

Shropshire Invertebrates Group



Annual Report 2008

Report compiled by A.G. Blunt
October 2009

Photo: SIG members at Presthope
Woods, Wenlock Edge.
6 July 2003

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Field Meetings 2008

30 March 2008: Secret Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms (present: W. Rudge, N. Jones, I. Cheeseborough, J. Mason, G. Blunt)

Grid reference: Discovery Centre SO435824

Goldfinches calling, Robins singing and Lesser Celandines in full flower greeted us in sunshine on our first field trip of the year. We had chosen the Discovery Centre for detailed investigation in 2008, as its good range of habitats – meadow, wet grassland, copses, pool and river bank – are enhanced by the centre's congenial facilities.

As we began our walk birds were in evidence, with 20 Jackdaws foraging in a field and Greenfinch and Blue Tit nearby. On a patch of bare soil two Small Tortoiseshells were sunning themselves, giving hope that the year would be a better one for this fast-declining species. Blackthorn flowers were just going over, and beating of the hedge near the centre produced some small Diptera and Collembola which we did not tackle. We investigated an old brick shelter, where a zebra spider *Salticus scenicus* (Araneae: Salticidae) was enjoying the warmth, a lacewing hid, and the remains of a nibbled nut showed that a small mammal was using the niche under the roof as storage space.

As we approached the River Onny a Buzzard called overhead and a Nuthatch uttered a strange note in bank-side trees: not until we had seen the bird itself could we be sure of its identity. A Dipper flew up the briskly-flowing stream whose banks were lined with Alders and Pedunculate Oaks, with some Crack-willow in places; here and there Primroses were in flower, though Ramsons were still in bud. A pile of oak logs nearby was rich in fungi, and Jew's Ear fungus grew on a decaying twig.

Approaching the main pond we heard a Chiffchaff in song, the first of the year for most of us, and other birds holding territory here included Woodpigeon and Chaffinch; on the pond were Mallard and Moorhen, while a small Common Frog and Grey Squirrel were nearby. Our route returned by way of a short stretch of Holly hedge, from which we beat the spider *Araniella cucurbitina* agg., and a field in which John Mason found a Mole's nest in a large mound of freshly-excavated soil.

Throughout our visit invertebrates were few in number. They included the hoverflies *Eristalis tenax* and *Syrphus torvus* (several of the latter), plus *Eupeodes luniger* on Lesser Celandine flowers. *Lonchoptera lutea* and the common dung-fly *Scathophaga stercoraria* were also present, and four queen *Bombus terrestris* were on sallow blossom. A male Brimstone butterfly was added to the day's tally as we headed back to the centre for refreshments.

Godfrey Blunt

18 May 2008: Attingham Park (present: J. Mason, W. Rudge)

Grid reference: Attingham car park SJ547100

Following cancellation of the planned overnight moth-trapping for 17-18 May, two members met in the National Trust car park at Attingham Park on the latter date to walk around the deer park.

We started from the stable block where we noticed some Pignut under the trees. Thereafter we followed the 'mile walk' through the woodland where we noted False-acacia trees and an understorey comprising masses of Cow Parsley. Following the path towards Home Farm we noted some Bluebells and a plant of Greater Celandine by the stile near the bee lawn. We dodged under the grove of Filbert trees to briefly inspect the bee house: skeps were present as an exhibit, but there was no sign of occupation by bees. Following the wall alongside the bee lawn we debated whether the numerous holes in the mortar were made by nails or by mason bees, but no insect activity was detected. We walked through the bothy to the orchard where we noted some ferns growing on the walls: Maidenhair Spleenwort, Black Spleenwort and a small Hart's-tongue.

Outside the bothy we admired a small Medlar tree in full flower, where we also spotted the distinctive hoverfly *Rhingia campestris* before resuming the mile walk through more woodland. Here were woodland plants: Sanicle, Bugle, Moschatel and a patch of Early-purple Orchids (circa 20 flower spikes). Crossing the suspension bridge over the Tern we noted a patch of fruiting Marsh-marigolds and later a Sycamore with a tree hole which has been used in the past as a bat roost.

We then followed the permissive path which borders the River Tern out of the woodland into sheep-grazed fields. Here the riverside vegetation was rich in insect life including click beetles, soldier beetles, caddis flies, mayflies, alder flies, plus the Banded Demoiselle and Large Red Damselfly. John Mason netted a large bumblebee-mimicking hoverfly *Criorhina floccosa*.

We continued on the same path through an open field to a bridge which we crossed to return on the other side, pausing to look at a pillbox beside the river, on whose wall a copse snail *Arianta arbustorum* was spotted. There was a big concentration of Large Red Damselflies in a nearby nettle-bed. A spell of warmer sunshine brought out butterflies in this area including Speckled Wood, Orange Tip, Small Tortoiseshells and a single Peacock in the process of laying a batch of eggs on the underside of a Common Nettle leaf.

As we returned along the river we saw several pairs of Canada Geese, including a pair with two goslings and another with four, and a female Mallard protecting six ducklings. Arriving back at the Tern suspension bridge we re-crossed it to continue through woodland to enter the deer park. Modification to the original path and fencing near the Berwick monument gave access to a small pond where there was a large patch of Cyperus Sedge and a few flowers of Cuckooflower. As we arrived at the margin a female Teal with ducklings slipped into denser vegetation and disappeared from our view. Continuing into the open grassland we had good distant views of the Fallow Deer herd before inspecting a pond with a margin of emergent plants including Gypsywort and Water-plantain. A few flowers of an aquatic *Ranunculus* species were visible in the shallow water.

Returning to the Tern at the weir we spotted a plant of Hound's-tongue in full flower by the gate and a pair of Grey Wagtails picking mayflies off the water surface. There was a Mute Swan on a large nest beside the Tern and some House Martin nests on the main house as we retraced our steps back to the car park.

John Mason

8 June 2008: Abbot's Castle Hill (present: J. Mason, W. Rudge, I. Thompson)

Grid reference: parking spot SO823941

Whilst it was anticipated that access to this site would be difficult we were unprepared for the plethora of 'Private' signs, warnings of CCTV systems, guard dogs and fences. We found a parking spot, for the single car in which we travelled, in a field gateway on the minor road which runs along the lower edge of part of the woodland.

The gateway in which we parked was to a field of oil-seed rape, the flowers gone and the seed-heads now swelling. Leaning on this gate in the pleasant warm sunshine we noted that the crop had many arable weeds in it, in particular White Champion, Bugloss and poppies. The Bugloss was dense enough to give a blue haze to those parts of the field which could be viewed at a shallow angle. From this gateway we recorded the following seven butterfly species, most of which were in view at any one time – Large White, Green-veined White, Small White, Peacock (including one very worn and tatty individual), Orange Tip (a late male), Holly Blue and Speckled Wood. We also saw a St. Mark's fly *Bibio marci* (a late first for us this year) and a Four-spotted Chaser dragonfly briefly alighted on the hedge nearby.

Denied direct access to the woodland by a substantial fence we followed the public road to the top of the escarpment, pausing to look along the sandy ridge stretching across to Hillend. We watched a Kestrel hunting, Jackdaws and Rooks were probing the turf and several Rabbits were feeding. This area, recently visited by Nigel Jones and Ian Cheeseborough, also has restricted access and permission needs to be sought if it is to have a worthwhile visit in the future.

We got onto Abbot's Castle Hill at Tinker's Castle (a private house) by way of the fenced Staffordshire Way footpath. Beyond the garden of Tinker's Castle a new fence disappointingly prevented our access to the more open top of the ridge for some distance. When we were finally able to leave the footpath we found ourselves in a wood of small oaks with Silver Birch, Larch and Holly. The understorey was essentially Bracken and Gorse, the latter forming some large bushes. There was some Sycamore at the margin where more light also allowed Rosebay Willowherb to flourish. The hedge between the footpath and arable fields showed a greater variety with Brambles, Black and White Bryonies. The sandy banks either side of the footpath were being prospected by a few *Bombus terrestris* queens, which seemed rather late for nest establishment.

We lunched at the point where the county boundary leaves the ridge and goes through private property on the hillside. At our lunch stop we took a snipe-fly subsequently identified as *Rhagio scolopacea*, and found on the underside of a honeysuckle leaf a cluster of eggs which were initially believed to be from a moth species. These were collected and when hatched later in the following week turned out to be a bug species, the larvae having a striking black and deep orange pattern. These were later identified as the Green Shieldbug *Palomena prasina*.

After lunch we left Shropshire and followed a bridleway downhill towards Seisdon. The first part of this track had wide, high hedges on field banks on either side and appeared to be of some antiquity. Young Magpies were noisily clambering about the branches around their nest. Along this length we took specimens of the robber-flies *Dioctria rufipes* and *D. baumhaueri*. Further down the nature of this track changed: the trackway was wider and used for farm and private vehicles, the sides were grassier and the hedges cut back in width and height to form typical agricultural hedges. Light levels were much greater. We heard Skylarks and noted Common Carpet and Silver-ground Carpet moths. A Wasp Beetle and a Two-spot Ladybird were seen on the hedgerow plants together with a foraging *Bombus pascuorum* and our last butterfly species of the day, a Red Admiral.

The lane led to the minor public road from Seisdon to Claverley. We walked back along this road over the escarpment to our car and drove home via Claverley, giving us an opportunity to drive along and back through the geological SSSI rock cutting just outside the village.

Ian Thompson

21-22 June 2008: Attingham Park, including moth-trapping overnight (present: C. Derry, I. Thompson and – 22nd only – R. Iremonger)

Grid reference: Warden's House SJ561102

This was a moth-trapping night held in the vicinity of the Head Warden Bob Thurston's house. On this occasion two traps were used, one a Robinson type with an MV lamp, the other a Skinner trap fitted with an actinic tube. The Skinner trap was set near the house, adjacent to the chicken pen (the meadow used last year being occupied by a ram) and the Robinson at the very edge of the garden under a Hawthorn tree in an area next to the woodland edge and some long grass. The traps were timed to go on at 22:30 and off at 03:30 and 05:00 the following day.

Of the conditions we would wish to avoid, only the strength of the wind was a concern. On the morning of the 22nd the wind was quite strong and an earlier start than planned was made. The catch comprised the following species:

Microlepidoptera

Small Magpie
Tortrix viridana
Celypha lacunana

Agapeta hamana
Hedya dimidioalba

Macrolepidoptera

Blotched Emerald	Heart & Dart	Shoulder-striped Wainscot
Green Carpet	Flame	Grey Dagger/Dark Dagger
Barred Straw	Flame Shoulder	Bird's Wing
Sandy Carpet	Large Yellow Underwing	Middle-barred Minor
Peppered Moth	Setaceous Hebrew Character	Treble Lines
Engrailed	Ingrailed Clay	Spectacle
Clouded Silver	Green Arches	Straw Dot
Elephant Hawk-moth	Grey Arches	Snout
Buff-tip	Common Wainscot	

An exact count of individuals was not made, though species such as *T. viridana* and the Middle-barred Minor were in some numbers, and the total catch was well in excess of 50 individuals. The most spectacular species was a single Elephant Hawk-moth and the most interesting a single specimen of the Bird's Wing.

Both traps contained a mass of caddis flies. With the direction of the wind it seemed likely that most had been blown across from nearby pools in the deer park rather than having arrived upwind from a pool in the woodland. Those in the Skinner trap were collected for later identification (details still awaited). There were few other species by way of a bycatch. A single Hawthorn Shieldbug *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale* was in the Robinson trap and a single ephemeropteran, a ♀ *Baetis* species imago, was in the Skinner. Some females of this genus cannot be identified to species level; this specimen could have been one of five closely-related species.

