

GNS NEWS

SEPTEMBER 2014



Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society

www.glosnats.org

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Send items to the Editor: Kate Kibble

5 Elliot Place, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire GL51 3NH.

Email: kkibble@sky.com

Front cover photo: GNS Cirencester Branch 50th anniversary celebrations, June 2014

Letter from the Chair

Dear Members

It was good to see many old friends at the GNS Cirencester Branch's 50th anniversary celebrations in June. Congratulations to Branch Chairman David Scott-Langley for organizing an event that combined some useful fieldwork in an area of interest to the Cirencester authorities with a delicious buffet (master-minded by Mrs Scott-Langley) and another fascinating and amusing presentation by Mike Leach!

I hope you have all been able to get out into the Gloucestershire countryside during these recent months, and to record some of the fascinating natural phenomena all around us, which is of course the *raison d'être* of GNS. As noted previously, your Executive Committee doesn't generally meet in summer, precisely to allow members of the Committee to get on with their recording interests; (personally I have, as usual, been looking at breeding waders in the Severn Vale; it seems to have been a poor season for lapwings and curlews, and a desperately bad one for redshanks – perhaps because the deep and long-lasting flooding last winter adversely affected the earthworms and invertebrates in the soil on which they feed? On the other hand one pair of oystercatchers at Coombe Hill seems to have taken over a lapwing's nest, raising an unfortunate, mixed-up young chick that won't know if it's a lapwing or an oystercatcher).

However, your Committee continues to oversee the Society's business by email and by personal contacts, so a number of ongoing issues have been pursued. You may remember that a year or so ago GNS made a grant to Butterfly Conservation to help with the purchase of Rough Bank, a major limestone grassland on the Cotswold Scarp important for butterflies. The purchase has now been completed (thanks to grants from other bodies, notably Natural England) and the reserve is to be formally opened in late August. GNS will be represented at the opening, and I am sure that we shall look forward to visiting this valuable addition to the suite of grassland reserves along the Scarp.

The media have highlighted a number of projects by the Environment Agency to develop saltmarshes in coastal sites as areas for flood protection, but also for nature promotion; areas in Essex have been mentioned as well as a site where the River Parrett runs into the Severn Estuary at Steart Point in Somerset. Another such area, on a somewhat smaller scale, is also going ahead in the Gloucestershire sector of the Severn at Plusterwine (Aylburton Warth) between Lydney and Chepstow. A very old and tired seawall has been breached, allowing the highest tides to flood old arable fields inland and to reduce erosion by the effect of additional accretion and sedimentation; the restored and extended saltmarsh should be of interest both botanically and ornithologically, and GNS members have been assisting the EA in surveying and monitoring the area. A field meeting is planned to the area in the autumn, so that members can see the results so far for themselves.

The ongoing saga of the Cinderford Northern Quarter, where the Forest of Dean District Council with support from the Homes and Communities Agency is planning a new college, hotel and housing complex, continues to preoccupy the GNS Executive and Scientific and Publications Committees. GNS has, as noted in previous issues of GNS News, decided to engage with the promoters of the scheme, by taking part in the Environmental Regeneration Forum; Andrew Bluett has taken a leading role in these activities. After much reflection and consultation of the extremely abundant documentation on the Council's website, GNS felt obliged to register an

objection to the plans. On the one hand (even if GNS is not a body of mining engineers) the risk of building such major structures on a former open cast mining site seemed very great; on the other (in a field where GNS does have considerable expertise), GNS felt that the risk of damaging wildlife (bats in particular, but also reptiles, amphibians and birds) was very high, and that the time allotted for the proposed mitigation measures was far too short. GNS of course understands the need for social and employment development in the Cinderford area, but felt that the constructions could be better sited elsewhere. GNS awaits the Council's response, and will continue to engage with the Council through the Forum.

Many of you will already have obtained your copy of the excellent new "Birds of Gloucestershire", published in late 2013. Now that we have this basic reference work, the question arises of the content and purpose of future numbers of the annual Gloucestershire Bird Report (which is largely funded by GNS). A circular has been sent to GNS members asking for comments, and these will be discussed with the Gloucestershire Ornithological Coordinating Committee. If you haven't already completed the circular, please do so, and don't hesitate to send any further thoughts to me or the Membership Secretary. Let me reassure you that there is no question of suppressing the bird report, simply of making it more relevant, and of reducing the burden on the authors!

Two final thoughts: don't forget that the courses on wildlife identification jointly organised by GWT and GNS are continuing until the autumn; hope to see many of you there! And GWT and GNS are pursuing together the discussion on how naturalists can contribute to the planning process, raised at the last AGM of the GNS.

Mike Smart
Hon. Chairman, GNS

GNS E-Mail News Group

GNS is now using an e-mail news group to send out news and event reminders to members who are happy to receive this kind of information.

If you have not already received a test e-mail, or any of the news items sent out since the 16th June, but would like to subscribe, please let the membership secretary, Andrew Bluett, know with the e-mail address you prefer to use at gnsmembership@btinternet.com.

We will not use this service frivolously, and will not be "selling" anything. You may unsubscribe at any time, we will not let anyone outside GNS have or use your contact details and will do all we can to keep them secure.

