

ISSN 1746-9147

# The Gloucestershire Naturalist



**No.20**

**2009**

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ISSN 1746-9147

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## **Editorial**

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2008 has seen a number of our county recorders working on the effects of the 2007 floods in the Severn Vale. Even this was frustrated by another unseasonal summer flood, though not as severe as the previous year. Some species appear not to have been affected at all, others have clearly suffered and even disappeared from known sites. Interestingly, some species that have not been seen for years have reappeared.

Once again we have a wide range of recorders' reports. Mark and Clare Kitchen continue their amazing workload, reporting on the county flora, which was recognised by the presentation of the Armstrong Award from the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust. Ingrid Twissell has produced a county checklist of the dragonflies and damselflies of the county. Colin Twissell tells us about a snake draped across a woman's bedroom door and David Haigh mentions the changes coming up in the levels of species status from the British system that we have all been using to the international system. Ginny James joins us this year and discusses the long-term nestbox studies that have been going on in Betty Daw's Wood for many years. Some of the reports mention species coming into the county, possibly as a result of climate change turning conditions more favourable so please read on.....

I would like to take this opportunity to thank all the contributors for all the hard work behind the scenes that goes into preparing these reports, work which is often not recognised by the general public or the organisations that make use of the information we supply.

Articles on the county's flora and fauna are always welcome and can be sent to me at the addresses below. There are "Notes for Contributors" inside the back cover and a blank page setup can be emailed if requested.

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## Notes on Contributors 2009

**David Scott-Langley** has been GNS county recorder for Myriapods, Isopods, Harvestmen and Pseudoscorpions since 2000 and is currently Chairman of the GNS Scientific & Publications Sub-Committee and of the Society's Cirencester branch. He finds that working in the landscaping industry gives him access to otherwise unavailable sites for recording. He has also published works on the fauna of Foula, Shetland.

**David Long** has been county recorder for Molluscs since the 1980s, but has been recording land and freshwater molluscs since 1967. He is a Vice-President of the Conchological Society, chaired the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust's Conservation Committee from 1980 to 1992, and now chairs the Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group. He has published papers on non-marine molluscs and (in one case) marine fossils both in the UK and in Australia.

**Keith Alexander** is the county recorder for Coleoptera (other than ladybirds), Diptera (other than hoverflies), Sawflies (Hymenoptera: Symphyta) and Barkflies (Psocoptera). He currently lives in Exeter and would be delighted if someone resident in the county would like to take over the baton for recording these insects.

**David Haigh** was born in Scotland and completed his education in Wales. He started teaching in 1960 in the Midlands and in 1965 came to Cheltenham where he continued to teach until 2002. Since 1967, when he joined the GNS, he has been recording spiders in the county. He is a member of The British Arachnological Society and is Area Organiser for the Spider Recording Scheme.

**Mark Kitchen and Clare Kitchen** are a husband and wife team who have contributed very substantially to botanical recording since 1981, especially to the north-east of Bristol, their home being near Berkeley. They have jointly acted, since 1993, as Recorders for the Botanical Society of the British Isles for vice-counties 33 (East Gloucestershire) and 34 (West Gloucestershire). In 2008, in recognition of their considerable contribution to the county flora, the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust presented them with the Armstrong Award.

**Colin Twissell** took over from Peter Burns as Reptile and Amphibian Recorder for Gloucestershire in 1973. He has had a lifelong interest in all aspects of natural history.

**Ingrid Twissell** has been the Dragonfly recorder for Gloucestershire since 1993, taking over from Sonia Holland. Her interests are not solely confined to this group as she enjoys other facets of the Natural World.

**Roger Gaunt** was born and educated in Yorkshire. After National Service he trained as a Work Study Engineer, before changing to teaching and moving to Gloucestershire in 1962. He moved to his present address in 1968 and soon became interested in, and recording, the moths that came to his windows. Soon after taking early retirement he was invited to become moth recorder, in about 1988. He produces an electronic newsletter several times a year, and his 'Gloucestershire Moths - A Second Account' was published in 2006.

**David Iliff** was born in Dublin and grew up in southeast England. He moved to Gloucestershire in 1965 and joined the GNS, mainly for bird watching. During the 1970s he became increasingly interested in entomology and was appointed county hoverfly recorder after reviewing a book on the subject for the GNS Journal. He is the editor of the Hoverfly Newsletter which is published twice yearly by the Dipterists Forum. He has been the ladybird recorder since the early 1990s.

**John Widgery** was born in Hertfordshire and only moved to Gloucestershire in 2006, although involved in biological recording in the County since the mid 1990s. Has had a lifelong interest in natural history. Contributed to the botanical recording of Hertfordshire and Middlesex until the 1970s. Intensively involved in ornithology up to late 1980s during which he ringed over 50,000 birds for the British Trust for Ornithology. Serious involvement with entomology since 1990, he became recorder for Orthoptera and terrestrial Heteroptera in Hertfordshire soon afterwards. Held the position of National Recorder for Orthoptera between 1996 and 2002.

**Ginny James** has always had an interest in science and natural history, birds in particular. Her investigations of nestboxes at Betty Daw's Wood were inspired by studying certificate and diploma courses in ornithology at the University of Birmingham.

## GLUCESTERSHIRE BOTANY REPORT 2008

Clare and Mark Kitchen

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### Introduction

The year saw the welcome publication of a number of books relating to the county. The second and final volume of Bishop's New Flora of Gloucestershire is a fitting tribute to the enormous amount of fieldwork undertaken by the late Stephen Bishop. Unfortunately due to his untimely death, species accounts were not completed for the second volume which comprises a set of distribution maps recorded at tetrad level. Nevertheless it is a substantial treatment with maps of the majority of species being published for the first time. The mapping of the Rubi and Hieracium genera is particularly noteworthy as many county floras fail to produce maps for these species groups.

The publication of the Gloucestershire Nature Map marks the culmination of three years work by the Biodiversity Partnership. It identifies areas where it could be possible to link up habitat for the greater benefit of wildlife, allowing corridors of migration in the face of the threat of climate change.

George Peterkin is well known as one of the two leading experts on British woodlands, the other being Oliver Rackham, a man firmly wedded to the woods and forests of the east of England. George, however, is our man, a resident of the St Briavels area and has now written the Collins New Naturalist volume on the Wye Valley. This book is not only an account of the woodlands but is also a most extensive treatment of the natural history of the area and is a highly entertaining and absorbing read.

Finally Mike Martin has produced a thoroughly researched work in the first part of a history of Lower Woods Nature Reserve, 'The Names' delves at great depth into the origins and derivation of the names of all the landmarks, fields and tracks of the area.

It would appear that the results of the previous year's unprecedented summer floods are now beginning to show, in at least a handful of species. Narrow-leaved Water-dropwort, flowering unseasonably late in the year seems to have become a net beneficiary, appearing at new locations along the River Severn, probably as a result of seed transportation by the floodwaters. Mousetail appears to be another floodplain species to have benefited from the unusual conditions. True Fox-sedge looks to have become a victim to the ravages of the weather, disappearing from fields where it had previously been present in quantity, having succumbed to prolonged periods under water. The viability of these and similar species appears to be related to whether

established plants were able to persist beneath the floodwater, but more importantly, whether or not fertile seeds had already been produced before the waters arrived.

### The Recorders

Names of recorders have been abbreviated as follows:

Adams K.	KA	Lane D.	DL
Arnold J.M.	JMA	Laney B.	BL
Bailey J.A.	JAB	Lansdown R.V.	RVL
Birch J.	JB	Long D.C.	DCL
Bishop S.H.	SHB	Martin J.P.	JPM
Bluett A.	AB	McNeill I.	IM
Bourne V.	VB	Menendez C.	CM
Burton R.M.	RMB	Meredith G.H.J.	GHJM
Button M.R.	MRB	Meredith S.	SM
Button P.	PB	Metcalfe T.	TM
Clarke J.	JC	Palfrey M.	MP
Colls H.V.	HVC	Perkins D.W.	DWP
Cooper R.J.	RJC	Proctor I.	IP
Daker M.G.	MGD	Quinn P.R.	PRQ
Doe J.R.	JRD	Ralphs I.L.	ILR
Dray M.	MD	Rees J.S.	JSR
Fenton T.	TF	Rich T.C.G.	TCGR
Grindey B.A.	BAG	Rowlatt S.	SR
Haigh D.J.R.	DJRH	Rumsey F.J.	FJR
Harper J.	JH	Ryves T.B.	TBR
Hart J.	JHa	Smart M.	MS
Hemming M.J.	MJH	Smith L.	LS
Hemming R.C.	RCH	Smith T.	TS
Heron K.	KH	Spencer J.	JS
Hilton P.B.	PBH	Spyvee R.	RS
Holland S.C.	SCH	Stanley P.	PS
Homan R.	RH	Stewart N.F.	NFS
Houston L.	LH	Studholme C.	CS
Hudson N.	NH	Titchen A.C.	ACT
Illiff D.	DI	Titchen H.	HT
Jannink M.	MJ	Tonks P.	PT
John R.	RJ	Twissell C.F.	CFT
Kirby J.	JK	Twissell I.	IT
Kitchen C.	CK	Westgate M.	MW
Kitchen M.A.R.	MARK	Westgate R.	RW
Kitchener G.D.	GDK	Wilkins P.	PW

Wilkins T.C. TCW Wilson P.J. PJW  
Williams E. EW

### The records

Unless otherwise stated all records lie within the administrative county of Gloucestershire. Nomenclature follows the Vice-county Census Catalogue of the Vascular Plants of Great Britain (Stace, Ellis, Kent and McCosh, 2003), with English plant names taken from C. A. Stace's "New Flora of the British Isles", second edition 1997.

\* An asterisk denotes a species not native to the county.

Numbers prefixing species indicate taxonomic order taken from "List of Vascular Plants of the British Isles" (D H Kent 1992).

5/1/1 *Ophioglossum vulgatum* L., **Adder's-tongue**. V-c 33. Cotswold Water Park, South Cerney C.P., SU09M. 27/04/2007. (KA). Colony 2-3 metres wide in rough grassland just west of the Spine Road.

7/3/1 *Adiantum capillus-veneris* L., **Maidenhair Fern**. V-c 34. Woodchester, Woodchester C.P., SO80L. 22/10/2008. (MJH & RCH conf FR). Two plants in a stone-walled roadside gulley carrying small stream. Third V-c record and the first from District 6.

15/2/1 *Asplenium adiantum-nigrum* L., **Black Spleenwort**. V-c 33. Birdlip, Cowley C.P., SO91H. 5/12/2008. (RVL). Cliffs of abandoned quarry.

15/3/1 *Ceterach officinarum* Willd., **Rustyback**. V-c 33. Near Witcombe Park, Great Witcombe C.P., SO91B. 18/12/2008. (RVL).

16/4/1 *Gymnocarpium robertianum* (Hoffm.) Newman, **Limestone Fern**. V-c 34. Sapperton, Sapperton C.P., SO90L. 11/05/2008. (CS). Still present around entrance to canal tunnel but in reduced quantity following restoration work by Cotswold Canals Trust.

26/1/- \* *Nymphaea* sp. L., **Garden Hybrid Waterlily**. V-c33. Near Pinnock Warren, Temple Guiting C.P., SP02T. 16/09/2008. (CK & MARK). Roadside pond. Clement and Foster state that modern hardy cultivars are derived from nine or more species.

28/3/1 *Helleborus foetidus* L., **Stinking Hellebore**. V-c 33. Painswick Hill, Painswick C.P., SO81Q. 2/03/2008. (CK & MARK). A few plants on SE facing limestone bank. Workman's Wood, Miserden C.P., SO91A. 30/04/2008 (JSR).

28/3/2 *Helleborus viridis* L., **Green Hellebore**. V-c 33. Guiting Wood, Temple Guiting C.P., SP02T. 31/03/2008. (MJ & PS). Larch Banks, Temple Guiting C.P., SP02P. 31/03/2008. (MJ & PS). Rendcomb Park, Rendcomb C.P., SP01A. 9/04/2008. (JPM). V-c 34. Cowcombe Hill, Minchinhampton C.P., SO90B. 5/04/2008. (JSR). Present in two fields, looking like disused orchards.

28/4/1 \**Eranthis hyemalis* (L.) Salisb., **Winter Aconite**. V-c 33. Notgrove, Notgrove C.P., SP02A. 18/01/2008. (CK & MARK). Few plants in small copse near village.

28/6/1 *Aconitum napellus* L., **Monk's-hood**. V-c 34. Ebley, Stroud C.P., SO80H. 7/05/2008 (JRD). Single plant or clump on verge of by-pass.

28/11/1 *Pulsatilla vulgaris* Miller, **Pasqueflower**. V-c 34. Bear Hill, Rodborough C.P., SO80L. May 2008. (RCH & JSR). More than fifty plants at this well known locality where it is now doing well as a result of grazing with Belted Galloway cattle. Below The Fort, Rodborough C.P., SO80L. 2007. (JSR). Two plants at a site where sightings are rather sporadic.

28/13/10 *Ranunculus auricomus* L., **Goldilocks Buttercup**. V-c 33. Fosscross Lane, North Cerney C.P., and Winson C.P., SP00U & Y. 12/05/2008. (JRD).

28/13/17b *Ranunculus ficaria* L. subsp. *bulbilifer* Lambinon, **Lesser Celandine**. V-c 33. Duntisbourne Rouse, Duntisbourne Rouse C.P., SO90Y. 17/04/2008. (CK & MARK). Preston on Stour, Preston on Stour C.P., SP24E. 9/04/2008. (CK & MARK).

28/15/1 *Myosurus minimus* L., **Mousetail**. V-c 33. Coombe Hill Nature Reserve, Deerhurst C.P., SO82T. 29/06/2008. (JAB). About two hundred fruiting plants in field gateway.

28/17/3 *Thalictrum flavum* L. **Common Meadow-rue**. V-c 33. Coombe Hill Nature Reserve, Deerhurst C.P., SO82T. 26/06/2008. (JAB, JB and MS).

30/1/7 *Papaver argemone* L., **Prickly Poppy**. V-c 33. Huntsman's Quarry, Temple Guiting C.P., SP12H. 4/07/2008. (JC, CK & MARK). Single plant beside

wheatfield. Kineton Hill, Temple Guiting C.P., SP12D. 4/07/2008. (JC, CK & MARK). A few fruiting plants in improved grass ley.

31/5/1 *Fumaria capreolata* L., **White Ramping-fumitory**. V-c 33. Gloucester Docks, Gloucester, SO81J. 13/05/2008. (CK & MARK). Along road verge beside River Severn. First VCR since 1948 Flora and even then rare, the only record cited for District 2b having been from Hempstead near the river, some mile or so from the current locality.

31/5/10 *Fumaria vaillantii* Loisel., **Few-flowered Fumitory**. V-c 33. Huntsman's Quarry, Naunton C.P., SP12H. 2008. (TCW conf PJW). A rarely recorded arable weed.

31/5/8 *Fumaria densiflora* DC, **Dense-flowered Fumitory**. V-c 33. Horcott, Kempsford C.P., SP01K. 13/07/2008. (CK & MARK conf MGD). On recently created earthen flood defence bank around recreation land. First VCR.

36/1/mem \**Urtica membranacea*. V-c 34. Cinderford, Cinderford C.P., SO61L. 14/01/2007. (CK & MARK). First V-c and county record. A recent arrival to the British Isles. The three or so localities seemingly associated with nearby florists' shops, as in this case.

40/2/rub \**Alnus rubra* Bong, **Oregon Alder**. V-c 34. Redinhorne Gate, Symonds Yat, English Bicknor C.P., SO51S. 5/10/2008. (CK, MARK, ACT & HT). Group of five fairly large trees, presumably planted, in forestry woodland, several of which had been noted by ACT previously this year. Not previously noted by field botanists as being present in the county.

45/2/2 \**Claytonia siberica* L., **Pink Purslane**. V-c 34. Hewelsfield Common, Hewelsfield and Brookweir C.P., SO50L. 26/04/2008. (IP).

45/3/1 *Montia fontana* L., **Blinks**. V-c 33. Above Witcombe Park, Great Witcombe C.P., SO91C. 18/12/2008. (RVL). In wet flush.

46/5/3 *Stellaria pallida* (Dumort) Crép, **Lesser Chickweed**. V-c 33. Rough Farm, Atherstone on Stour C.P., SP25A. 9/04/2008. (CK & MARK). Locally abundant on former airfield.

46/7/11 *Cerastium pumilum* Curtis, **Dwarf Mouse-ear**. V-c 33. Hornsleasow Roughts, Snowhill C.P., SP13B. 28/05/2008. (JPM).

46/7/12 *Cerastium semidecandrum* L., **Little Mouse-ear**. V-c 33. Hornsleasow Roughts, Snowhill C.P., SP13B. 28/05/2008. (JPM).

46/17/3 *Spergularia marina* L. Griseb., **Lesser Sea-spurrey**. V-c 33. Kineton Hill, Temple Guiting C.P., SP12D. 4/07/2008. (JC, CK & MARK). Three fruiting plants growing on bare mud of disused quarry floor. Teddington Hands, Teddington C.P., SO93R. 24/06/2008. (JRD). Growing along roadside.

46/17/4 *Spergularia rubra* (L.) J.S.Presl. & C Presl., **Sand Spurrey**. V-c 33. Little Haresfield, Standish C.P., SO80E. 28/07/2008. Single plant growing with other annual weeds on poor bare soil imported from adjacent garden.

46/18/2 *Lychnis flos-cuculi* L., **Ragged Robin**. V-c 34. Cinderford Linear Park, Cinderford C.P., SO61L. 1/07/2008. (DL). Good quantity in wet flush.

47/1/6 *Persicaria bistorta* (L.) Samp., cultivar 'superba', **Common bistort**. V-c 33. Clapton-on-the-Hill, Clapton C.P., SP11T. 27/05/2008. (JRD and RS).

47/8/13x19 *Rumex x pratensis* Mert & Koch. = *R. crispus* x *R. obtusifolius*. V-c 34. Above Hollow Combe, Stinchcombe Hill, Stinchcombe C.P., ST79P. 29/08/2008. (BAG, CK & MARK). Single fruiting plant at edge of golf course.

52/1/1 *Tilia platyphyllos* Scop., **Large-leaved Lime**. V-c 33. Foulwell Wood, Withington C.P., SP01C. 21/07/2008. (JRD). Huge tree by roadside.

53/1/7 *Malva neglecta* Wallr., **Dwarf Mallow**. V-c 34. Swift's Hill, Painswick C.P., SO80T. 2008. (PBH & JSR).

57/1/9 *Viola palustris* L., **Marsh Violet**. V-c 34. Fairplay Long Pond, Cinderford C.P., SO61N. 13/05/2008. (DL).

61/1/3a *Populus nigra* L. subsp. *betulifolius* (Pursh) W.Wettst., **Black Polar**. V-c 33. East of Elmstone Hardwicke, Swindon C.P. and Uckington C.P., SO92I. 30/11/2008. (RH). One tree in each parish.

62/12/17 \**Rorippa austriaca* (Crantz) Besser, **Austrian Yellow-cress**. V-c 37 (Gloucestershire Admin. County). Teddington Hands, Teddington C.P., SO93R. 24/06/2008. (JRD). Still present at a locality where first recorded in between 1985 and 1987 by RJC and SCH but not previously published in these pages.

62/15/16 *Arabis hirsuta* (L.) Scop., **Hairy Rock-cress**. V-c 33. Hartley Hill Quarry, Leckhampton C.P., SO91P. 29/06/2008. (ILR). Several dozen plants in disused quarry, all browsed to eight inches height, presumably by deer, but still flowering and fruiting on side branches.

62/23/5 *Cochlearia danica* L., **Danish Scurvygrass**. V-c 37 (Gloucestershire Admin. County). Teddington Hands, Teddington C.P., SO93R. 24/06/2008. (JRD). Roadverge.