By the time we had identified our catch the wind was strengthening noticeably and the staff closed Attingham Park to the public because of the risk of falling trees or branches. This made a considerable restriction on our planned field trip around the park for the day as invertebrates would be hard to find in the prevailing conditions. Nonetheless, we went through part of the woodland normally closed to public access and part of the deer park where it had been extended into the woodland block. In a sheltered clearing we saw a single Speckled Wood which flew up into the canopy on being disturbed, and heard a Jay depart. Some hoverflies were in evidence and *Volucella bombylans* and *V. pellucens* were noted. Searches of rotting fallen trees produced only woodlice.

Our route took us as far as the left bank of the River Tern above the suspension bridge. At this point the air was relatively calm. In the streamside vegetation we found good numbers of Large Red Damselflies and numerous *Bombus pascuorum* workers on the flowers of Comfrey. By the bridge we noted a single *Bombus pratorum*, also on Comfrey, a teneral specimen of the drab form of the female Common Blue Damselfly, a Small Skipper and a Narrow-bordered Five-Spot Burnet moth.

As the wind got stronger we heard a loud report of a splitting Crack-willow on the opposite side of the river and on re-entering the wood we found the path blocked by the large branch from a Sycamore. Given the decision to close the park to visitors we decided to return to our cars. Little could be heard above the wind but we did note a family of Great Spotted Woodpeckers and in quieter periods a Chiffchaff was monotonously calling. On the way back we saw that several nest boxes, made and erected by a local junior school in an area of coppice, had had their entrance holes enlarged. Ron Iremonger plans, when time permits, to bring a ladder and investigate as to whether the damage is by teeth or beaks.

By the time that we left, the wind had reached speeds where trees were shedding many small branches (and no doubt some large ones) and a great quantity of leaves.

Ian Thompson

13 July 2008: Secret Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms (present: J. Mason, W. Rudge, I. Thompson)

Grid reference: Discovery Centre SO435824

We had a reasonable and dry day for the second visit of the year to this site. From the car park we went round the back of the centre and walked along the footpath through the grass area which lies along the A49. The vegetation was all well grown and many plants were in flower. Numerous patches of Lady's Bedstraw were noted together with Tufted Vetch, Red Campion and Meadow Crane's-bill, all three of which were widespread. In some areas Yellow-rattle was in evidence. We found some plants of Welled Thistle and in two places clumps of Musk-mallow, including some plants with white flowers. Spindle was noted in the hedge to the east. Throughout the whole of this area we saw considerable numbers of *Bombus lapidarius* busy collecting pollen from a variety of the flowers. We also found a few individuals of both *Bombus pascuorum* and *B. terrestris*. Ringlets and Meadow Browns were both numerous and active and a few Burnet moths were noted but not identified to species. Overhead was a good number of House Martins.

We passed through a patch of small trees and a gate into the large field which forms the southernmost part of the site bounded on two sides by the A49 and the River Onny. The nature of this area is very different from the first, with one part having some heaps of rubble and spoil where structures have been removed, being in effect a brownfield site. We immediately came across plants typical of this type of habitat including Oriental Poppies, Common Ragwort, Rosebay Willowherb and much Creeping Thistle. The presence of Scarlet Pimpernel attested to the previous agricultural use of this limited area. Although several Meadow Browns were noted the Ringlets, previously numerous, were absent here.

Our route took us down to the Onny at a point just upstream of the main road bridge where, because of the weir on the other side of the road, there is a large pool with little noticeable current. Just a short distance from the river bank a large shallow depression in the field had a luxuriant covering of the grasses Bearded Couch and Meadow Foxtail. The river was very coloured for this time of year as a result of recent rain. Several fish were rising in the pool, the nature of the rises suggesting Grayling rather than Brown Trout. Along a length of 100m or so of river bank we noted Large Red Damselfly, Banded Demoiselle and White-legged Damselfly, none of them in any numbers.

Several mature trees line the riverside at this point and in one of them there was the old nest of a Carrion Crow. From our earlier visit John Mason was aware of this and had brought with him a set of poles, hoping to recover the nest for examination for fleas. In the event it proved to be still too high even at the maximum reach available. A Grey Squirrel was disturbed which took to the upper branches of a large Alder. Only 200m or so of river bank is easily accessible in this area and we found Hemlock Water-dropwort, Indian Balsam, Meadowsweet and Marsh Woundwort in some low damp spots and Lesser Stitchwort and some patches of Pink Purslane on drier ground. We headed back northwards, being forced to skirt around a large patch of Brambles and thistles where we noted a Straw Dot, a fine specimen of a Comma and workers of *Bombus terrestris/lucorum*.

To get back to the centre of the site and our intended lunch stop we crossed a wet ditch by way of a bridge. This ditch was choked with plants of Reed Canary-grass, Branched Bur-reed and Water-plantain. Deep among these stems were some male damselflies but we were unable to get a good enough view for an identification. The path from the bridge took us to the river bank which comprised a steep earth cliff at this point. As we arrived so too did a Kingfisher which hovered in front of us for a few seconds before dashing off downstream while screeching an alarm call.

A short distance away was a picnic table and benches overlooking the main pool, where we lunched for an extended period due no doubt to the warm weather and the unusual situation for a field trip of having a comfortable seat. Whilst at this spot we watched the birds on the pool, a Dabchick with four young and families of both Coot and Moorhen whose broods, because they were scattered amongst the vegetation, proved impossible to count accurately.

We spent the majority of the rest of our time around the pools. Several small Common Frogs were noted but the main objects of interest were the dragonflies. There were only four species. The Common Blue

Damselfly was found in numbers on both the pools. We caught some of the females to examine more closely the features to look for in making a visual field identification. The Blue-tailed Damselfly was numerous on the smaller, more heavily vegetated pool. Two Emperor Dragonflies were hawking constantly over both water bodies, while Black-tailed Skimmers were noted perched in typical fashion on the exposed mud at the pool edges whilst making their flights out over surrounding vegetation and grassland rather than over the water. By this strategy they kept away from competition and probable aggression from the larger species. The day's last new sighting was a Buzzard which wheeled overhead.

Our way back to the car park was via an area of gardens at the north-eastern corner of the site. We saw several more *Bombus lapidarius* nectaring on a variety of wild and cultivated plants. The Discovery Centre site as a whole must have contained several nests of this species this year.

Ian Thompson

3 August 2008: Tantree Bank, Rowley Farm (present: J. Mason, I. Thompson, N. Jones, W. Rudge)

Grid reference: Rowley Farm SJ298060

In weather which was overcast with sunny spells, but quite cool with a stiff breeze at times, four members met at Rowley Farm and were welcomed by the farmer, Mr Robert Price, following which the group set out along a hedged track. Soon after we set off we saw a Sparrowhawk fly by. Turning into a field below us, we walked downhill along the edge of two fields, where we noted Scalloped Oak moth, Gatekeepers, *Bombus terrestris/lucorum* workers, the dark form of *Bombus hortorum* and two individuals of the tachinid fly *Eurithia anthophila*.

Soon we reached the first of two meadows that run alongside Brockton Brook, directly below and south of Millbank. The first of these meadows held a variety of butterflies on its upper slope, where we noted good numbers of Gatekeeper and Meadow Brown, supplemented by smaller numbers and individuals of Ringlet, Green-veined White, Small White, Large White, Small Copper, Common Blue and Small Skipper. Also in this meadow was a nymph of Common Earwig *Forficula auricularia*, the Common Green Grasshopper was heard stridulating, and a few Meadow Grasshoppers were seen. We then proceeded around the field, recording a number of hoverflies:

<i>Chrysogaster solstitialis</i>	<i>Epistrophe grossulariae</i>	<i>Episyrphus balteatus</i>
<i>Eristalis arbustorum</i>	<i>E. interruptus</i>	<i>E. pertinax</i>
<i>E. tenax</i>	<i>Melangyna cinctella</i>	<i>Melanostoma mellinum</i>
<i>Platycheirus albimanus</i>	<i>Rhingia campestris</i>	<i>Syrphus ribesii</i>
<i>Syrirta pipiens</i>	<i>Volucella pellucens</i>	

Other diptera noted were the tachinid fly *Eriothrix rufomaculata* on thistle flowers, the ubiquitous dung-fly *Scathophaga stercoraria*, the large glossy black 'Noon Fly' *Mesembrina meridiana* (Muscidae) and the common sepsid fly *Sepsis cynipsea*. A number of Bumblebees were at flowers and we noted numerous *Bombus lapidarius*, *B. pascuorum*, male *B. lucorum* and a new queen of *B. terrestris*. There were also a number of indeterminate *B. lucorum/terrestris* workers. Honeybees *Apis mellifera* were also present.

We proceeded into a second field, which was bordered by the Brockton Brook. In the corner of the field was a small pond, fenced off from the main field and with dense rough vegetation surrounding it. This had many thistles in flower. The thistles were attracting many insects, particularly Diptera, and we recorded:

<i>Cheilosia illustrata</i>	<i>Cheilosia pagana</i>	<i>Cheilosia proxima</i>
<i>Eristalis intricarius</i>	<i>Helophilus pendulus</i>	<i>Lejogaster metallina</i>
<i>Neoscia podagrica</i>	<i>Platycheirus granditarsus</i>	<i>Ripponensia splendens</i>
<i>Xylota segnis</i>	<i>Physocephala rufipes</i>	<i>Dolichopus griseipennis</i>
<i>Rhagio tringarius</i>	<i>Empis tumida</i>	<i>Tetanocera hyalipennis</i>
<i>Opomyza florum</i>	<i>Graphomyia maculata</i>	<i>Ptychoptera contaminata</i>

The pond had attracted several species of Odonata: Blue-tailed Damselfly, Common Blue Damselfly, Emerald Damselfly and Common Darter. Also in the vicinity of the pond were *Bombus lapidarius*, Small Skipper, Large and Small Whites. A young Common Frog was noted in the pond enclosure.

Climbing back out of this enclosure we came to some riverside Alders, at the bottom of one of which were some tiny, golden tinged moths which we did not identify. Lunch beckoned and we climbed a steep bank before sitting down amongst some attractive grassland containing Burnet-saxifrage, Betony, Fairy Flax and much Common Knapweed. This meadow appeared to be very promising for invertebrates, as there were numerous shallow, exposed banks of friable soil, ideal for ground-nesting bees and wasps. However a strong, cool breeze resulted in little evident insect activity, so we encountered only two new aculeates, the bee *Andrena dorsata* and the mason wasp *Symmorphus bifasciatus*. The common beetle *Oedemera nobilis* and the hoverfly *Paragus haemorrhous* were also noted in this field.

The wind was now blowing so strongly that we decided to seek shelter from its cooling effects by entering woodland which occupied a sheltered position at the bottom and sides of a steep valley. Once in the woodland we found that invertebrates were more evident in its relative warmth. There were new species of hoverfly to be seen here:

Melanostoma mellinum
Rhingia rostrata

Melangyna umbellatarum
Sphegina clunipes

Cheilosia proxima
Xylota sylvarum

On flowers of Upright Hedge-parsley there were numbers of the tiny hoverfly *Neoascia podagrica*, and several of the long-legged tachinid fly *Dexiosoma caninum* were resting on leaves. An impressive Southern Hawker flew past us. Other insects seen were Speckled Wood, Nettle Tap moth, Vapourer moth larvae, the longhorn beetle *Rutpelia maculata*, the bee *Sphecodes geoffrellus*, and the wasps *Vespula rufa* (male) and *Dolichovespula sylvestris*. A crane-fly identified later by Pete Boardman was the local *Pedicia littoralis*.

