



GLASGOW NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

**Next Newsletter Deadline
22nd October 2021**

**GNHS is a Registered
Scottish Charity**

August 2021

**David Palmar
(Newsletter Editor)**

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Summer Social - 10th August

Richard Weddle

GNHS Council had decided that we should try to arrange for a Summer Social once the restrictions had eased sufficiently.

So Mary and I have resurrected the plan for last year's Summer Social, which was to have a brief field excursion at North Kelvin Meadow (now of royal visit fame!) followed by a meal at The Botany nearby on Maryhill Road. I have been at group meals at the latter in their pleasant restaurant on several occasions, and consider it meets the standards we'd hope for.

So we have decided on August 10th, and the plan is to meet at 5:30 at the entrance to North Kelvin Meadow in Clouston Street; the meal is scheduled as 6:30 for 7:00 at the Botany (which is on Maryhill Road between Queen Margaret Drive and the Fire Station).

We have been offered a menu at the very favourable price of £19 per head, as follows:

Tomato & Mint Soup

Smooth parfait of chicken livers with onion chutney

Sweet pickled Herrings with apple slaw

Breast of chicken with black pudding mash and fine beans

Salmon Teriyaki with sticky rice

Butternut squash and Spinach Lasagne

Vanilla and Maple Syrup Cheesecake

Crème brûlée

Affogato

We realise that this is short notice, but if you would like to attend, please email Mary@gnhs.org.uk to book as soon as possible with your choice of dishes, so that they can be ordered in advance.

Please send cheques (£19 per person) payable to GNHS - to me at 89 Novar Drive (1/2), Glasgow G12 9SS or pay online (please email me if you need bank details).

Winter Talks Programme 2021

Roger Downie

With the continuing uncertainty over the pandemic and holding indoor events, our winter talks will be by Zoom at least until the start of the new year. It has been an interesting experience holding the talks this way.

Upsides: we have had larger than usual audiences, including members of kindred groups; members can attend the talks in the comfort of their own homes, without having to come out on inclement winter nights; we pay no room hire, so the programme is cheaper; we can invite speakers from far away, including abroad, without incurring big costs; and the lack of travel for members and speakers must have a positive impact on our carbon footprint.

Downsides: not all our members have technology adequate for seeing/hearing the talks at high quality; we miss entirely the getting together and chatting aspect, including with the speaker. So, there is a debate to be had about how to do things post pandemic. The next Council meeting may take this on.

Meanwhile, please put the following in your diaries (full titles later):

Tuesday 14th September, 7pm: Hugh Warwick, well-known writer and naturalist, spokesperson for the Hedgehog Preservation Society.

Tuesday 12th October, 7pm: Two talks- **Sarah Raymond**, Cardiff University on 'Project Splatter' which records wildlife roadkill in the UK; and **Kieran Dick-Doyle** who promotes the planting of 'Tiny forests'.

Tuesday 9th November, 7pm: Andrew Painting- ecologist and writer on environmental restoration at Mar Lodge estate.

Tuesday 14th December, 7pm: Hannah Wilson, botanical researcher on Begonias.

Because of the continuing uncertainties, I have not scheduled a BLB lecture, nor included the usual joint meeting with Friends of the Botanic Gardens, Glasgow Treelovers, and ourselves.

Sheila Litteljohn 1918-2021

Chris McInerny

It is with great sadness that we report the death of Sheila Litteljohn to members of GNHS, who had achieved the remarkable age of 103. Sheila's life, interest in natural history and membership of GNHS were described by Bob Gray in the April 2018 GNHS Newsletter, and we urge members to read about them there. GNHS is pleased to have known Sheila and we pass on our condolences to her two children, David and Katherine.

New Secretary Email Address

Richard Weddle

For enquiries to the new Secretary Alison Park, please use Alison@gnhs.org.uk. For the time being I've left Mary@gnhs.org.uk in existence as people may be using copies of the existing BLB Application, but I've changed it to forward to Alison too.