Andrew Bluett
Membership Secretary

The weather April to June 2014

Nationally, April 2014 was remarkably warm across the UK and it was fairly dry in most places, a welcome antidote to the winter's exceptional rainfall. After the mild and relatively frost-free winter, 2014 had one of the warmest starts to a year in centuries; for the fifth month in a row, UK temperatures were above the 30-year average. The average Central England Temperature (at 10.3°C) in April was 1.8°C above average. Average rainfall in England and Wales was 94% of the average, in south-west England and south Wales it was 118%, and in the Midlands 76%. Sunshine levels were about average for April. The start and end of the month were rather unsettled, although pressure did build towards the middle of the month and most of England and Wales saw fine weather between 8 and 19 April. In the Severn Vale, strange murky conditions, with Saharan sand and dust clouds, persisted until 3 April on light easterly winds, with dribbles of rain on 2 and 3 April. It was mostly bright and fine from 8 April with high pressure and predominantly westerly winds. Maximum temperatures in Gloucester were round 15°C on most days, but it was sometimes cold at night, with air frost in rural areas at times. The first rain for a fortnight fell on 20 April with hail and thunderstorms on 21 April. A series of depressions brought rain from the south-west for the remainder of the month with downpours in places and some fog. Total rainfall for the month in Gloucester was 34 mm, very similar to the March figure of 32 mm.

At national level May was again warmer than the average (the warmest for six years) but also the wettest and dullest for seven years. There were several spells of dry and warm weather in many parts of the country but these were interspersed with more unsettled conditions bringing cloud and rain and a low pressure system on the weekend of 10/11 May saw some unusually strong winds for the time of year along the south coast. The latter part of the month was less settled, often overcast, and brought abundant rainfall - some of it in the form of thundery showers - for many areas; it was a much wetter month than April, with over 150% of the average rainfall across England and Wales as a whole. In the Severn and Avon Vales, there was nearly a frost in Gloucester on 1 May, with a hint of frost in the countryside on 3 May but there were some fine days though and temperatures for once touched 20°C in Gloucester on a Bank Holiday on 5 May! Warmer conditions prevailed as the wind turned north-westerly from 13 May; then south-easterly with sunny bright conditions and maximum temperatures of 23° and 24°C in Gloucester. Change set in from 20 May, with lower pressure and winds from the south or southeast bringing stormy episodes from France with cooler temperatures and rain every day from 22-30 May. The total rainfall May in Gloucester was 54mm, on the high side of average.

Nationally, the UK had its warmest June since 2010. It was rather dry, though there was a little more rain than in June last year. Warm, dry and sunny periods persisted from the middle of the month with sunshine totals above average in the south-west and Midlands and temperatures reaching 25°C. Total rainfall in Gloucester for the month was 48 mm.

Woorgreens Lake & Crabtree Hill – 19 April 2014



A chilly April meeting © Colin Twissell

Andrew Bluett was joined by Juliet Bailey, Ingrid and Colin Twissell, Des Marshall, Tiz Butler, Rob Curtis, Daphne Lane and Trish Bluett together with seven guests from Painswick Bird Club for a field meeting of general interest at Woorgreens Lake and Crabtree Hill in the Forest of Dean.

The day started bright but by 11.00am had clouded over, and whilst it remained bright, it was decidedly chilly with an easterly wind predominating. By the end of the visit conditions had improved somewhat and were reasonably warm in the sunshine but still required the wearing of fleeces!

The walk commenced from the start point near Kensley Lodge, led towards Woorgreens Lake and around the south and east sides of the lake, then to the Forestry road along the south side of Crabtree Hill. Taking the main track we visited the heathland on the top of the ridge to view the landscape then returned to Kensley Lodge and the “Cathedral Window” before going back to the start point.

The cold ambient temperature meant few insects and no reptiles other than a decomposing toad or frog in one of the drainage ditches but birdlife was plentiful. Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*, blue tits *Cyanistes caeruleus* and great tits *Parus major* were close to the car park in the oak woodland and on the lake were Canada and Greylag Geese *Branta canadensis/Anser anser*, mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*, tufted duck *Aythya fuligula*, mandarin *Aix galericulata*, little grebe *Tachybaptus ruficollis*, lesser black-backed gulls *Larus fuscus*, heron *Ardea cinerea*, coot *Fulica atra* and moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*. A female reed bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus* was seen in the sedges and reeds, willow warbler *Phylloscopus trochilus*, chiffchaff *P. collybita* and blackcap *Sylvia atricapilla* were all singing. Overhead, and in the alder trees, siskins *Carduelis spinus* and redpoll *Carduelis cabaret* were seen and heard and swallows *Hirundo rustica* were hawking for insects over the water.

On Crabtree Hill several tree pipits *Anthus trivialis* were singing rather half-heartedly, linnets *Carduelis cannabina* were in evidence and a great spotted woodpecker *Dendrocopos major* was seen/heard briefly. Other birds noted were chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, goldcrest *Regulus regulus*, carrion crow *Corvus corone*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, song thrush *Turdus philomelos*, treecreeper *Certhia familiaris*, jay *Garrula glandarius*, wood pigeon *Columba palumbus*, coal tit *Periparus ater* and buzzard *Buteo buteo*.

Butterflies were represented by green-veined white *Pieris napi*, orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines* and speckled wood *Pararge aegeria*.

Andrew Bluett

‘Toadpoles’ For Lunch

We have had occasional fleeting glimpses of a grass snake *Natrix natrix* on the edge of one of our ponds.