Growing in a very wet section of the woodland track was a patch of Herb Paris, the botanical find of the day, being a first vice-county record for square SJ20.

We climbed out of the woodland on a steep path and found our way back into open fields, where the cool conditions suppressed invertebrate activity. In the sheltered lee of a patch of scrub a Red Admiral and a Large White flew about, and we found a male of the mining bee *Lasioglossum albipes*. In this area there was a lot of Heath Groundsel. Next we investigated a roadside patch of Gorse and Hogweed, where another *Dolichovespula sylvestris* and the leaf-roller weevil *Apoderus coryli* were noted. From here we made our way back to Rowley Farm along a track lined by a tall hedgerow where we found and photographed Magpie and Yellow-tail moths. From here we soon reached Rowley Farm and our cars. We returned, satisfied with a reasonable day's recording, that had been somewhat beset by cool and windy conditions.

Nigel Jones

23-24 August 2008: Attingham Park and Ravenshaws Gorse, including moth trapping overnight (present: G. Blunt, I. Thompson and on 24th only R. Iremonger, N. Jones, J. Mason, W. Rudge)

Grid references: Warden's House SJ561102; pool on south side of Ravenshaws Gorse SJ579106

This was the last of the 2008 programmed moth-trapping visits to Attingham using the same site as before.

Two traps were employed at the Warden's house, both using MV lamps. A Robinson trap was placed in the same position as our last visit and a Skinner trap in an area of long grass between the woodland and the road leading up to the workshop. The traps were put on at 21:00, the Skinner trap timed to switch off at 06:30 and the Robinson stayed on until our arrival next morning. Bob Thurston removed the light unit from the Skinner and covered the trap well before our arrival.

Conditions looked promising with only light showers forecast, a humid night and cloud cover negating the moonlight. Unfortunately quite heavy rain fell during the early hours of Sunday morning. As a result of this the Skinner trap got quite wet inside; the resultant catch was very small, but whether this was because rain had affected the catch or whether moths had escaped before the trap was covered was impossible to tell. The catch in the Robinson trap was good.

The following moth species were recorded. Numbers in brackets after the name represent the number of individuals caught, if more than one.

Macrolepidoptera

Pale Eggar	Small Square-spot (19)
Pine Carpet	Setaceous Hebrew Character (20)
Bordered Pug	Six-striped Rustic (9)
Brimstone Moth	Square-spot Rustic (12)
Canary-shouldered Thorn (3)	Smoky Wainscot (2)
Poplar Hawk-moth	Common Wainscot (11)
Ruby Tiger (2)	Copper Underwing (12)
Dark Sword-grass	Dun-bar (3)
Flame Shoulder (10)	Dark Arches
Large Yellow Underwing (84)	Flounced Rustic (7)
Lesser Yellow Underwing (5)	Nut-tree Tussock (2)
Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	Straw Dot (9)
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing (5)	

Microlepidoptera

Mother of Pearl (2)	<i>Numonia advenella</i>
<i>Acleris rhombana</i> (2)	<i>Agriphila tristella</i>

The bycatch included six Hornets *Vespa crabro*, four sexton beetles *Nicrophorus investigator*, the shield-bug *Pentatoma rufipes* and numerous caddis flies, which on this occasion were not collected, although the readily-identified *Limnephilus lunatus* occurred in some numbers. Before we cleared away our equipment and left the site dragonflies were seen hawking around an oak tree in the vicinity of Bob's beehive. These proved to be a Common Darter and a Migrant Hawker. Both perched long enough to permit good views with binoculars. Other species noted nearby were Common Green Grasshopper and a large orange tachinid fly *Tachina fera*.

After we had finished with our traps, Ron Iremonger drove us to the vicinity of Ravenshaws Gorse in a National Trust vehicle. We approached this site from the south-west corner where the current OS map shows a pool at the edge of the wood. Due to a combination of planting and scrub encroachment this pool is now surrounded by trees and bushes and access to the water is very limited. In the wet area at the pool's edge we noted Common Centaury and several fruiting spikes of Southern Marsh-orchid. At this spot were collected the small, strikingly-marked beetle *Endomychus coccineus* (this is quite an uncommon species) and the hoverflies *Helophilus pendulus* and *Syritta pipiens*. A single Speckled Wood, a mating pair of Ruddy Darters and an Emerald Damselfly were in evidence. A scorpion fly was noted but we were unable to make an identification to species. The leaves of a small Horse-chestnut tree were very badly affected by both the mines of the micro-moth *Cameraria ohridella* and the fungus *Guignardia aesculi*.

We walked along the south-eastern side of the wood in pleasant sunshine out of the wind. A broad, uncultivated field margin exists along this edge; the wood is quite dense along this boundary and generally difficult to access because of much Bramble (the blackberries tasted good) and tall nettle-beds. We were surprised to see the extensive damage to Horse-chestnut trees within the wood by the earlier-mentioned fungus and micro-moth mines, so much so that in a dry summer with the trees under greater stress one could imagine some losses might occur. We contented ourselves with exploring the margin where we found a good assemblage of invertebrate species. The butterflies noted were Small, Large and Green-

veined Whites, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Comma, Small Copper, Common and Holly Blues. There were a few dragonflies – ♂ and ♀ Emerald Damselflies, Common Darter and Migrant Hawker. The bumblebees *Bombus pascuorum*, *B. lapidarius* and *B. lucorum/terrestris* were noted as were Seven-spot Ladybird, the shieldbug *Palomena prasina*, the Field Grasshopper and Common Groundhopper.

Diptera were also well represented here, and we collected the crane-flies *Tipula fulvipennis* and *T. paludosa*; tachinids *Tachina fera* (several) and *Eriothrix rufomaculata* (in numbers on Common Ragwort); hoverflies *Sphaerophoria scripta* and *Xylota segnis*; the snail-killing fly *Coremacera marginata*; a robber-fly *Machimus atricapillus* eating a crane-fly (Limoniidae sp.), and a member of the Pipunculidae of the genus *Cephalops* – possibly *C. semifumosus*.

We stopped for lunch on this sheltered side, where a Common Lizard darted under the Brambles and a Buzzard wheeled overhead. Lunch taken, a path through the damp, rather dark wood took us past some crumbling ruins of small brick buildings which had been part of the old airfield infrastructure. The flat-footed fly *Paraplatypeza atra* was noted running about in characteristic fashion on Sycamore leaves here. Deeper within the wood good views were obtained of a ♀ Southern Hawker, while *Rhaphium caliginosum* (Dolichopodidae), several *Norellisoma spinimanum* (Scathophagidae) and the smart two-banded hoverfly *Chrysotoxum bicinctum* were found. This area also produced more Lepidoptera to be added to our lists – a Red Admiral and a Nettle Tap.

On emerging from the wood on the north-west side we found no field margin immediately adjacent to the woodland, but a few metres from the trees and parallel to them a strip had been planted either as a stewardship feature or a game cover strip (or both). The planted species comprised the following - Common Millet, Buckwheat, Sunflowers, Maize and Phacelia. Other species present would more probably have occurred as arable weeds. Those that were noted included Black-bindweed, Creeping Thistle, Common Ragwort, Common Fumitory, Bugloss, Fat-hen, Black Nightshade, Small Nettle, a Mayweed (probably Scentless) and possibly Charlock. Although the wind on this side of the wood was quite blustery the flowers proved popular with invertebrates, particularly Diptera. Our records from observations and collections produced the following:

Diptera:

Hoverflies, mostly nectaring on Mayweed and Ragwort: *Eristalis tenax*, *E. pertinax*, *E. arbustorum*, *E. interruptus*, *E. intricarius*, *Platycheirus albimanus*, *P. granditarsus*, *P. scutatus*, *P. peltatus*, *Dasysyrphus albostrigatus*, *Eupeodes luniger*, *Sphaerophoria scripta*, *Syrphus ribesii*, *Cheilosia bergenstammi*, *C. impressa*, *C. pagana*, *C. vernalis*, *Rhingia campestris*, *Eristalinus sepulchralis*, *Helophilus hybridus*, *H. pendulus*, *Myathropa florea*, *Volucella pellucens*, *Syrirta pipiens*.

Tachinidae: *Eriothrix rufomaculata*, one splendid large ♂ *Phasia hemiptera* and several *P. obesa*.

Muscidae: *Graphomyia maculata*

Conopidae: the hymenoptera-parasitic species *Conops quadrfasciata* (2) and *Physocephala rufipes*.

Tipulidae: *Tipula fulvipennis*

One area of the strip, particularly thick with Phacelia and thistles and with many Sunflowers, was popular with White butterflies and bumblebees, all of species already recorded. This is where the conopid flies were found. Other Hymenoptera seen were the mason wasp *Ancistrocerus nigricornis* (2), plus the bees *Andrena subopaca*, *A. wilkella* and *Sphecodes ephippius* (2). Our tally of Lepidoptera was augmented by sightings of Cinnabar caterpillars and Silver Y moth. The final discoveries were of the galls of the gall-midges *Rhabdophaga salicis* and *R. strobilina* (= *cinerarium*) on Grey Willow.

We returned to our cars after a long, hard day with a goodly list from these two areas of the Attingham estate.

Ian Thompson

14 September 2008: Secret Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms (present: G. Blunt)

Grid reference: Discovery Centre SO4435824

This return visit to the Discovery Centre coincided with the fledging of many of the birds which had been holding territory on our earlier visits. Almost immediately on stepping from my car I heard the characteristic calls of a Long-tailed Tit family, which I soon located as they worked their way along the Blackthorn hedge near the centre. Close by were Goldfinches feeding on Creeping Thistle heads, while the Nuthatches which had probably nested by the Onny were now feeding their young on Rose hips and Elderberries in the shrubberies. Great and Blue Tits, Mistle Thrush, Robin and Blackbird all had families, and the persistent calling of a young Buzzard came from a wood across the river. Moorhen, Grey Wagtail and Kingfisher were by the Onny, but there was no sign of young of any of these three species.

Distinctive in this season is the musky scent of Indian Balsam along river-banks and in damp areas. Here, in a ditch not far beyond the centre, grew Indian Balsam, its normally pink flowers replaced by white; these were clearly enjoyed by a hymenopteran whose body was so covered with the plant's white pollen that it took me some time to determine it as one of the social wasps. A *Bombus pascuorum* on the same plant was more readily identified. Later, beside the footpath which leads downstream of the Onny, I found more Indian Balsam, this time hosting the leaf mines of the agromyzid fly *Phytoliriomyza melampyga*. Other plants noted in flower near the river included Water Forget-me-not, Hedge Woundwort, Common Hemp-nettle, Wild Angelica and Yarrow. On my return to the centre I walked through a shrubbery near the main road, adding Musk-mallow and Meadow Crane's-bill to the day's floral record.