Mary Child: retirement as GNHS Secretary

Chris McInerny

GNHS Council would like to extend its deep thanks to Mary Child for her role as the Society's General Secretary over 18 years. Mary has been an excellent Secretary since 2003, when she took over the role from Kirsty Kennedy-Wylie, no doubt expecting to be in post only for a few years. During her time she has accomplished the role with great skill and care.

The role is demanding with Mary dealing with correspondence, organising and supporting the Council, the Blodwen Lloyd-Binns Committee, social aspects to winter meetings and organising the Summer Social. In addition, Mary, through her own interests, has been a regular excursion leader. We hope that she will remain an active member.

Council is delighted to welcome Alison Park who will be taking on the role as Secretary for the future.

Summer-Autumn Excursion Programme 2021

Alison Moss

Please contact organiser to check arrangements and confirm interest, and if necessary, for help to arrange a pick-up point if transport is required, or you intend to use public transport to a nearby bus stop / railway station.

All interested are very welcome, but we must ask that children are accompanied and supervised by an adult. All Meetings or Excursions attended by Society members or their guests are entirely at their own risk. Participants should follow any safety advice given by the leader.

For reasons of personal safety, would all members and guests attending excursions please supply the leader with their mobile phone number, and have their phone with them on excursions.

Please note that due to current and possible future lock-down restrictions, individual decisions about whether each excursion will go ahead will be taken nearer the relevant date and communicated by email.

August

Sat 14th, 10.30am, Holmhills Wood Community Park, mixed interest, especially dragonflies and yellow birds-nest. Contact Alison Park

Sat 21st, 11am, Greenhead Moss, mixed interest, invertebrates and plants. Meet at Creamery Road, Wishaw, ML2 8AY, at the car park at NS 805544. Contact Alison Moss

September

Sun 12th, 11am, Woodroad Park and Broom Braes, Cumnock. Ancient oak woodland and riparian woodland in Gorge of Lugar Water. Mixed interest including galls, leaf mines and fungi. Meet at main car park NS 57012055. Contact Paul Cobb

As usual, we will have at least 2 joint excursions in the autumn with the Clyde and Argyll Fungus Group. These will be notified with details nearer the time.

The Glasgow Naturalist

Richard Weddle

Members should contact Richard Weddle if they have not received their copies of *The Glasgow Naturalist* 27(2) which was mailed out to subscribers in April. 27(3) is about to go to the printer and will be mailed out when printed copies are received.

NBN and iNaturalistUK

Richard Weddle

"The NBN Trust is excited to announce that iNaturalistUK is the newest member of the international iNaturalist Network. A collaboration led by the NBN Trust with the Marine Biological Association (MBA) and the Biological Records Centre (BRC), iNaturalistUK joins the wealth of recording tools available to UK naturalists."

What does this change mean? Users in the United Kingdom are encouraged to affiliate their account to iNaturalistUK to allow partner organisations enhanced access to UK sightings. This won't affect existing arrangements with how sightings are currently shared to GBIF (Global Biodiversity Information Facility) or are available to the international community. It will allow the BRC and local environmental records centres access to the full details of each record.

To make this change users will need to go into the iNaturalist App and under *Settings > iNaturalist Network* select iNaturalistUK.

Find the full story of what this means for iNaturalist users in the UK on the NBN website: <https://nbn.org.uk/inaturalistuk/>

Editor's note: This answers some of the concerns we had about data verification, ease and consistency of data flow and relevance of iNaturalist to British wildlife. The suggestion that iNaturalistUK and iRecord can work together and that this relationship will be developed is welcomed.

Lime Seedlings

Richard Weddle

Bob Gray rksgray@gmail.com has asked me to pass on the following request: "A fair number of lime seedlings are germinating around the west end this year, more so than usual. Any reports of sightings from members would be welcome, in particular those living on the south side. I attach a photo of a lime seedling in order to remind those interested of its distinctive appearance."