On 5th May we were lucky enough to have a good view of this one from the living room window. We watched it for several minutes before it departed.

Some of the ‘toadpoles’ can be seen and we suspect that these will have been the attraction.

Carol and Roger Gaunt

St Briavels.



Rosemary Beetle (*Chrysolina americana*)

On the 18th August 2013, I discovered the black and red bug *Corizus hyoscyami* feeding on the dead flower-heads of lavender *Lavendula* sp. in one of our garden borders. This attractive bug has become more widespread in recent years. It was because of this discovery that I have checked this particular lavender bush to see if this bug had made a return visit. To date, no, but on the 8th June of this year, 2014, I noticed four leaf beetles of the subfamily *Chrysomelidae* feeding on the leaves of this lavender bush.

Using the “Atlas of Seed and Leaf Beetles of Britain and Ireland” by Michael Cox, I took the easy route of going through the food plants of this *Chrysolina* group of beetles. At the top of the list of the 17 species was *Chrysolina americana*, an 8mm long rosemary beetle whose food plants are rosemary *Rosmarinus officinalis*, lavenders, sage *Salvia officinalis* and garden thyme *Thymus vulgaris*.

Closer inspection under a lens revealed a beautiful, metallic dark green beetle with metallic red stripes and fine double rows of punctures on the wing cases and thorax with smooth areas between. Despite its beauty, online research declared the rosemary beetle as a garden pest and a potential pest in the commercial production of lavender and herb nurseries.

Originally from Southern Europe and North Africa the rosemary beetle was first recorded in Surrey in 1963. In 1994 it was reported outdoors at the RHS Garden in Wisley, Surrey. The first established colonies were found in central London in 1997, and it is now widespread and common in the south east of England and spreading northwards. The RHS is very interested in the distribution of this beetle and would like to know of any sightings.



Plant bug *Corizus hyoscyami* © Colin Twissell



The rosemary beetle remains inactive during the mid-summer months. In early autumn the beetles resume feeding on the leaves and flowers of the food plant, mate and lay their eggs. The eggs hatch within two weeks and the greyish-white larvae with darker stripes running along their bodies, feed for about three weeks, pupate in the soil before emerging as adult beetles in two to three weeks. The beetles will then continue to feed during mild winter days and in the spring.

The dispersal of the beetle is probably assisted by the transportation of plant material in garden centres and nurseries. The beetle has the ability to fly, which enables it to disperse locally.

One wonders whether there have been any other sightings in Gloucestershire, or is this the first?

Colin Twissell

Afterword: Since writing this article, ten more rosemary beetles were found on my rosemary bush, not far from the lavender where they were first seen.

References:-

GB Non-natives Factsheet Editor. Authors:- Andrew Salisbury and Andrew Halstead
December 19th 2011
Royal Horticultural Society – Advice on Rosemary beetle. www.rhs.org.uk



Cluster of rosemary beetles on rosemary
© Colin Twissell

Field Meeting, Cinderford Linear Park, 14th June 2014

Eight members met on a warm, sunny and slightly breezy morning hoping to see some of the butterflies and moths that are specialities of Cinderford Linear Park. We were not disappointed.

The first stage of our walk produced the expected burnet companion *Euclidia glyphica*, cinnabar moth *Tyria jacobaeae*, common blue *Polyommatus icarus*, speckled wood *Pararge aegeria*, large skipper *Ochlodes sylvanus*, small heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*, peacock (larvae) *Aglais io* and singly a grizzled skipper *Pyrgus malvae* and a wood white *Leptidea sinapis*.

We were within 200m of Laymoor Quag when pheromone lures hung in young alders produced very quickly several white-barred clearwings *Synanthedon sphecoformis*. This was our first major success.



©Andrew Bluett



Forester moth © Andrew Bluett



White-barred clearwater © Roger Pearce

On reaching Laymoor Quag several forester moths *Adscita statice* were seen and then very soon at least six clouded buff moths *Diacrisia sannio* one of which was caught in a spider's web.

With mission accomplished at this northern end of the Park we said goodbye to four of those present who had other commitments.

Our diminished band took our lunch break at the south end and then set off to find our two remaining target species. We quickly spotted two small pearl-bordered fritillaries *Boloria selene* and then climbed a bank to reach an area of grassy hummocks that hold heath bedstraw *Galium saxatile*, the food-plant of our last target species. We found that the habitat has deteriorated with far less of the food-plant but were lucky once again when Roger Pearce netted the small argent and sable moth *Epirrhoe tristata* we were hoping to see.

Later we saw two more of the fritillaries and a grizzled skipper before concluding a very successful Field Meeting.

The fine hot weather had enabled us to see close up our five target species in this unique part of the Forest of Dean.

Roger Gaunt

Cinderford Northern Quarter



Cinderford © Juliet Bailey

Andrew Bluett organized a series of field meetings at the Cinderford Northern Quarter on 15th February, 16th March, 12th April, 17th May and 14th June 2014.

The meetings were primarily aimed at adding species where possible to the list of over 1,300 so far identified on the site, to raise awareness of its ecological value and the threat posed by the proposed development, and to bring together a number of specialists who could contribute to the overall knowledge and understanding of the habitats and species there.