My investigation of invertebrate life was somewhat desultory. I noted that the Blackthorn hedge held adults and nymphs of the Hawthorn Shieldbug *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*, and I recorded the hoverfly *Volucella bombylans*, Speckled Wood and Red Admiral butterflies, and Nettle Tap moth. My main purpose, however, was to investigate the leaf mines and plant galls of the locality in preparation for a workshop there on 4 October; I found several which I would find again in October and which are detailed on page 17. To those can be added the following which I recorded on 14 September only:

Biorhiza pallida gall on Pedunculate Oak
Dasineura tympani gall on Field Maple
Eriophyes laevis gall on Alder

Eriosoma ulmi gall on Wych Elm
Phyllonorycter coryli mine on Hazel
Psyllopsis fraxini gall on Ash

Godfrey Blunt

12 October 2008: Bury Ditches and Sunnyhill Wood (present: I. Thompson, N. Jones, J. Mason, W. Rudge, G. Blunt)

Grid reference: car park SO334839

This was a true Indian summer's day, a very sunny and warm finale to our year's programme of field trips, and every bit a match for the weather of our highly successful visit here in May 2007. We decided to reverse the route of that previous visit, and so left the car park up the steep slope towards the hill fort.

We had not gone far when a Comma, a gorgeous fresh insect, was seen basking on an Ash bole, giving us notice that we might not have to work too hard to locate insects today. And so it proved. The Silver Y, Seven-spot Ladybird, Sloe Bug *Dolycoris baccarum*, Green Shieldbug *Palomena prasina* and bumblebee *Bombus pascuorum* were readily located along this track, as were the common hoverflies *Eristalis tenax* and *E. pertinax*, and the flies *Tephritis formosa* (Tephritidae) and *Opomyza florum* (Opomyzidae). Galls of the gall-midge *Dasineura urticae* were present on Common Nettle and mines of the Lepidoptera *Stigmella aurella* on Bramble, *S. floslactella* and *S. microtheriella* on Hazel, and *Parornix anglicella* on Hawthorn. However, this stretch of footpath was most notable for the diversity of galls present on Sessile Oak. Shrubby saplings were galled by several different gall-wasps, and we spent some time identifying and photographing them. Our tally here was:

Andricus kollari
A. lignicola
Cynips divisa
Cynips quercusfolii
Neuroterus albipes
N. anthracinus
N. numismalis

Goldcrest, Nuthatch and Green Woodpecker were heard in the woods and Raven called overhead. As we reached the impressive ramparts which flank the hill fort two Buzzards joined in the overhead activities, and we flushed about 20 Meadow Pipits from the open grassland.

We had not progressed very far in terms of distance, but it was by now already lunchtime, so we settled on one of the hill fort's ramparts for our meal. Red Clover was in flower here, and a Red Admiral landed on Bill Rudge's leg as we ate. John Mason found a weevil which proved to be *Rhinoncus castor* among its larval foodplant Sheep's Sorrel.

After lunch we explored the rest of the ancient site and found that the irregular ground created small sun-traps in hollows where Western Gorse and Spear Thistles grew and a couple of Silver Ys, two Small Tortoiseshells, a Small Copper and a young *Bombus lucorum* queen were busily foraging. The Nettle Tap moth was also in evidence here, as was a Field Grasshopper, and another heavily-galled oak sapling was found. The bumblebee *Bombus pascuorum* and ant *Formica lemni* were also present, along with the hoverflies *Platycheirus albimanus* and *Helophilus pendulus*. A Skylark flew overhead on migration.

At this point we left the hill fort and proceeded on a footpath which runs along the top of a wood, initially a plantation of pine but soon merging into mixed deciduous woodland. Some late-flowering plants here included Red Campion, Nipplewort, Herb-Robert, Wood Avens, Selfheal and Hedge Woundwort, all typical and common woodland species of this area, plus Wild Basil, which is unusual here. A few Stink-horn fungi were making their distinctive presence known. Here we added two further hymenopteran galls on Sessile Oak: *Andricus quercusbaccarum* (which was not common), and *Andricus fecundator*, plus galls of the gall-midge *Dasineura ulmaria* on Meadowsweet. Leaves of this last plant also hosted mines of the agromyzid fly *Agromyza idaeiana*, while nearby Hedge Woundwort had mines of the related *Amauromyza labiatarum*.

A little way long this track we reached a junction and followed the footpath down through the mixed woodland. Common Froghoppers *Philaenus spumarius* were in the track-side vegetation, and we encountered mines of the micro-moth *Stigmella splendidissimella* and a sawfly *Metallus* species (probably *M. albipes*) on Raspberry, plus a fine specimen of Spruce Carpet, an Orange Ladybird and the fly *Diastata fuscata* (Diatatidae). Galls of the gall-midge *Hartigiola annulipes* and mines of the micro-moths *Phyllonorycter maestingella*, *Stigmella tityrella* and *S. hemargyrella* were readily found on Beech at this point. The woods echoed to the calls of several birds, including Pheasant, Buzzard, Jay and Raven, while a Robin practised its autumn song.

Further down the track we came out upon the main gravel road through the wood, where we turned east towards the car park. Speckled Wood and Nettle Tap were among our first finds here, along with a Rose infested with Robin's Pincushion galls *Diplolepis rosae*. Wild Basil grew here too. We continued to find a wealth of mines and galls, and a good patch of Colt's-foot leaves prompted us to search for the uncommon tephritid fly *Acidia cognata*. Mines we did find, but they were old ones and we did not satisfactorily identify them, though they may indeed have been those of *A. cognata*. As the day wore on we found a convenient bench, near which a Comma was feeding on the juices of over-ripe blackberries, offering us a good opportunity for photography. Another Field Grasshopper was found nearby, a large *Bombus terrestris* queen was abroad, and Nettle Tap was located for a second time that day. Three Siskins which flew calling overhead added to the day's list of birds and gave an autumnal feel to proceedings. As we neared our cars we came across a Field Maple which played host to galls of three mite species – *Aceria aceriscampestre*, *A. macrochelus* and *A. eriobius*.

Another excellent field trip to this highly rewarding locality can be rounded off with further leaf mines which we collected at various points on our day's itinerary:

Gall-midges

Phytomyza spondylia mine on Hogweed

P. angelicastris mine on Wild Angelica

Microlepidoptera

Caloptilia syringella mine on Ash

Phyllonorycter nicellii mine on Hazel

Tischeria ekebladella mines on Pedunculate Oak, Sessile Oak and Turkey Oak

Sawfly

Scolioneura betuleti mine on Silver Birch

Godfrey Blunt



Insects from 23-24 August field trip to Attingham Park and Ravenshaws Gorse:

Top left *Endomychus coccineus*

Top right *Machimus atricapillus* with Limoniidae prey.

Middle left Poplar Hawk-moth

Middle right Flame Shoulder

Bottom left Pale Eggar

Bottom right *Nicrophorus investigator*

Photos by Nigel Jones

Members' individual activities 2008

John Mason

This year my wife Ann and I have continued to divide our time between Shropshire and Somerset and many of the wildlife records relate to observations in or from our gardens at Bayston Hill (BH) and Wedmore respectively.

Shropshire

Birds: Swifts were first noticed flying over the fields behind our house in BH on 29 April and again at Ellesmere on 3 May; on the latter date I also explored the ramparts of Oswestry Old Hill Fort seeing several singing male Yellowhammers.

Invertebrates: On a morning walk to the paper shop in BH on 26 January I spotted a Comma basking in sunshine on a grassy roadside bank by the A49. This must be the earliest I've seen. A Peacock was in our garden on 5 February, while on 8 February Ann pointed out a dead beetle *Dytiscus* species, probably *marginalis*, outside the B&Q store at Harlescott. On 3 April I liberated a Small Tortoiseshell fluttering at the window after overwintering in our garage; Peacock and Brimstone were in my garden on the same day, and Holly Blue appeared there on 29 April. I again saw Peacock on 3 May at Ellesmere, along with Orange Tip; and our garden at BH produced Orange Tip, Speckled Wood, Brimstone and Holly Blue on 7 May, Southern Hawker on 16 July and Gatekeeper on 17 July.

Botany: another good show of Snowdrops, this time at Winsley Hall, Westbury, on 16 February; Marsh-marigold and Cuckooflower were in bloom at Ellesmere on 3 May; I counted 74 spikes of Ivy Broomrape in our garden on 14 July; while at Lyth Hill on 8 November I saw late flowers of Field Scabious, Fox-and-cubs, White Dead-nettle and Common Knapweed.

Somerset

Birds: A Heron was at Shapwick on 30 January, and Little Egret and Reed Bunting at the RSPB reserve at Greylake on 24 April. We watched the progress of the young Carrion Crows in a nest in an Ash tree behind our house from early May until foliage obscured the view. Swallows were present on 10 May, and a Green Woodpecker was in Wedmore on 30 May. On an outing with the Somerset Wildlife Trust on 24 June I recorded Tree Pipit at Priddy Mineries and Nightjars displaying at Stockhill plantation.

Invertebrates: Garden sightings at Wedmore included Small Tortoiseshell on 10 February and Southern Hawker on 22 June. A walk along a lane in Wedmore produced Magpie moth, Common Darter dragonfly and Gatekeeper on 29 August, while on the same day our garden was full of insect life: Red Admiral, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell, Large White, Meadow Brown, Migrant Hawker, Speckled Bush-cricket and the hoverfly *Helophilus trivittatus*.

During the summer we had numerous sightings elsewhere in Somerset, including Emperor Dragonfly, Large Blue butterfly, Ringlet and Marbled White all at Collard Hill (22 June); Speckled Wood, Marbled White and Small Skipper at Sand Point (24 July); and Dark and Great Green Bush-crickets heard singing from hedgerows around Axbridge and Cheddar (28 July). During September there were plenty of butterflies around Somerset, with six Small Tortoiseshells on Orpine in our garden on the 13th, more in Wells along with Red Admirals on the following day; and two Commas, two Speckled Woods and a Red Admiral seen in gardens at Dunster Castle on 19 September. On this date at Dunster we picnicked under an oak tree that was home to a Hornets' *Vespa crabro* nest, found after we noticed an abnormally large number of Hornets buzzing past.

Botany: Lesser Meadow-rue, Crosswort and Salad Burnet were with many other limestone plants in Velvet Bottom on 19 June; Pyramidal Orchids, Common Restharrow, Quaking-grass, Field Madder and Lady's Bedstraw were all recorded at Collard Hill (22 June); Moonwort and Sea Campion were growing on lead

spoil at Priddy Mineries (24 June); and Tree-mallow, Sea Spurge, Sea Rocket, Lyme Grass and Strawberry Clover were amongst the seaside flora at Sand Bay on 24 July, the same date as we encountered Slender and Carline Thistles, Ivy Broomrape and Wild Marjoram on Sand Point.

Ian Thompson

2008 was a disappointing year in many respects. The weather for much of the time was poor and not conducive to field work. Accordingly I did not undertake many trips other than the SIG programme, the Wildlife Survey Group outings, principally to Fordhall Farm, and a couple of one-day courses.

Shropshire

Birds: In earlier years I have mentioned a male Chaffinch in our garden with 'white' scaly legs. This year one was present on a feeder on 30 January, and on 2 February the same bird (or possibly another) was on the ground under the feeder. This bird had one leg worse than the other and the condition appeared to cause a slight incapacity. It seems improbable that this bird was the same individual seen in previous years.