Members with long memories may remember that this topic was first raised in the late 1990s when Bill Hansen, Bob and others, noticed lime seedlings in Milngavie and the West End of Glasgow respectively (Natural regeneration of limes (*Tilia* spp.) in Scotland. Warm summers produce an abundance of ripe seed. R.K.S. Gray, N .R. Grist and M.H. Hansen, in *The Glasgow Naturalist* 23 (4) p19-25.

Clyde Brownfield Bees

Chris McInerny



Following Scott Shanks talk on brownfield sites to GNHS, I noticed this lovely flower box and sign near his Glasgow West End site. Bee identification! Blow up the image to see each species..... There are more flower boxes with signs, with all on the path from Partick to the Transport Museum between the railway line and Clydeside expressway (NS559661).

Holmhills Community Woodland Park Records

Andy Wilson



Common Frog up a tree
by Andy Wilson

I found this warty frog about half a metre up a tree and sent the picture to Roger who told me that it's not uncommon for frogs to climb trees in search of snails.



Yellow Bird's Nest
by Andy Wilson

The Yellow Bird's Nest found originally in the park has now disappeared, but a new one has appeared and was photographed in July.

Non-native moths in Greater Glasgow

Richard Weddle

I feel I should really write a piece about some of the British moths that have recently arrived in the Glasgow area, perhaps as a consequence of climate change; but for now I'll just highlight two which have arrived by human agency.

The first and more significant moth is the Box Tree moth (*Cydalima perspectalis*). The first UK occurrence was in Kent in 2007, and the first in Scotland in Fife in 2018. It was subsequently found in the Edinburgh area, and in the past couple of weeks there have been sightings in Kings Park (Glasgow) and Clarkston.



Box Tree Moth by Gary Williamson

As the name suggests, the caterpillars eat the leaves of Box, and in large numbers can completely defoliate the plant – which can however recover in a couple of months, though repeated infestations would no doubt weaken it. So vigilance is the best strategy – look out for the distinctive greenish-yellow caterpillars with longitudinal black stripes, which spin a web around the feeding area (rather like the Bird-cherry Ermine moth does). For further advice consult the RHS

website: www.rhs.org.uk/advice/profile?PID=760

That moth – a native of Asia - may have been introduced to the various Scottish areas via plants from garden centres; we know exactly how the second moth arrived here – it was found as a caterpillar in herbs bought from a supermarket at the beginning of July.

The adult moth emerged from the cocoon a few weeks later, and turned out to be Slender Burnished Brass (*Thysanoplusia orichalcea*) which is a native of Mediterranean areas – so though the herbs claimed to have been grown in England, it seems likely that they originally came from southern Europe. This was the first Scottish sighting; previous UK records are confined to the south of England, and most likely arrived under their own wing-power – as immigrants rather than adventives.



Slender Burnished Brass
by Magda Butowska

New Sand Martin Nesting Bank on the Kelvin at Garscube **Stewart White**

Thanks to funding from the Blodwen Lloyd Binns Bequest the Urban Biodiversity Working Group based at the University of Glasgow, have just erected a Sand Martin nesting bank on the bank of the Kelvin on the University Campus at Garscube. The nest banks are custom made with holes for up to 48 nesting pairs of Sand Martins.

An entrance tunnel filled with sand leads to a nesting space at the end of the tunnel. The sand in the tunnel allows the birds to excavate as they would do when creating a natural nest.



Sliding doors at the rear of the bank allow access for annual cleaning and maintenance and for ringing of the chicks by British Trust for Ornithology licensed ringers. Construction of the bank was completed on 31 March, just in time for the first reports of returning Sand Martin on the River Kelvin.

University staff and members of the Biodiversity Group will be checking the nesting bank on a regular basis, and we will update GNHS on any nesting activity.

Any successfully hatched pulli will be ringed and we hope to be able to mist-net adult birds as they provision their growing young. Artificial nesting banks elsewhere have proved to be very successful and previous research has demonstrated birds returning to nesting banks on an annual basis.

The new Sand Martin bank at Garscube will help to support biodiversity in the city of Glasgow in general and on the University campus in particular, and we hope to be able to share news of the success of the bank for many years to come.