Amongst those attending were Mark and Clare Kitchen (botany), Colin Twissell (reptiles and amphibians), Ingrid Twissell (dragon and damselflies), Nick Christian (birds and local knowledge) Rob Husbands (birds), Simon Glover (butterflies), Mike Smart (GNS Chairman) and Councillor Andrew Gardiner (history, local knowledge and specialist information on the mines and geology). The weather across the list of dates was variable but generally very good.

All areas of the site were visited: the grassland, woodland, lake and the areas around both the Northern United colliery buildings and the Coleford Brick and Tile Company factory.

Species found included a very lively and active slow-worm *Anguis fragilis* on one of the stripped patches. A fully grown adder *Vipera berus* quite literally crossed our path, a second and less active slow-worm came to light as did a large, probably male, grass snake *Natrix natrix* and a very small, juvenile adder. A single viviparous lizard *Zootoca vivipara* was also noted.

Ground nesting birds were represented by willow warblers *Phylloscopus trochilus* singing and one female off a nest, chiffchaffs *P. trochilus*, pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* and tree pipit *Anthus trivialis*. Other birds noted were hawfinch *Coccothraustes coccothraustes*, common whitethroat *Sylvia communis*, garden warbler *S. borin*, blackcap *S. atricapilla*, goldfinches *Carduelis carduelis*, redpoll *C. flammea*, siskin *C. spinus*, wood pigeon *Columba palumbus*, carrion crow *Corvus corone* (resident pair), green woodpecker *Pica viridis*, great tit *Parus major*, long-tailed tit *Aegithalos caudatus*, robin *Erithacus rubecula*, wren *Troglodytes troglodytes*, blackbird *Turdus merula*, goshawk *Accipiter gentilis*, crossbills *Loxia curvirostra* and house sparrows *Passer domesticus*, as well as a number of swallows *Hirundo rustica* seen hawking for insects.



Hawfinch ©Andrew Bluett



Adder ©Andrew Bluett

A few damselflies and dragonflies (common darter *Sympetrum striolatum* and very bright yellow broad-bodied chaser *Libellula depressa*) were in evidence. Butterflies were represented by small heath *Coenonympha pamphilus*, orange-tip *Anthocharis cardamines*, common blue *Polyommatus icarus*, green-veined white *Pieris napi*, dingy skipper *Erynnis tages*, grizzled skipper *Pyrgus malvae*, wood white *Leptidea sinapis*, small tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae* and speckled wood *Pararge aegeria*.

During one visit special attention was paid to the sink holes and “Bell Pits” resulting from historical mining activities and some remains of the colliery tram tracks were noted.

The Hybrid Planning Application for the site is currently with the Forest of Dean District Council and is available to view on the council’s web-site under Planning Applications. The documents resulting from further investigation, the consultation process and from responses and representations are being added as they appear so that the list and range of subjects covered is extensive and complex.

This site and the controversy surrounding the proposed development is a hot topic but there is no doubt that the site is in wildlife terms, a gem that has evolved from post-industrial wasteland to become an interesting, exciting and wonderful matrix of habitats and species that surely deserves not to be built over. It is almost unique in the Forest of Dean now, all previous similar landscapes having been developed or reclaimed.

Andrew Bluett

Gatekeeper Aberration, Crickley Hill

The photograph shown is of a gatekeeper butterfly *Pyronia tithonus* found at Crickley Hill Country Park by Jean Pendlebury on 08 August 2014. It shows a known aberration referred to as ab. *excessa*, confirmed by butterfly recorder Chris Wilshire, whereby additional spots are present on the upper-side of the wings. These are usually small and blind but can also be ocellated as one of the examples here is. Chris informs us that this variation is fairly common with larger spots and/or more spots (up to four) being rarer. This particular butterfly shows larger spots than usual but is fairly regularly seen across the Cotswolds (perhaps one in every four hundred he has examined being similar to this specimen).



Photo: © Jean Pendlebury

Nightjar Meetings 7th June, 3rd July, 10th July



Nightjar I © Andrew Bluett

Twelve members and guests joined Andrew Bluett for a late evening meeting on 7th June in search of the elusive and intriguing nightjars *Caprimulgus europaeus* in the Forest of Dean. A roebuck *Capreolus capreolus* was sighted in the edge of the football ground soon followed by a cock pheasant *Phasianus colchicus* and a fallow doe *Dama dama* on the walk up the hill towards the open areas of clear fell. As the evening drew on, the willow warblers *Phylloscopus trochilus* and a garden warbler *Sylvia borin* ceased singing, the evening chorus of robin *Erithacus rubecula*, blackbirds *Turdus merula* and song thrush *T. philomelos* died down as the party headed towards the first location where a distant nightjar was heard faintly churring some distance away. A second, closer bird followed up and was churring strongly. Brief and careful use of a recording brought the bird closer so that it flew around and showed off its song and calls within a few yards of the observers. On the return by a different route, a third bird was heard churring on another area of clear fell some distance to the north.

Woodcock *Scolopax rusticola* put in only a brief and fleeting appearance – heard but not seen well and only two brief calls from tawny owl *Strix aluco* were somewhat disappointing. However, the party had seen and heard nightjars so were quite satisfied with the evening's events.