Some recorded sightings this year have been:

- Two Song Thrushes in my garden at Meole Brace on 28 January and one singing later in the day from a nearby tree.
- Four (maybe five) Goosanders were on the Rea Brook on 26 February. I have often seen them in numbers on the Severn in winter, but not on this stream before.
- A Barn Owl at night on 23 March along the A458 about two miles south-east of Much Wenlock.
- The first Swift on 5 May in Belle Vue, Shrewsbury.
- On 7 May three Swallows were around the old farm buildings at Nobold which have now been converted to houses. It is hoped they found nest sites and food.
- House Martins were very late returning to our immediate locality. None was seen until 10 May.
- A single Grey Partridge (now rare) was at Arscott on 25 July.
- In Shrewsbury, with the river in flood, a Cormorant was seen perched drying its wings on partially submerged railings by Greyfriars footbridge. Several passers-by were looking at it and one was taking pictures on a mobile phone. Nearby at the edge of the floodwater were Mute Swan, Canada Goose and Mallard.
- Another infrequent visitor to the garden, a Goldcrest, was present on 18 November.

Invertebrates: Some first dates for this year:

- Bumblebee – *Bombus terrestris* in our garden on 7 February
- Ladybird – Seven-Spot in the garden on 9 February
- Orange Tip ♂ in the garden on 23 April
- Holly Blue in the garden on 3 May
- Gatekeeper ♂ at Neen Sollars on 21 July

And some late dates (both from the garden):

- Comma on 8 October
- Red Admiral on 18 November

Locally this appeared to be a good year for Holly Blues. In Shropshire as a whole Ringlets and Meadow Browns seem to have had a good year.

Moth trapping was undertaken at three sites this year. In addition to the SIG Attingham sessions I trapped at home on three occasions in May, July and September and at Ron Iremonger's garden in Shrewsbury on 9 August. The sessions at home produced a low total of 52 macro-moth species of which five had not been recorded in our trap before. The total species count for our garden now exceeds 100. The trap operated in the Shrewsbury garden was restricted to an actinic light because of the proximity of other properties. The catch comprised 25 macro and two micro species and surprisingly, given that the river Severn is not far

away, little else. The day before had been wet and the night dark and humid, but cool. The total count was not kept but there was a good number of Large Yellow Underwings – certainly in excess of 100.

Other records of interest include the finding in our garden of the Eyed Ladybird, the uncommon variant without the halos to the spots, on 1 May. On 6 July circa 50 bumblebees of four species were collecting pollen or nectar from our Lavender hedge. A moth species new to our site was the Pale Tussock, found first as an adult perched on a pergola post which offered poor camouflage on 9 June, then a caterpillar on 21 September on the inside of our recycling bin in which it must have been put with some garden rubbish.

Botany: My field notebooks record Lesser Celandines in flower on 6 February in Nobold; Bluebell leaves and those of Wood-sorrel on a south-facing slope at Upton Magna on 10 February; and Primroses and Wood Anemone in flower on 18 March near Stoke St. Milborough.

I was involved in five botanical surveys, three of them at Fordhall Farm, Market Drayton. Although a few uncommon plants were recorded I found this site disappointing; the variety of plants was less than I expected from a long-standing organic farm. There are no meadows, and much of the pasture is exceedingly wet without much variation in the habitats. The invertebrates, although only noted as incidental to the task in hand, were also not as numerous or varied as hoped. The poor weather may well have been responsible for the paucity in numbers, though.

Outside Shropshire

My wife Jo and I had a short holiday on the Gower from 19-23 May, based in Llanrhidian, Swansea, on the north side and just a short walk from the Loughor estuary. The weather was for the most part dry but it was very windy and rather cold for the time of year. It was a first visit to this area for either of us and we had no ideas of where we wanted to visit or what we hoped to see.

The Loughor is a renowned site for waders and wildfowl, but May is not a good time for them. We found Marsh-mallow growing along the edges of some tidal ditches. The birds of the estuary and saltmarshes were few with, in the main, only Mallard, Shelduck, Heron, a few Oystercatchers and Lapwings and a variety of immature gulls in evidence. By far the best species seen in this habitat were small numbers of Little Egrets, some of which could be approached quite closely. At Rhossili on the cliff-top good close views of Choughs were had, also a Peregrine. On the Broad Pool in the heathland area which is in the middle of the peninsula there was a pair of feral Greylag.

We spent most of one day at Oxwich in that part of the nature reserve which comprises the sand dunes and saltmarsh. The variety of flowering plants kept us busy for a whole morning. Good views of Stonechat were obtained and despite the relentless wind Common Blue and Brimstone butterflies were seen flying. In steep, narrow wooded valleys in the interior we found assemblages of luxuriant ferns, none rare, also the only dragonflies – Large Red Damselfly and Beautiful Demoiselle. Whilst watching the latter I realised that just a few feet away at eye level was the nest of a Mistle Thrush with young. When I withdrew a short distance the bird returned confidently to feed the brood. Another woodland, the National Trust-owned Bishopston Valley, whose small stream discharges into the sea at the deserted Pwll Du bay, proved a fine example of ancient woodland with many axiophytes of this habitat type to be found.

Our greatest disappointment was on the day we tried to visit the Whiteford Burrows nature reserve. Access was denied due to the activities, during the whole time of our stay, of the Royal Navy bomb disposal teams clearing ex-World War II munitions from the beaches. It seems incredible that this ordnance was disposed of so close to the shore that sixty years later it is still causing problems. On the small part of the dune system that we could access we found what were almost carpets of Burnet Rose growing so low to the ground that nothing was more than 100mm high. On Cwm Ivy Tor at the edge of the dunes we saw hundreds of Cowslips on the grassy ledges together with Marsh Pennywort.

Godfrey Blunt

Other than the Group's field trips most of my recording activities this year were outside Shropshire. The main exception was a day at the Secret Hills Discovery Centre, Craven Arms, on 4 October when I ran a Leaf Mines and Plant Galls workshop for the Shropshire Biodiversity Project. The event was successful and the participants located seven species of leaf miners and 21 of gall causers between the centre and the River Onny. The full list is:

Causer	Taxonomic group	Host plant
Galls		
<i>Andricus fecundator</i>	Hymenoptera: Cynipidae	<i>Quercus robur</i>
<i>A. kollari</i>	"	"
<i>A. lignicola</i>	"	"
<i>Cecidophyes galii</i>	Acari: Eriophyoidea	<i>Galium aparine</i>
<i>Claviceps purpurea</i> (ergot)	Hypocreales: Clavicipitaceae	<i>Lolium perenne</i>
<i>Cynips divisa</i>	Hymenoptera: Cynipidae	<i>Quercus robur</i>
<i>Dasineura acrophila</i>	Diptera: Cecidomyiidae	<i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>
<i>D. urticae</i>	"	<i>Urtica dioica</i>
<i>Diplolepis rosae</i>	Hymenoptera: Cynipidae	<i>Rosa</i> species
<i>Ditylenchus dipsaci</i>	Nematoda: Anguinidae	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>
<i>Eriophyes inangulis</i>	Acari: Eriophyoidea	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>
<i>E. leiosoma</i>	"	<i>Tilia x vulgaris</i>
<i>E. tiliae</i>	"	"
<i>Eriosoma lanigerum</i>	Hemiptera: Aphididae	<i>Malus</i> cultivar
<i>Jaapiella veronicae</i>	Diptera: Cecidomyiidae	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>
<i>Neuroterus albipes</i>	Hymenoptera: Cynipidae	<i>Quercus robur</i>
<i>N. anthracinus</i>	"	"
<i>N. numismalis</i>	"	"
<i>N. quercusbaccarum</i>	"	"
<i>Phyllocoptes goniothorax</i>	Acari: Eriophyoidea	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
<i>Pontania proxima</i>	Hymenoptera: Tenthredinidae	<i>Salix fragilis</i>
Leaf Mines		
<i>Parornix anglicella</i>	Lepidoptera: Gracillariidae	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
<i>P. finitimella</i>	"	<i>Prunus spinosus</i>
<i>Phytoliriomyza melampyga</i>	Diptera: Agromyzidae	<i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
<i>Phytomyza ranunculi</i>	"	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>
<i>P. spondylii</i>	"	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
<i>Stigmella aurella</i>	Lepidoptera: Nepticulidae	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.
<i>S. oxyacanthella</i>	"	<i>Malus</i> cultivar

Perhaps the most interesting of these were the mines of the agromyzid fly *Phytoliriomyza melampyga* on Indian Balsam. This is an example of an insect whose native host plant, Touch-me-not Balsam, is rare but which has successfully adapted to a more numerous introduced host. Now that I am familiar with the mine I will be searching other Indian Balsam stands in the county to see how frequent it is.

My garden in Alveley produced some interesting insects in summer. On 15 August a Humming-bird Hawk-moth flew around my front window as if it were seeking some late afternoon warmth, returning to do the same some time later. Generally it was a good year for migrants, with Large and Small Whites passing through the garden regularly in August and September whenever the weather was fine enough. Smaller numbers of Red Admirals and Migrant Hawk-moths accompanied them on occasion. While trimming my hedge on 7 September I came across larvae of Poplar Hawk-moth and Peppered Moth.

Further Shropshire invertebrate records for 2008 include an undated one of Clouded Yellow at Rhos Fiddle, reported to me by Robin Smith, plus other records which derive from specimens passed to me by Group members for identification. Among these were mines of *Chromatomyia horticola* on Purple Toadflax from Bayston Hill, 20 August (John Mason) and *C. scolopendri* on Hart's-tongue at Telford in October, from Charles Derry. Two imagines of microlepidoptera taken by Nigel Jones in 2007 and identified by me this year were *Pammene aurana* from Oakers Wood on 1 June and *Stigmella splendidissimella* at Lee Brockhurst on 28 June 2007.

My journey to work between Alveley and Wolverhampton held a surprise in 2008. One morning in mid-April I watched a male Marsh Harrier at Astley Bank near Alveley; it was flying across a field and might have been accompanied by a mate, but I did not get a good look at the second bird.

Outside Shropshire

This year I completed a long-term project on the invertebrates of a grassland site near Bristol. I was part of the University of Wolverhampton team engaged in translocating limestone grassland at Durnford Quarry from a site due for destruction to a prepared site nearby, followed by ten years of post-translocation monitoring. Our results were impressive: the new grassland developed a wonderful species-rich flora similar to the donor site in many details. The invertebrate fauna, however, held relatively little of interest in either donor or receptor site due to an annual hay cut, and I was not unhappy to bring the project to an end. Counting hordes of swept froghoppers *Philaenus spumarius* and grass-bugs *Leptopterna* spp. does lose its appeal rather quickly! The one interesting species I encountered in this final year of monitoring was the local and elusive woodlouse *Porcellio spinicornis*.

In late May I had a week's holiday in Kent. It is a county I had never visited before, and I went with a couple of friends who had some prior experience of the sites to look chiefly for rare and unfamiliar plants. The weather was generally awful. Nonetheless I found and photographed several specialities of the county, including Lizard, Man and Lady Orchids and Bedstraw Broomrape, plus others which were also new to me, such as Rough Dog's-tail, Curved Hard-grass, Broad-leaved Cudweed, Long-stalked Crane's-bill and Narrow-fruited Cornsalad. We were at exactly the right time for a fabulous show of Sea-kale on the shingle at Dungeness; and this site also produced our best Lepidoptera with Yellow Belle, Lackey caterpillar and the very local micro *Ethmia bipunctella*. Marsh Frog at Stodmarsh was new for me for Britain, and Cetti's Warbler gave some outstanding views at the same reserve.