A possible new *Cordyceps* fungus from Cambuslang

Nigel Hywel-Jones

Most fungi are connected in some way or another (positive or negative) with plants. A small group interacts with animals. One group in particular have adapted themselves to infect and kill insects and other related invertebrates. These are commonly called the 'Cordyceps Group'. There are between 500 and 1000 species currently known – but many more to be discovered. They have been reported from all continents apart from the Antarctic.



Fig. 1. The asexual fruit-bodies (synnemata) emerging from the host caterpillar (Hepialidae).

Not surprisingly the diversity of insect fungi is at its greatest in the hot humid tropical forests. This is where most species have been, and are being, discovered and named. The UK has been very poorly studied. This is in spite of an historically large number of British researchers who have worked on this group of fungi. In colonial times many of these researchers were based overseas and it is in those countries that most work was done.

With respect to the Cordyceps Group there are a mere handful of records for the UK. A recent find by Leoni De Wert is possibly

the most interesting addition to the records this century. This brief note is just to make it known to the members of the Glasgow Natural History Society.

[Leoni is a member of GNHS who found the fungus on a Ghost or Swift moth caterpillar (Hepialidae) in mid-March 2021, in the earth in her garden near Cambuslang (R. Weddle)]

Leoni posted a picture to a Facebook page asking for an identification. I corresponded with her and she was able to send it to me via the Beijing Herbarium. Receiving it in early April it was in perfect condition (Fig. 1). Leoni had gently air-dried it to prevent other contaminating fungi from growing over it. I put it in a small plastic box with some moist tissue paper to increase the humidity and hopefully encourage it to produce spores.



Fig. 2 Two images of the fruit-body (synnema) which is about 150-200 μm diameter. The left hand image is x25, the RH one a close up x115 of the conidiogenous cells producing the spores at the tips.

By April 7 I could see that spores were being produced (Fig. 2). The tip of the synnema will still be growing. Along its length are very fine hairs each one tipped with an asexual spore in a mucus drop. If another caterpillar brushed up against these spores they would be able to attach and infect the new caterpillar. However,

by gently wiping the spores on to a nutrient agar plate it is possible to get the fungus into culture.

Two days later (April 9) I separated these spores from some contaminants (which always have the nasty habit of growing faster) and have been slowly following the development (Fig. 3).

The good news is that this is now growing nicely in culture. But it is extremely slow-growing – typical for this group of Cordyceps.

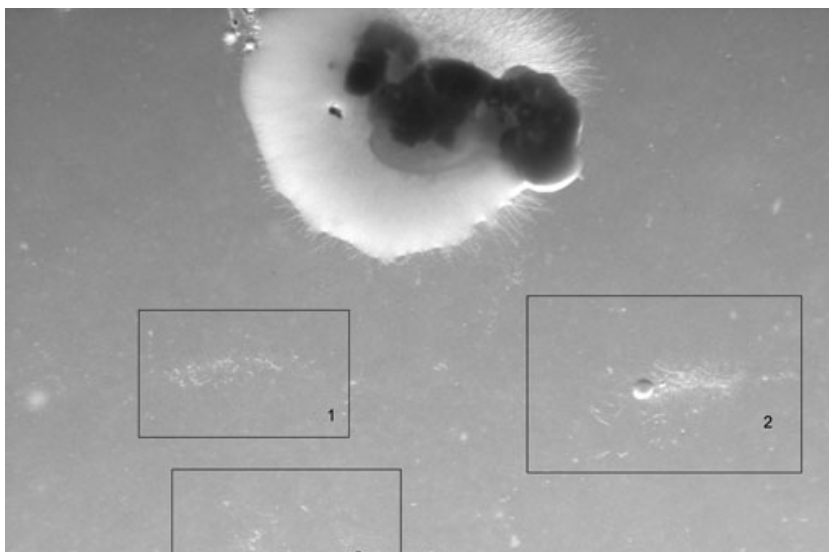
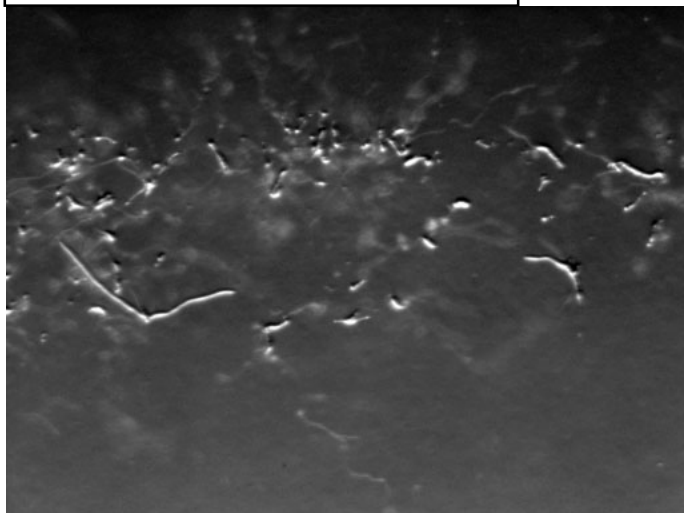