Nightjar can be seen from early June through July and into early August or even later. They are distributed in suitable habitats across the Forest of Dean but only in small numbers compared with other counties to the south and east where better habitat is found on heathland and around forest edges. Being crepuscular birds, it is necessary to venture out in the late evening as darkness falls on still, warm and windless evenings to view them. A measure of luck is also required so that more than one visit may be needed for success even at sites where the birds are known to be present.

Some members were unable to attend the 7th June meeting so as a result of their requests, a further two meetings in search of nightjar were organized with nine members and guests attending on 3rd July followed by another five members on the 10th July.

Meeting at 8.45 for 9.00pm, each walk set off as the sun was setting and in both cases the nightjar activity began somewhat falteringly after 9.30 but soon became more positive and interesting as the darkness gathered. On the 3rd, the party met by chance with Lewis Thompson, locally renowned birder and photographer who was prospecting the area for an RSPB organised evening with nightjars due to take place on the following Sunday evening.



Birds were heard churring to begin with, followed by some flight activity; at least two birds were churring on both occasions, often together and in competition with one another. They were inclined to move around and take up song posts at various points around the area, returning repeatedly to the most favoured. We saw some pairs in flight, some display and courtship flights and on the 3rd, one pair were seen to mate after the female took to a perch. The male joined her on another perch, then flew up to and mounted her in full view of the observers. Mark Kitchen was fortunate enough to capture this behaviour on video, perhaps uniquely.

During the display flights in particular, the birds call with a soft chirping sound and males clap their wings high and forward over the back of their body. Even in the darkness the birds were easily visible, sometimes aided with one or more torches which enabled the observers to see the white wing flashes of the male birds and the enormous eyes which reflected the light (like cat's-eyes in the road) at considerable distances.

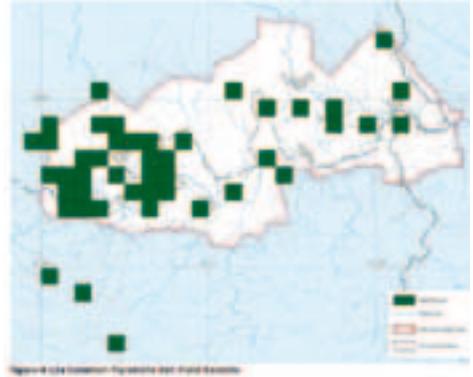
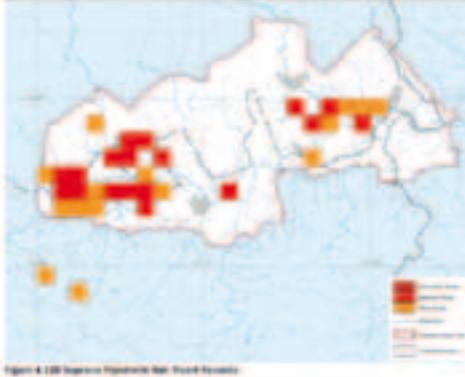
On both visits several wild boar *Sus scrofa* were seen prospecting and feeding amongst the scrub and bracken, including one particularly fearless and closely approaching "weaner", still with a stripey body. We also spotted a fox *Vulpes vulpes*, bats, dozens of frogs *Rana temporaria* and toads *Bufo bufo* and a small palmate newt *Lissotriton helveticus*.

There are photographs and a short video clip from these meetings available to view on the GNS web-site at <http://www.glosnats.org/category/whats-going-on/field-meetings/>

Andrew Bluett
Membership Secretary

Cotswold Water Park Bat Atlas Publication

This year is the 10th Year of the Cotswold Water Park (CWP) Bat Initiative. During this time a lot of people have done a lot of bat survey work across the CWP (thank you to you all). During this time however, the only publications produced have been the annual project newsletters for volunteers and landowners and although all of the bat data we produce is shared with the local records centres, we have not previously produced an interpretation of what we have found thus far.



Thanks to some funding from Lower Mill Estate (administered by Cotswold District Council) we have recently been able to compile all of the data so far into one document. Working with the Wiltshire and Swindon Biological Records Centre (WSBRC) we have been able to include maps for field records and roost records for each species (all 14 species) recorded so far.

This document represents simply an interim report of bat survey and monitoring undertaken thus far (we've not finished yet!). This interim report, which grew into something larger than originally intended (!!) is the first formal publication arising from this project. It is hoped that these data and this interpretation can feed into forthcoming local policies and planning decisions (with indications that this is already happening).

Where possible we've tried to highlight some future directions, but to be honest, just browsing the maps is equally interesting. It is of course recognised that the maps may simply highlight recorder/surveyor activity, but some interesting points may be noted nevertheless.

Thoughts, comments and suggestions from readers are welcome.

Thank you to all those who contributed to this publication and helped to improve earlier drafts, in particular, Eric Palmer, Jenny Bennett, Will Ponting and Ben Welbourn. But in particular thank you to many of the bat workers who helped us with the surveys in the first place. Furthermore, thank you to all of the numerous funders, landowners and householders who supported these surveys by enabling purchase of equipment and training, access to land and roosting sites, and for generally supporting bat conservation in the CWP. You can download the Atlas at this address: <http://www.waterpark.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/07/CWP-Bat-Atlas-v6-FINAL-sm61.pdf>

Gareth Harris

Cotswold Water Park Bat Initiative.