My year concluded with a moth-trapping session at Worsbrough Park near Barnsley, South Yorkshire, on 27 September. Long ago, before I came to live in the West Midlands, this had been part of my 'local patch', but my trapping session there this year was my first since 1980. The commonest moth we found was the Light Brown Apple Moth, a species completely unknown to the county when I left it. The night was cool and not very productive, though Black Rustic was a good find for the locality. I was most pleased, however, to encounter Dark Chestnut on exactly the same hedgerow where I had met it as a 'lifer' for me almost three decades ago.

Nigel Jones

Following the very wet summer of 2007, 2008 was another poor year weather-wise. Both spring and summer were cool and often wet. Insect numbers were relatively low, nonetheless I encountered a very good diversity of species and made a number of interesting records which are summarised below. Some of the records are from specimens collected by Ian Cheeseborough and these are indicated by (IC).

DIPTERA - True Flies

Family: Syrphidae (Hoverflies)

The hoverfly season got off to a promising start at Riddles wood near Westcott on 16 April, where I recorded a single *Criorhina ranunculi* at *Salix* flowers. Later, on 22 April, both *C. ranunculi* and *Cheilosia albipila* were flying to *Salix* flowers. Another *C. ranunculi* was seen at Gamebuck Rough, Penley near Ellesmere, along with a *Heringia pubescens* on 2 May. *Brachyopa bicolor* is a nationally scarce fly of old

woodlands, so I was particularly pleased to record this species along with *B. scutellaris* at Attingham Park on 7 May. On 18 May another *B. bicolor* was noted on an oak that was seeping much sap. These are first county records for this insect. Also attracted to the sap runs on 20 May was another nationally scarce hoverfly *Ferdinandea ruficornis*; the sap runs were also heavily infested with *Ferdinandea* spp. larvae.

Also at Attingham Park on 16 June I encountered the scarce *Xylota xanthocnema* and on 24 June a *Pipizella virens*. On 1 August at Stevenshill, Cound, two more *F. ruficornis* were seen flying to flowers of Nettle-leaved Bellflower. I noted *Criorhina floccosa* on five occasions: 7 and 12 May and 2 June at Attingham Park, 24 April at Redhill near Hook-a-Gate, and 23 June at Spout Wood, Penley near Ellesmere. Its scarcer relative *C. asilica* was recorded at Attingham Park on 23 May and Tan Tree Bank, Rowley on 19 June. Also at Tan Tree Bank on the same date I recorded *Xylota florum* and *Brachypalpoides lentus*.

Alex Lockton of the Shropshire Botanical Society contacted me in May to alert me to the presence of mines in the leaves of Navelwort at Snailbeach Coppice, Snailbeach. On 26 May I was able to inspect the site and confirm the presence of the rare *Cheilosia semifasciata*. This is a fifth known site for the species in Shropshire. I had never seen the nationally scarce, large and striking hoverfly *Mallota cimbiciformis* until I encountered one on 19 July at New Coppice above Haughmond Abbey, with another on 21 July nearby in Hollies woodland, and then remarkably a third sighting on 28 July at Old Oswestry Racescourse. This was only the second year ever this species has been recorded in the county. Other notable hoverfly records during the year were: 25 July, a pair of *Triglyphus primus* along a farm track at Uffington; 4 July, *Sphegina sibirica* at Merrington Green; 24 April, *Neoascia obliqua* at Redhill near Hook-a-Gate. *Rhingia rostrata* was not noted as frequently as it had been in recent years, with just two records to supplement the one made on the SIG visit to Tan Tree Bank: these were from Stevenshill, Cound on 5 May and Attingham Park on 6 August. *Melangyna umbellatarum* was unusually numerous, with nine sightings around the county between 24 May and 19 August, including a surprising record from my garden in Shrewsbury. Just outside Shropshire on Breidden Hill, Powys, on 4 June I noted some fifteen individuals of *Ferdinandea cuprea* and a single *Xylota jakutorum* in woodland at the foot of the hill.

Family: Conopidae (Thick-headed Flies)

The highlight of the year for me was the discovery of *Conops vesicularis*, a fairly large hornet-mimicking conopid at Spout Wood, Penley near Ellesmere, on 23 June. Of equal note was the discovery of *Leopoldius signatus* on ivy flowers at Attingham Park on 9 October. Interestingly I later learnt that Steven Falk had taken *L. signatus* from Hencott Pool, Shrewsbury, in September. For both these scarce species these appear to be first vice-county records. *Myopa buccata* was recorded on 22 April at Haughmond Hill and 23 April at Worsely (both IC); *M. testacea* was found on 8 May at Minton (IC) and on 27 May north of Bridgnorth.

Family: Platypezidae (Flat-footed flies)

During 2008 I turned my attention to these small and odd-looking flies that are most frequently to be seen running about on leaves. They are strongly associated with fungi and my first record resulted from 35 specimens of *Seri obscuripennis* that emerged during July and August from *Polyporus badius* collected from Stevenshill, Cound. *S. obscuripennis* has been rarely recorded in the UK or Europe. Platypezidae are virtually unrecorded in Shropshire and I was able to record the following species in the county during 2008: *Agathomyia antennata* (Attingham Park and Merrington Green), *Callomyia speciosa* (Hollies woodland at Haughmond Hill), *Lindneromyia dorsalis* (Shrewsbury) and *Paraplatypeza atra* (Stevenshill near Cound).

Families: Lonchaeidae (Lance-flies), Xylomyiidae (Awl-flies), Stratiomyidae (Soldier-flies), Limoniidae and Tipulidae (Crane-flies)

The publication of an RES key to Lonchaeidae enabled me to study this family of small shiny flies that are strongly associated with trees and woodland. My most notable find was a good population of the uncommon *Lonchaea peregrina* flying to a large fallen Sycamore tree at Attingham Park during June. On the same tree in the same month dozens of the scarce awl-fly *Solva marginata* were often present, searching over bark for places to lay eggs. Also paying attention to this Sycamore during July were several of the scarce soldier-fly *Neopachygaster meromelas*. A dark crane-fly with a distinctive light thoracic stripe proved to be the nationally scarce *Gnophomyia viridipennis* (Limoniidae). This crane-fly, identified by Pete Boardman, is usually associated with fallen Poplar trees, so this was an interesting record of several specimens showing strong interest in a fallen Sycamore. The large, uncommon and very attractive tipulid

Ctenophora pectinicornis was also noted around this tree on 23 May. This is the first Shropshire record for this species since those made in the Oswestry area by Cyril Pugh in the 1940s.

Family: Ulidiidae (Picture-wing flies)

Seioptera vibrans was noted on three occasions: 23 June at Wood Lane NR, Colemere; 30 June at the Severn Valley Country Park, Alveley; and 21 July at Hollies woodland, Haughmond Hill. Several of the uncommon *Physiphora alcea* were present in the walled garden at Attingham Park on 2 September.

Family: Sciomyzidae (Snail-killing flies)

Coremacera marginata on 23 June at Wood Lane NR; *Tetanura pallidiventris* on 23 June at Spout Wood, Penley, and on 4 July at Merrington Green.

Family: Tachinidae (Parasitic-flies)

A very notable record for 2008 was a single *Hemyda vittata* caught on 21 July on Hogweed flowers alongside the Rea Brook, opposite Weir Wood, Hook-a-Gate. *H. vittata* is a very scarce fly that appears to have been increasing in England in recent decades. Nearly all former records are for counties in south-east England, but there is a 1997 Shropshire record from Buttonoak, so this fly may well be established in the county. *H. vittata* is a parasite of predatory Pentatomidae bugs associated with woodlands, so this rare fly might be breeding in Weir Wood. On 14 June the uncommon *Mintho rufiventris* was present in my garden for the third time in four years, in almost exactly the same place as on the two previous occasions!

Family: Micropezidae (Silt-flies)

Micropezidae are seldom encountered frequently, so I was pleased to record three species in Shropshire in 2008: *Cnodacophora sellata* on the edge of Weir Wood, Hook-a-Gate, on 3 June; *Neria cibaria* in Attingham Park on 14 May and Tan Tree Bank woodland on 19 June; and *Calobata petronella* at the Severn Valley Country Park, Alveley, on 30 June.

“Larger Brachycera” – various families

Atherix ibis (Athericidae) was abundant on the banks of the Severn at Atcham on 14 May, and was also recorded north of Bridgnorth on 27 May and at Redhill, Hook-a-Gate, on 24 May. There were several *Leptarthrus brevisrostris* (Asilidae) in grassland at Tan Tree Bank on 19 June. I encountered three of the striking black- and gold-haired *Choerades marginata* (Asilidae) at Hollies wood, Haughmond, on 21 July and a single specimen at Stevenshill, Cound, on 3 August. *Stratiomys potamida* (Stratiomyidae) was at Llyncllys Hill on 5 July; at Stevenshill on 5 August; and at Preston Montford on 27 July (IC). At Weir Wood, Hook-a-Gate, on 13 July I swept numerous tiny *Oxycera nigricornis* (Stratiomyidae) from the tufa beds in the wood. Its larger relative *O. rara* was seen at Wood Lane NR, Colemere on 23 June and several were caught in a malaise trap at Fordhall Farm, Market Drayton, around 9 August. Mags Cousins of the Shropshire Botanical Society showed me a photo of a huge horsefly seen on the Stiperstones, which I was able to determine as *Tabanus sudeticus* (Tabanidae). Its slightly smaller cousin *T. autumnalis* was seen by me near Hanwood Bank on 13 July and at Severn Valley Country Park, Alveley, on 30 June, where it was accompanied by *T. bromius*. A single *Hybomitra bimaculata* was captured at Attingham Park on 23 May. The uncommon *Xylophagus ater* (Xylophagidae) was seen at Attingham Park on 8 and 23 May, at Merrington Green on 4 July (IC), and a larvae was located at Weir Wood, Hook-a-Gate, on 3 June.

Other Families

A Bird's-nest Skipper-fly *Neottiophilum praeustum* (Piophilidae), a parasite of birds, was found on a house window at my home in Shrewsbury on 11 May. In a marsh at Atcham I discovered *Cleigastra apicalis* (Scathophagidae) on 13 May. I found my first specimen of *Neurigona pallida* (Dolichopodidae) alongside the Severn at Daniels Bridge near Bridgnorth on 4 June. A single specimen of the nationally scarce *Macronychia striginervis* (Sarcophagidae) was taken from a large fallen beech tree at Attingham Park on 8 July, where I also found the tiny and infrequently recorded *Odinia boletina* on *Trametes* spp. fungi (identified by P. Withers). *Suillia ustulata* (Heleomyzidae) is infrequently recorded in Britain, so it was pleasing to find one at Eastridge Wood, Habberley, on 28 August. My final Diptera record for this report is the uncommon ichneumon-like fly *Megamerina dolium* (Megamerinidae) at Merrington Green on 4 July.

HYMENOPTERA – Bees, Wasps and Ants

Highlights for the year were the first Shropshire *Bombus hypnorum* (Apidae) at Daniels Bridge, Bridgnorth on 5 June; this bumblebee has been spreading across the UK since 2001. A *Bombus ruderarius* at Hill End near Claverley on 6 May was the first sighting of this bee in Shropshire for decades; and a first Shropshire record for the nationally scarce wasp *Crossocerus binotatus* (Sphecidae) came from farmland at Uffington, just below Haughmond Hill, on 19 July.