62/38/1 \**Hirschfeldia incana* (L.) Lagr.-Fossat., **Hoary Mustard**. V-c 34. Beachley, Tidenham C.P., ST59K. 27/08/2008. (CK & MARK). Broadoak, Westbury-on-Severn C.P., SO71B. 4/11/2008. (CK & MARK). Single plant near railway line. Sedbury, Tidenham C.P., ST59L. 8/09/2008. (CK & MARK).

66/1/1 *Pyrola minor* L., **Common Wintergreen**. V-c 33. Saltridge Wood, Painswick C.P., SO81V. 4/08/2008. (GHJM and SM). Single fruiting spike.

67/1/1 *Monotropa hypopitys* L., **Yellow Bird's-nest**. V-c 33. Blackstable Wood, Painswick C.P., SO80Z. 15/08/2008. (GHJM and SM). Three fruiting spikes. Charlton King's Common, Cheltenham, SO91U. 14/08/2008. (SM). Group of three spikes. Cliff Wood, Harescombe C.P., SO80J. 29/07/2005. (CK and MARK). About 20 spikes just emerging. Cott Plantation, Colesborne C.P., SP01B. 21/07/2008. (JRD). About 50 plants under beech. Crickley Hill, Coberley C.P., SO91I. Pre 2006 (MD). Observed here virtually every year by MD whilst running school field courses. Down Wood, Painswick C.P., SO80Z. 15/08/2008. (GHJM and SM). Eleven spikes. The Peak, near Birdlip, Cowley C.P., SO91H. 30/07/2007. (JS). Twelve plants. Perrot's Brook, Baunton C.P. and North Cerney C.P., SP00I. 21/07/2008. (JRD). Twelve spikes, just emerging. Shrubs Coppice, Notgrove C.P., SP11E. 29/07/2007. (VB & JK). Six spikes in mature beech grove. Also June 2008 (MRB & PB). 84 spikes. Worgan's Wood, Painswick C.P., SO80T. 15/08/2008. (GHJM and SM). At least twenty. Workman's Wood, Sheepscombe, Painswick C.P., SO81V. 4/07/2007. (JSR). Four spikes. Additionally at the same locality but SO91A. 2/07/2008. (PBH & JSR). 20 spikes. V-c 34. Cockshoot Wood, Dursley C.P., ST79N. 5/10/2008. (TF). Seven fruiting spikes. Near Whitecliff Quarry, Coleford C.P., SO51R. 13/08/2008. (CK and MARK). More than 100 spikes confirming the E.L. Sell 1963 record.

69/3/1 \**Cyclamen hederifolium* Aiton, **Cyclamen**. V-c 34. Scar Hill, Nailsworth C.P., ST89P. Four clumps.

69/6/1 *Anagallis tenella* (L.) L., **Bog Pimpernel**. V-c 34. Cinderford Linear Park, Cinderford C.P., SO61. 1/07/2008. (DL). Abundant in wet flush.

73/5/11 *Sedum forsterianum* Smith, **Rock Stonecrop**. V-c 33. Elkstone, Elkstone C.P., SO91R. 2/01/2008. (CK & MARK). Well established on village garden walls.

73/5/17 \**Sedum dasyphyllum* L., **Thick-leaved Stonecrop**. V-c 33. Daglingworth, Daglingworth C.P., SO90X. 27/06/2008. (CK & MARK). Locally abundant on village walls.

74/8/1 \**Tellima grandiflora* (Pursh) Douglas ex Lindl., **Fringe Cups**. V-c 34. Hetty Peglar's Tump, Uley C.P., SO70V. 8/10/2008. (JRD). On derelict wall just east of the tump.

74/9/2 *Chrysosplenium alternifolium* L., **Alternate-leaved Golden-saxifrage**. V-c 33. East of Cockleford, Coberley C.P. and Elkstone C.P., SO91R & S. 17/12/2008. (RVL). Very large population along banks of River Churn.

75/6/1 *Filipendula vulgaris* Moench, **Dropwort**. V-c 33. Bourton Downs, Bourton-on-the-Hill C.P., SP13K. 10/06/2008. (DI).

75/17/11 *Sanguisorba officinalis* L., **Great Burnet**. V-c 34. Westonbirt, Westonbirt-with-Lasborough C.P., ST88U. 2/07/2008. (JRD and RS). In small quantity in rough grassland to the east of the golf course.

75/21/14 x 12 *Rosa x dumetorum* Thuill. = *R. obtusifolia* x *R. canina*. V-c 33. Pinnock Cliff, Temple Guiting C.P., SP02T. 16/09/2008. (CK & MARK). First post 1970 VCR.

75/21/19 *Rosa micrantha* Borrer ex Sm., **Small-flowered Sweet-briar**. V-c 33. Siccaridge Wood, Bisley-with-Lypiatt C.P., SO90G. 8/06/2008. (CK & MARK). Single bush along open woodland track.

75/35/8 *Crataegus laevigata* (Poiret) DC., **Midland Hawthorn**. V-c 33. Near Williamstrip Farm, Hatherop C.P., SP10T. 12/05/2008. (JRD). Hedge on north side of road.

77/4/2 *Astragalus danicus* Retz., **Purple Milk-vetch**. V-c 33. Brassey NR, Upper Slaughter C.P., SP12G. 22/05/2008. (MRB). Six flowering spikes. 28/05/2008. (MRB & JHa). Twenty-eight flowering spikes, many more than in the previous eight

or nine years following two years of improved cattle grazing. A good example of how population counts can vary from day to day.

77/4/4 *Astragalus glycyphyllos* L., **Wild Liquorice**. V-c 33. Near Williamstrip Farm, Coln St Aldwyns C.P. and Hatherop C.P., SP10T. 12/05/2008. (JRD). Still plentiful at this known locality.

77/6/1 *Onobrychis viciifolia* Scop., **Sainfoin**. V-c 33. West of Bourton-on-the-Water, Cold Aston C.P., SP12K. 16/07/2008. (JRD). Along road verge. Harford Bridge, Upper Slaughter C.P., SP12G. 16/07/2008. (JRD). Rare on steep scree slope by roadside.

77/15/6 \**Lathyrus tuberosus* L., **Tuberous Pea**. V-c 33. North of Middle Lypiatt, Bisleigh-with-Lypiatt C.P., SO80S. 6/08/2008. (JSR). Two plants in hedgerow.

77/15/12 *Lathyrus nissolia* L., **Grass Vetchling**. V-c 33. Pates Grammar School conservation area, Hester's Way, Cheltenham, SO92G. 2007. (MD) and 18/07/2008. (MD & DJRH). V-c 34. Cinderford Linear Park, Cinderford C.P., SO61M. 13/05/2008. (DL). Several on introduced soil but fewer than the previous year.

77/18/5 *Medicago arabica* (L.) Hudson, **Spotted Medick**. V-c 33. Thrupp, Thrupp C.P., SO80R. 9/05/2008. (JSR). V-c 34. Nailsworth Hill, Nailsworth C.P., ST89P. 8/05/2008. (JSR). Two roadside plants. Rodborough, Rodborough C.P., SO80M. 10/05/2008. (JSR).

77/19/4 \**Trifolium hybridum* L., **Alsike Clover**. V-c 33. Coombe Hill Nature Reserve, Deerhurst C.P., SO82T. 29/06/2008. (JAB).

77/19/8 *Trifolium fragiferum* L., **Strawberry Clover**. V-c 34. Foscombe, Ashleworth C.P., SO82D. 30/07/2008. (JAB). Single plant in lawn.

77/19/13 *Trifolium micranthum* Viv., **Slender Trefoil**. V-c 34. Rodborough, Rodborough C.P., SO80M. 3/09/2007. (JSR).

81/1/3 *Lythrum portula* (L.) D.Webb, **Water-purslane**. V-c 34. Causeway Pool, Ellwood, West Dean C.P., SO50Z. 17/06/2008. (JRD). Locally abundant in shallow margins of the pool.

84/1/2 x 3 *Epilobium x limosum* Schur = *E. parviflorum x E. montanum*. V-c 33. Chedworth, Chedworth C.P., SP01L. 16/08/2008. (GDK). Two plants within Roman Villa complex. First post 1970 VCR.

84/1/2 x 5 *Epilobium x palatinum* F.W. Schultz = *E. parviflorum x E. tetragonum*. V-c 33. Near Andoversford, Whittington C.P., SP02F. 16/08/2008. (GDK). Five plants in neglected field. First post 1970 VCR.

84/1/2 x 8 *Epilobium x floridulum* Smejkal = *E. parviflorum x E. ciliatum*. V-c 33. Near Andoversford, Whittington C.P., SP02F. 16/08/2008. (GDK). Two plants in neglected field. First post 1970 VCR.

84/1/5 x 8 *Epilobium mentiens* Smejkal = *E. tetragonum x E. ciliatum*. V-c 33. Near Andoversford, Whittington C.P., SP02F. 16/08/2008. (GDK). Three plants in neglected field.

84/1/7 *Epilobium roseum* Schreber, **Pale Willowherb**. V-c 33. Chedworth, Chedworth C.P., SP01L. 16/08/2008. (GDK). Several plants around entrance to museum at Roman Villa.

84/3/gra \**Ludwigia grandiflora* (Michx.) Greuter and Burdet, **Water Primrose**. V-c 33. Wyck Rissington, Wick Rissington C.P., SP12V. 4/07/2008. (CK & MARK). Small non-flowering clump recently introduced into pond on village green. First VCR. V-c 34. Lydney Junction, Lydney C.P., SO60F. 18/08/2008. (CK & MARK). Well established in lake. First VCR. A recent arrival to Britain, this species, otherwise known as Uruguayan Hampshire Purslane, is a serious problem in central Europe where it clogs up and blocks waterways.

84/4/2 *Oenothera x fallax* Renner = *O. glazioviana x O. biennis*, **Intermediate Evening-primrose**. V-c 34. Sedbury, Tidenham C.P., ST59L. 8/09/2008. (CK & MARK). First VCR. Small roadside clump.

86/1/1 *Thesium humifusum* DC., **Bastard-toadflax**. V-c 33. Sheepscombe, Painswick C.P., SO81V. 2/07/2008. (PBH & JSR). Twelve plants at this known locality.

105/1/3 \**Impatiens parviflora* DC., **Small Balsam**. V-c 34. Shipton Moyne, Shipton Moyne C.P., ST88Z. 9/09/2008. (MARK). Two flowering plants in deep shade on stream bank.

107/13/1 *Pimpinella major* (L.) Hudson, **Greater Burnet-saxifrage**. V-c 33. Guiting Wood, Temple Guiting C.P., SP02T & Y. 16/09/2008. (CK & MARK). Locally abundant along road verges.

107/19/1 *Oenanthe fistulosa* L., **Tubular Water-dropwort**. V-c 33. Coombe Hill Meadows, Deerhurst C.P., SO82Y. 20/06/2007 and 27/06/2007. (TS).

107/19/2 *Oenanthe silaifolia* M. Bieb., **Narrow-leaved Water-dropwort**. V-c 33. Coombe Hill Nature Reserve, Deerhurst C.P., SO82T. 29/06/2008. (JAB). V-c 37 (Gloucestershire Admin. County). Between Lower Lode and Chaceley Stock, Chaceley C.P., SO83Q. 17/10/2008. (CK & MARK). Abundant along west bank of R. Severn. Flowering unusually late, possibly as a result of the previous year's summer floods.

107/19/3 *Oenanthe pimpinelloides* L., **Corky-fruited Water-dropwort**. V-c 33. Coombe Hill Nature Reserve, Deerhurst C.P., SO82T. 29/06/2008. (JAB). V-c 34. Selsley Common, King's Stanley C.P., SO80G. 07/2007. (JSR). Single plant.

107/22/1 *Silaum silaus* (L.) Schinz and Thell., **Pepper-saxifrage**. V-c 34. Westonbirt, Westonbirt-with-Lasborough C.P., ST88U. 2/07/2008. (JRD and RS). In semi-improved grassland east of golf course.

107/29/2 *Petroselinum segetum* (L.) Koch, **Corn Parsley**. V-c 33. North of Ablington, Bibury C.P., SP10E. 3/05/2008. (ILR). Three plants on arable field edge. V-c 34. Broadoak, Westbury-on-Severn C.P., SO71B. 4/11/2008. (CK & MARK). Two plants on bank of thyme.

108/3/4 *Cerastium pulchellum* (Sw.) Druce, **Lesser Centaury**. V-c 33. Overley Wood, Daglingworth C.P., SO90S. 21/07/2008. (JRD). Abundant at intersection of main rides.

110/4/1 *Hyoscyamus niger* L., **Henbane**. V-c 33. Ryeford, Stonehouse C.P., SO80C. June 2004. (JSR). Single plant on disturbed ground beside A419.

112/1/2 *Cuscuta europaea* L., **Greater Dodder**. V-c 33. The Mythe Fishing Lake, Tewkesbury C.P., SO83X. 3/08/2008. (CFT and IT).

113/2/1 *Nymphoides peltata* Kuntze, **Fringed Water-lily**. V-c 33. Near Pinnock Warren, Temple Guiting C.P., SP02T. 16/09/2008. (CK & MARK). Abundant in roadside pond.

116/4/4 *\*Symphytum grandiflorum* DC., **Creeping Comfrey**. V-c 33. Brockeridge Common, Twyning C.P., SO83T. 25/04/2008. (CK & MARK). Small roadside patch. Duntisbourne Rouse, Duntisbourne Rouse C.P., SO90Y. 17/04/2008. (CK & MARK). Extensively naturalised in woodland.

118/1/1 *Stachys officinalis* (L.) Trev. St. Léon, **Betony**. V-c 34. Westonbirt, Westonbirt with Lasborough C.P., ST88U. 2/07/2008. (JRD and RS). In semi-improved grassland east of golf course.

118/1/5 x 6 *Stachys x ambigua* Smith = *S. sylvatica* x *S. palustris*, **Hybrid Woundwort**. V-c 33. Above Dovedale, Blockley C.P., SP13M. 11/08/2008. (CK & MARK). Two good populations.

118/18/5 *Clinopodium acinos* (L.) Kuntze, **Basil Thyme**. V-c 33. Harford Bridge, Upper Slaughter C.P., SP12G. 16/07/2008. (JRD). Occasional on steep roadside scree slope. Hartley Hill Quarry, Leckhampton C.P., SO91P. 29/06/2008. (ILR). Good patch in disused quarry. Swifts Hill, Painswick C. P., SO80T. 2/07/2008. (PBH & JSR).

121/1/1 *Plantago coronopus* L., **Buck's-horn Plantain**. V-c 33. Lower Bourne, Chalford C.P., SO80R. 7/07/2008. (JSR). Abundant beside A419. V-c 37 (Gloucestershire Admin. County). Teddington Hands, Teddington C.P., SO93R. 24/06/2008. (JRD). Along roadside.

122/1/2 *\*Buddleja davidii* Franchet, **Butterfly Bush**. V-c 34. Yorkley, West Dean C.P., SO60I. 27/02/2008. (JH).

124/2/3 *Scrophularia umbrosa* Dumort, **Green Figwort**. V-c 33. Marsh between The Mythe and River Severn, Tewkesbury C.P., SO83X. 7/09/2004. (LS). Possibly only a single plant where last recorded in 1971 and now the only extant known county locality.

124/14/2 *\*Digitalis lutea* L., **Straw Foxglove**. V-c 33. Caudle Green, Brimpsfield C.P., SO91K. 12/07/1008. (CK & MARK). Small clump on edge of village green.

125/1/2 *\*Lathraea clandestina* L., **Purple Toothwort**. V-c 33. Benhall, Cheltenham, SO92F. 2/05/2008. (ILR). Along the banks of the Hatherley Brook.

125/2/4 *Orobanche elatior* Sutton, **Knapweed Broomrape**. V-c 33. North of Aylworth, Naunton C.P., SP12B. 16/07/2008. (JRD). Three on road verge and a few in adjacent golf course rough.

125/2/8 *Orobanche hederæ* Duby, **Ivy Broomrape**. V-c 33. Park Campus, Cheltenham, SO92K. 24/06/2008. (JRD).

125/2/10 *Orobanche minor* Smith, **Common Broomrape**. V-c 33. Coates, Coates C.P., SO90Q. 8/07/2008. (JSR). Six spikes on roadside, V-c 34. Near Holt's Farm, Alkington C.P., ST79I. 5/07/2008. (JSR). Single roadside plant.

132/1/1 *Adoxa moschatellina* L., **Moschatel**. V-c 33. Valley of River Frome, Miserdon C.P., SO90P. 11/04/2008. (DWP). Abundant.

133/1/1 *Valerianella locusta* (L.) Laterr., **Common Cornsalad**. V-c 33. Ready Token, Barnsley C.P., SP10C. 20/06/2008. (JRD).

134/1/3 *Dipsacus pilosus* L., **Small Teasel**. V-c 33. Near Bull Banks Lake, Miserden C.P., SO90P. 18/03/2008. (DWP). Cooper's Hill, Brockworth C.P., and Great Witcombe C.P., SO81X. 21/03/2008. (DWP). V-c 34. Cowhill, Oldbury-on-Severn C.P., ST69A. 30/03/2008. (DWP).

135/9/1 *Serratula tinctoria* L., **Saw-wort**. V-c 34. Westonbirt, Westonbirt-with-Lasborough C.P., ST88U. 2/07/2008. (JRD and RS). In semi-improved grassland to east of golf course.

135/25/98 *Taraxacum pseudohamatum* Dahlst. V-c 33. Prestbury, Prestbury C.P., SO92R & S. 16/04/2008. (KH).

135/25/120 *Taraxacum cophocentrum* Dahlst. V-c 33. Prestbury, Prestbury C.P., SO92R. 26/04/2008. (KH).

135/25/174 *Taraxacum obtusilobum* Dahlst. Ex G.E. Haglund. V-c 33. Prestbury, Prestbury C.P., SO92R. 25/04/2008. (KH).

135/25/177 *Taraxacum pachymerum* G.E.Haglund. V-c 33. Prestbury, Prestbury C.P., SO92R. 25/04/2008. (KH).

135/28/36 *Hieracium subleptoides* (Zahn) Druce. V-c 34. Rodborough Common, Rodborough C.P., SO80L. 26/05/2008. (CK and MARK det. RMB).

135/28/123 *Hieracium stenstroemii* (Dahlst.) Johansson. V-c 33. Edge Common, Painswick C.P., SO80P. 5/05/2007. (CK and MARK, det. RMB). Also 10/08/2008. (CK, MARK, LH and NH, det. RMB). Painswick Beacon, Painswick C.P., SO81Q. 24/05/2008. (CK and MARK on Glos Plant Group meeting, det. RMB). V-c 34. Rodborough Common, Rodborough C.P., SO80L. 26/05/2008. (CK and MARK, det. RMB).

135/30/1 *Filago vulgaris* Lam., **Common Cudweed**. V-c 34. Ever Hill, Dymock C.P., SO73F. 26/08/2008. (CK & MARK det TCGR). Plentiful on sandstone.

135/53/1 *Achillea ptarmica* L., **Sneezewort**. V-c 33. Pates Grammar School conservation area, Hester's Way, Cheltenham, SO92G. 18/07/2008. (MD and DJRH).

135/55/3 *Anthemis cotula* L., **Stinking Chamomile**. V-c 33. Huntman's Quarry, Temple Guiting C.P., SP12H. 4/07/2008. (JC, CK & MARK). Few at edge of improved grass ley.

135/62/17 *Senecio sylvaticus* L., **Heath Groundsel**. V-c 34. Chase End Hill, Bromsberrow C.P., SO73M. 30/07/2008. (DJRH & DCL). At least twenty plants.

135/69/1 \**Doronicum pardalianches* L., **Leopard's-bane**. V-c 33. Cow Common, Swell C.P., SP12I. 26/04/2008. (CK & MARK). Small patch in roadside woodland strip.

135/80/2 \**Galinsoga quadriradiata* Ruiz Lopez and Pavón, **Shaggy-soldier**. V-c 33. Cirencester, Cirencester C.P., SP00F. 4/07/2006. (JSR). Rare pavement weed in Cricklade Street.