Cotswold Water Park Bird Blog: <http://cotswoldwaterpark.wordpress.com>

GLOUCESTERSHIRE NATURALISTS' SOCIETY

Registered charity No. 252710

WILDLIFE RECORDING INFORMATION SHEET

The Society's official recording area is the whole of the vice-counties 33 (East Gloucestershire) and 34 (West Gloucestershire). However, for practical purposes, certain recorders only cover the administrative county of Gloucestershire, comprising the districts of Cotswold, Stroud, Forest of Dean, Cheltenham, Gloucester and Tewkesbury, since the Bristol Naturalists' Society covers the Unitary Authority of South Gloucestershire and the City of Bristol (further details available from the individual recorders as listed below).

The Society welcomes observations and records from members and others, and these should be sent to the Recorders as detailed below. Records may be submitted in any form (so long as they are legible and intelligible); some Recorders prefer them on A6 cards (one per species), or, for certain groups, on the appropriate recording form (available from the Recorders - see below), though a simple list (preferably in systematic order) is acceptable for groups such as **moths**.

Ideally the following information should be supplied:

- * Species name.
- * Where seen (name of location, preferably using names on the 1:50000/1:25000 Ordnance Survey maps; if in doubt include a sketch map of the site) plus six figure map reference. It is helpful to Recorders if the tetrad number is also given. For sightings in the Cotswold Water Park observers are asked to quote the official County Council pit numbers whenever possible.
- * Date.
- * Observer's name and address.

Also useful:

- * Number or abundance.
- * Habitat.
- * Where appropriate a description of the species or a note of how identification was made including details of any guidebook used.
- * Any other relevant information.

These details should be sent to the appropriate Recorder from the list below. The precise location of rare species will be kept confidential in the interests of conservation - records should be clearly labelled CONFIDENTIAL if they are to be so treated. Straightforward records are too numerous to be acknowledged individually by the Recorders, but when a reply is required please enclose a stamped addressed envelope if the recorder asks for a voucher specimen.

It is also possible to record your sightings online – see details below.

The most interesting records are published in the Society's "GNS News", but all records (common species or not) are valuable in building up a picture of the present status and distribution of species in our county, for compiling annual reports and for updating our records and those at the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records and the national Biological Records Centre, CEH, Wallingford.

Under the Data Protection Act the GNS advises members and other observers that their personal details (name, address, telephone number, email address) will be stored, either on paper or electronically, as part of the Society's recording system. These details will not be passed on, or sold, to third parties with the exception of the Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records, subject to the Memorandum of Understanding between the two organisations. Should the observer wish that certain parts of a record remain confidential (e.g. for reasons such as sensitive species, sensitive site, restriction of access to land, anonymity), they should contact the relevant Recorder and discuss the matter, stating their reasons.

COUNTY RECORDERS' CONTACT DETAILS

Details of checklists and other GNS-published articles are available on the website and in The Gloucestershire Naturalist.

BIRDS: Richard Baatsen (01452 740161); email: baatsen@surfbirder.com. For those observers who are reporting a county rarity or BBRC species, the appropriate forms can be obtained from the Recorder; a guidance document listing all the species that require detailed descriptions is also available (please send sae); submission of records by email preferred (see also Gloucestershire Bird Report 2005 pp 18-20). The GNS website has a recording form showing all required information that can be printed off.

British Trust for Ornithology Representative: Gordon Kirk (01452 741724);
email: GordonKirk@aol.com

Gloucestershire Bird Report (annual report on the county's avifauna) published by Gloucestershire Ornithological Coordinating Committee (GOCC).

MAMMALS: John Field, c/o The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Conservation Centre, Robinswood Hill Country Park, Reservoir Road, Gloucester GL4 6SX (01452 383333);
email: john.field@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Gloucestershire Bat Group Recorder: David Wells email: dave-wells@mypostoffice.co.uk

REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS: David Dewsbury (01594 832068);
email: david.dewsbury@btinternet.com

FISH: Pete Bradshaw, c/o The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Conservation Centre, Robinswood Hill Country Park, Reservoir Road, Gloucester GL4 6SX (01452 383333);
email: peter.bradshaw@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

CRAYFISH: John Field, c/o The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Conservation Centre, Robinswood Hill Country Park, Reservoir Road, Gloucester GL4 6SX (01452 383333);
email: john.field@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

INVERTEBRATES:

Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group (GIG): Andrew Leach, c/o The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Conservation Centre, Robinswood Hill Country Park, Reservoir Road, Gloucester GL4 6SX. (01452 383333); email: Andrew.leach@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk



BUTTERFLIES: Chris Wiltshire (01453 545509); email: chriswiltshire164@o2.co.uk
Butterfly Conservation Gloucestershire Branch: www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk

MOTHS:

VC33 East Gloucestershire: Robert Homan (01242 235408);
email: theapiary@hotmail.com

VC34 West Gloucestershire (west of the Severn): Michael Bradley (01531 822315);
email: michaelw1184w@hotmail.co.uk

VC34 West Gloucestershire (east of the Severn): Neale Jordan-Mellersh (0117 9854730);
email: sneale48@hotmail.co.uk

Online distribution maps and additional information for Gloucestershire moths can be found at http://www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk/Guys_maps/mothmap.html

