

THE LEEDS NATURALIST

NEWSLETTER NUMBER 3

This issue is devoted to the summer field trips. Recorder reports will appear in the Autumn Newsletter

FIELD TRIP TO FAIRBURN INGS

The well-attended trip took place on June 19th on what, at the time, was an exceptional bright and sunny day. The trip was primarily botanical and led by Phyll Abbot who has produced a species list of 70 'notables'. She writes:

The botanists were pleased to see **Northern Marsh Orchid** (*Dactylorhiza purpurella*) as well as the Early Marsh Orchid (*D. incarnata*) which had been recorded previously, beside the ditch alongside the Riverbank Trail.

The Viper's Bugloss (*Echium vulgare*) in the car park was eye-catching as well as the Mignonette (*Reseda lutea*). Everyone was pleased to see one Cornflower (*Centaurea cyanus*) near the Visitor Centre.



The beautiful weather was good for finding a lot of things as well as flowers. Here is a list of other observations:

BIRDS	BUTTERFLIES	BUMBLE BEES	HOVERFLIES
Mallard	Common blue	Bombus pratorum	Eristalis intricarius
Grey-lag	Brimstone	Bombus pasquorum	Pippiza luetitarsis
Lapwing	Large white	Bombus hypnorum	Platycheirus fulviventris
Oyster-catcher	Green-veined white	Bombus lapidarius	Syrphus ribesii
Curlew	Peacock	Bombus lucorum	Chrysotoxum festum
Moorhen		Bombus terrestris	Epistrophe grossulariae
Coot	MOTHS	Bombus vestalis	Eristalis pertinax
Wood pigeon	Silver-ground carpet	Bombus campestris	Helophilus pendulus
Collared dove	Straw dot		Platycheirus albimanus
Swift	Platyptilia gonodactyla	OTHER HYMENOPTERA	
Garden Warbler	Homeosoma sinuella	Halictus tumulorum	OTHER DIPTERA
Blackcap	Micropterix calthella/aruncella	Vespa vulgaris	Dolichopus unguatus
Whitethroat	Pammene aurana		
Willow warbler	Anthrophila fabriciana (Nettle tap)	DRAGONFLIES	ORTHOPTERA
Chiffchaff		Ischnura elegans	Slender ground-hopper
Reed bunting	COLEOPTERA	Pyrrhosoma nymphula	Lesser marsh grasshopper
Goldfinch	Nebria brevicollis	Coenagrion puella	
Greenfinch		Enallagma cyathigerum	SPIDERS
Tree sparrow	FROGHOPPERS	Libellula quadrimaculata	Harpactea hombrugi
	Cercopis vulnerata		
		SCORPION FLIES	
		Panorpis sp.	



Dragonflies were abundant and very active but, as was to be expected given the previous weather, there were few species. *Libellula quadramaculata* and some damselflies, *Pyrrosoma nymphula* and *Coenagrion puella* were near the end of their season but *Enallagma cyathigerum* was still emerging.

Butterflies were scarce. Two **Brimstones** were seen and small numbers of male **Common blues** on what is an important site for them. Several specimens of the plume moth *Platyptilia gonodactyla* were found.

The two *Orthopterans* **Slender groundhopper** and **Lesser Marsh Grasshopper** have not previously been mapped for the site. The grasshopper is spreading inland along the river valleys from its coastal sites on the Humber, possibly under the influence of climate change. The groundhopper is turning up in many places but it is not clear whether it is the insect or the observers that are spreading!

The other exciting records were of hoverflies. Peter Lerner found and photographed *Chrysotoxum festivum*. *Platycheirus fulviventris* was common in this appropriate habitat and *Tropidia sciva* was found



Platyptilia gonodactyla



Chrysotoxum festivum (photograph by Peter Lerner)



Tropidia sciva



Pyrrhosma nymphula



Enallagma cyathigerum

THE LEDSHAM DALE FIELD TRIP

3rd July 2013

Peter Larnar writes:

Five members were present on a pleasantly warm and sunny morning. Whitethroats in the boundary hedge (most of which is not part of the reserve) provided a continuing background of song throughout the visit. **Ringlets** were the most numerous of the seven species of butterfly identified. **Dyer's Greenweed** which a few years ago was the most noticeable wildflower was still present but covering a much smaller area. **Twayblade**, **Pyramidal**, **Fragrant** and **Common Spotted orchid** were found, as usual amongst the rich floral diversity of the limestone outcrop in the centre of the reserve.

The high spot of the day, for one member at least, was a **Hobby** seen in rapid flight over the Chequers Inn at lunchtime. Yes really!

Editor writes:

A pair of **Woundwort Shieldbugs** (*Eysocoris venustissimus*) was certainly noteworthy and well worth the descent into a nettle patch. If not so unusual a splendid *Agapanthia villosoviridescens* was as ever entertaining and the sight of a large defensive group of Peacock butterfly larvae was welcomed. (all told it was an excellent nettle patch)



Pyramidal orchid photo
by Peter Larnar



Woundwort Shield bug



Peacock Butterfly larvae



Agapanthia
villosoviridescens