137/1/1 *Sagittaria sagittifolia* L., **Arrowhead**. V-c 34. Near Wicksters Bridge, Frampton on Severn C.P. and Slimbridge C.P., SO70M. 19/09/2008. (JRD). In Wicksters Brook.

142/1/1 *Potamogeton natans* L., **Broad-leaved Pondweed**. V-c 33. Chatcombe Wood, Coberley C.P., SO91T. 9/12/2008. (RVL). In artificial pond.

142/1/3 *Potamogeton pusillus* L., **Lesser Pondweed**. V-c 33. Huntsman's Quarry, Temple Guiting C.P., SP12H. 4/07/2008. (JC, CK & MARK det NFS).

142/2/1 *Groenlandia densa* (L.) Fourr., **Opposite-leaved Pondweed**. V-c 33. Coombe Hill Meadows, Deerhurst C.P., SO82Y. 20/06/2007. (TS).

145/1/1 *Zannichellia palustris* L., **Horned Pondweed**. V-c 33. Sezincote House, Sezincote C.P., SP13Q. 4/07/2008. (CK & MARK). Abundant in ornamental pond.

151/1/2 \**Juncus tenuis* Willd, **Slender Rush**. V-c 34. Church Grove, Newland C.P., SO50N. 13/08/2008. (CK, MARK *et al.* on Glos Plant Group meeting). Few along woodland track.

151/1/25 x 26 *Juncus x diffusus* Hoppe = *J. inflexus x J. effusus*. V-c 33. Chaceley Meadow SSSI Nature Reserve, Chaceley C.P., SO83K. 19/06/2008. (JRD). V-c 34. Lydney Junction, Lydney C.P., SO60F. 18/08/2008. (CK and MARK). Along margins of lake.

152/5/1 *Scirpus sylvaticus* L., **Wood Club-rush**. V-c 33. Guiting Wood, Temple Guiting C.P., SP02T. 16/09/2008. (CK & MARK). Extensive stand in roadside marsh.

152/10/1 *Blysmus compressus* (L.)Panzer ex. Link, **Flat-sedge**. V-c 33. Pinnock, Temple Guiting C.P., SP02U. 16/09/2008. (CK & MARK). Abundant at a streamside locality where last recorded by SHB in 1985.

152/16/4 *Carex vulpina* L., **True Fox-sedge**. V-c 33. Coombe Hill Nature Reserve, Deerhurst C.P., SO82T. 29/05/2007. (JAB). 26/06/2008. (JAB, JB and SM). 29/06/2008. (JAB). Recorded in several fields. One field which had seventy-one clumps in 2007 prior to the summer flood failed to produce any plants in 2008.

152/16/29 *Carex vesicaria* L., **Bladder-sedge**. V-c 33. Coombe Hill Nature Reserve, Deerhurst C.P., SO82T. 26/05/2007 and 26/06/2008. (JAB). A single plant in the centre of a field on this latter date.

152/16/34 *Carex strigosa* Hudson **Thin-spiked Wood-sedge**. V-c 33. Bubb's Hill Wood, Elkstone C.P., SO91R. 2/01/2008. (CK & MARK). Plentiful along woodland ridge.

152/16/47 *Carex pallescens* L., **Pale Sedge**. V-c 33. Overley Wood, Daglingworth C.P., SO90S. 21/07/2008. (JRD).

152/16/52 *Carex filiformis* L., **Downy-fruited Sedge**. V-c 33. Colesbourne, Withington C.P., SP01B. 21/07/2008. (JRD). Seven plants near the well known site which is now completely overgrown. Overley Wood, Daglingworth C.P., SO90S. 21/07/2008. (JRD). Abundant at main ride intersection.

152/16/68 *Carex elata* All., **Tufted Sedge**. V-c 33. Near Whelford, Kempsford C.P., SU19Z. 12/06/2008. (PRQ). A second V-c and county record.

153/12/4 *Festuca altissima* All., **Wood Fescue**. V-c 34. Bond's Wood, Staunton Coleford C.P., SO51K. 1/06/2008. (CK & MARK). Six plants on low roadside cliff.

153/17/3 \**Briza maxima* L. **Greater Quaking-grass**. V-c 33. Barrow Wake, Cowley C.P., SO91H. 09/2008. (IM). Small patch. Junction 12, M5 Motorway, Haresfield C.P., SO81A. 13/07/2003. (JAB).

153/18/9 *Poa compressa* L. **Flattened Meadow-grass**. V-c 33. Bowman's Hay, Cold Aston C.P., SP12F. 18/01/2008. (MRB, CK, MARK & TW). Colesbourne, Withington C.P., SP01B. 21/07/2008. (JRD). V-c 34. Westonbirt, Westonbirt-with-Lasborough C.P., ST88U. 19/09/2008. (JRD). On top of stone wall.

153/21/1 *Catapodium rigidum* (L). C.E.Hubb., **Fern-grass**. V-c 33. Lower Bourne, Chalford C.P., SO80R. 7/07/2008. (JSR). Frequent beside A419.

153/50/7 \**Bromus secalinus* L., **Rye Brome**. V-c 33. The Warren, Blockley C.P., SP13M. 11/08/2008. (CK & MARK). In cereal field.

153/52/1 \**Anisantha diandra* (Roth) Tutin ex Tzveler. V-c 33. Coates, Coates C.P., SO90Q. 17/08/2007. (CK & MARK). Single plant in set-aside. Far Upton Wold, Blockley C.P., SP13G. 11/08/2008. (CK & MARK). Abundant along cereal field edge. Near Lousehill Plantation, Temple Guiting C.P., SP02Y. 16/09/2008. (CK & MARK). Plentiful in corner of ploughed field. Oldhill Plantation, Snowshill C.P., SP13B. 2/06/2008. (CK & MARK). Large patch in cereal field.

153/68/1 \**Echinochloa crus-galli* (L.)P.Beauv., **Cockspur**. V-c 34. Near Aubreys Farm, Bromsberrow, Bromsberrow C.P., SO73L. 3/09/2008. (MJP det TBR). A few plants amongst potato plants on sandy soil.

158/7/1 *Colchicum autumnale* L., **Meadow Saffron**. V-c 33. Guiting Wood, Temple Guiting C.P., SP02T. 31/03/2008. (MJ & MS). Overley Wood, Daglingworth C.P., SO90S. 21/07/2008. (JRD).

158/9/1 *Gagea lutea* (L.) Ker Gawler, **Yellow Star-of-Bethlehem**. V-c 33. The Larches Banks, Temple Guiting C.P., SP02P. 31/03/2008. (MJ & DS). Possibly the Lynes Barn locality mentioned in Riddelsdell's Flora.

158/10/1 \**Tulipa sylvestris* L. **Wild Tulip**. V-c 33. Notgrove, Notgrove C.P., SP12A. 18/01/2008. (CK & MARK). Thousands of plants in small copse with twenty flowering on 26/04/2008. There is a record, G. S. Wintle 1864 in Journal of Botany of some 5,000 plants in a wood near Gloucester, but "none flourishing". The present locality is around twenty miles from Gloucester. A local botanist would probably not refer to the present site as near Gloucester although a visitor passing

through the county may refer to the nearest main town when publishing the record. It seems unlikely that there would have been a second such large colony in the county.

158/11/1 *Fritillaria meleagris* L., **Fritillary**. V-c 34. Green Bottom, Littledean C.P., SO61S. 1/05/2008. (AB). Alongside small pond. Probably an introduction. There are no historic records in the county west of the River Severn.

158/12/1 *Lilium martagon* L., **Martagon Lily**. V-c 33. Daglingworth, Daglingworth C.P., SO90X. 27/06/2008. (CK & MARK). Naturalised in roadside copse.

158/14/1 *Polygonatum multiflorum* (L.) All., **Solomon's-seal**. V-c 34. Dyrham Wood, Hinton and Dyrham C.P., ST77M. 17/09/2007. (MJ).

158/19/1 \**Scilla bifolia* L. **Alpine Squill**. V-c 33. Cutsdean Quarry, Bourton-on-the-Hill C.P., SP13G. 25/03/2008. (CK & MARK with Glos Lichen Group).

158/24/9 \**Allium paradoxum* (M.Bieb) Don, **Few-flowered Garlic**. V-c 33. Cirencester, Cirencester C.P., SP01A. 9/04/2008. (JPM). Several patches along A429 and A433 verges. Well known at this vicinity.

158/24/11 *Allium oleraceum* L., **Field Garlic** V-c 33. Guiting Wood, Guiting Power C.P., SP02T. 31/03/2008. (MJ & PS). Small patch on roadbank.

159/24/12 \**Allium carinatum* L. **Keeled Garlic**. V-c 33. Edge Common, Pitchcombe C.P., SO90P. 10/08/2008. (LH, NH, CK & MARK). Single flowering patch on edge of the Common.

158/25/1 \**Nectaroscordum siculum* (Ucria) Lindley, **Honey Garlic**. V-c 33. West of Broadwell, Broadwell C.P., SP12Y. 28/05/2008. (JPM). Foss Way road cutting, well known for its established alien plants.

158/27/7 \**Allium triquetrum* L. **Three-cornered Garlic**. V-c 34. Hewelsfield Common, Hewelsfield and Brookweir C.P., SO50L. 26/04/2008. (IP). Along roadside. Second record west of River Severn and for District 4, the first being from Awre in 2002.

158/31/1a \**Leucojum aestivum* L. subsp. *aestivum*, **Summer Snowflake**. V-c 34. Dymock, Dymock C.P., SO63V. 23/03/2008. (CK & MARK). Introduced on road verge near housing.

158/31/1b \**Leucojum aestivum* L. subsp. *pulchellum* (Salisb.) Briq., **Summer Snowflake**. V-c 34. Lower Lydbrook, Lydbrook C.P., SO51Y. 2007 and 13/03/2008. (HVC). Amongst shrubs along bank of R. Wye.

162/2/1 *Cephalanthera damasonium* (Miller) Druce, **White Helleborine**. V-c 33. Frith Wood, Painswick C.P., SO80U. 4/06/2008. (DJRH and DCL). Single poorly-flowering plant. Possibly non-flowering plants nearby. North side of Painswick Beacon, Painswick C.P., SO81R. 25/08/2007. (JS). Shrubs Coppice, Notgrove C.P., SP11E. 29/07/2007. (VB & JK). Few fruiting spikes in mature beech grove. Also MRB and PB in 2008.

162/2/3 *Cephalanthera rubra* (L.) Rich., **Red Helleborine**. V-c 33. Painswick C.P., SO91V. 20/06/2007. (JS). Three plants flowering at the usual locality. Population now appearing to be much healthier following recent woodland thinning.

162/5/1 *Neottia nidus-avis* (L.) Rich., **Bird's-nest Orchid**. V-c 33. Buckle Wood, Brimpsfield C.P., SO91B. 4/06/2008. (DJRH and DCL). Roadside colony. Cott Plantation, Withington C.P., SP01B. 21/07/2008. (JRD). Around fifty plants. Frith Wood, Painswick C.P., SO80U. 4/06/2008. (DJRH and DCL). Single spike. Worgan's Wood, Painswick C.P., SO80T. 13/06/2008. (JSR). Twenty-five spikes in beechwood. Workman's Wood, Sheepscombe, Painswick C.P., SO81V. 4/07/2007. (JSR). Two spikes.

162/7/1 *Spiranthes spiralis* (L.) Chevall., **Autumn Lady's-tresses**. V-c 33. Barrow Wake, Cowley C.P., SO91H. 09/2008. (IM). One patch of between 50-70 spikes. New locality, new tetrad. This is the second hectad record for SO91 the other being at SO91Z, Cleeve Common. V-c 34. Clements End, West Dean C.P., SO50Y. 18/08/2008. (CK & MARK). Five spikes on a roadbank. Mill Hill, Brockweir, Hewelsfield and Brockweir C.P., SO50P. 16/09/2008. (PW). Eleven spikes on neglected part of garden lawn. Not recorded in the Hudnalls area since 1945.

162/12/1 *Herminium monorchis* (L.) R. Br., **Musk Orchid**. V-c 33. Barrow Wake, Cowley C.P., SO91H. 16/07/2007 (JSR). Dozens of plants at this well known locality. V-c 34. Selsley Common, King's Stanley C.P., SO80G. 3/07/2007. (JSR). Still present at this known locality. Also 2/07/2008. (PBH & JSR). Thirty-five spikes.

162/16/1 x 162/18/1 *X Dactyloдения St.-Quintinni* (Godfery) J. Duvign = *Gymnadenia conopsea* x *Dactylorhiza fuchsii*. V-c 33. Sheepscombe Common, Painswick C.P., SO81V. 25/06/2007. (JS). Two flowering at the usual site and additionally a second previously unknown colony of seven plants.

162/17/1 *Coeloglossum viride* (L.) Hartman, **Frog Orchid**. V-c 33. Swift's Hill, Painswick C.P., SO80T. 22/06/2008. (JSR). Four flowering at this well known locality.

162/22/1 *Himantoglossum hircinum* (L.) Sprengel, **Lizard Orchid**. V-c 34. Minchinhampton Common, Minchinhampton C.P., SO80K. 2008. (TM). Single plant still present where first recorded in 1995 as "Stroud Commons". Usually the flowers get damaged by cattle or golfers. Scar Hill, Nailsworth C.P., ST89U. 26/01/2008. (NH, MJ & BL). Single rosette, the plant first recorded in 2007. Flowered later in the year following hugely successful protection measures undertaken by the National Trust.

162/23/1 *Ophrys insectifera* L., **Fly Orchid**. V-c 33. Down Wood, Painswick C.P., SO80Z. 24/05/2008. (RJ, SR & GWT Snows Farm Reserve Committee). Three spikes in woodland. Also near Longridge Wood, Painswick C.P., SO80Z, same date and recorders. About six spikes in limestone grassland. Lineover Wood, Dowdeswell C.P., SO91Z. 2008. (JMA). Four flowering, more than previously with only one or two noted in most years since 2000. Same date and recorders. About six spikes in limestone grassland. Siccaridge Wood, Bisley-with-Lypiatt C.P., SO90G. 2006. (SR). Four spikes. Swift's Hill, Painswick C.P., SO80T. 22/06/2008. (JSR). Five flowering.

162/23/3 *Ophrys apifera* Huds. **Bee Orchid**. V-c 33. Bourton Downs, Bourton-on-the-Hill, SP13K. 10/06/2008. (DI). Hartley Hill Quarry, Leckhampton C.P., SO91P. 29/06/2008. (ILR). Single plant in disused quarry. Ready Token, Barnsley C.P., SP10C. 20/06/2008. (JRD). Single roadside plant. V-c 34. Cinderford Linear Park, Cinderford C.P., SO61M. 13/05/2007. (DL). On introduced soil but not refound in 2008. Lydney Bypass, Lydney C.P., SO60G. 19/06/2008. (PT). About twelve roadside spikes.

*Chara virgata* Kütz. **Delicate Stonewort**. V-c 33. Chatcombe Wood, Coberley C.P., SO91T. 9/12/2008. (RVL). In artificial pond.

*Chara vulgaris* L. **Common Stonewort** V-c 33. Huntsman's Quarry, Temple Guiting C.P., SP12H. 4/07/2008. (JC, CK & MARK).

## TERRESTRIAL HETEROPTERA (LAND BUGS) REPORT 2008

John Widgery

The cumulative effect of two successive cool and wet summers has had a marked impact on warmth-loving species, especially those which have been expanding their ranges northwards due to the, hitherto, warming climate. This particularly applied to the Bishop's Mitre Shieldbug (*Aelia acuminata*) and the coreid bugs *Stictopleurus abutilon*, *S. punctatonevrosus* and *Corizus hyoscyami* which, despite searches could not be found at all during 2008. If the current majority scientific opinion is correct this is probably only a temporary blip and it will be interesting to see how the situation develops over the longer term. It clearly demonstrates however just how climate-sensitive some species are.

Despite this it turned out to be an interesting year, producing four new species for the County although at least some of these have probably been overlooked previously.

The new species were as follows:-

***Buchananiella continua***: This tiny 3mm pan-tropical insect was first discovered in the UK in the mid-1990s and since then has been spreading throughout the southern half of England. The first Gloucestershire record was at Ashleworth (SO8126) on 15 August and it was later discovered at Woodmancote (SO9727) on 9 October. It normally feeds on micro-organisms particularly *Psocoptera* and is usually found on fallen or cut off branches/twigs of trees including deadwood.

***Agnocoris reclairi***: A notable (Nb) species which until recently was confined to the East Anglian fens but it has been found sporadically in other Counties in the southern half of England within the last few years. A single specimen was beaten from White Willow (*Salix alba*), its principal host, at Coombe Hill Canal NR (SO8827) on 24 August.

***Pilophorus cinnamopterus***: Generally a common species on Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) in southern England but, surprisingly, no previous known records from Gloucestershire until 2008 when it was found on its host species at Foscombe Hill, Ashleworth (SO8026) on 15 August (see Plate 3). It is for conjecture as to whether it has been previously overlooked or it is a recent new arrival. It is recorded by Southwood & Leston (1959) as being present south of a line between The Wash and Glamorgan which means that Gloucestershire may always have been near to the edge of its range.

***Capsus wagneri***: Another notable (Nb) insect. This damp grassland species is very similar to the very common *Capsus ater*, and identification needs critical examination. Usually, the antennae are narrower than in *C. ater*, particularly in the male. Several were swept from Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) at Ashleworth Ham NR (SO8026) on 15 August.

Other finds of County rare or scarce species which are worthy of mention are listed hereunder:-

**Crucifer Shieldbug, *Eurydema oleracea*:** David Iliffe got the third modern County record of this species when he found the white-spotted form at Ley Park Wood (SO7117) on 13 April. Whilst this insect can be found on a variety of plants in the cabbage family (*Cruciferae*), I have found it to be particularly associated with Horse Radish (*Amorica rusticana*).

**Tortoise Shieldbug, *Eurygaster testudinaria*:** Previously regarded as County scarce but this status is no longer justified. It has been found to be quite widespread, being found at nineteen sites since 2004 and this year was collected at a further three.

***Heterogaster artemisiae*:** Following its rediscovery in the County on Cleeve Hill after a period of over 60 years in 2006, this local, Thyme-specific species was found again at the same site (SO9825) on 13 July. It was formerly recorded at Rodborough Common in 1944 and is probably still there and may well be widespread throughout the Cotswolds. It can only be found in its adult stage in July and should any naturalists get the opportunity to look for it on its host plant Thyme (*Thymus* spp.) at the relevant time please send any specimens/photographs to me for verification.

***Elatophilus nigricornis*:** Following a County first for this species in 2007, it was found again, on its host Scots Pine (*Pinus sylvestris*) near Wickridge Street (SO8027) on 15 August.

***Oncotylus viridiflavus*:** Found again this year on Common Knapweed (*Centaurea nigra*), its food plant, near Wickridge Street (SO8126) on 15 August – a fifth County record.

***Megalocoleus molliculus*:** The sixth Gloucestershire record for this species was obtained near Woodmancote on 14 August when it was swept from Mugwort (*Artemisia vulgaris*). It is usually found on Yarrow (*Achillea millefolium*) which was growing nearby.

***Capsodes gothicus*:** Colin Twissell found this very local insect at Staple Edge Wood (SO6411) on 12 July. All Gloucestershire records so far are from the Forest of Dean. It is the sixth record for the County.

***Teratocoris antennatus*:** A male of this species was found at Coombe Hill Meadows NR (SO8727) on 15 August which was only the third modern record for Gloucestershire (see Plate 4). It was also re-found later the same month at the only previously known site in the County, Ashleworth Ham NR (SO8326), when two females were swept from Reed Canary Grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*).

***Eurydema oleracea*:** three new Vice County 34 records for the County-scarce Crucifer Shield Bug have come to light thanks to data published by Bristol City Museum & Art Gallery. These were all in 2007 when it was found at Bristol Downs (ST5674) by Robert Cropper on 19 April and again by Ray Barnett who swept three at the same site on 5 June. Ray Barnett also discovered it at Lawrence Weston Moor

(ST5378) on 29 April. This species has been increasing in southern England in recent years and this trend is now being seen in Gloucestershire (see Plate 5).