Fig. 3 This was taken at x10 magnification. The ugly mess at the top of the picture is a fast-growing fungus that is already about 3-4 mm diameter plus a slimy yeast. Leoni's spores are in the three boxes and just barely visible. Isolations to a clean plate were made from Box 1 and Box 3.

Fig. 4 shows x100 image of some of the spores from Box 1. These have germinated to make fine germ tubes with most growing straight down into the nutrient agar. They can be seen as the pale out of focus hyphae below the plane of the focus at the agar surface.



With the culture it will be possible to sequence this and compare with other members of the group. I am confident this will prove to be a new species,

which would be named *Ophiocordyceps leoniae*. It will certainly be the first new species of this group described from Scotland and, I think, there has only been one other originally named from the UK (England).

Fungi have very complicated and plastic life-cycles involving an asexual and a sexual state (usually) or sometimes only one or the other. Leoni's fungus is a member of a group that usually produces the asexual state followed by the sexual state. This development can

take 6-12 weeks. As this was first found in mid March I have recommended further hunts for other specimens over the coming weeks. However, even if nothing else is found there is still enough material to do microscope and molecular work to finally name it. I am happy to keep the group informed of developments over the coming months.

Editor's note:

The identification of the fungus as a new species has now been confirmed by gene sequencing. The name *Ophiocordyceps leoniae* has been proposed.

Book Reviews

Anthony Payne

A number of books have recently been offered to *The Glasgow Naturalist* for review by Princeton University Press. They are a pleasingly diverse batch.

"*Florapedia. A brief compendium of floral lore*" by Carol Gracie ;189 pp HB (2021) and "*Birdpedia. A brief compendium of avian lore*" by Christopher W. Leahy; 260 pp. HB (2021). Both by Princeton University Press, £9.99 each.

These two small books are of a similar pattern (a series?) and are arranged as an A-Z of their subjects. They would be ideal stocking-fillers.

The botanical book, described as "a delightful illustrated treasury of botanical facts and fancy" runs from achlorophyllous plants to the term zygomorphic. There are 100 subjects. Most entries get a page, but some entries are longer – 5 pages apiece for Ernest Henry Wilson (a Chinese plant expeditionary) and pineapple.

There are entries on individual plant species, plant families, botanical terms, notable botanists and more. Line illustrations by Amy Jean Porter.