DRAGONFLIES: Ingrid Twissell (01452 714413);
email: canditwissell@btinternet.com

Diptera (Part) Lower Brachycera (Robberflies, Hunchback-Flies, Water-Snipeflies, Bee-Flies, Snipeflies, Windowflies, Soldierflies, Horseflies, Stiletto-Flies, Awl-Flies, Wood-Soldierflies): Martin Matthews
email: martmatt@btinternet.com. John Phillips email: jandvphillips@talktalk.net

HOVERFLIES, CONOPID FLIES AND LADYBIRDS: David Iliff (01242 674398);
email: davidiliff@talk21.com

ANTS, BEES & WASPS: Tony Taylor (01452 728734);
email: taylor.ant@cotswoldwireless.co.uk

SPIDERS: David Haigh (01242 513544);
email: djrhaigh@hotmail.co.uk

BEETLES (other than Ladybirds), BARKFLIES, WOODLICE, CENTIPEDES, MILLIPEDES, HARVESTMEN, FALSE SCORPIONS, LACEWINGS, SPRINGTAILS & FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES: David Scott-Langley
email: dscottlangley@hotmail.co.uk

GRASSHOPPERS, BUSH-CRICKETS, EARWIGS, & COCKROACHES, BUGS (HEMIPTERA): John Widgery (01242 673873); email: johnwidgery@waitrose.com

LAND & FRESHWATER MOLLUSCS: David Long (01242 527673);
email: david@long55.wanadoo.co.uk

ECTOPARASITES (Lice, louse-flies): Robin Sellers (01946 725453);
email: sellers@craghouse7.freeserve.co.uk

FRESHWATER TRICLADS: Larry Bellamy (01594 516420);
email: lar.amy@btinternet.com

FLOWERING PLANTS, FERNS & STONEWORTS:

Mark and Clare Kitchen (01453 810958); email: clareandmarkplants@yahoo.co.uk

MOSSES AND LIVERWORTS: Peter Martin (01666 503791);
email: petergmartin@btinternet.com

FUNGI: Cotswold Fungus Group & VC33 County recorder email: recorder@cotswoldfungusgroup.com. Dean Fungus Group & VC34 recorders: Keith & Valerie Davies (01452 760278); email: keith.val@hotmail.com

LICHENS: Juliet Bailey email: glos.lichens@gmail.com

PLANT GALLS: Robert Homan (01242 235408) email: theapiary@hotmail.com

ONLINE RECORDING at www.universalquestions.com/nature

There is now an online county wildlife recording system at Richard Beal's website covering Birds, Butterflies, Dragonflies & Damselflies, Mammals and Orchids. It is a straightforward, but nevertheless sophisticated way, of getting your sightings from your desktop to the county recorders and by using the system you can make a valuable contribution to the GNS ongoing recording effort. After a simple registration procedure you can start recording straightaway and you can return to the web site at any time by simply logging in.

NEW RECORDERS

The Society is always looking for new Recorders to fill vacant positions (particularly DIPTERA and FRESHWATER FAUNA) or to cover groups not listed above (no matter how obscure!). Anyone willing to undertake these tasks or to organise (or help organise) surveys in the county is invited to contact David Scott-Langley (Chairman, GNS Scientific & Publications Subcommittee), 19 Chesterton Grove, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1XN; Tel 01285 659631; email: dscottlangley@hotmail.co.uk

OTHER USEFUL CONTACTS AND ADDRESSES

GNS Web site:

www.glosnats.org for sightings, recorders, events, archives and species information.

GNS Webmaster:

Richard Beal; email: richard.beal@richardbeal.com

GNS Library:

Our library has moved to the main house at Hartpury College.
Phone 01452 702100 before visiting to check the room is free for use.



GNS Chairman:

Mike Smart, 143 Cheltenham Road, Gloucester GL2 0JH (01452 421131);
email: smartmike@btinternet.com

GNS Membership Secretary:

Andrew Bluett, 50 Kingsmead, Abbeydale, Gloucester, GL4 5DY (01452 610085);
email: gnsmembership@btinternet.com. See also Membership page on GNS Website.

GNS Secretary:

Lynne Garner (01452 614354); email: lynne@moorend1989.plus.com.

GNS Cirencester Branch Chairman:

David Scott-Langley, 19 Chesterton Grove, Cirencester, Glos GL7 1XN (01285 659631);
email: dscottlangley@hotmail.co.uk.

Editor of the GNS News (records and general matters; appears quarterly): Kate Kibble;
email: kkibble@sky.com

Editor of The Gloucestershire Naturalist David Scott-Langley, 19 Chesterton Grove,
Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1XN (01285 659631); email dscottlangley@hotmail.co.uk.
Articles and reports for TGN should be sent to the Editor by February 28th of the year of
publication. Notes for contributors and page layout are available from the same source.

Natural England (Southwest Region) Natural England, First Floor, Temple Quay House, 2 The
Square, Bristol, BS1 6EB Tel: 0300 060 2065

Gloucestershire Centre for Environmental Records: Conservation Centre, Robinswood
Hill Country Park, Reservoir Road, GLOUCESTER GL4 6SX (01453 389950);
email: gcer@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk. Development Manager: Linda Moore (01172
309119) email: linda.moore@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust: Conservation Centre, Robinswood Hill Country Park, Reservoir
Road, Gloucester GL4 6SX (01452 383333). Web site: www.gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk

Gloucestershire Orchard Trust: Ann Smith (secretary/coordinator) 01452 855677
www.gloucestershireorchardtrust.org.uk; email: info@gloucestershireorchardtrust.org.uk

Issued by the Scientific & Publications Sub-committee of the Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society, January 2014.