Thanks must go to all those that have shown an interest in this group and have submitted records – these are much appreciated.

## AMPHIBIAN & REPTILE REPORT 2008

Colin Twissell

Great Crested Newts (*Triturus cristatus*) were seen in our garden pond on the 1<sup>st</sup> January, presumably having over-wintered there. Surveying for amphibians is not usually carried out until about March when temperatures begin to rise, but given warmer winters perhaps surveys should start much earlier. I have received other reports of great crested newts being in garden ponds during the winter.

Great Crested Newts were discovered in a pond near Clearwell on the 11<sup>th</sup> April (DD) and at Saul, two ladies (JW & BR) had raised money to buy a butyl pond liner by having a car-boot sale. They had obtained permission from the local council to restore a pond in the corner of an allotment, provided it was fenced off. So a visit to the pond on the 22<sup>nd</sup> April was rewarded by finding not only Great Crested Newts, but several Smooth Newts (*Triturus vulgaris*) and Palmate Newts (*Triturus helveticus*).

A site visited near Bentham was part of a 1km square allocated as part of the National Amphibian and Reptile Recording Scheme. A large part of the square is an area of grassland, which was to be a golf course, but ended up as a site for the disposal of large amounts of soil and rubble. The area has many undulations and is criss-crossed with footpaths, but also has several temporary water-bodies, and it was in one large deep pool that Great Crested Newt eggs were found. Despite searching refugia no adult or immature newts were found, only the occasional Common Toad (*Bufo bufo*). Toad spawn was also found, but whether any of these eggs survived is questionable because by mid-summer the pond had virtually dried up.

The presence of Great Crested Newts was verified at an unimproved grassland site near Corse, where the owner (AH) suspected they were, in a corner pond. A garden pond previously visited several years ago at Boddington proved successful when torching the pond on 29<sup>th</sup> May, revealing three male Great-crested Newts and one female. At about this time, an article in the Stroud News and Journal mentioned the discovery of a Great Crested Newt by a member of the Stroud Valleys' Project who was helping children at Foxmoor Primary School with pond-dipping.

At Woogreens an adult female Great Crested Newt was found under a log close to the pond edge. A large lake to survey, but they could well be breeding there as known Great-crested Newt sites are not too far away.

Fifteen Smooth Newt records were received. They are often seen in ponds when searching for Great Crested Newts, but can be found when in their terrestrial stage. I found one under a stone at Coombe Hill Meadows in May and one under bark of a fallen willow branch at The Mythe fishing lakes in August. I received one report of one female Smooth Newt near a moth trap in Prestbury (KH).

A total of seven Palmate Newt records were received, two from locations near Stroud (CS) (M&RH), one at Saul and the others from sites in the Forest of Dean (DD)(CM).

Toad spawn was first reported on the 18<sup>th</sup> March at Churchdown. A shoal of toad tadpoles was seen in Coombe Hill canal on the 12<sup>th</sup> May and several metamorphosed toads were seen on the 6<sup>th</sup> July at Cannop Ponds (DD) and at Woogreens Lake on the 26<sup>th</sup> July. Single individuals of varying ages were observed in numerous places.

January 2008 was relatively mild and by the 22<sup>nd</sup> January I received the first sighting of frog spawn at Whiteshill (ABi) and more at St Briavels on the 25<sup>th</sup> January (RG). Spawning activity continued throughout February and into March in several locations, some of the best sites being in the Forest of Dean where counts of spawn clumps exceeded 100. Records of single individuals of varying stages of maturity were also received.

A Red-eared Terrapin (*Trachemys scripta*) about 25cm long was seen sitting on rocks at Dowdeswell Reservoir on the 31<sup>st</sup> August (ABa).

Given a little sun and temperatures around 11°C, the Common Lizard (*Zootoca vivipara*) was seen basking as early as the 12<sup>th</sup> January at Parkend (CS) and one was seen basking on the 12<sup>th</sup> February at Lower Milkwall (DD). Several more sightings of Common Lizard were reported throughout the year, mainly from the Forest of Dean. From the Cotswolds records were from Cleeve Common (MG), Ringhill Farm, Haresfield (RP&JE), Foxcote(MG) and Cranham Common (GM).

A total of twenty two sightings of Slow Worm (*Anguis fragilis*) were reported, usually found in ones or two. Not often seen in the open, they are more likely encountered when turning stones etc. or as a result of surveying when metal sheets or roofing felt are put down. In early May I was asked to investigate the presence of Adders (*Vipera berus*) at an allotment in Cirencester. None was found, but Slow Worms could be found under any suitable material under which they could hide. Under one piece of corrugated iron sheet at least twenty Slow Worms were discovered of varying ages and an assortment of colours, but rapidly dispersed once disturbed.

Nine Grass Snake (*Natrix natrix*) records were received, the 16<sup>th</sup> April being the earliest sighting at Lower Woods Nature Reserve where "tins" had been placed for surveying. At "Cowfield Farm", part of the Tewkesbury Business Park which looks destined to be built on, on the 18<sup>th</sup> May, five snakes around the "moat" and two more in the nearby marsh were seen (RL). In September a ball of three small Grass Snakes and one large one was seen entwined in the area of the "moat" (RL). This type of

behaviour in Grass Snakes is seen in April/May when several males will surround a receptive female in an attempt to mate, so was this mating? I reported a similar activity in 2004, see GNS News, Winter 2004.

Two slightly unusual Grass Snake encounters – the first was on the 25<sup>th</sup> June when a Grass Snake, approximately 60cm long, and to the dismay of the staff, entered the Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust headquarters at Robinswood Hill (CS)(MW) and the second encounter was whilst searching for invertebrates from beneath a piece of loose bark of a fallen tree at Whelford NR on the 21<sup>st</sup> May when I came face to face with a young Grass Snake squeezed between the bark and the trunk.

Most years newspapers carry the headlines of Adder bites, either to domestic pets or humans. 2008 was no exception when an 11yr old boy was bitten when he tried taking pictures of an adder near Steam Mills in the Forest of Dean, but a more unusual report was of an Adder bite in December 2007. It transpired that a workman restoring a barn at Lower Woods Lodge appeared to receive an Adder bite whilst removing rubble from the building. Was the Adder hibernating within the building?

Several new Adder sites were received from the Forest of Dean (DD)(JB), with some sightings of juveniles, but only four records from the Cotswolds; Cud Hill (RP), Foxcote (MG), Cleeve Common (KH) and the site on Leckhampton Hill which seems to be in decline. I have had reports of individuals seeking out Adder sites and not necessarily with the Adders' welfare in mind. Several years ago I encountered three individuals armed with snake catching equipment on Leckhampton Hill. None of them came from Gloucestershire and when questioned as to what they were doing they said it was for research and then soon left the area. Since then the number of Adders seen at the site have declined and this year 2008, none were seen. As the area is well used by dog-walkers etc, this disturbance may also contribute to the site being less suitable. So I think revealing Adder locations should be treated with caution.

A Crimson Corn-Snake (*Elaphe guttata guttata*) was reported in Tredworth. An elderly lady was referred to me by the GWT to investigate a snake species in the lady's bedroom. As the lady was preparing for bed on the evening of the 29<sup>th</sup> September, a 107cm snake appeared on top of her bedroom door. The frightened lady closed the bedroom door trapping the snake just behind the head. The thrashing snake eventually died from asphyxiation. It was thought that the snake had escaped captivity from the adjoining property.

Thanks go to the following for records received:- A. Ball, A. Bingle, T. Burditt, B. Curr, D. & S. Dewsbury, B. Dumbleton, J. Elworthy, J. Fleming, R. Gaunt, M. Glenny, T. Grant, M. & R. Hemming, K. Heron, A. Houldey, R. Lewis, C. Lidgett, M. Matthews, K. Meakin, G. Meredith, J. Mitchell, R. Pearce, B. & J. Pendlebury, J.

& V. Phillips, B. Ridley, A. Robbins, P. Scully, C. Studholme, A. Taylor, I. Twissell, J. Wathen, M. Webley, M. Westmore, J. Widgery.

## BETLE RECORDING IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE

Keith Alexander

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The year included some entertainment as a large longhorn was reported from Tewkesbury and a press release sent out announcing the discovery of the long extinct Capricorn beetle *Cerambyx cerdo*. But Conrad Gillett of the Natural History Museum pointed out that the photo released at the same time was not a *Cerambyx* at all but an exotic importation *Monochamus* (either *M. sutor* or *M. sartor*). The specimen appears not to have been re-examined, to clear its name. This story provides a salutary reminder that digital images may not be sufficient to identify a species reliably.

Noble Chafer *Gnorimus nobilis* surveys this year concentrated on the old orchards of the Vale of Berkeley but no evidence of its presence could be found. The work did however generate some other useful records – see below.

Two beetle species have been added to the county list during 2008:

- The hister beetle *Gnathonus buyssoni* (Nationally Scarce) was found to be widespread in the old apple orchards across the Vale of Berkeley. It favours old hollow trees, living amongst wood mould and scavenging on tasty morsels which drop from the nests of cavity-nesting birds such as jackdaw. It was found at Halmore and Breadstone (SO70) and North Nibley (ST79) in September (KNAA).
- The longhorn beetle *Obrium brunneum* has been introduced into Britain through the timber trade and develops in dead twigs and branches of pine, spruce and larch. One was beaten from Norway spruce in Sapperton Park (SO90) by John Widgery on July 4<sup>th</sup> (see Plate 6).

The year also saw the rediscovery of a fungus beetle which had been thought to be extinct in the county:

- *Platystomos albinus* (Nationally Scarce) is associated with fungal decay of wood but its ecology is not well-known. Its British range is centred on central and south-eastern England and Gloucestershire is on the very edge of this range. The Forest of Dean appears to be its main focus in the county, having been reported from ‘Newnham’ many years ago and also known just across the Wye Gorge in Monmouthshire. One was found by John Phillips (NJP) at Ley Park (SO71) during the Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group field meeting on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

Other interesting finds during the year include:

*Hylecoetus dermestoides* – Nationally Scarce – Another Forest of Dean speciality, also found in Ley Park by NJP on April 26<sup>th</sup>.

*Tillus elongatus* - Nationally Scarce – An old growth species known from the Forest of Dean, the Severn Vale and the Cotswolds, but not previously reported from the Cotswold Water Park area. It is a specialist predator of anobiid beetles in old tree trunks, and uses old willows and fruit trees as well as more typical old wood pasture trees. A male was found at rest on comfrey at Whelford Pools (SU19) by Colin Twissell on July 14th.

*Phloiophilus edwardsi* - Nationally Scarce - Another old growth species, this time developing in the fungus *Peniophora quercina* which decays the lower dead canopy branches on maturing open-grown trees in old wood pasture situations. It is only known in the county from the Forest of Dean (most recently 1951) and Cirencester Park Woods (1985) and so its re-discovery at the Foxes Bridge end of Speech House Oaks (SO61) on October 11<sup>th</sup> (KNAA) is very welcome – found during the Conchological Society field meeting.

*Pyrrhidium sanguineum* – Red Data Book – This bright red longhorn beetle is unmistakable, but very elusive. Its larvae develop in the cambial layer of dead boughs, trunks and stumps, mainly of oak trees. The adults bask in sunshine and fly actively under suitable conditions, but are not known to visit blossom. The main British concentration of the species is in Radnorshire, extending into neighbouring counties. A pair were found in Collinpark Wood (SO72) by Tony Taylor in 2006, and Roger Gaunt now reports finding them in his house in St Briavels (SO50) on April 27th. This suggests an expansion of the species out of its Welsh Border stronghold.

*Ixapion variegatum* – The larvae of this small pretty weevil develop in the stems and leaf petioles of mistletoe. It was first found in Britain in 2000, and is now known to be widespread in Herefordshire, Worcestershire and West Gloucestershire. It was found on the east side of the Severn for the first time in 2008: in old apple orchards at North Nibley (ST79) on September 22<sup>nd</sup> and Westend, Eastington (SO70) on the 23rd.

Some additions and corrections to the 2007 beetle report:

*Manda mandibularis* is a Red Data Book Category 1 (Endangered) rove beetle found amongst wet moss, etc, by stagnant pools. It hadn't been reported anywhere in Britain since 1943 when the late Ian Carter discovered it at Hasfield Ham (SO82) on June 30<sup>th</sup> in 1985. Interestingly one was found in a pitfall trap at Ashleworth Ham by David Scott-Langley in November 2007, and was also recorded again from the same site on several occasions during 2008.

*Gracilia minuta* - Red Data Book – is a tiny longhorn beetle which develops in dry dead twigs and small branches – including bramble stems - in warm sunny situations, and is best known in the county from along the Severn, where it has recently been found in old orchard trees. Elsewhere it also seems to be associated with floodplain situations, especially along the Thames in north Kent. David Scott-Langley beat one from willow at Ashleworth Ham (SO82) on September 20<sup>th</sup> 2007 and then Harry Kenward beat two from willows at Coombe Hill NR in June 2008.

*Amphimallon solstitialis* The Summer Chafer – County Rarity – In TGN 19 I reported on the discovery of what appeared to be the rare *Amphimallon ochraceus* chafers in the Cotswolds and commented that they had been sent to the national scarab recorder for confirmation. The two species are exceedingly difficult to distinguish, even when the important features of the males are dissected out for close examination under a microscope. Without dissection, the main identification clue is the time of day they fly! Summer chafers (*A. solstitialis*) fly on sultry summer evenings and gather at prominences such as hedgerows, whereas the rarer *A. ochraceus* only flies around noon, also in high summer. However, they do not always play the game - I have taken summer chafers at midday in Staffordshire, and Colin Twissell's midday male chafer at Churchdown (2005) and his morning male chafer from Crickley Hill (2007) have now been determined by Darren Mann as summer chafers! There are however very few county records and there is still the old record for *A. ochraceus* from the Forest of Dean, so we need to consider checking any specimens that are encountered. These are attractive beetles, enjoyable to watch, and painful to kill, but - if reliable records are wanted - neither timed observations nor digital images are sufficient for the records to be useful!

## HOVERFLY REPORT 2008

David Iliff

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The three hoverfly species that have newly arrived or conspicuously increased their numbers in Gloucestershire since 2000 have continued to thrive. The once rare *Rhingia rostrata* is now as likely to be found in woodland throughout Gloucestershire as its common relative *Rhingia campestris*. *Volucella inanis* is now seen regularly throughout the county in late summer, while the even larger *Volucella zonaria* also seems to have become established here. It had been recorded only singly and occasionally between 2001 and 2007, but is now being found more often, and was present in numbers in Hesters Way Park in Cheltenham between June and August. On 22<sup>nd</sup> August both male and females were present.

In contrast some common and familiar species seem to have been scarce or even absent in the county during 2008. Martin Matthews provided the only record of the year for the elegant *Scaeva pyrastris* (at Oxenhall on 4<sup>th</sup> July), though I did see a few examples outside the county, and there were no records at all of the distinctive common species *Platycheirus manicatus*. Members of the genus *Cheilosia* were also in short supply in the early part of the season, with the rather surprising exception of several examples of the nationally notable species *Cheilosia soror* in Hatherley Park, Cheltenham on 22<sup>nd</sup> July when almost no other hoverflies were present.

The visit of the Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group (GIG) to Lower Woods on 18<sup>th</sup> May (with a revisit the following day by John Harper) was especially productive of records of ancient woodland hoverfly species: John Phillips found a male *Brachypalpus laphriformis* (see Plate 7) on a log pile, this being the first VC34 record of this species away from Coombe Dingle - it has not been recorded in VC33, nor indeed within the present boundaries of "Gloucestershire" (Lower Woods is now in South Gloucestershire and Coombe Dingle within the Bristol city boundary). John Harper took a female *Criorhina asilica* (see Plate 8) at Lower Woods on the following day; this species, like *Brachypalpus laphriformis* an ancient woodland-associated bee mimic, had previously been recorded only ten times in the Gloucestershire vice counties, and only twice since 1947. At the same site John Harper recorded *Xylota tarda* (only two previous county records), a rare species difficult to distinguish from the very common *Xylota segnis*.

John Phillips saw a *Chrysotoxum arcuatum* at Great Palescot on 12<sup>th</sup> July. This was the fourth county record of this hoverfly. All the previous ones have also been from the Forest of Dean or Wye Valley which seems to be the southern end of its range in Britain.

Three of the scarcer members of the genus *Sphaerophoria* were recorded: these were *S. taeniata* (Lower Woods on 18<sup>th</sup> May by John Harper – see Plate 9), *S. rueppellii* (Cerney Wick on 7<sup>th</sup> June by Martin Matthews) and the heathland specialist *S. philanthus* (a pair *in cop.* at West Down on 13<sup>th</sup> July, John Widgery).

Although the genus *Eupeodes* contains some of our commonest hoverflies, determination of some of its scarcer species is not easy. In this category John Phillips found a *Eupeodes bucculatus* at Ley Park Wood on 26<sup>th</sup> April and John Harper recorded the variant of that species currently known as *E. bucculatus* form Y (as defined in British Hoverflies, Second Edition by Stubbs and Falk, 2002) at Ringhill Farm on 16<sup>th</sup> July.

Small hoverfly species, especially those that are not brightly coloured, can easily be overlooked. An example is the genus *Heringia* which comprises a number of very small black species with no pale markings on the abdomen. Most British species of *Heringia* belong to the subgenus *Neocnomodon*, the males of which have a spine on the rear trochanter. Even inconspicuous genera such as this have a definite “jizz”, making them easier to spot once one has seen them previously. A male of *Heringia pubescens*, which is distinguishable from other members of the *Neocnomodon* subgenus by having black hairs on the thorax, was seen in Ley Park Wood on cuckoo flower on 26<sup>th</sup> April (see Plate 10), the second county record for the species.

Other records of note are listed below:

*Anasimyia lineata*: Oxenhall, 4 April (Martin Matthews)

*Brachypalpoidea lentus*: Blaisdon Wood, 9<sup>th</sup> June (John Phillips)

*Chalcosyrphus nemorum*: Ley Park Wood, 26<sup>th</sup> April (Martin Matthews)

*Criorhina ranunculi*: The Mythe, 3<sup>rd</sup> May (Martin Matthews)

*Pipiza bimaculata*: Ley Park Wood, 26<sup>th</sup> April (John Phillips); Woodmancote, Cheltenham 3 May (David Iliff)

*Xanthandrus comtus*: 7 August, Hesters Way Park, Cheltenham (Martin Matthews)

*Xylota jakutorum* (see Plate 11): Ley Park Wood, 12<sup>th</sup> June (John Phillips); Flaxley Woods, 5th July (John Phillips)

## LADYBIRD REPORT 2008

David Iliff

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The recent death of Dr. Michael Majerus, probably the leading British authority on ladybirds, was noted with sadness. Dr. Majerus was the author of the two major books on the British ladybird fauna, both entitled **Ladybirds**, one co-authored by Peter Kearns in the Naturalists' Handbook series (1989) and the other (1994) in the New Naturalist series. The latter is now a collector's item. He also organised the national ladybird recording scheme and the Harlequin Ladybird Survey and as soon as the first British specimen of the Harlequin Ladybird (*Harmonia axyridis*) was discovered he correctly predicted its rapid spread the United Kingdom.

This spread is clearly reflected in the 2008 ladybird records for Gloucestershire, with those of the Harlequin far outnumbering even the most common of the native species. The records I have received directly as GNS recorder have been supplemented by numerous additional ones which have been sent directly to the Harlequin Ladybird Survey who passed them on to me. During 2007 the majority of Harlequin sightings were in urban or suburban situations; in 2008 a greater number were in rural sites, though there was also an increase in reports of aggregations inside houses.