Other interesting bee records are from the family Apidae. John Mason passed me some trap-nest tubes from his home in Bayston Hill. From these emerged several of the cuckoo-bee *Stelis phaeoptera*. This species also uses tubes in my Shrewsbury garden, indicating that this nationally rare bee has a robust population in the Shrewsbury area. The bee is a cuckoo of *Osmia caerulea* and *O. leaiana*, both of which appear to be common in Shropshire. Other noteworthy records were: a work-colleague reported some twenty or so *Anthophora plumipes* in his garden at Cound on 20-22 May; this is an unusually high number for Shropshire, where numbers at individual locations are normally in single figures. At Riddles Wood, Westcott, on 16 April Ian Cheeseborough showed me *Nomada leucophthalma*, a cuckoo of *Andrena clarkella*, which is infrequent in the county. At Abbot's Castle near Claverley on 6 May Ian and I encountered *Nomada fucata*, *Andrena tibialis* (the first county record of which was reported to us from the Bridgnorth area a few days earlier) and *A. labiata*. I also found the latter species at Attingham Park on 14 May.

Following the remarkable 2007 occurrence of the nationally scarce white-faced bee *Hylaeus signatus* on *Reseda odorata* in my garden, I grew some Weld and was amazed during June and July to find up to fifteen *H. signatus* around these plants. A singleton was also seen at Severn Valley Country Park, Alveley, on 30 June, where an impressive male *Megachile maritima* was also present. The tiny *Campanula*-flower specialist *Chelostoma campanularum* is very local in Shropshire, so it was pleasing to find a single female going to Nettle-leaved Bellflower at Stevenshill, Cound, on 1 August. Its more widespread and larger relative *C. florisomne* was recorded from Attingham Park on 23 May; Redhill, Hook-a-Gate, a day later; Tan Tree Bank, Rowley, on 19 June; and Breidden Hill (Powys) on 4 June. At the latter site on the same date was a single *Bombus rupestris*.

The nationally scarce ant *Lasius brunneus* (Formicidae) was found at Attingham Park during June and at Daniels Bridge on 5 June. Finally, on 28 August I caught some swarming male ants in early evening sunshine at Eastridge Wood, Habberley. These were *Temnothorax nylanderi* (Formicidae), exhibiting textbook timing for their swarming. This was a first county record for the species.

COLEOPTERA – Beetles

During March I pulled apart a defunct nest of the Common Wasp *Vespula vulgaris* taken from the roof of my Shrewsbury home. This contained an individual of the infrequently recorded *Ptinus sexpunctatus* (Anobiidae). At Loamhole Dingle, Coalbrookdale, on 21 May I found a splendid male *Corymbites pectinicornis* (Elateridae). Outside of the Wyre Forest *Molorchus minor* (Cerambycidae) appears to be unrecorded in the county, but there was a single specimen at Severn Valley Country Park, Alveley, on 30 June. *Anaglyptus mysticus* (Cerambycidae) was found at Attingham Park on 23 May.

ORTHOPTERA – Grasshoppers and Crickets

On 1 August I confirmed that Speckled Bush-crickets continue to thrive at its Shropshire northerly-stronghold site at Stevenshill, Cound. Nymphs of Dark Bush-crickets were near Bridgnorth on 27 May.

LEPIDOPTERA – Butterflies and Moths

The Small Tortoiseshell has declined alarmingly in recent years. My only sightings during 2007 were of a singleton at Uffington on 21 July and two at Bromlow on 21 September. A Purple Hairstreak came down from trees near Merrington Green on 20 July. On the same day I noted very high numbers – hundreds, if not thousands – of Meadow Browns along lanes and amongst patches of rougher vegetation in the Merrington Green – Myddle area. There were also many Ringlets, Gatekeepers and Speckled Woods in evidence. This day was a pleasing respite from the almost unremittingly bad news on the butterfly front!

HEMIPTERA – True-bugs

I had never seen a 'flat bark-bug' until I found numerous nymphs and adults under the bark of a dead

branch at Stevenshill, Cound on 1 August. The extraordinarily flattened bugs were *Aneurus laevis* (Aradidae). This bug is rather infrequently recorded across England and parts of Wales.

ARACHNIDA – Arachnids

In Eastridge Wood, Habberley on 28 August, a rather distinctively-marked harvestman (Opiliones) attracted my attention. This I determined as an uncommon species of woodlands, *Lophopilio palpinalis*.



Above *Aneurus laevis* nymphs at Stevenshill, Cound.



Right *Brachyopa bicolor* on oak at Attingham Park



Above left Curren Clearwing, garden in Ackleton (Bob Kemp)



Above right *Solva marginata* on dead Sycamore in Attingham Park

Photos by Nigel Jones unless otherwise stated.

Below the first recorded Shropshire *Bombus hypnorum* from near Bridgnorth

Right *Stelis phaeoptera* in a Shrewsbury garden



Appendix

Scientific names of species mentioned in the text

Flora

Alder <i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Filbert <i>Corylus maxima</i>
Ash <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i>	Fox-and-cubs <i>Pilosella aurantiaca</i>
Bearded Couch <i>Elymus caninus</i>	Gorse <i>Ulex europaeus</i>
Bedstraw Broomrape <i>Orobanche caryophyllacea</i>	Greater Celandine <i>Chelidonium majus</i>
Beech <i>Fagus sylvatica</i>	Grey Willow <i>Salix cinerea</i>
Betony <i>Stachys officinalis</i>	Gypsywort <i>Lycopus europaeus</i>
Black-bindweed <i>Fallopia convolvulus</i>	Hart's-tongue <i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>
Black Bryony <i>Tamus communis</i>	Hawthorn <i>Crataegus monogyna</i>
Black Nightshade <i>Solanum nigrum</i>	Hazel <i>Corylus avellana</i>
Black Spleenwort <i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Heath Groundsel <i>Senecio sylvaticus</i>
Blackthorn <i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Hedge Woundwort <i>Stachys sylvatica</i>
Bluebell <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i>	Hemlock Water-dropwort <i>Oenanthe crocata</i>
Bracken <i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Herb Paris <i>Paris quadrifolia</i>
Bramble <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Herb-Robert <i>Geranium robertianum</i>
Branched Bur-reed <i>Sparganium erectum</i>	Hogweed <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>
Broad-leaved Cudweed <i>Filago pyramidata</i>	Holly <i>Ilex aquifolium</i>
Buckwheat <i>Fagopyrum esculentum</i>	Honeysuckle <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>
Bugle <i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Horse-chestnut <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>
Bugloss <i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Hound's-tongue <i>Cynoglossum officinale</i>
Burnet Rose <i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>	Indian Balsam <i>Impatiens glandulifera</i>
Burnet-saxifrage <i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i>	Ivy Broomrape <i>Orobanche hederace</i>
Carline Thistle <i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	Lady Orchid <i>Orchis purpurea</i>
Charlock <i>Sinapis arvensis</i>	Lady's Bedstraw <i>Galium verum</i>
Colt's-foot <i>Tussilago farfara</i>	Larch <i>Larix</i> species
Comfrey <i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Lavender <i>Lavendula</i> species
Common Centaury <i>Centaureum erythraea</i>	Lesser Celandine <i>Ranunculus ficaria</i>
Common Fumitory <i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Lesser Meadow-rue <i>Thalictrum minus</i>
Common Hemp-nettle <i>Galeopsis tetrahit</i>	Lesser Stitchwort <i>Stellaria graminea</i>
Common Knapweed <i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Lizard Orchid <i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>
Common Millet <i>Panicum miliaceum</i>	Long-stalked Crane's-bill <i>Geranium columbinum</i>
Common Nettle <i>Urtica dioica</i>	Lyme Grass <i>Leymus arenarius</i>
Common Ragwort <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>	Maidenhair Spleenwort <i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>
Common Restharrow <i>Ononis repens</i>	Maize <i>Zea mays</i>
Cow Parsley <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Man Orchid <i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>
Cowslip <i>Primula veris</i>	Marsh-mallow <i>Althaea officinalis</i>
Crack-willow <i>Salix fragilis</i>	Marsh-marigold <i>Caltha palustris</i>
Creeping Thistle <i>Cirsium arvense</i>	Marsh Pennywort <i>Hydrocotyle vulgaris</i>
Crosswort <i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Marsh Woundwort <i>Stachys palustris</i>
Cuckooflower <i>Cardamine pratensis</i>	Mayweed <i>Tripleurospermum</i> species
Curved Hard-grass <i>Parapholis incurva</i>	Meadow Crane's-bill <i>Geranium pratense</i>
Cyperus Sedge <i>Carex pseudocyperus</i>	Meadow Foxtail <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i>
Early-purple Orchid <i>Orchis mascula</i>	Meadowsweet <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
Elder <i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Medlar <i>Mespilus germanica</i>
Fairy Flax <i>Linum catharticum</i>	Moonwort <i>Botrychium lunaria</i>
False-acacia <i>Robinia pseudoacacia</i>	Moschatel <i>Adoxa moschatellina</i>
Fat-hen <i>Chenopodium album</i>	Musk-mallow <i>Malva moschata</i>
Field Madder <i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Narrow-fruited Cornsalad <i>Valerianella dentata</i>
Field Maple <i>Acer campestre</i>	Nettle-leaved Bellflower <i>Campanula trachelium</i>
Field Scabious <i>Knautia arvensis</i>	

Nipplewort *Lapsana communis*
 Oak *Quercus* species
 Oil-seed Rape *Brassica napus oleifera*
 Oriental Poppy *Papaver orientale*
 Orpine *Sedum telephium*
 Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*
 Phacelia *Phacelia tanacetifolia*
 Pignut *Conopodium majus*
 Pink Purslane *Claytonia sibirica*
 Poppy *Papaver* species
 Poplar *Populus* species
 Primrose *Primula vulgaris*
 Purple Toadflax *Linaria purpurea*
 Pyramidal Orchid *Anacamptis pyramidalis*
 Quaking-grass *Briza media*
 Ramsons *Allium ursinum*
 Raspberry *Rubus idaeus*
 Red Campion *Silene dioica*
 Red Clover *Trifolium pratense*
 Reed Canary-grass *Phalaris arundinacea*
 Rosebay Willowherb *Chamerion angustifolium*
 Rose *Rosa* species
 Rough Dog's-tail *Cynosurus echinatus*
 Salad Burnet *Sanguisorba minor*
 Sallow *Salix* species
 Sanicle *Sanicula europaea*
 Scarlet Pimpernel *Anagallis arvensis*
 Scentless Mayweed *Tripleurospermum inodorum*
 Sea Campion *Silene uniflora*
 Sea-kale *Crambe maritima*
 Sea Rocket *Cakile maritima*
 Sea Spurge *Euphorbia paralias*
 Selfheal *Prunella vulgaris*
 Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*

