i>	Hemp-nettle <i>Galeopsis</i> species
Common Hemp-nettle <i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Herb-Robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Common Juniper <i>Juniperus communis</i>	Hogweed <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Common Marsh-bedstraw <i>Galium palustre</i>	Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Common Mouse-ear <i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Honesty <i>Lunaria annua</i>
Common Nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>	Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Common Ragwort <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Horse-chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Cow Parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Hybrid Larch <i>Larix x marschlinsii</i>
Creeping Buttercup <i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Indian Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
Creeping Thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Ivy <i>Hedera helix</i>
Crested Dog's-tail <i>Cynosurus cristatus</i>	Japanese Larch <i>Larix kaempferi</i>
Cross-leaved Heath <i>Erica tetralix</i>	Lady-fern <i>Athyrium filix-femina</i>
Cuckooflower <i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Lady's Bedstraw <i>Galium verum</i>
Daffodil <i>Narcissus</i> species	Larch <i>Larix</i> species
Damson <i>Prunus domestica</i>	Lesser Burdock <i>Arctium minus</i>
Dead-nettle <i>Lamium</i> species	Lesser Celandine <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Dog-rose <i>Rosa canina</i>	Lesser Skullcap <i>Scutellaria minor</i>
Dog's Mercury <i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Lesser Spearwort <i>Ranunculus flammula</i>

Lousewort *Pedicularis sylvatica*  
 Lovage *Levisticum officinale*  
 Maize *Zea mays*  
 Male-fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*  
 Marsh Cudweed *Gnaphalium uliginosum*  
 Marsh-marigold *Caltha palustris*  
 Marsh Pennywort *Hydrocotyle vulgaris*  
 Marsh Thistle *Cirsium palustre*  
 Mat-grass *Nardus stricta*  
 Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria*  
 Meadow Vetchling *Lathyrus pratensis*  
 Mistletoe *Viscum album*  
 Moschatel *Adoxa moschatellina*  
 Mountain Pansy *Viola lutea*  
 Musk-mallow *Malva moschata*  
 Navelwort *Umbilicus rupestris*  
 Noble Fir *Abies procera*  
 Norway Maple *Acer platanoides*  
 Oak *Quercus* species  
 Opposite-leaved Golden-saxifrage  
*Chrysosplenium oppositifolium*  
 Osier *Salix viminalis*  
 Ostrich Fern *Matteucia struthiopteris*  
 Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*  
 Pendulous Sedge *Carex pendula*  
 Pear *Pyrus communis*  
 Pine *Pinus* species  
 Pineapple-weed *Matricaria discoidea*  
 Poplar *Populus* species  
 Portland Spurge *Euphorbia portlandica*  
 Primrose *Primula vulgaris*  
 Purple Moor-grass *Molinia caerulea*  
 Ramsons *Allium ursinum*  
 Raspberry *Rubus idaeus*  
 Red Champion *Silene dioica*  
 Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*  
 Red Oak *Quercus rubra*  
 Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*  
 Remote Sedge *Carex remota*  
 Rhododendron *Rhododendron ponticum*  
 Rosebay Willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*  
 Rose *Rosa* species  
 Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*  
 Rush *Juncus* species  
 St. John's-wort *Hypericum* species  
 Scaly Male-fern *Dryopteris affinis*  
 Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*  
 Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*  
 Self-heal *Prunella vulgaris*

## Fungi

Chanterelle *Cantharellus cibarius*  
 King Alfred's Cakes *Daldinia concentrica*  
 Old Man of the Woods *Strobilomyces strobilaceus*

Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*  
 Sharp-flowered Rush *Juncus acutiflorus*  
 Shrubby Sea-blite *Suaeda vera*  
 Silver Birch *Betula pendula*  
 Skullcap *Scutellaria galericulata*  
 Slender Speedwell *Veronica filiformis*  
 Slender St John's-wort *Hypericum pulchrum*  
 Small-flowered Buttercup *Ranunculus parviflorus*  
 Sneezewort *Achillea ptarmica*  
 Snowberry *Symphoricarpos albus*  
 Soft-rush *Juncus effusus*  
 Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*  
 Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*  
 Spotted Medick *Medicago arabica*  
 Spruce *Picea* species  
 Star Sedge *Carex echinata*  
 Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa*  
 Sweet Violet *Viola odorata*  
 Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*  
 Thistle *Carduus* / *Cirsium* species  
 Thrift *Armeria maritima*  
 Toad Rush *Juncus bufonius*  
 Toothed Medick *Medicago polymorpha*  
 Tormentil *Potentilla erecta*  
 Tufted Vetch *Vicia cracca*  
 Violet *Viola* species  
 Water Horsetail *Equisetum fluviatile*  
 Water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*  
 Wavy Bitter-cress *Cardamine flexuosa*  
 Western Gorse *Ulex gallii*  
 Western Hemlock-spruce *Tsuga heterophylla*  
 White Champion *Silene latifolia*  
 White Poplar *Populus alba*  
 Wild Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*  
 Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*  
 Wild Pansy *Viola tricolor*  
 Willow *Salix* species  
 Willowherb *Chamerion* & *Epilobium* species  
 Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*  
 Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*  
 Wood-rush *Luzula* species  
 Wood-sage *Teucrium scorodonia*  
 Wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*  
 Wych Elm *Ulmus glabra*  
 Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*  
 Yellow Pimpernel *Lysimachia nemorum*  
 Yellow Vetchling *Lathyrus aphaca*  
 Yew *Taxus baccata*

Scarlet Elf Cups *Sarcoscypha coccinea*  
 Tar-spot Fungus *Rhytisma acerinum*

## Coleoptera

Bloody-nosed Beetle *Timarcha tenebricosa*  
Eyed Ladybird *Anatis ocellata*  
Fourteen-spot Ladybird *Propylea quattuordecimpunctata*  
Garden Chafer *Phyllopertha horticola*  
Green Tiger Beetle *Cicindela campestris*  
Harlequin Ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*  
Heather Beetle *Lochmaea suturalis*

## Hymenoptera

Common Wasp *Vespula vulgaris*  
Hairy-footed Flower Bee *Anthophora plumipes*  
Honeybee *Apis mellifera*  
Hornet *Vespa crabro*  
Meadow Ant *Lasius flavus*  
Red Mason Bee *Osmia rufa*  
Red Wasp *Vespula rufa*  
Robin's Pincushion gall of *Diplolepis rosae*

## Lepidoptera

Beautiful Yellow Underwing *Anarta myrtilli*  
Bird Cherry Ermine *Yponomeuta evonymella*  
Black Arches *Lymantria monacha*  
Blossom Underwing *Orthosia miniosa*  
Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*  
Broom Moth *Melanchra pisi*  
Brown Argus *Plebeius agestis*  
Brown China-mark *Elophila nymphaeata*  
Brown Silver-line *Petrophora chlorosata*  
Burnet Companion *Euclidia glyphica*  
Chamomile Shark *Cucullia chamomillae*  
Chevron *Eulithis testata*  
Cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae*  
Clouded Magpie *Abraxas sylvata*  
Comma *Polygonia c-album*  
Common Carpet *Epirrhoe alternata*  
Common Heath *Ematurga atomaria*  
Common Rustic *Mesapamea secalis / didyma*  
Common White Wave *Cabera pusaria*  
Dingy Footman *Eilema griseola*  
Dingy Skipper *Erynnis tages*  
Elephant Hawk-moth *Deilephila elpenor*  
Essex Skipper *Thymelicus lineola*  
Four-spotted Footman *Lithosia quadra*  
Fox Moth *Macrothylacia rubi*  
Garden Tiger *Arctia caja*  
Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus*  
Gold Spot *Plusia festucae*  
Great Prominent *Peridea anceps*  
Green-brindled Crescent *Allophytes oxyacanthae*  
Green Hairstreak *Callophrys rubi*  
Green-veined White *Pieris napi*