The first county record of a Harlequin, in 2006, was of a larva on the railings at Pittville Park in Cheltenham, a site long favoured by many ladybird species. Since that time the numbers of Harlequins on the railings increased dramatically, and though many of the native species continued to be present they were soon easily outnumbered by the Harlequins. The highest count of Harlequins on the railings was 810 on 18<sup>th</sup> October 2007. For much of 2008 Harlequins and other ladybirds were found there, but curiously the numbers dropped off considerably by the autumn, the last ladybirds noted there being 3 Harlequins on 8<sup>th</sup> October 2008, since when I have found no ladybirds of any species there. In contrast to their absence from Pittville Park in the final months of 2008, many records of large groups of them were reported in the same period from elsewhere in the county; for example, John Fleming found them to be numerous at Ebworth on 11<sup>th</sup> October.

The true reason for the attraction of the Pittville railings (at least until November 2008) for ladybirds has never been adequately understood, but the presence nearby of mature Scots Pine trees may well explain it, as, although the species diversity at the site includes several generalists, species that specialise in pines are predominant among them. I had never seen ladybirds before 2008 on very similar railings at Cheltenham's Sandford Park, where there are no pines in the vicinity. However on 27<sup>th</sup> August I saw ladybirds there for the first time. Ironically they were three

examples of the Pine Ladybird (*Exochomus quadripustulatus*) – however this species, despite its name, is not found exclusively on pines.

The Pine Ladybird was the most frequently observed species at the meeting of the Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group (GIG) at Ley Park Wood on 26<sup>th</sup> April; at least 12 individuals were noted from areas throughout the wood. However ladybird sightings were very sparse during the first half of the season. For example, at the next field meeting of the GIG, at Lower Woods on 18<sup>th</sup> May, only a single ladybird, a 7 Spot Ladybird (*Coccinella 7-punctata*), found by Guy Meredith, was seen in the entire day, despite the presence of many recorders (some with sweep nets), excellent weather and a wealth of other invertebrates. The numbers of ladybirds seen in the county increased as the year progressed, and eventually reasonable numbers of most of the native species (and, inevitably, numerous Harlequins) were recorded. John Widgery, in particular, provided a substantial list of records, indicating that at least for the present most native ladybird species seem to be holding their own against the threat posed by the Harlequin. At the final GIG field meeting of the year, at Chase End Hill, good numbers of 7-spot Ladybirds were found (and no Harlequins).

The main threat to native species from the Harlequin is due to its potential for out-competing them for prey such as aphids. It is therefore arguable that ladybirds that are not predatory are less vulnerable to the threat, though their larvae could still, like those of the predatory species, be eaten by Harlequins. The non-predatory species include the 16 Spot Ladybird (*Tytthaspis 16-punctata*), the 22 Spot Ladybird (*Psyllobora 22-punctata*) and the Orange Ladybird (*Halysia 16-guttata*), all of which are mildew feeders, and the 24 Spot Ladybird (*Subcoccinella 24-punctata*), a grass feeder. Of these, the Orange Ladybird, which was unknown in the county before 1991, but which has been increasing in numbers annually since, continued its upward trend.

Of the scarcer ladybirds, two that were not recorded in the county during 2007 were seen again in 2008: John Widgery found an Adonis Ladybird (*Hippodamia variegata*) at Woodmancote on 28<sup>th</sup> August, and 19 Spot Ladybirds (*Anisosticta 19-punctata*) were seen at Coombe Hill by myself on 19<sup>th</sup> June and by John Widgery on 8<sup>th</sup> August.

## ODONATA REPORT 2008

### Ingrid Twissell

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2008 was not a wonderful year for dragonflies, although there were some highlights, with numbers generally reduced. There was a late start to the season in late April, May was the best month producing sightings of the early scarce dragonflies, June was fairly quiet, July produced excitement in the Cotswold Water Park, August was dismal, and the autumn somewhat better.

Various meetings were held early in the year to promote the new National Dragonfly Atlas Dragonflies in Focus project, with recording of dragonflies throughout the UK, Ireland and the Channel Isles from 2008 to 2012, and with the production of the new Atlas planned for 2013. On Thursday 24<sup>th</sup> April, Chris Packham launched the project in London at the Natural History Museum, and the South-West launch took place at Stover Park in Devon on Sunday 27<sup>th</sup> April. The Cotswold Water Park launch was held on Sunday 4<sup>th</sup> May, at Lower Moor Farm NR in Wiltshire, and was attended by Kat Parkes, the Conservation Officer of the British Dragonfly Society. The Cotswold Water Park Atlas is running in parallel with the National Atlas, and any sightings will also be included in the National Atlas. The aim is to obtain as complete a coverage as possible of all species.

The first sighting of the year was of a teneral **Large Red Damselfly** *Pyrhosoma nymphula* on 26<sup>th</sup> April, at Ley Park on a Gloucestershire Invertebrate Group meeting. This was the only species seen in April.

Throughout May there was emergence of 6 more species of damselfly and 8 species of dragonfly. These included all the rare and scarce early summer dragonflies present in the county. The first sightings of the **Hairy Dragonfly** *Brachytron pratense* were on 10<sup>th</sup> May when six were seen on the Green Lane alongside WWT 100-acres, including newly-emerged adults. The population at WWT Slimbridge continues to do well.

The next dragonfly seen was the scarce and local **Downy Emerald** *Cordulia aenea* which was present at the Dilke Pond in the Forest of Dean on 13<sup>th</sup> May, when two emergent males were found with two or three others chasing one another over the edges of the pond. On a visit to Whelford NR in the Cotswold Water Park, on 21<sup>st</sup> May approx 10 adult **Downy Emeralds** were seen, including a mating pair and a newly-emerged female, and a few exuviae were on a post at the side of one of the pools. Two new locations for this species were discovered in the CWP, when survey work for the Atlas was being carried out. The only other location for this species was one at the Cinderford Linear Park SO6415.

On 19<sup>th</sup> May the **Common Clubtail** *Gomphus vulgatissimus* and the **Scarce Chaser** *Libellula fulva* were both spotted at The Mythe, and the following day the maximum

number of both species ever seen at that location were counted – 12 adults of each species, mostly being pre-flight emergents and immature adults.

A new location for the **Scarce Chaser**, which is classified as RDB3, was found this year at WWT 100 acres, on 22<sup>nd</sup> May when a newly-emerged adult was spotted. By the end of the season several adults were seen at Slimbridge. Also on this date there was a new location for the **Common Clubtail** when a newly-emerged adult was seen at Twyning on the River Avon. Subsequently exuviae were found on the riverbank, as well as more sightings of adults. It is good to find a new breeding population of this scarce and local species in the county.

The **Scarce Chaser** has been expanding its range over the past few years, and a DNA study of exuviae is being carried out at the University of Liverpool, under the supervision of Dr. Phil Watts. This is to try to establish the population dynamics of the species. We then went on an “exuviae-hunt” along the riverbank at Twyning where a good population has existed since it was first discovered there in 2004. After the statutory number was collected, they were then sent off to Liverpool for inclusion into the DNA study. It will be interesting to see the results, which should be available in 2009.

I had, via Gloster Birder, a sighting of a **Hairy Dragonfly** and a **Common Clubtail**, on 15<sup>th</sup> June, along the River Wye. **Common Clubtail** has been seen previously along the river, but not **Hairy Dragonfly**. They are both still unconfirmed sightings, but if correct, (and I think they probably are) this is a new location for the **Hairy Dragonfly**. A female **Common Clubtail** was seen, and photographed, at a new location at Alney Island, Gloucester on 1<sup>st</sup> July, and one was at Woorgreens on 4<sup>th</sup> July, also a new location. It will be interesting to see if any further sightings occur at any of these sites in the future.

July brought excitement when a very old female **Keeled Skimmer** *Orthetrum coerulescens* was spotted resting low on vegetation at Whelford NR on 10<sup>th</sup> July (see Plate 13). This was the first time that this species had been seen in the Cotswold Water Park, let alone photographed, and must have been a vagrant as no suitable habitat is in the vicinity. This was the only sighting of this scarce and local dragonfly this year, which is only seen very occasionally in the Forest of Dean.

In 2007 there were sightings of the **Small Red-eyed Damselfly** *Erythromma viridulum* at three locations, but in 2008, the pond at Wallsworth Hall, Twigworth, was the only location where this species was seen. The demise is probably due to the fact that the other two locations were flooded in July 2007. The numbers were reduced, with a maximum of six, at Wallsworth Hall, but a newly-emerged adult and a mating pair were seen during July and August. This is a known breeding pond.

I only received one sighting during the year, at The Dilke pond, of the **Common Hawker** *Aeshna juncea* on 24<sup>th</sup> July. This is a local dragonfly only found in the Forest of Dean. There were several sightings of the **Golden-ringed Dragonfly** *Cordulegaster boltonii* in the Forest of Dean, the only location where this species is

found in Gloucestershire, and none of the **Black Darter** *Sympetrum danae*, also a speciality of the area.

In all, a total of 26 species were seen by the end of July, (and the year), out of a possible 32 which have previously been recorded. The latest dates of sightings of the following species were: **Southern Hawker** *Aeshna cyanea* – 11<sup>th</sup> October at Churchdown (see Plate 12), **Common Darter** *Sympetrum striolatum* – 16<sup>th</sup> October at Cowfield Farm, Tewkesbury, and **Migrant Hawker** *Aeshna mixta* – 26<sup>th</sup> October at Nottingham Hill, near Cheltenham.

I would like to thank the following people for their records over the year: Juliet Bailey, Linda Buckland, Bernard Dumbleton, Ian Elphick, Peter Fitchett, John Fleming, Jackie Garner, Roger Gaunt, Terry Grant, Gareth Harris, Michael and Rachel Hemming, Ken Heron, David Iliff, Rob Lewis, David Long, Peter Martin, Martin Matthews, Martin McGill, Phil Muggridge, John Phillips, Ivan Proctor, Andy Robbins, Tony Taylor, Gareth Thomas (via Ian Elphick), Caroline Twissell, Colin Twissell, Keith White, John Widgery, Helen Williams, and sightings taken off the Gloster Birder website.

## CHECKLIST OF ODONATA IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE.

### ORDER: ODONATA

#### SUBORDER: ZYGOPTERA

#### SUPERFAMILY: CALOPTERYGOIDEA

#### FAMILY: CALOPTERYGIDAE

*Calopteryx virgo* – Beautiful Demoiselle (Linnaeus, 1758)

Local, riverine species. Found on fast-flowing small rivers and streams with stony or gravel bottoms, prefers less shaded areas than the following species. Fluttering flight shows off the blue iridescence of their wings.

*Calopteryx splendens* – Banded Demoiselle (Harris, 1782)

Locally common, riverine species, will tolerate more shade and muddy bottoms to streams, also present on canals with marginal and emergent vegetation. Will wander away from water.

#### SUPERFAMILY: LESTOIDEA

#### FAMILY: LESTIDAE

#### SUBFAMILY: LESTINAE

*Lestes sponsa* – Emerald Damselfly (Hansemann, 1823)

Widespread in the west of the county, but also present in the Cotswold Water Park. Likes still water with plentiful emergent and marginal vegetation in which it is usually seen resting. A late season damselfly.

SUPERFAMILY: COENAGRIONOIDEA

FAMILY: PLATYCNEMIDIDAE

*Platycnemis pennipes* – White-legged Damselfly (Pallas, 1771)

Locally common, riverine species, mainly on rivers in the west of the county, more often seen resting on vegetation. Often seen with Banded Demoiselle.

FAMILY: COENAGRIONIDAE

SUBFAMILY: COENAGRIONINAE

*Pyrrhosoma nymphula* – Large Red Damselfly (Sulzer, 1776)

Widespread and common in all habitats, but preferring still-water with plentiful emergent and marginal vegetation in which it is usually seen resting. Usually the first damselfly seen in the year.

*Erythromma najas* – Red-eyed Damselfly (Hansemann, 1823)

Locally common, likes still-water habitats such as lakes, ponds, disused canals with floating and submerged vegetation.

*Erythromma viridulum* – Small Red-eyed Damselfly (Charpentier, 1840)

Recent addition to the Gloucestershire list, first seen in 2006. Spreading west- and north-wards from the south-east of the UK. Has only been seen in 4 locations, present only at one in 2008. Likes floating mats of algae and pondweed.

*Coenagrion puella* – Azure Damselfly (Linnaeus, 1758)

Very common and widespread, more common in west and central Gloucestershire, rare in CWP.

*Coenagrion pulchellum* – Variable Damselfly (Vander Linden, 1825)

New classification – Near Threatened. Scarce and local in the UK. Has only been seen once in the county, in 1998, in the Forest of Dean.

SUBFAMILY: ISHNURINAE

*Enallagma cyathigerum* – Common Blue Damselfly (Charpentier, 1840)

Extremely common, commonest damselfly in the county. Present in all habitats, but prefers areas of open water.

*Ischnura pumilio* – Scarce Blue-tailed Damselfly (Charpentier, 1825)

New classification – Near Threatened. Scarce and local, has only been seen in the Forest of Dean and CWP, but not for many years. A small damselfly and a weak flier that stays low down on bare ground and in rushes on edge of shallow pools and gravel pits.

*Ischnura elegans* – Blue-tailed Damselfly (Vander Linden, 1820)

Extremely common and widespread in all wetland habitats.

SUBORDER: ANISOPTERA

SUPERFAMILY: AESHNOIDEA

FAMILY: AESHNIDAE

SUBFAMILY: AESHNINAE

TRIBE: Aeshnini

*Aeshna juncea* – Common Hawker (Linnaeus, 1758)

Heathland species, confined to the Forest of Dean, likes acidic lakes and ponds. ?Declining in the county, only one sighting in 2008.

*Aeshna mixta* – Migrant Hawker (Latreille, 1805)

Widespread and increasing numbers in Gloucestershire, spreading west- and north-wards from the south-east of the UK. Smallest hawkler, less territorial than the following species.

*Aeshna cyanea* – Southern Hawker (Muller, 1764)

Widespread and common throughout the county. Very inquisitive insect.

*Aeshna grandis* – Brown Hawker (Linnaeus, 1758)

Widespread, but not present in large numbers. CWP is main stronghold. Very distinctive dragonfly, the only one with brown wings.

TRIBE: Anactini

*Anax imperator* – Emperor Dragonfly (Leach, 1815)

Common and widespread in small numbers in the county. Prefers the open water of larger ponds and lakes.

*Anax parthenope* – Lesser Emperor Dragonfly (Selys, 1839)

Rare vagrant. First sighting in the UK in the Forest of Dean in 1996. Has bred in the UK, with possible breeding in CWP in 2006/7.

SUBFAMILY: BRACHYTRONINAE

TRIBE: Brachytronini

*Brachytron pratense* – Hairy Dragonfly (Muller, 1764)

Locally common in the UK, but rare in Gloucestershire, with only one breeding colony. Likes low-lying still water such as canals and ditches. An early, spring species, the smallest of the hawkers.

FAMILY: GOMPHIDAE

SUBFAMILY: GOMPHINAE

*Gomphus vulgatissimus* – Common Clubtail (Linnaeus, 1758)

New classification – Near Threatened. Rare in the UK. Riverine species, breeding on the rivers Wye, Avon and Severn. A medium-sized, early summer dragonfly. The only dragonfly to have eyes that do not meet.

SUPERFAMILY: CORDULEGASTROIDEA

FAMILY: CORDULEGASTRIDAE

*Cordulegaster boltonii* – Golden-ringed Dragonfly (Donovan, 1807)

Locally common in the UK, but found only in the Forest of Dean in Gloucestershire. Heathland species, found on acidic streams.

**SUPERFAMILY: LIBELLULOIDEA**

**FAMILY: CORDULIIDAE**

**SUBFAMILY: CORDULIINAE**

*Cordulia aenea* – Downy Emerald (Linnaeus, 1758)

Scarce and local, only breeding at a few locations in the county, in the Forest of Dean and CWP, found at sheltered woodland ponds. A medium sized, metallic-green early summer dragonfly.

**FAMILY: LIBELLULIDAE**

**SUBFAMILY: LIBELLULINAE**

*Libellula quadrimaculata* – Four-spotted Chaser (Linnaeus, 1758)

Locally common, widespread in Gloucestershire, prefers acidic lakes and ponds in the Forest of Dean, and gravel pits as in the CWP.

*Libellula fulva* – Scarce Chaser (Muller, 1764)

New classification – Near Threatened. (Previously RDB3). Mainly riverine. Very local, but sometimes abundant. Recently discovered in the county in 2004, now two, possibly three, breeding populations on the rivers Avon and Severn. Also likes wet meadows.

*Libellula depressa* – Broad-bodied Chaser (Linnaeus, 1758)

Widespread, likes still water, pond and small lakes. Usually the first dragonfly seen in the year.

*Orthetrum cancellatum* – Black-tailed Skimmer (Linnaeus, 1758)

Increasing in county, likes bare edges of gravel pits and shallow lakes.

*Orthetrum coerulescens* – Keeled Skimmer (Fabricius, 1798)

One of Gloucestershire's rarest species, found only in the Forest of Dean. Only very occasional sightings, the only sighting of 2008 was one vagrant seen in the CWP.

**SUBFAMILY: SYMPETRINAE**

*Sympetrum striolatum* – Common Darter (Charpentier, 1840)

Common, widespread and numerous. Late season species.

*Sympetrum fonscolombi* – Red-veined Darter (Selys, 1840)

Rare immigrant to UK. Previously only very occasional sightings recorded near Gloucester in 1941, and then not seen again until 2002 in the Forest of Dean.

*Sympetrum flaveolum* – Yellow-winged Darter (Linnaeus, 1758)

Rare immigrant to UK. Only seen once in Gloucestershire in 1995 in the Forest of Dean, when there was a mass migration to the UK in that year.

*Sympetrum sanguineum* – Ruddy Darter (Muller, 1764)

Locally common, widespread in Gloucestershire. Spreading north- and west-wards in the UK. Smaller and more delicate than the Common Darter. Mid to late summer species.

*Sympetrum danae* – Black Darter (Sulzer, 1776)

Upland species, locally common in the north of the UK. Heathland and acid bog species. Smallest dragonfly, a late summer species. Now very scarce in Gloucestershire, no sightings in 2008.

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## SPIDERS IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE 2008

David Haigh

### Introduction

2008 has been remarkable for the discovery of two large spiders, previously unrecorded in Vc 33 and Vc 34. Both species were drawn to my attention by individuals who are not spider specialists, simply interested. Details of these records are described below.

Recording continued on GIG Field Meetings and further records were received from pit-fall trapping at Coombe Hill Canal Nature Reserve by David Scott-Langley (DSL) and on the 'Bughunt' also at Coombe Hill. I accompanied David Long on his preparation visits to the FOD for the Conchological Society Weekend in October when further records were made. John Harper (JH) continued to provide many records from GIG meetings and on visits to other sites. I am also grateful to Tony Taylor and Colin Twissell for providing records and actual spiders.

The status of 'rare' spiders is currently under review. A draft list has been prepared by the IUCN on new status categories and is awaiting acceptance by the JNCC. In the following descriptions of records I have indicated the current status and the provisional IUCN status. The designation LC Least Concern is the 'old' Nationally Scarce and is usually (Na) <30 10km squares and (Nb) 31-100 10km squares.

The following records are those of the author except where otherwise indicated.

### New County Records

*Segestria florentina*, Introduced, status not given, but described as Scarce in the Atlas.

This large (22mm) wall dwelling spider was discovered at Tredworth, Gloucester and is new to Vc33. A phone call on 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008 from a resident brought me to an area of older properties where the spider was found to be well-established around her house. Further examination revealed many webs in adjacent brick walls and behind fascia boards. Its presence in Gloucester and subsequently in Cheltenham was covered in the press and local ITV. An on-site broadcast drew much interest in the neighbourhood, ranging from horror to interest. Colin Twissell contributed a further 5 records from Gloucester, including the boundary wall of Gloucester Rugby Club. Its characteristic web with radiating silk 'trip wires' makes it an easy spider to record without actually needing to have a close encounter. It has been known in Bristol certainly since the 1970s and has colonised walls in south coast ports and market towns in southern England since the 1930s. *S. florentina* is now recorded in 4 Tetrads in Vc 33, SO81I, SO81J, SO81N and SO92G. (See Plates 14 & 15). I am grateful to Colin Twissell and Tim Gourn for permission to use their photographs.