Sheep's Sorrel *Rumex acetosella*
 Silver Birch *Betula pendula*
 Slender Thistle *Carduus tenuiflorus*
 Small Nettle *Urtica urens*
 Snowdrop *Galanthus nivalis*
 Southern Marsh-orchid *Dactylorhiza praetermissa*
 Spear Thistle *Cirsium vulgare*
 Spindle *Euonymus europaeus*
 Strawberry Clover *Trifolium fragiferum*
 Sunflower *Helianthus annuus*
 Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*
 Thistle *Carduus* / *Cirsium* species
 Touch-me-not Balsam *Impatiens noli-tangere*
 Tree-mallow *Lavatera arborea*
 Tufted Vetch *Vicia cracca*
 Turkey Oak *Quercus cerris*
 Upright Hedge-parsley *Torilis japonica*
 Water Forget-me-not *Myosotis scorpioides*
 Water-plantain *Alisma plantago-aquatica*
 Welled Thistle *Carduus crispus*
 Western Gorse *Ulex gallii*
 White Bryony *Bryonia dioica*
 White Campion *Silene latifolia*
 White Dead-nettle *Lamium album*
 Wild Angelica *Angelica sylvestris*
 Wild Basil *Clinopodium vulgare*
 Wild Marjoram *Origanum vulgare*
 Wood Anemone *Anemone nemorosa*
 Wood Avens *Geum urbanum*
 Wood-sorrel *Oxalis acetosella*
 Wych Elm *Ulmus glabra*
 Yarrow *Achillea millefolium*
 Yellow-rattle *Rhinanthus minor*

Fungi

Jew's Ear *Auricularia auricula-judae*
 Stinkhorn *Phallus impudicus*

Coleoptera

Eyed Ladybird *Anatis ocellata*
 Orange Ladybird *Halysia sedecimguttata*
 Seven-spot Ladybird *Coccinella septempunctata*

Two-spot Ladybird *Adalia bipunctata*
 Wasp Beetle *Clytus arietis*

Orthoptera

Common Green Grasshopper *Omocestes viridulus*
 Common Groundhopper *Tetrix undulata*
 Dark Bush-cricket *Pholidoptera griseoaptera*

Field Grasshopper *Chorthippus brunneus*
 Great Green Bush-cricket *Tettigonia viridissima*
 Meadow Grasshopper *Chorthippus parallelus*
 Speckled Bush-cricket *Leptophyes punctatissima*

Odonata

Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*
Beautiful Demoiselle *Calopteryx virgo*
Black-tailed Skimmer *Orthetrum cancellatum*
Blue-tailed Damselfly *Ischnura elegans*
Common Blue Damselfly *Enallagma cyathigerum*
Common Darter *Sympetrum striolatum*
Emerald Damselfly *Lestes sponsa*

Emperor Dragonfly *Anax imperator*
Four-spotted Chaser *Libellula quadrimaculata*
Large Red Damselfly *Pyrrosoma nymphula*
Migrant Hawker *Aeshna mixta*
Ruddy Darter *Sympetrum sanguineum*
Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea*
White-legged Damselfly *Platycnemis pennipes*

Lepidoptera

Barred Straw *Eulithis pyraliata*
Bird's Wing *Dypterygia scabriuscula*
Black Rustic *Aporophyla nigra*
Blotched Emerald *Comibaena bajularia*
Bordered Pug *Eupithecia succenturiata*
Brimstone *Gonepteryx rhamni*
Brimstone Moth *Opisthoptis luteolata*
Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing *Noctua fimbriata*
Buff-tip *Phalera bucephala*
Burnet moth *Zygaena* species
Canary-shouldered Thorn *Ennomos alniaria*
Cinnabar *Tyria jacobaeae*
Clouded Silver *Lomographa temerata*
Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus*
Comma *Polygonia c-album*
Common Blue *Polyommatus icarus*
Common Carpet *Epirrhoe alternata*
Common Wainscot *Mythimna pallens*
Copper Underwing *Amphipyra pyramidea*
Currant Clearwing *Synanthedon tipuliformis*
Dark Arches *Apamea monoglypha*
Dark Chestnut *Conistra ligula*
Dark Dagger *Acrionicta tridens*
Dark Sword-grass *Agrotis ipsilon*
Dun-bar *Cosmia trapezina*
Elephant Hawk-moth *Deilephila elpenor*
Engrailed *Ectropis bistortata*
Flame *Axylia putris*
Flame Shoulder *Ochropleura plecta*
Flounced Rustic *Luperina testacea*
Gatekeeper *Pyronia tithonus*
Green Arches *Anaplectoides prasina*
Green Carpet *Colostygia pectinataria*
Green-veined White *Pieris napi*
Grey Arches *Polia nebulosa*
Grey Dagger *Acrionicta psi*
Heart & Dart *Agrotis exclamationis*
Holly Blue *Celastrina argiolus*
Humming-bird Hawk-moth *Macroglossum stellatarum*
Ingrailed Clay *Diarsia mendica*
Lackey *Malacosoma neustria*

Large Blue *Maculinea arion*
Large White *Pieris brassicae*
Large Yellow Underwing *Noctua pronuba*
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing *Noctua janthe*
Lesser Yellow Underwing *Noctua comes*
Light Brown Apple Moth *Epiphyas postvittana*
Magpie *Abraxas grossulariata*
Marbled White *Melanargia galathea*
Meadow Brown *Maniola jurtina*
Middle-barred Minor *Oligia fasciuncula*
Mother of Pearl *Pleuroptya ruralis*
Narrow-bordered Five-spot Burnet *Zygaena lonicerae*
Nettle Tap *Anthophila fabriciana*
Nut-tree Tussock *Colocasia coryli*
Orange Tip *Anthocharis cardamines*
Pale Eggar *Trichiura crataegi*
Pale Tussock *Caliteara pudibunda*
Peacock *Inachis io*
Peppered Moth *Biston betularia*
Pine Carpet *Thera firmata*
Poplar Hawk-moth *Laothoe populi*
Purple Hairstreak *Quercusia quercus*
Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta*
Ringlet *Aphantopus hyperantus*
Ruby Tiger *Phragmatobia fuliginosa*
Sandy Carpet *Perizoma flavofasciata*
Scalloped Oak *Crocallis elinguarua*
Setaceous Hebrew Character *Xestia c-nigrum*
Shoulder-striped Wainscot *Mythimna comma*
Silver-ground Carpet *Xanthorhoe montanata*
Silver Y *Autographa gamma*
Six-striped Rustic *Xestia sexstrigata*
Small Copper *Lycaena phlaeas*
Small Magpie *Errhypara hortulata*
Small Skipper *Thymelicus sylvestris*
Small Square-spot *Diarsia rubi*
Small Tortoiseshell *Aglais urticae*
Small White *Pieris rapae*
Smoky Wainscot *Mythimna impura*
Snout *Hypena proboscidalis*
Speckled Wood *Pararge aegeria*

Spectacle *Abrostola tripartita*
Spruce Carpet *Thera britannica*
Square-spot Rustic *Xestia xanthographa*
Straw Dot *Rivula sericealis*
Treble Lines *Charanyca trigrammica*

Fish

Brown Trout *Salmo trutta*
Grayling *Thymallus thymallus*

Reptiles

Common Lizard *Lacerta vivipara*

Mammals

Fallow Deer *Dama dama*
Grey Squirrel *Sciurus carolinensis*

Birds

Barn Owl *Tyto alba*
Blackbird *Turdus merula*
Blue Tit *Parus caeruleus*
Buzzard *Buteo buteo*
Canada Goose *Branta canadensis*
Carrion Crow *Corvus corone corone*
Cetti's Warbler *Cettia cetti*
Chaffinch *Fringilla coelebs*
Chiffchaff *Phylloscopus collybita*
Chough *Pyrrhocorax pyrrhocorax*
Coot *Fulica atra*
Cormorant *Phalacrocorax carbo*
Dabchick *Tachybaptus ruficollis*
Dipper *Cinclus cinclus*
Goldcrest *Regulus regulus*
Goldfinch *Carduelis carduelis*
Goosander *Mergus merganser*
Great Spotted Woodpecker *Dendrocopos major*
Great Tit *Parus major*
Greenfinch *Carduelis chloris*
Green Woodpecker *Picus viridis*
Greylag *Anser anser*
Grey Partridge *Perdix perdix*
Grey Wagtail *Motacilla cinerea*
Heron *Ardea cinerea*
House Martin *Delichon urbica*
Jackdaw *Corvus monedula*
Jay *Garrulus glandarius*
Kestrel *Falco tinnunculus*
Kingfisher *Alcedo atthis*
Lapwing *Vanellus vanellus*

Vapourer *Orgyia antiqua*
White butterfly *Pieris* species
Yellow Belle *Semiaspilates ochrearia*
Yellow-tail *Euproctis similis*

Amphibians

Common Frog *Rana temporaria*
Marsh Frog *Rana ridibunda*

Mole *Talpa europaea*
Rabbit *Oryctolagus cuniculus*

Little Egret *Egretta garzetta*
Long-tailed Tit *Aegithalos caudatus*
Magpie *Pica pica*
Mallard *Anas platyrhynchos*
Marsh Harrier *Circus aeruginosus*
Meadow Pipit *Anthus pratensis*
Mistle Thrush *Turdus viscivorus*
Moorhen *Gallinula chloropus*
Mute Swan *Cygnus olor*
Nightjar *Caprimulgus europaeus*
Nuthatch *Sitta europaea*
Oystercatcher *Haematopus ostralegus*
Peregrine *Falco peregrinus*
Pheasant *Phasianus colchicus*
Raven *Corvus corax*
Reed Bunting *Emberiza schoeniclus*
Robin *Erithacus rubecula*
Rook *Corvus frugilegus*
Shelduck *Tadorna tadorna*
Siskin *Carduelis spinus*
Skylark *Alauda arvensis*
Song Thrush *Turdus philomelos*
Sparrowhawk *Accipiter nisus*
Stonechat *Saxicola torquata*
Swallow *Hirundo rustica*
Swift *Apus apus*
Teal *Anas crecca*
Tree Pipit *Anthus trivialis*
Woodpigeon *Columba palumbus*
Yellowhammer *Emberiza citrinella*

Scientific names of taxa other than species

Agromyzid Flies Diptera: Agromyzidae
Alder Flies Megaloptera: Sialidae
Beetles Coleoptera
Bugs Hemiptera
Bumblebees Hymenoptera: Apidae
Caddis Flies Trichoptera
Click Beetles Coleoptera: Elateridae
Conopid Flies Diptera: Conopidae
Crane-flies Diptera: Tipulidae
Dung-flies Diptera: Scathophagidae
Earwigs Dermaptera: Forficulidae
Flat-footed Flies Diptera: Platypezidae
Fleas Siphonaptera
Froghoppers Hemiptera: Cercopidae
Gall-midges Diptera: Cecidomyiidae
Gall-mites Acari: Eriophyoidea
Gall-wasps Hymenoptera: Cynipidae
Grass-bugs Hemiptera: Miridae
Hoverflies Diptera: Syrphidae
Lacewings Neuroptera
Ladybirds Coleoptera: Coccinellidae
Leaf-roller Weevils Coleoptera: Attelabidae
Longhorn Beetles Coleoptera: Cerambycidae
Mason Wasps Hymenoptera: Eumenidae
Mayflies Ephemeroptera
Micro-moths Lepidoptera
Mining Bees Hymenoptera: Apidae
Mites Acari
Robber-flies Diptera: Asilidae
Sawflies Hymenoptera Symphyta
Scorpion Flies Mecoptera: Panorpidae
Sexton Beetles Coleoptera: Silphidae
Shieldbugs Hemiptera: Pentatomidae & Acanthosomatidae
Slugs and Snails Gastropoda
Snail-killing Flies Diptera: Sciomyzidae
Snipe-flies Diptera: Rhagionidae
Social Wasps Hymenoptera: Vespidae
Soldier Beetles Coleoptera: Cantharidae
Spiders Araneae
Tachinid Flies Diptera: Tachinidae
Wasps Hymenoptera: Vespidae
Weevils Coleoptera: Curculionidae
Woodlice Isopoda Oniscoidea