Field Meetings

Sunday 31 August 2014, 10.30 am. Siccaridge Wood. General Interest. Meet at crossroads in Sapperton SO944032. Leader: David Scott-Langley, 01285 659631.

Sunday 14 September 2014, 11 am. Haresfield Beacon and Vinegar Hill. A general interest meeting on Cotswold grassland, scrub and woodland, with fabulous views across the Severn to the Dean, down the Vale to the Severn bridges and up to the Malverns and beyond. Meet in Bunker's Bank lay-by, SO824089, where Beacon Lane crests the hill. Leader: Juliet Bailey, 01452 722310

Sunday 12 October 2014, 11 am. Plusterwine and Alvington salt marsh. A meeting to examine a managed realignment project where the Environment Agency has breached the sea wall, allowing nearly 100 acres to flood on high tides. GNS is monitoring salt-marsh development. General interest but wintering wildfowl and waders expected to feature. Meet at Plusterwine Crossing (appears as Woolaston Level Crossing on some maps) ST600991. Leader: Mike Smart, 01452 421131.

Sunday 23 November 2014, 11 am. Hobb's Quarry, Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust reserve, Longhope. An SSSI scheduled for its important exposures of fossil-rich Wenlock limestone, which geologist Dave Green will explain to us. Tiz Butler from the management committee will be on hand to discuss other aspects of the site; its ancient semi-natural woodland, ancient hedgerow and scrub. Meet at reserve entrance at bottom of Hobb's Lane (SO695195) which is accessed from the A40. Leader: Tiz Butler, 01452 830608, 07947 033355.

Sunday 14 December 2014, 11 am. Laurie Lee Wood. Formerly known as Tranterhill Plantation. This wood belonged to the author Laurie Lee (of Cider with Rosie fame) and was purchased in 2013 by Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. This is an exploratory meeting, recording anything and everything we see. We will probably move on at lunchtime to the Woolpack in Slad, which was his local, for a glass of seasonal cheer. Meet at the reserve entrance, SO876068, on Knapp Lane immediately north of Swift's Hill reserve. Leader: Juliet Bailey, 01452 722310.

Other meetings:

Dean Fungus Group

The Dean Fungus Group runs forays throughout the year. Contact Keith or Valerie Davies for information on 01452 760278 or email keith.val@hotmail.com.

Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group

The GIG has field meetings mainly at weekends from April to October. GNS members are welcome to come along and see what they do. Contact David Long (01242 527673) for further advice.

GNS Lichen Group

The Lichen Group meets once a month during the warmer months. New people, including beginners, always welcome. To join the mailing list, email Juliet Bailey, glos.lichens@gmail.com.

Cirencester Indoor Events Programme

10th October 2014	Cath Hodsman: Hidden Beauty – A journey into the unseen world of insects. Cath is a local wildlife artist specialising in close up detail of insects. This is a practical meeting looking at insect specimens through microscopes.
14th November 2014	Arthur Ball: Birds and Wildlife of Cleeve Hill Common
12th December 2014	Andrew Bluett: Wet Waders, Dry Waders. A look at wading birds with a little more detail, Where they come from and where they go.
9th January 2015	Mark and Clare Kitchen: On the Track of Wild Flowers, a year of plant hunting. Mark and Clare Kitchen are the County Recorders for Flowering Plants, Ferns and Stoneworts.
13th February 2015	To be announced
13th March 2015	Cirencester Branch AGM. This only takes up a small amount of the meeting and is followed by cheese and wine, photographic projected image, photographic print and artwork competitions.
10th April 2015	To be announced

Society Officers & Contacts



President: Mrs Anna Jones

Chairman:

Mike Smart, 143 Cheltenham Road, Gloucester GL2 0JH
tel: 01452 421131 email: smartmike@btinternet.com

Vice Chairman:

David Scott-Langley, 19 Chesterton Grove, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1XN
tel: 01285 659631 email: dscottlangley@hotmail.co.uk

Secretary:

Lynne Garner, Moorend Cottage, Watery Lane,
Upton St Leonards, Glos. GL4 8DE
tel: 01452 614354 email: lynne@moorend1989.plus.com

Treasurer:

Andy Oliver, email: gnstreasurer@btinternet.com

Membership Secretary:

Andrew Bluett, 50 Kingsmead, Abbeymead, Gloucester GL4 5DY
tel: 01452 610085 email: gnsmembership@btinternet.com

Cirencester Branch Chairman:

David Scott-Langley, 19 Chesterton Grove, Cirencester, Glos. GL7 1XN
tel: 01285 659631 email: dscottlangley@hotmail.co.uk

GNS News Editor:

Kate Kibble, email: kkibble@sky.com

The Gloucestershire Naturalist Editor David Scott-Langley,

19 Chesterton Grove, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1XN
tel: 01285 659631 email dscottlangley@hotmail.co.uk

GNS Website:

www.glosnats.org

GNS Library: The library is housed in the Learning Resources Centre at Hartpury College.

For opening hours see

www.hartpury.ac.uk/Hartpury-College/Hartpury-Facilities/Learning-Resources-Centre/

or phone 01452 702100.



Forester moth, Cinderford Linear Park © Andrew Bluett