*Thyreosthenius biovatus*, Local, IUCN LC(Na)

3 females were collected from a Wood Ant's nest (*Formica rufa*) at Ley Park Wood, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008. This spider is an 'ant-guest' and since Wood Ants have declined in the last hundred years there are relatively few records for this species in Britain and just one pre 1979 record for the SO 100-km square. Collecting this spider required care as the host ants were prepared to defend the nest with copious squirts of formic acid and I was much helped by Colin Twissell when examining nest debris on a white sheet for the tiny spiders.

*Argiope bruennichi*, Nationally Scarce Na, IUCN LC

I am indebted to Rosalind John and Chris Wiltshire for this first record of the 'Wasp Spider'. It was observed and photographed at Coombe Hill, Wotton-u-Edge on 14<sup>th</sup> September 2008. It has been established in South Coast counties since the 1940s and since the 1990s has been increasingly found inland from Essex to Wiltshire. With a yellow and black striped abdomen the female should be easily seen and waste places with long grass is favoured habitat for it to construct its large orb web. I am grateful to Chris for permission to use his photographs of *A. bruennichi*. (See Plate 16).

*Drassyllus praefficus*, Nationally Scarce Nb, IUCN LC(Na)

JH recorded a female at Strawberry Banks, 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008. This is the first modern record since it was included on Bob George's Check List of Gloucestershire Spiders 1957, without a location listed. This species is restricted to southern England with only one post 1980 record for the SO 100Km square. It is widespread in Dorset, Wiltshire and Hampshire on chalk (limestone) grassland.

*Marpissa muscosa*, Nationally Scarce Nb, IUCN LC(Nb)

Tony Taylor collected a sub-adult female of this large (10mm) jumping spider at Cranham Corner on 21<sup>st</sup> July 2008. An adult of either sex will be required to provide the necessary confirmation for the Spider Recording Scheme. It is widespread in south-east England and found on tree bark, fences and wooden structures. I am familiar with it in Dorset on the Jurassic Coast where it was not uncommon under the capping stones of dry stone walls. Tony's specimen was collected from garden fencing. This is the only record for this species in the SO 100-km square.

### Other Uncommon or Rarely Recorded Spiders

*Atypus affinis*, Local, IUCN VU(Vulnerable)

JH recorded a 'tube' at Saddlewood Roughs, Midger Nature Reserve, 20<sup>th</sup> September 2008. The proposed change in status reflects its vulnerability to insensitive management. Its dependence on unimproved grassland requires control of scrub and the invasion of coarse grasses. However the mechanical cutting of grasslands,

trampling and intensive grazing will destroy colonies. There are still only 3 sites known for *Atypus*, 'The Purse Web Spider' in Gloucestershire.

***Steatoda nobilis***, Introduced

Tony Taylor found both male and females of this introduced and now naturalised spider at Longney, 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008, second record for Vc33. This is the 'False Widow' and is spreading north. It is to be expected around houses, rather than inside. Last year, the first record from Tewkesbury was from a garden shed.

***Ceratinella brevis***, IUCN LC(Watching Brief)

Individual females were recorded at Ley Park Wood, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008 and by vacuum-sampling (G-vac) at Chase End Hill 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008 by JH. These are the 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> records for Vc34. It has not been recorded in Vc33. 'Watching Brief' indicates a spider which was formerly widespread but has shown a marked decline since the 1950s.

***Ceratinella scabrosa***, Local, IUCN LC(Nb)

A female was identified from Foxes Bridge Marsh, 11<sup>th</sup> October 2008. It has previously been recorded from Siccaridge Wood and Midger Nature Reserve. This is a litter spider of marshes and ancient woodland.

***Ceratinopsis stativa***, Local, IUCN LC(Nb)

JH recorded a single male at Ley Park Wood, 14<sup>th</sup> May 2008. This is the second record for Vc34, the first record at Blake's Wood, Staunton 13<sup>th</sup> June 2007, also by JH. This spider has a very scattered distribution in the Midlands.

***Monocephalus castaneipes***, BAP species, Local, IUCN VU(Vulnerable)

This spider has been given Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP) status. 3 females were identified from Longtree Bottom, Chavenage 16<sup>th</sup> August 2008. There has been a possible decline of more than 25% in distribution in Britain since 1951. Gloucestershire has 11 woodland sites for this species in both Vc33 and Vc34. The Atlas shows it to be mostly absent from the Midlands and eastern England and has a generally western and northern distribution.

***Sintula cornigera***, Local, IUCN LC(Nb)

A female was recorded from Sallow Vallets, FOD, 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008. All records for this spider are from the FOD and this record was the 6<sup>th</sup>. The first record was by JH in 2004 at Wimberry Slade, 2 Km south-west of this 2008 record. He has subsequently recorded it on 3 occasions from Cinderford Linear Park. Moss and grass in wet swampy areas are preferred habitat.

***Saaristoa firma***, BAP species, Local, IUCN VU(Vulnerable)

With more than a 50% decline in distribution since 1951 this is another Biodiversity Action Plan species. A male was recorded at Ley Park Wood, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008. This is the 6<sup>th</sup> county record, all previous records being from damp woodland on the Cotswolds and in the FOD.

***Tetragnatha nigrita***, Local

JH recorded a female from wetland marginal vegetation at Longtree Bottom, Chavenage, 16<sup>th</sup> August 2008. This is the first record since 2001 and the 5<sup>th</sup> since 1989. Its orb web is spun on bushes or the lower branches of trees, often near water.

***Pardosa hortensis***, Local, IUCN LC(Nb)

JH recorded 2 males and a female of this 'wolf spider' at Ley Park Wood 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008. This is the 8<sup>th</sup> county record, all in Vc34 in the FOD with the exception of 2 records at Breakheart Quarry near Dursley and a record from Lower Woods. There are very few records for this spider north of the Midlands.

***Trochosa spinipalpis***, Local, IUCN VU(Vulnerable)

This species would appear to be increasingly at risk in Britain. Two males were identified in pit-fall traps at Coombe Hill Canal Wharf, February 2008 (DSL). There are 5 county records from only 2 sites, Stonybridge Wood ST78N and Coombe Hill Canal, SO82N and SO82Y. A preference for wetland is an apparent requirement.

***Araneus triguttatus***, Local, IUCN LC(Nb)

JH recorded a male at Ley Park Wood, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008. It is mostly found in southern and south-east England becoming rare to the west and north. Apart from a record at Wetmoor in 1979 by Cynthia Merrett the remaining 5 records are west of the River Severn in Vc34 and all recorded by JH.

***Araniella alpica***, RDB3, IUCN CR(Critically Endangered)

JH recorded a female at Ruspidge Woods 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008. JH included an article on this spider in TGN, No.19 June 2008 detailing its inclusion on the Gloucestershire list. The Atlas quotes its preferred habitat as mature beech and yew woodland.

***Philodromus collinus***, Nationally Scarce Nb, IUCN LC(Nb)

Both JH and the author recorded females from Ruspidge Woods 12<sup>th</sup> July 2008. Since 1993 when it was first recorded at Edgehills Bog on stunted pines, it has only been recorded on 6 further occasions. The Atlas says it is found mainly on the branches of coniferous trees.

***Xysticus acerbus***, Nationally Scarce Na, IUCN VU(Vulnerable)

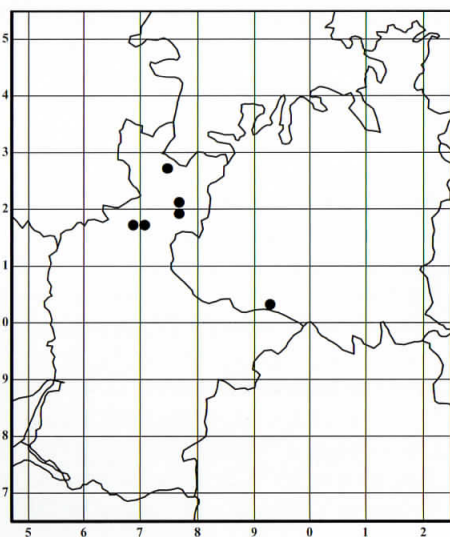
I am indebted to Colin Twissell for collecting a male of this 'crab spider' from Lowerstone Meadow, 18<sup>th</sup> May 2008. This is the second county record, the first being from Ridley Bottom, 16<sup>th</sup> June 2003 by Keith Alexander. It is a spider of unimproved grassland with only a few scattered records in the south of England and Wales.

***Ozyptila sanctuaria***, Local, IUCN LC(Nb)

A 3rd county record was made for this 'crab spider' at Chase End Hill, 13<sup>th</sup> September 2008. It was G-vacced by JH from the acid grassland overlying the Pre-Cambrian metamorphic rocks at this most southerly peak of the Malvern Hills. Nationally, it is scattered in Wales and the west, becoming more common towards the south and east of England.

***Ballus chalybeius***, Local, IUCN LC(Nb)

A male and female were recorded by both JH and the author from Ley Park Wood, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008. This 'jumping spider' is found at the edges of woodland especially where young oaks are establishing. Since 1998 it has been regularly recorded from the RSPB Highnam Reserve and in only 5 other sites. It appears to have a very restricted distribution in the county, west of Gloucester in SO61, SO71 and SO72, the only exception being a single 'find' at Siccaridge Wood 5<sup>th</sup> June 2001, SO90 on sapling oaks at the edge of Morley Ride. See distribution map (right).



**A Spider 'Hot Spot'**

After recording spiders for many years in the county it becomes apparent that certain sites support an uncommonly rich assembly of 'rare' spiders. Unimproved herb-rich limestone grassland is a feature of the Cotswold scene and in 4 visits by 3 naturalists, Strawberry Banks was revealed as such a site. Lightly grazed, short-sward grassland with a west-facing aspect generally warms up quickly. Combined with exposed limestone debris there is an additional beneficial factor of 'cover'. Strawberry Banks is ½km south west of Oakridge and adjacent to the wooded 3 Groves Nature Reserve. In this 5 hectare reserve 59 species of spider have been recorded since 2002 by the author, DSL and JH. JH G-vacced the grassland on 16<sup>th</sup> July 2008 and recorded 40 species on this single visit. Of the 59 species, 11 are Nationally Local, 4 Nationally Scarce Nb and 1 Nationally Scarce Na. The draft IUCN review of spider status reveals 2 LC, 2 LC(Nb), 2 LC(Na) and 1LC(Watching Brief).

Strawberry Banks rarities:

	'Old status'	Provisional status
<i>Saaristoa abnormis</i>		IUCN LC(Watching Brief)
<i>Tetragnatha pinicola</i>	Nb	IUCN LC
<i>Hyposinga albobittata</i>	Local	IUCN LC(Nb)
<i>Phrurolithus minimus</i>	Na	IUCN LC(Na)
<i>Trachyzelotes pedestris</i>	Nb	IUCN LC(Nb)
<i>Drassyllus praeficus</i>	Nb	IUCN LC(Na)
<i>Philodromus albidus</i>	Nb	IUCN LC

*P. minimus* was a New County Record in 2007 and JH confirmed its presence again in 2008 with 6 males and 1 female. The record of *D. praeficus*, a refind, has been mentioned above. Both these species and *T. pedestris* are spiders of sparsely-vegetated stony grassland. *H. albobittata* is an orb web spinner on low vegetation and the 8 Gloucestershire records have all been from lightly grazed limestone grassland or in 1 site, a limestone quarry opposite the Kilkenny Inn, SP004186, 8<sup>th</sup> June 2002. At 4 sites *H. albobittata* shares the habitat with its 'relative' *Hyposinga pygmaea* which is more common in the county at 13 sites.

When the provisional IUCN status review is accepted an attempt will be made to evaluate sites in the county with the most interesting spider fauna.

Without the contributions by observers other than the author this report would have been a much less comprehensive review of the spider records in 2008. I thank all those who have seen, recorded and passed on the information.

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## GREAT AND BLUE TITS AT BETTY DAW'S WOOD

Ginny James

### Introduction

Many birders and field workers may find the ubiquitous Great and Blue Tits too common to be interesting, but they are a worthwhile subject, and relatively easy because of their readiness to use nestboxes. A long term study of nestbox use during the breeding season at the Betty Daw's Wood (BDW) reserve in northwest Gloucestershire has revealed useful information. Monitoring box use for winter roosting shows the value of having clean nestboxes available during winter months. Ringing records and regular monitoring provide insight into the lives of individual birds.

### Betty Daw's Wood in a national context

BDW, grid reference SO696284, is an 8.9ha area of semi-natural ancient woodland. Established as a nature reserve in 1966, it is owned by Forest Enterprise and managed jointly with Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust (GWT). BDW shares Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) status with neighbouring 50 ha Dymock Wood. The reserve is probably best known for the profusion of wild daffodils each spring.

In 1964 the Junior Section of the North Gloucestershire Naturalists' Society sought to replicate the nestbox scheme started by Dr Bruce Campbell in the Forest of Dean (RSPB Nagshead reserve) and chose BDW. That group's annual report for 1965 notes that they "were rewarded with what must be considered the main aim of this scheme, in that a pair of Pied Flycatchers were attracted to one of the boxes and reared six young". These birds have been recorded at BDW in only 16 years since 1964, and not at all since 2000. But in a wood actively managed for timber extraction, nestboxes, as a replacement for holes that naturally become available in old or dead trees, were soon accepted by a range of other species, most numerous Blue and Great Tits.

As a final project when studying at the University of Birmingham for a diploma in ornithology, in 2004 I collated the nestbox records which had been maintained by diligent volunteers (the longest-serving being John Anderson, still chairman of the reserve's management committee) since 1964. A simple spreadsheet shows the number of nestboxes available, how many were used by different species and the number of young fledged, by species. Surprisingly, there were only two years without any nestbox statistics: 1970 (reason unknown) and 2000 (reserve closed due to Foot & Mouth). Box use fluctuates independently of the total number of boxes. When nestbox provision briefly increased dramatically between 1971 and 1974, as a result of a GWT promotion, there was no parallel increase in box use by Great Tits. Blue Tit numbers actually fell between 1972 and 1974, though a rapid recovery may be linked to the greater number of boxes available. The population of Great Tits

breeding in the nestboxes has always been lower than Blue Tits; over a 39 year period the average Blue Tit to Great Tit box ratio is 2.6:1. However, there is considerable variation, the lowest annual ratio being 1:1 and the highest 5:1.

Separate nestbox population indices for Great and Blue Tit were compared with indices from the Common Bird Census (CBC) (now Breeding Bird Survey) data for English lowland woodland held by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO) (see Tables 1 & 2). The local and national Great Tit populations increased at a similar rate between 1966 and 2000. The Blue Tit population at BDW grew at a very slightly higher rate compared with similar CBC woodlands. Results suggest that fluctuations in the numbers of Blue Tits and Great Tits breeding in nestboxes at BDW are indicative of population rises and falls for these species in similar English woodland, despite BDW's much smaller dataset. This finding justifies the importance of continuing data collection at BDW and sharing the data with the BTO. Importantly, also, the strength and consistency of volunteer-collected data is validated.

### Winter roosting

I first recorded birds using the nestboxes at BDW as winter roosting sites in February 2000. Despite the fact that the woodland had suffered considerable disturbance from timber extraction during the previous three months, which had required the nestboxes to be temporarily taken down, they were occupied at night as soon as they were replaced. (As an amateur who had never before peeked into a nestbox at night, I was thrilled when I lifted the lid on the very first box to see a fluffy little powder puff with a feather handle nestled into a corner of the box. Blue Tits *can* be exciting.)

Once again, the Great and Blue Tits at BDW seem to conform to expectations based on other research in lowland deciduous woodland. Roosting occupancy is always less than 50% of available boxes. Great Tits have always, so far, outnumbered Blue Tits. In winters 2000, 2006/7, and 2007/8 Great Tits outnumber Blue Tits at a mean ratio of 1.3:1. However, in January 2009, I have found the ratio to be 2.3:1. Unfortunately I didn't check the boxes in late autumn, so though there is no evidence, I would hypothesize that the long cold spells we've had this winter have had a deleterious effect on the Blue Tit population at BDW. That may show up in a reduced breeding population this spring.

### A few anecdotes

In 2005, in box 22 we first ringed a female Great Tit on 23<sup>rd</sup> April, sitting on six eggs. A fortnight later, on 7<sup>th</sup> May, the box held a female Blue Tit, who was also ringed, with eight Blue Tit eggs. Despite all those eggs, only two Blue Tits fledged from that box.

In breeding season 2006 nestboxes suffered unusually high predation from weasels (presumed, from 'tumbled nest material' evidence) and Great Spotted Woodpecker. On the evening of 21<sup>st</sup> May a woodpecker had nearly drilled its way through to a

brood of week-old Blue Tit pulli. The entire nest was transferred into a new box and replaced so the parents would continue to feed. Less than 24 hours later I found the previously sound box with a large hole pecked under the entrance, and the brood gone (see Plates 1 & 2).

Finally, regular ringing in winter and breeding provides interesting information from retrapped birds. Mervyn Greening's records reveal a few impressive survivors (all females as they are easier to capture in the box).

Blue Tit R561381 hatched in 2003, first ringed in Tibberton in March 2004 was then found roosting at BDW in January 2008.

Blue Tit P790514 ringed at BDW in May 2002, judged to be at least one year old; retrapped in box 16 in May 2003, fledging 9 young; caught again in May 2004 in box 18, fledging 12; last recorded April 2005 at box 18, where she laid 14 eggs (last visit pulli were too young to ring).

Blue Tit T321456 ringed at BDW in box 3 in April 2005, judged to have hatched in 2004, went on to breed in same box, fledging 11; February 2006 retrapped roosting in box 3; May 2007 fledged 10 from box 2; January 2008 found roosting in box 3.

With perhaps less than a quarter of the birds ringed as pulli surviving to breed, and birds able to find nest sites in neighbouring woodland and gardens, retraps are relatively rare. In species where males spend little time in the nest box, they are very difficult to capture. It would be fantastic to have complete records of all the nest box activity at BDW. But volunteers just can't find the time to check and ring as regularly as we might like. Also, however interested we may be, we must always be aware that the welfare of nesting birds takes precedence over our data collection.

Table 1.