Kidney-spot Ladybird *Chilocorus renipustulatus*  
Lesser Stag Beetle *Dorcus paralellipipedus*  
Seven-spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*  
Twenty-two-spot Ladybird *Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata*  
Two-spot Ladybird *Adalia bipunctata*  
Wasp Beetle *Clytus arietis*

## Hemiptera

Birch Shieldbug *Elasmostethus interstinctus*  
Common Froghopper *Philaenus spumarius*  
Green Shieldbug *Palomena prasina*  
Hawthorn Shieldbug *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*

Grey Shoulder-knot *Lithophane ornitopus*  
Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*  
Juniper Carpet *Thera juniperata*  
Knot Grass *Acrinocta rumicis*  
Large Red-belted Clearwing *Synanthedon culiciformis*  
Large Skipper *Ochlodes venata*  
Large White *Pieris brassicae*  
Large Yellow Underwing *Noctua pronuba*  
Lead-coloured Drab *Orthosia populeti*  
Least Black Arches *Nola confusalis*  
Light Knot Grass *Acronicta menyanthidis*  
Maiden's Blush *Cyclophora punctaria*  
Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*  
Nettle Tap *Anthophila fabriciana*  
Old Lady *Mormo maura*  
Orange Footman *Eilema sororcula*  
Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*  
Painted Lady *Vanessa cardui*  
Pale Pinion *Lithophane hepatica*  
Pale-shouldered Brocade *Lacanobia thalassina*  
Peacock *Inachis io*  
Pebble Hook-tip *Drepana falcataria*  
Purple Hairstreak *Quercusia quercus*  
Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*  
Red Twin-spot Carpet *Xanthorhoe spadicearia*  
Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus*  
Scalloped Hook-tip *Falcaria lacertinaria*  
Scarlet Tiger *Callimorpha dominula*  
Silver-ground Carpet *Xanthorhoe montanata*  
Silver Y *Autographa gamma*  
Small Blue *Cupido minimus*

Small China-mark *Cataclysta lemnata*  
Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*  
Small Fan-footed Wave *Idaea biselata*  
Small Heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*  
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria selene*  
Small Skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris*  
Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*  
Small White *Pieris rapae*

Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*  
Spectacle *Abrostola tripartita*  
Straw Dot *Rivula sericealis*  
Vapourer *Orgyia antiqua*  
Wall *Lasiommata megera*  
White Admiral *Limenitis camilla*  
White-line Dart *Euxoa tritici*

### Orthoptera

Bog Bush-cricket *Metrioptera brachyptera*  
Common Green Grasshopper *Omocestes viridulus*

Slender Groundhopper *Tetrix subulata*  
Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*

### Odonata

Azure Damselfly *Coenagrion puella*  
Black Darter *Sympetrum danae*  
Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*  
Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*  
Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum*  
Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*  
Common Hawker *Aeshna juncea*

Emerald Damselfly *Lestes sponsa*  
Four-spotted Chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata*  
Golden-ringed Dragonfly *Cordulegaster boltonii*  
Keeled Skimmer *Orthetrum coerulescens*  
Large Red Damselfly *Pyrrosoma nymphula*  
Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea*

### Amphibians

Common Frog *Rana temporaria*

### Reptiles

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

### Mammals

Badger *Meles meles*  
Fallow Deer *Dama dama*  
Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*  
Hedgehog *Erinaceus europaeus*

Mole *Talpa europaea*  
Polecat *Mustela putorius*  
Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

### Birds

Bearded Tit *Panurus biarmicus*  
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*  
Coal Tit *Parus ater*  
Collared Flycatcher *Ficedula albicollis*  
Curlew *Numenius arquata*

Garden Warbler *Sylvia borin*  
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*  
Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*  
Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*  
Great Tit *Parus major*  
Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*  
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*  
Hooded Merganser *Lophodytes cucullatus*  
House Martin *Delichon urbica*  
Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*  
Jay *Garrulus glandarius*  
Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*

Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*  
 Lesser Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos minor*  
 Linnet *Carduelis cannabina*  
 Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*  
 Magpie *Pica pica*  
 Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*  
 Marsh Tit *Poecile palustris*  
 Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*  
 Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*  
 Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*  
 Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*  
 Pied Wagtail *Motacilla alba yarrellii*  
 Raven *Corvus corax*  
 Red Kite *Milvus milvus*  
 Redpoll *Carduelis cabaret*

Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*  
 Robin *Erithacus rubecula*  
 Rook *Corvus frugilegus*  
 Siskin *Carduelis spinus*  
 Skylark *Alauda arvensis*  
 Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*  
 Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*  
 Swallow *Hirundo rustica*  
 Swift *Apus apus*  
 Turtle Dove *Streptopelia turtur*  
 Willow Warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*  
 Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*  
 Wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*  
 Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

### Scientific names of taxa other than species

Agromyzid Flies Diptera: Agromyzidae  
 Bee-flies Diptera: Bombyliidae  
 Beetles Coleoptera  
 Bryophytes Musci & Hepaticae  
 Bugs Hemiptera  
 Bumblebees Hymenoptera: Apidae  
 Caddis Flies Trichoptera  
 Centipedes Chilopoda  
 Conopid Flies Diptera: Conopidae  
 Craneflies Diptera: Tipulidae & Limoniidae  
 Cuckoo-bee Hymenoptera: Apidae  
 Digger Wasps Hymenoptera: Sphecidae  
 Dolichopodid Flies Diptera: Dolichopodidae  
 Dung-beetles Coleoptera: Geotrupidae  
 Dung-flies Diptera: Scathophagidae  
 Earwigs Dermaptera: Forficulidae  
 Empid Flies Diptera: Empididae  
 Froghoppers Hemiptera: Cercopidae  
 Gall-midges Diptera: Cecidomyiidae  
 Gall-mites Acari: Eriophyoidea  
 Gall-wasps Hymenoptera: Cynipidae  
 Grass-bugs Hemiptera: Miridae  
 Harvestmen Opiliones  
 Heleomyzid Flies Diptera: Heleomyzidae  
 Het-bugs Hemiptera: Rhopalidae  
 Horse-flies Diptera: Tabanidae  
 Hoverflies Diptera: Syrphidae  
 Ladybirds Coleoptera: Coccinellidae  
 Lance-flies Diptera: Lonchaeidae  
 Leaf Beetles Coleoptera: Chrysomelidae  
 Leaf-roller Weevils Coleoptera: Attelabidae  
 Longhorn Beetles Coleoptera: Cerambycidae

Micro-moths Lepidoptera  
 Millipedes Diplopoda  
 Mining Bees Hymenoptera: Apidae  
 Mirid Bugs Hemiptera: Miridae  
 Plume Moths Lepidoptera: Pteraphoridae  
 Pseudoscorpions Pseudoscorpiones  
 Puffballs Agaricales: Agaricaceae  
 Psychid Moths Lepidoptera: Psychidae  
 Robber-flies Diptera: Asilidae  
 Sawflies Hymenoptera Symphyta  
 Scorpion Flies Mecoptera: Panorpidae  
 Shieldbugs Hemiptera: Pentatomidae &  
 Acanthosomatidae  
 Silphid Beetles Coleoptera: Silphidae  
 Slugs and Snails Gastropoda  
 Snail-killing Flies Diptera: Sciomyzidae  
 Snipe-flies Diptera: Rhagionidae  
 Social Wasps Hymenoptera: Vespidae  
 Soldier Beetles Coleoptera: Cantharidae  
 Soldier-flies Diptera: Stratiomyidae  
 Solitary Bees Hymenoptera: Halictidae &  
 Apidae  
 Spiders Araneae  
 Spider-hunting Wasps Hymenoptera:  
 Pompilidae  
 Stilt-flies Diptera: Micropezidae  
 Tachinid Flies Diptera: Tachinidae  
 Tortricid Moths Lepidoptera: Tortricidae  
 Wasps Hymenoptera: Vespidae  
 Wolf Spiders Araneae: Lycosidae  
 Woodlice Isopoda Oniscoidea