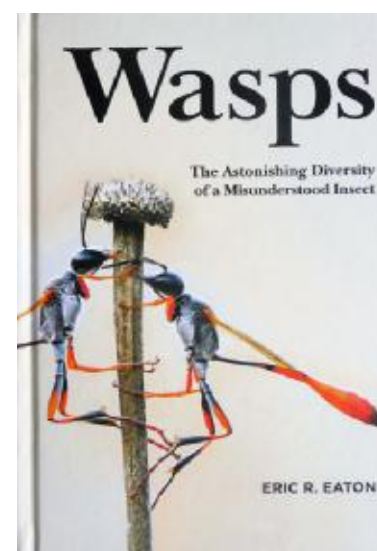


The bird book is rather longer and this has allowed a more essay-type approach. Along the way from A for "abundance" (5 pages) and "apocalypse" (7 pages) to Z for Zugunruhe (pre-migration restlessness, since you ask) the reader will meet E for Evolution running to 15 pages, as well as learning whether birds can sweat or fart. Like its botanical counterpart, there are entries on individual birds, notable bird observers and writers, as well as birds in art, writing and religion. Drawings by Abby McBride.

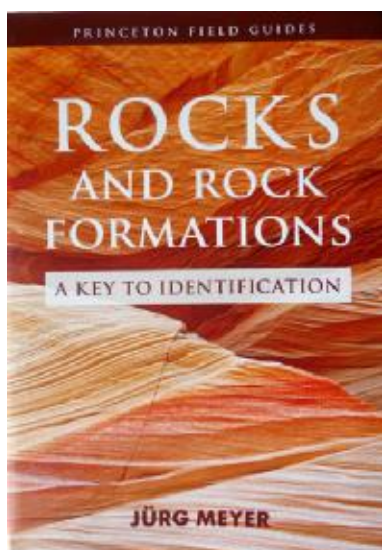
"*Wasps: the astonishing diversity of a misunderstood insect*" by Eric R. Eaton; 256 pp. HB (2001) Princeton University Press, £25.

A profusely- and beautifully-illustrated book whose subtitle sets the general approach – to counter the widespread perception that, whilst we may love bees, we definitely hate wasps. The first chapter on Evolution describes how ancient sawflies gave rise to parasitoid wasps, which in turn produced stinging wasps; bees are put firmly in their place as just "hairy wasps".

There are chapters on wasp anatomy and metamorphosis, on ecology, diversity and behaviour, wasp mimics, wasp enemies (predators, parasites and fungi) and wasps and people. The book ends with an illustrated review of wasp families. Like many books by this publisher, there are some transatlantic flavours. For example, the normal picnic-bothering wasps we are used



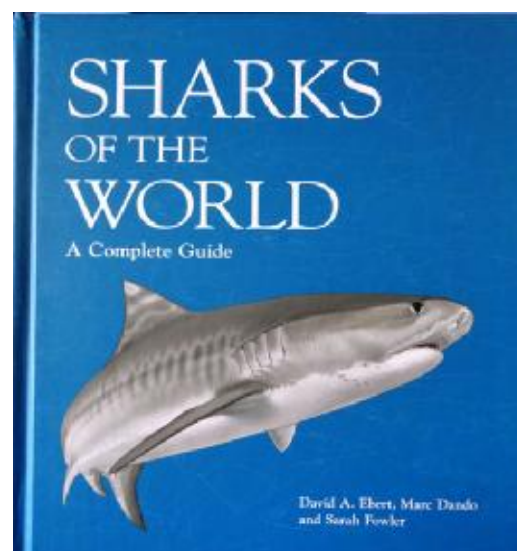
to are termed “yellowjackets” but otherwise the coverage is global.



“*Rocks and Rock Formations: a key to identification*” by Jürg Meyer. 192pp PB (2021) Princeton University Press, £16.99.

This is the English translation of a book originally published in German in 2017. The aim is that with little prior experience or knowledge, even beginners can identify rocks provided they are armed with a magnifying glass, a geological hammer and a penknife (only the serious need carry 10% muriatic acid). We are taken through crystals, minerals and three types of rock (sedimentary, igneous and metamorphic), their compositions and creations. The arrangement of rocks at the gross and sub-optical level leads into the main part of the book, an illustrated key which can be followed through (just like a botanical key) to identification.