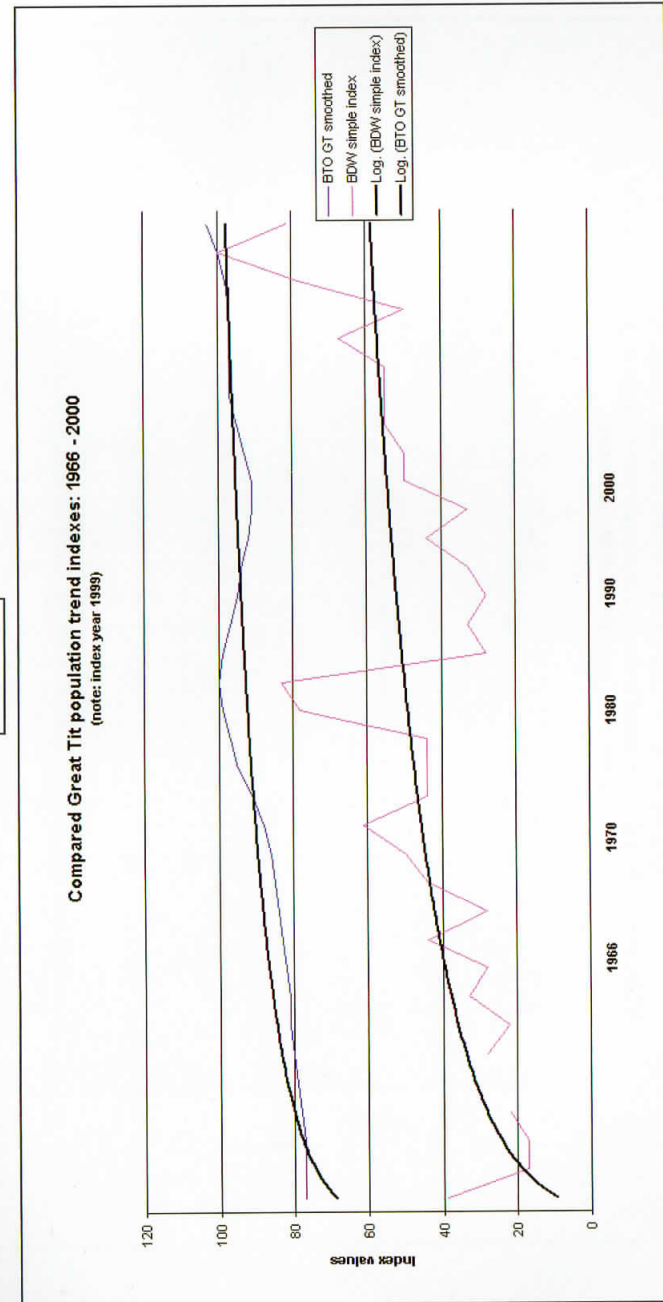


Table 2

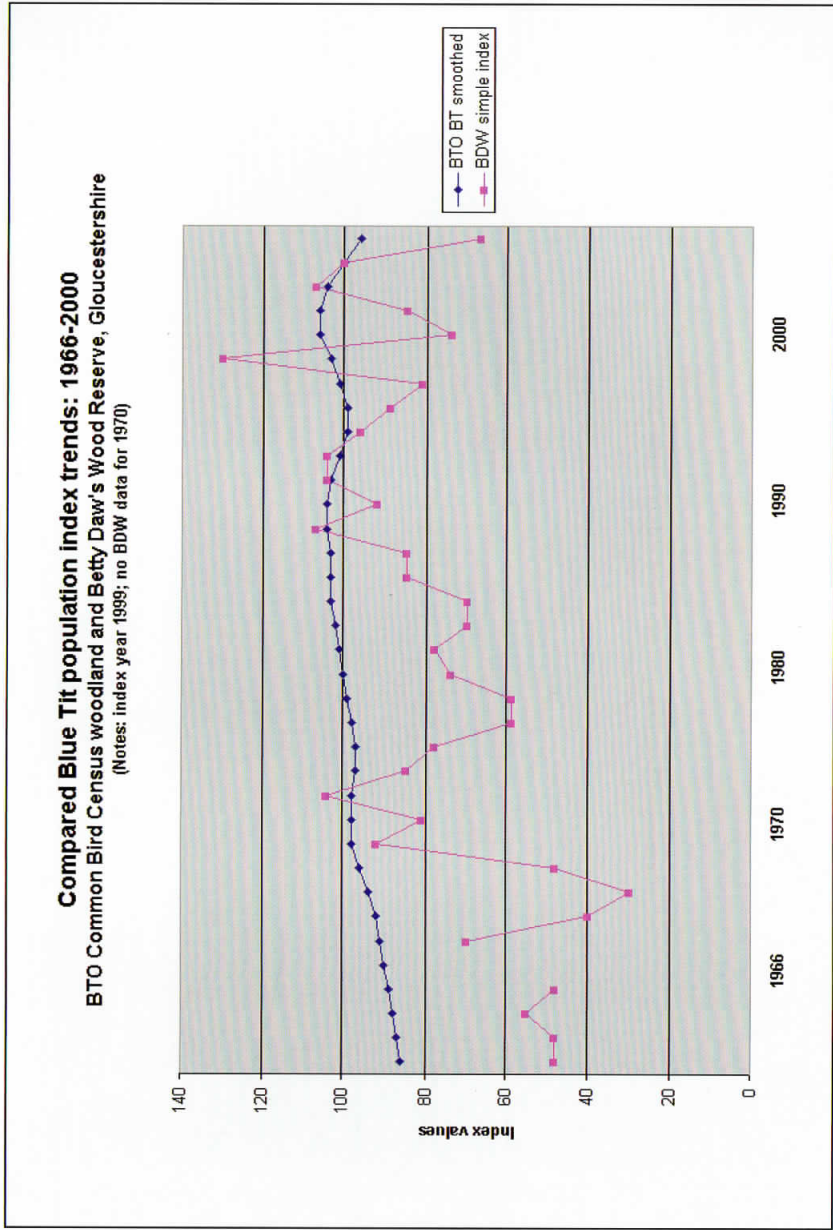


Plate 1. Birdbox 31 showing how woodpecker has drilled in at nestling level. Betty Daw's Wood 2006. (Photo: Ginny James)



Plate 2. Birdbox 33 showing a hole created by a Great Spotted Woodpecker in less than 24 hours to get at nestlings. Betty Daw's Wood 2006. (Photo: Ginny James)



Plate 3. Plant bug  
*Pilophorus cinnamopterus*  
Foscombe Hill,  
Gloucestershire. 15<sup>th</sup> August  
2008. (Photo: John  
Widgery)

Plate 4. Plant bug  
*Teratocoris antennatus*  
Ashleworth Ham NR.  
15<sup>th</sup> August 2008.  
(Photo: John Widgery)

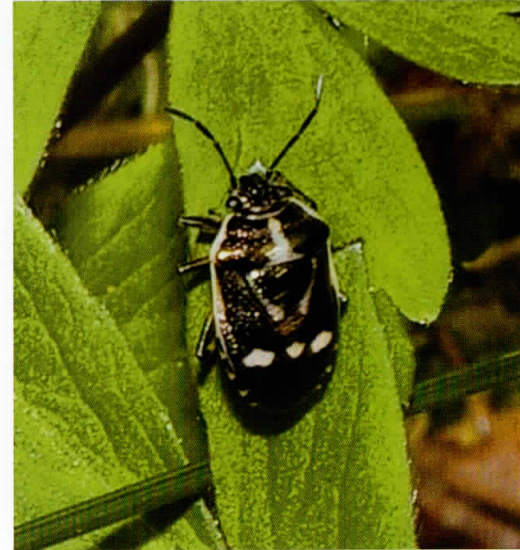


Plate 5. White-spotted form of  
Brassica Bug (*Eurydema oleracea*)  
in Ley Park Wood 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008  
(Photo: David Iliff)

Plate 6. Longhorn beetle  
*Obrium brunneum*  
Sapperton Park,  
Gloucestershire. 4<sup>th</sup> July  
2008. (Photo: John  
Widgery)





Plate 7. Hoverfly *Brachypalpus laphriformis* (male). (Photo: David Iliff)



Plate 8. Hoverfly *Criorhina asilica* (female). (Photo: David Iliff)



Plate 9. Hoverfly *Sphaerophoria taeniata* (male) at Woorgreens, 21<sup>st</sup> July 1990  
(Photo: David Iliff)

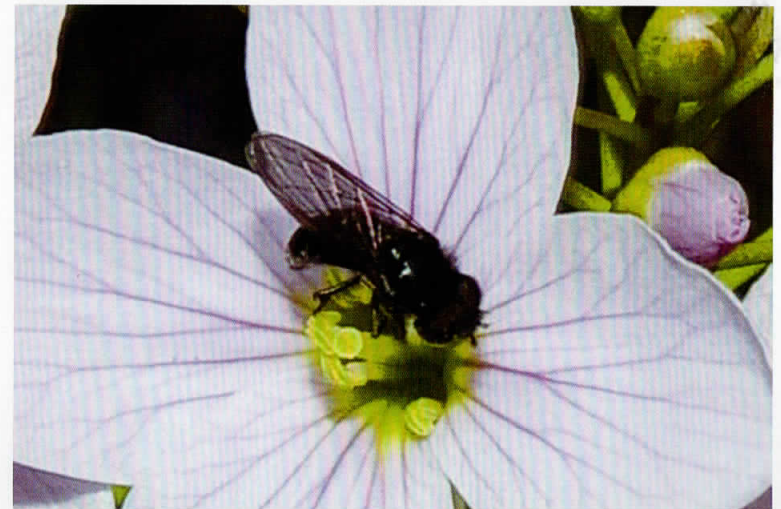


Plate 10. Hoverfly *Heringia pubescens* (male) at Ley Park Wood, 26<sup>th</sup> April 2008  
(Photo: David Iliff)



Plate 11. Hoverfly *Xylota jakutorum* (female). (Photo: David Iliff)

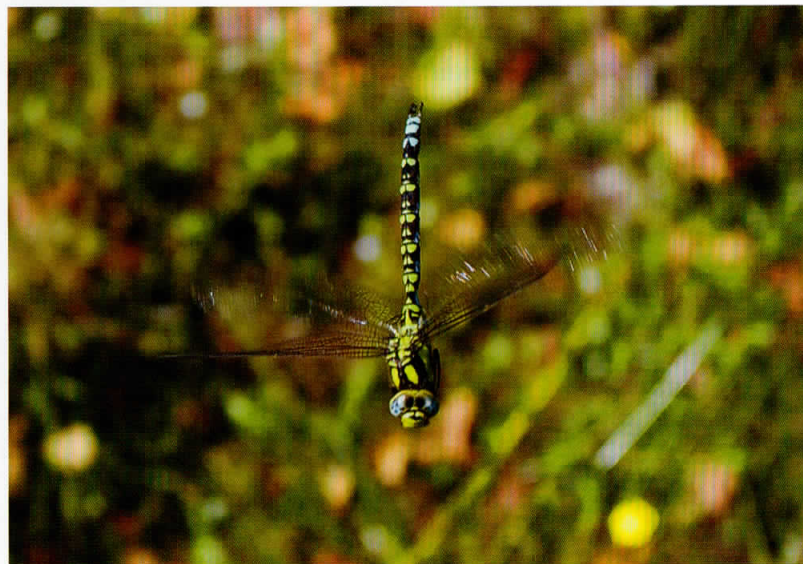


Plate 12. Male Southern Hawker dragonfly (*Aeshna cyanea*) in flight over pond at Nagshead, 8<sup>th</sup> September 2007 (Photo: David Iliff)



Plate 13. Old female Keeled Skimmer at Whelford Pools 10<sup>th</sup> July 2008. (Photo: Ingrid Twissell)



Plate 14. The spider *Segestria florentina*. (Photo: Ingrid Twissell)



Plate 15. The web of *Segestria florentina* showing "trip wires" and spider ready to pounce on prey. (Photo: Tim Gobourn)

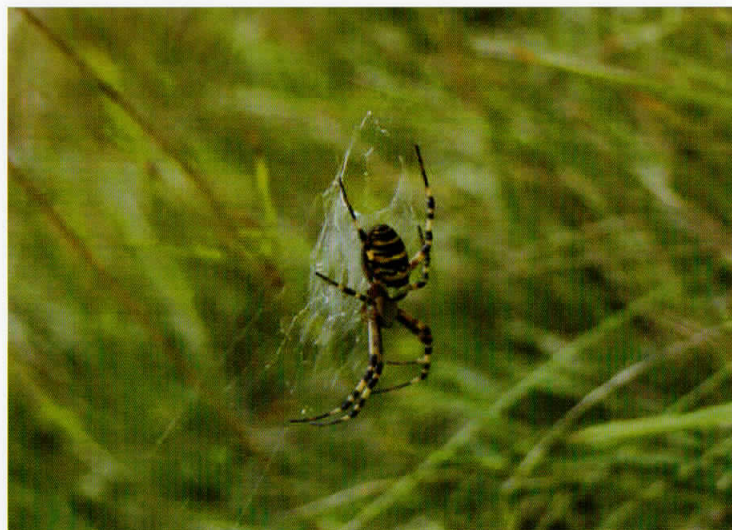


Plate 16. The Wasp Spider *Argiope bruennichi* at Coombe Hill, Wotton-under-Edge, 14<sup>th</sup> September 2008. (Photo: Chris Wiltshire)



Plate 17. Pink form of larva of Pale Tussock Moth (*Calliteara pudibunda*) found by John Harper at Chase End Hill, 13th September 2008 (Photo: David Iliff)

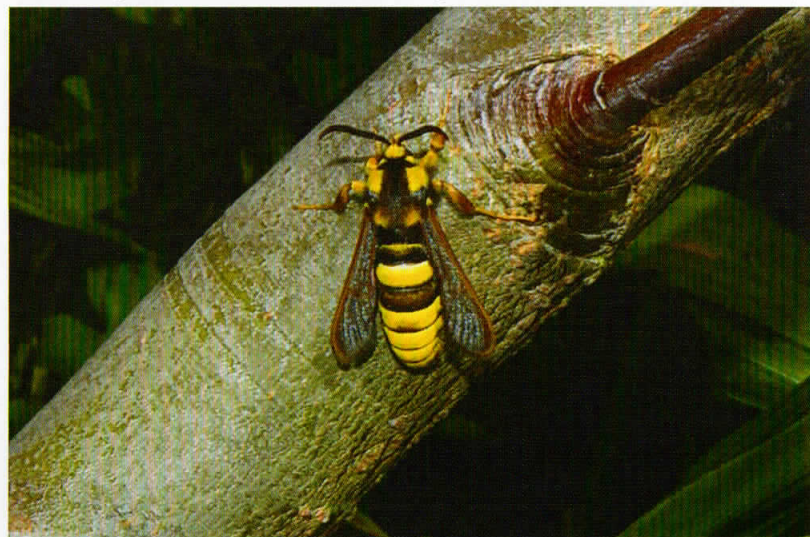


Plate 18. Hornet Moth (*Sesia apiformis*) on *Salix acutifolia*, Woodmancote, 24th June 2008 (Photo: David Iliff)

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE MOTH REPORT 2008

Roger Gaunt

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### Introduction

The weather in 2008 was again disappointing and following a poor year in 2007 there has been generally low numbers and some lack of incentive to run a moth trap, compared with earlier years. March was only just average and April rather poor. The early part of May brought some respite and things started to move but the second half of the month was again not very rewarding. During June the weather was reasonable however numbers continued to be below average and the same pattern continued into July. August was so wet that trapping between the downpours became difficult. The following months were average or below. Nevertheless over 7000 records have so far been received for the year with more expected.

### MACROLEPIDOPTERA

Although a below average year in many respects, 2008 was notable for the recording of several species after long periods with no sightings. Perhaps the most notable of these was the **Hornet Moth** (see Plate 18), not seen in the county since 1946. The first word of this came from David Iliff at Woodmancote, Cheltenham, who found and photographed a freshly-emerged specimen in his garden on 24<sup>th</sup> June. On emergence early in the morning the moth may be found on the trunks of the tree from which it has emerged. The reference books give various poplars as being the host trees, yet David's was on *Salix acutifolia* and there seem to be no poplars in the vicinity so this suggests an unrecorded host. Three days later Robert Homan found another Hornet Moth on poplar at Deerhurst. Not having his camera he took it home to photograph. On his return he found another attracted to a female and managed to photograph a pair *in cop.*. Subsequently, Robert has found several trees with possible emergence holes.

WWT Slimbridge is a regular site for a number of trappers as there is a good range of habitat. On 29<sup>th</sup> August 2008 five trappers met for a session and two, Roger Ward and Neil Woodward, were surprised to each trap an **Oblique Carpet**. This species is new to the site and the first county record since 1987 when one was taken in the Rothamsted trap at Westonbirt.

The only known site west of the Severn for **The Forester** (on the new list of BAP Priority species) had been Poors Allotment where the last was seen in 1995. This is a metallic green day-flying species. On 31<sup>st</sup> May 2008 Mike King, when 'birding', found and photographed one at this site. Two weeks later two were found 300m apart

in Cinderford Linear Park on a GNS Field Meeting. The first was spotted by Steve Whitehouse. This is an entirely new site for this species.

The **Broom-tip** has only been recorded from four sites in the county since 1990 with the last record from East Wood in 1997. I was therefore pleased to have it here (again) at St Briavels on 25<sup>th</sup> April when I found one on the trunk of a Scots Pine several feet from my trap site.

The **Clouded Buff** is another elusive day-flying species (it also comes to light). It has only been recorded from three sites in the county in the last century, all in the Forest of Dean. Guy Meredith found one in Cinderford Linear Park on 29<sup>th</sup> June. The last was seen in the same area in 1999.

There were very few migrants in the year under review. Apart from small numbers of the common ones, the only records I have are as follows. **Convolvulus Hawk-moth** was seen at Oldcroft on 20<sup>th</sup> September 2008 (Alec Kear) and Culkerton on 26<sup>th</sup> September 2008 (Matthew Oates). There were only three sightings of the usually fairly common **Humming-bird Hawk-moth**. The **Pearly Underwing** was recorded in three places, all at the end of August. Finally a **Small Mottled Willow** was recorded at Elcombe on 9<sup>th</sup> May 2008 by Richard Morris and confirmed by Peter Hugo.

I can now confirm that the **Pine Hawk-moth** is in the county at last! An unconfirmed report came from Dursley in 2006 so I was pleased to see a photo of one taken at Chalford Hill by Bob Smith on 9<sup>th</sup> June. Gordon Avery had an **Obscure Wainscot** at Hempsted on 1<sup>st</sup> June. It was first recorded in the county at WWT Slimbridge in 2001 and has been recorded subsequently there and at two other places in Vc34. Gordon's record is the first for Vc33.

John Martin (Pilning) has been sending me records from time to time when something particularly interesting has turned up. I decided to send him a species list of the records I have. In return he sent me a spreadsheet with all his records from 1997 tabulated by species and year. Comparing these lists I found that there were many species that he had recorded that were not in my records. Two macro-moths in particular must be mentioned. He recorded **Dark Spinach** in 2005 and **Royal Mantle** in 1999. These, with the four mentioned earlier in this report, are on the list of 'missing' species on page 8 of 'Gloucestershire Moths - A Second Account'. Dark Spinach was last recorded in 1952 and Royal Mantle in 1960. John is one of the authors of the recently published "Moths of the Bristol Region".

In no particular order I will mention some of the other rare macromoths that have been reported in 2008.

**Satin Lutestring** was recorded in Dursley by Peter Cranswick on 29<sup>th</sup> May. There are very few records from east of the Severn.

**Cypress Carpet**. Two were recorded at Pilning on 7<sup>th</sup> June by John Martin. John had the first county record of this species the previous year. It would seem to have become established in his vicinity.

**Bird's Wing** was recorded by David and Susan Dewsbury at Milkwall, Coleford on 5<sup>th</sup> June. This is the third record since 1986.

**Double Lobed** was recorded five times in the second half of July and seems to be becoming more common.

**Devon Carpet** was recorded in Dursley on 27<sup>th</sup> July by Peter Cranswick. The only other site east of the Severn from which it has been recorded is the Arboretum at Westonbirt.

**Plumed Prominent**. Peter Hugo ran what is now becoming an annual field meeting for this species on 15<sup>th</sup> November. There was a good turnout at Lineover Wood where more than 7 were recorded and some of those present went on to Withington Woods where a further 7 were recorded.

**Alder Kitten** has been reported from Cinderford (Liz Radcliffe) and Brockweir (Paul Wilkins).

**Oak Lutestring** and **Blossom Underwing** both from Liz Radcliffe at Cinderford.

**Garden Dart** has been recorded from Thrupp (Peter Hugo) and Slimbridge (Alan Prior).

**White-line Dart** has been recorded from Chalford Hill (Bob Smith) and confirmed by Peter Hugo.

David Green has been doing some survey work in Dymock Woods and I have just received his records in time for this report. He made four visits and made 278 records altogether. Most significant was a **Pauper Pug**, an entirely new site for this RDB species. He also recorded **Orange Moth**, **Waved Black** and an astonishing total of 154 **Oak Lutestring** on 31<sup>st</sup> August.

I should give particular thanks to Peter Hugo who not only traps nightly in his own garden but also places a number of actinic traps in sites all over the eastern part of the county. Not content with this, as Gloucestershire Branch of Butterfly Conservation Moth Officer, he has encouraged quite a number of people to start recording using the branch equipment for starters.

### MICROLEPIDOPTERA

The following list shows all the new county records and vice-county records in checklist order. (Recorders' initials explained below.)

3	<i>Micropterix aureatella</i>	Buckle Wood, 13.v.08, GM; adult; new to Vc33
10	<i>Eriocrania salopiella</i>	Edge Common, 3.iv.08, GM; adult; new to Vc33
19	<i>Bohemannia quadrimaculella</i>	Stanway Park, 24.vii.08, RH; adult, new to Gloucestershire
19	<i>Bohemannia quadrimaculella</i>	The Delves, 26.vii.08, GM; adult; new to Vc34
30	<i>Ectoedemia arcuatella</i>	Pitchcombe Wood, 3.x.08, GM; mine; new to Gloucestershire
31	<i>Ectoedemia rubivora</i>	Lineover Wood, 16.x.08, GM; mine; new to Vc33
72	<i>Stigmella myrtillella</i>	The Park, Tidenham Chase, 13.x.08, GM; mine; new to Gloucestershire
78	<i>Stigmella incognitella</i>	below Charlton Kings Common, 1.x.08, GM; mine; new to Vc33
129	<i>Incurvaria pectinea</i>	Littleworth Wood, 10.v.08, JB; adult; new to Vc33
157	<i>Heliozela hammoniella</i>	Siccaridge Wood, 8.vii.08, GM; adult; new to Vc33
185	<i>Luffia ferchaultella</i>	Lineover Wood, 22.ii.08, GM; case; new to Gloucestershire
185	<i>Luffia ferchaultella</i>	Botloe's Green, 20.iii.08, RH; case; new to Vc34
272	<i>Bucculatrix cidarella</i>	Dowdeswell Wood, 12.viii.08, GM; mine; new to Vc33
387	<i>Prochoreutis sehestediana</i>	Brassey, 2.viii.08, GM; adult; new to Vc33
495	<i>Coleophora spinella</i>	Bill Smyllie Reserve, 18.v.08, MK; case; new to Vc33
498	<i>Coleophora alnifoliae</i>	Dowdeswell Wood, 12.viii.08, GM; case; new to Vc33
565	<i>Coleophora saxicolella</i>	Charlton Kings, 20.viii.08, RW (gen det AP); adult; new to Vc33
632	<i>Cosmiotes consortella</i>	Cheltenham, 9.v.08, GM; adult; new to Vc33
656	<i>Tachystola acroxantha</i>	Pilning, 6.v.08, JM; adult; new to Vc34
770	<i>Carpatolechchia proximella</i>	NT Sherborne Estate, 20.vi.08, GM; adult; new to Vc33
880	<i>Mompha langiella</i>	Jubilee Wood, 28.vi.08, GM; adult; new to Vc33
1144	<i>Epinotia signatana</i>	NT Sherborne Estate, 20.vi.08, GM; adult; new to Vc33
1225	<i>Pammene obscurana</i>	The Park, Tidenham Chase, 12.v.08, GM; adult; new to Gloucestershire
1229	<i>Pammene albuginana</i>	Ban-y-gor Wood, 7.vi.08, RG; adult; new to Gloucestershire
1249	<i>Grapholita lobarzewskii</i>	Edge Common, 4.vii.08, GM; adult; new to Gloucestershire

Recorders were Guy Meredith (GM), Robert Homan (RH), John Brock (JB), Martin Kennard (MK), Roger Ward (RW), Alan Prior (AP), John Martin (JM) and Roger Gaunt (RG).

Guy Meredith, now retired, has continued to visit all parts of the county. He has acquired the skills and equipment for doing dissections, necessary in many cases for accurate determination. This has enabled him to contribute a good number of new records again this year as can be seen from the list. In addition he has added many records for species already on the Gloucestershire lists.

In addition to the new county records in the list there are others made in earlier years by John Martin at Pilning. Precise dates are not at present available.

- 93      *Stigmella centifoliella* Mine determined by John Robbins. Year 2000.  
1336    *Eudonia pallida* Gen det by Mike Bailey. Year 2003. First definite county record.  
1370    *Sitochroa palealis* Year 2006. New to VC34.  
1480    *Homoeosoma nebulella* Year 1997. New county record.

The following is a list of all those who have contributed more than one record in 2008. I would like to thank them all for the contribution they have made to the recording of Moths in Gloucestershire.

Gordon Avery, Philip Barden, Gavin Black, Juliet Bailey, Joyce Barrus, Rick Benson-Bunch, Mike Bradley, Jon Brock, Steve Chappell, Peter Clarke, John Coates, Peter Cranswick, David Cross, David and Susan Dewsbury, Peter Fitchett, David Green, Sten Grendon, Ken Heron, Roy Hilton, Robert Homan, Peter Hugo, David Iliff, Val Jackson, Rosalind Jon, Martin Kennard, John Knowles, Mel Lloyd, John Martin, Guy Meredith, Richard Morris, Joan Oakley, Matthew Oates, Claire Overhill, Steve Owen, Mark Parsons, Roger Pearce, Ian Peters, John and Viv Phillips, Alan Prior, Liz Radcliffe, Bob and Sue Smith, Paul Taylor, Roger Ward, Val Weston, John Widgery, Paul Wilkins and Neil Woodward.

## GRASSHOPPERS AND CRICKETS AND RELATED SPECIES REPORT FOR 2008

**John Widgery**

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Despite it being a very average year there were five new 10km-square records for **Roesel's Bush-cricket** (*Metrioptera roeselii*) and one for **Long-winged Conehead** (*Conocephalus discolor*), these probably representing populations which had previously been overlooked. Both species are now widespread over the whole county. The ability to find both of these insects relies heavily on hearing the stridulation ('song') by using a bat detector. It never ceases to amaze me as to how large populations can be revealed by this aid whereas, otherwise, one may get the impression that there are none present. Even intense sweeping of an area sometimes has negative results when afterwards, via the bat detector, it becomes obvious they are there in some numbers.

It is unusual to get new 10 km-square records for the Dermaptera (Earwigs) but this was achieved when **Lesne's Earwig** (*Forficula lesnei*) was found near Arlingham (SO6911) in September. It seems that this species has its stronghold in Gloucestershire in the vicinity of the River Severn and its environs (anywhere within c.10/15km from the river) where it can be quite common in old undisturbed hedgerows or woodland edges. However, in view of the fact that most Earwigs trapped are merely discarded on the assumption they are the ubiquitous Common Earwig (*Forficula auricularia*) it is very under-recorded and records are still needed for 10km-squares ST59 & 69, SO60, 72, 81 & 82.

Thanks to all those who submitted records for 2008.

## MOLLUSC RECORDING IN GLOUCESTERSHIRE 2008

**David Long**

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This was a relatively quiet year but with 2 new Vice-county 34 records reported by the Conchological Society's Non-marine Recorder. One was the first record to be confirmed by dissection of the slug *Arion rufus* ST8799, Minchinhampton; the dissection was carried out by D. Robinson, employed by the US Government to monitor the accidental import of molluscs into the US (Mr Robinson was visiting his mother at Minchinhampton). The other was the small snail *Paralaoma servilis* found at Bristol, ST576721 by Tony Smith; this is an introduction which arrived in the UK over 20 years ago (in 1985 – Guntrip, D.W., 1986, J. Conchology 32; 200-201), originally from Australasia, it is widespread in the Mediterranean and Atlantic Islands.

Otherwise most recording arose from Gloucestershire Invertebrate meetings and a Conchological Society meeting in the Forest of Dean. Typical limestone grassland snails were found in an old quarry on top of Leckhampton Hill (SO9518) – *Abida secale*, *Pupilla muscorum*, *Vallonia excentrica*, *Candidula intersecta* and *Vertigo pygmaea*, along with old shells of *Helicella itala*; and on a steep slope of Haresfield Hill (SO8208) – *Abida secale*, *Helicella itala*, and *Candidula intersecta*.

In the Forest of Dean it became clear that the Slender Slug (*Malacolimax tenellus*) is widespread at least in older deciduous woodland and wood pasture. A very young juvenile was found by David Haigh at Bullocks Beech on 29<sup>th</sup> April 2008. Four of the eight sites visited during the Conchological Society meeting on 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> October 2008 produced *M. tenellus*; it seems to be often associated with the Ash-black slug (*Limax cinereoniger*) and the calcifuge Glass Snail *Zonitoides excavatus*.

The wet weather seems to have caused slugs to proliferate in gardens, *Limax valentianus* turned up twice in our garden at Leckhampton (SO9420). This was first found in Britain in greenhouses but is being found increasingly in open sites.

With many thanks to John Fleming and Jeremy Doe for submitting records, to David Haigh for continuing to find snails when after spiders, and to Adrian Norris for determining *Limax valentianus*.

P.F. Whitehead included a record of the introduced Hedge snail *Hygromia limbata* (new to Vc 33) in a garden at Stanton on 14<sup>th</sup> October 2007 in "Observations on *Hygromia limbata* (Draparnaud 1805) (Pulmonata: Helicidae) in Central England" (J. Conchology 39(5): 607-608, 2008). His other new records were from Worcestershire.

Finally the Roman Snail (*Helix pomatia*) has been added to Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. From 6<sup>th</sup> April 2008 wild caught Roman Snails will be protected from intentional taking, injury or killing as well as possession and sale. I am grateful to Martin Willing for this information.

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE DIPTERA REPORT 2008

**Keith Alexander**

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The most significant record of the season is undoubtedly the discovery of a second locality in the county for the Red Data Book soldier fly *Odontomyia ornata* (Stratiomyiidae) by John Phillips (NJP) at Flaxley Flushes (SO61) on 16<sup>th</sup> June 2008 – a male attracted to the blossom of corky-fruited water-dropwort. It was discovered in the county only in 2005, by Martin Matthews (MM) at The Mythe (SO83) where it was seen again in 2007. The nearest other areas for the species are the Gwent and Somerset Levels, so it is unclear whether overlooked populations are involved or whether these records represent a new natural colonisation along the Severn floodplain.

Another Severn estuary species found at a new locality during the year is the Nationally Scarce *Stratiomys singularior*. Two were seen at Awre (SO70) by NJP on 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008. And, staying with coastal grazing marsh specialities, MM reports the large marsh horsefly *Tabanus autumnalis* at The Mythe on 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008. This is a rare species in the county, with just a few records from along the Severn.

Other interesting finds during the year include:

*Bombylius canescens* Western Bee-fly – Nationally Scarce – More sightings on Pope's Hill (SO61) 2<sup>nd</sup> June 2008 and 4<sup>th</sup> July 2008 (NJP).

*Choerades marginatus* Golden-haired Robberfly – Nationally Scarce & County Rarity – Seen in Flaxley Woods again, 5<sup>th</sup> July 2008, (NJP & Viv Phillips).

*Chorisops nagatomii* – Nationally Scarce – This soldier fly will probably prove to be widespread and records are building up steadily. Pope's Hill provides a new locality, 22<sup>nd</sup> & 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008 (NJP).

*Haematopota crassicornis* Black-horned Cleg – Similarly records are steadily building up and it may not be as scarce in the county as thought. A male was found in wet pasture at Bream's Cross (SO50) on 7<sup>th</sup> June 2008 (NJP & VEP) and another specimen was found at Awre, 15<sup>th</sup> July 2008 (NJP).

*Tabanus sudeticus* Dark Giant Horsefly – County Scarce – A Forest of Dean speciality with few records. Reported from Pope's Hill again, 29<sup>th</sup> June 2008 (NJP & VEP).

*Tachydromia umbrarum* – County Scarce – This small assassin fly (Hybotidae) is fairly widespread over much of the country but appears to be rather overlooked in Gloucestershire – there have been no records since Audcent published his Bristol List in 1950. Like the commoner *Tachypeza nubila*, they hunt their prey over the surfaces of tree trunks in well-lit situations. A population was spotted on old apple trees in an old orchard at Newhouse Farm, Slimbridge (SO70), on 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2008 (KNAA).

## GLOUCESTERSHIRE WILDLIFE RECORDING INFORMATION

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*.

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 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, Monks Wood. The Society's recording is well described in "Dot Mapping and the Recording of Species' Distribution in Gloucestershire" in *The Gloucestershire Naturalist (TGN)*, No.1, 1984, price £2.00 plus £1.00 p. & p., available from the Chairman of the Scientific & Publications Sub-committee (for address see below).

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.

### NAMES AND CONTACT DETAILS OF COUNTY RECORDERS with information on the most up-to-date sources for check-lists

**BIRDS:** Richard Baatsen (01452 740161); email: [baatsen@surfbirder.com](mailto: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. Checklist in *TGN 5* (1992). Fuller account in *Birds of Gloucestershire* by C.M.Swaine (1982).

- **British Trust for Ornithology Representative:** Mike Smart (01452 421131); email: [smartmike@btinternet.com](mailto:smartmike@btinternet.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](mailto:john.field@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk). Checklist in *TGN 5* (1992).

- **Gloucestershire Bat Group:** Andy Smart (Chairman)

**REPTILES & AMPHIBIANS:** Colin Twissell (01452 714413); email: [canditwissell@btinternet.com](mailto:canditwissell@btinternet.com). Special recording form available. Checklists in *TGN 5* (1992) & *TGN 17* (2006).

**FISH & CRAYFISH:** Pete Bradshaw, c/o The Gloucestershire Wildlife Trust, Church House, Standish, Stonehouse, Gloucestershire GL10 3EU; email: [peter.bradshaw@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk](mailto:peter.bradshaw@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk). Fish checklist in *TGN 5* (1992).

**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](mailto:Andrew.leach@gloucestershirewildlifetrust.co.uk).

- **BUTTERFLIES:** Chris Wiltshire (01453 545509); email: [chriswiltshire164@o2.co.uk](mailto:chriswiltshire164@o2.co.uk). *The Butterflies of Gloucestershire* by Guy Meredith is at [www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk/bflyglos/bflyglos.html](http://www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk/bflyglos/bflyglos.html). Butterfly Conservation Gloucestershire Branch: [www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk](http://www.gloucestershire-butterflies.org.uk).
- **MOTHS:** Roger Gaunt (01594 530475); email: [roger.gaunt@btinternet.com](mailto:roger.gaunt@btinternet.com). *Gloucestershire Moths - An Account* by Roger Gaunt (2000), (2<sup>nd</sup> edition 2006); *Set of Moth Distribution Maps* by Roger Gaunt (80 maps showing distribution of selected species) (2003).
- **DRAGONFLIES:** Ingrid Twissell (01452 714413); email: [canditwissell@btinternet.com](mailto:canditwissell@btinternet.com). *Distribution of Dragonflies in Gloucestershire* by S.C.Holland (1991). Checklist available from Ingrid Twissell.

- **HOVERFLIES & LADYBIRDS:** David Iff (01242 674398); email: [davidiliff@talk21.com](mailto:davidiliff@talk21.com). Ladybirds in *Coleoptera of Gloucestershire* by D.B. Atty (1983).
- **ANTS, BEES & WASPS:** Tony Taylor (01452 728734); email: [taylor.ant@cotswoldwireless.co.uk](mailto:taylor.ant@cotswoldwireless.co.uk).
- **SPIDERS:** David Haigh (01242 513544); email: [djrhaigh@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:djrhaigh@hotmail.co.uk). Animals for identification can be sent by post in an envelope containing a small flat non-crushable box holding some moss or slightly damp cotton wool.
- **WOODLICE, CENTIPEDES, MILLIPEDES, HARVESTMEN, FALSE SCORPIONS, LACEWINGS, SPRINGTAILS & FRESHWATER INVERTEBRATES:** David Scott-Langley 19 Chesterton Grove, Cirencester, Gloucestershire GL7 1XN (01285 659631); email: [david@scott-langley.freereserve.co.uk](mailto:david@scott-langley.freereserve.co.uk). Check-lists for millipedes and false scorpions in *TGN 12* (1999); centipedes in *TGN 18* (2007); springtails in *TGN 16* (2005) & *18* (2007).
- **BETTERLES (other than ladybirds), SAWFLIES, FLIES (other than hoverflies), BARK FLIES:** Keith Alexander (01392 413092); email: [keith.alexander@waitrose.com](mailto:keith.alexander@waitrose.com). Checklists for bark flies in *TGN 17* (2006). *Coleoptera of Gloucestershire* by D.B. Atty (1983).
- **GRASSHOPPERS, BUSH-CRICKETS, EARWIGS, & COCKROACHES, BUGS (HEMIPTERA):** John Widgery (01242 673873); email: [johnwidgery@waitrose.com](mailto:johnwidgery@waitrose.com). Checklists for bugs in *TGN 8, 9, 16 & 19* (1995, 1996, 2005 & 2008), Checklist for Orthopteroids in *TGN 15* (2004)
- **LAND & FRESHWATER MOLLUSCS:** David Long (01242 527673); email: [david@long55.wanadoo.co.uk](mailto:david@long55.wanadoo.co.uk). Checklist in *TGN 3* (1989).
- **FLEAS:** Bob George (01202 515238); no email.
- **ECTOPARASITES (Lice, louse-flies):** Robin Sellers (01946 725453); email: [sellers@craghouse7.freereserve.co.uk](mailto:sellers@craghouse7.freereserve.co.uk). Checklist of louse-flies in *TGN 1* (1984).
- **FRESHWATER TRICLADS:** Larry Bellamy (01594 516420); email: [lsb@rdplus.net](mailto:lsb@rdplus.net). Checklist in *TGN 1* (1984).

**FLOWERING PLANTS, FERNS & STONEWORTS:** Mark and Clare Kitchen (01453 810958); email: [markarkitchen@yahoo.com](mailto:markarkitchen@yahoo.com). *Supplement to the Flora of Gloucestershire* by S.C.Holland, H.M.Caddick and D.S.Dudley-Smith (1986); *The Flora of the Bristol Region* by L.P.Green, R.J.Higgins, C.Kitchen & M.A.R.Kitchen (2000); *Stephen Bishop's New Flora of Gloucestershire*, Part 1 edited by R. Cooper: *TGN 13* (2000), and Part 2 edited by C. & M.A.R. Kitchen and I. Carle: *TGN 14* (2008).

**MOSES AND LIVERWORTS:** Peter Martin (01666 503791); email: [petergmartin@btinternet.com](mailto:petergmartin@btinternet.com).

**FUNGI:** Jack Marriott email: [jack@stswithins.eclipse.co.uk](mailto:jack@stswithins.eclipse.co.uk). Checklist in *TGN 9* (1996).

- **Cotswold Fungus Group:** Dave Shorten (01793 764649).
- **Dean Fungus Group:** Keith Davies (01452 760278); email: [davieskkvv@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:davieskkvv@tiscali.co.uk).

**LICHENS:** Ian Carle email: [gnslichens@tiscali.co.uk](mailto:gnslichens@tiscali.co.uk)

**ONLINE RECORDING at [www.universalquestions.com/nature](http://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. Your records can then be accessed from the website by the relevant county recorders, who may follow them up with any queries.

## Notes for Contributors

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1. The Editor will be pleased to receive papers relating to the fauna and flora of Gloucestershire, of a more scientific nature than would be published in the GNS News, as well as annual reports from the County Recorders.
2. Wherever possible, papers for publication in The Gloucestershire Naturalist should be in Microsoft Word and saved as (.doc) files. Please do not embed photographs etc in the text.
3. The font is to be Times New Roman size 10.
4. Titles and section headings should be as in 3. above and will be formatted by the editor.
5. Page size is to be A5 Portrait. The editor will be pleased to email a formatted page for use by the contributor.
6. Drawings and sketches should be camera-ready and, unless the contributor has the technology to incorporate them into his paper, should be supplied on good quality paper or Polydraw drafting film.
7. Maps should be as in 6. above unless they can be electronically generated using programmes such as DMAP or Mapmate.
8. Photographs should be supplied as digital images or on good quality photographic paper.
9. All digital images should be as large as possible and saved as .tif or .jpg files and sent to the editor on Compact Disc or via email. Please do not embed photographs within articles as they may appear outside the colour section.
10. For those using traditional methods, manuscripts should be double-line spaced and clearly legible or they will be returned. Drawings, maps and photographs should be supplied as in 6., 7. & 8. above.
11. Contributors will be sent a copy of their paper for proofreading and final alterations before publication if requested.
12. Submission date shall be no later than February 28<sup>th</sup> for publication the following May/June of the same year.
13. New contributors are asked to submit two or three lines about themselves with their article.