“*Sharks of the World. A complete guide*” by David A. Ebert, Marc Dando and Sarah Fowler. 607pp HB (2021) Princeton University Press, £42.00. Though it does not say so in its title, this is the second edition of a book first published in 2013. The first 88 pages are an introduction to sharks, including their structure, behaviour, genetics and evolution, as well as shark fisheries and conservation. The bulk of the book (480 pages) is a key and guide to over 535 species; each entry includes identification, tooth structure, habitat and distribution, behaviour and biology (where known) and IUCN status together with drawings, a map and a colour picture/photo. The appendices include isolated fin and tooth identification if you visit foreign markets.



It is hoped that full reviews of these books will appear in *The Glasgow Naturalist*.

Excursion Reports

Possil Marsh SWT Reserve, June 13th, 2021

Alison Moss

Nine of us enjoyed a beautiful sunny day at Possil Marsh. This was guided and lead by SWT volunteers, Walter Douglas and Jon Barnes and although it was not technically a Bioblitz, the main objective was to record as much as possible to allow assessment of changes in the site. Pam Murdoch, Sue Futter and I were in charge of Botanical recording, ably helped by Myles O'Reilly. Richard Weddle dealt with the invertebrates.

I ticked off plant species on a list from the most recent survey. We recorded 150 species of flowering plants and ferns, 36 of which were not on my list. Several of these were tree species where Bob Gray's exceptional skills were invaluable,

especially with willow hybrids. We recognised that our list was not complete. The Monocots were conspicuously immature for the time of year, a result of a cold, dry late spring. Also, we did not feel equipped to venture into the main water area. *Bellis perennis* was a new find. Gypsywort (*Lycopus europaeus*) was good to see - not very common in the Glasgow area.

Billy Gray, the SWT site manager was delighted with our records and our comments on the site. It allowed his conclusion that it was time for a full update of records monitoring any significant changes at Possil Marsh.

The list is too large to print here, but is available if anyone wants to see it.

Possil Excursion – fauna

Richard Weddle

The following birds were recorded during the excursion: Chaffinch, Skylark (heard), Magpie, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Jackdaw, Wood Pigeon, Great Tit, Coot, Buzzard, Carrion Crow, Goldfinch (heard), Blackbird (heard), Wren(heard), and Pheasant. Other animals: Roe deer, frogs and molehills. Thanks to Hannah Mathers for most of that list.

This year has not been good for flying insects – certainly not at the time of this excursion; several Nettle-tap moths (*Anthophila fabriciana*) were seen on nettles, ragwort etc, we also saw an even tinier 'long-horn' moth, *Adela cuprella*, a Chimney Sweeper moth, and one or two white butterflies - a male Orange-tip and at least one Green-veined White. There were few hoverflies: a few of the common *Syrphus* species were seen, also a hoverfly associated with such wet meadow habitats:

Lejogaster metallina.

We saw the 'false blister beetle' *Oedemera virescens* in a number of buttercups - this species has become quite common in the Clyde area, though rather uncommon in most of the rest of the UK. I was pleased to find a specimen of the soldier-beetle *Cantharis pellucida*, which is described as 'local' in Central Scotland, but I was even more pleased to find a single Thistle Tortoise-beetle (*Cassida rubiginosa*), it was on a thistle, of course. There was also the rather commoner soldier-beetle *Rhagonycha limbata* – but the really common Red Soldier beetle had not yet started appearing (I first noticed it in early July this year).

Among other invertebrates were Brown-lipped Snails and Copse snails, a couple of harvestmen - both *Rilaena triangularis*, Large and Blue-tailed Red Damselflies, and a number of species of Mirid bugs. Thanks to Su Futter and others for contributing sightings of some of the above invertebrates.

Galls on the Darnconner, Cumnock Excursion

Paul Cobb



First is the sawfly gall of "Euura femoralis, formerly known as *Pontania dolichura*" on "*Salix phylicifolia*, or perhaps more likely a hybrid thereof". It's likely to be a first for Ayrshire.

The second photo shows the *Dasineura cardaminis* midge gall of swollen un-opened flower buds of Lady's Smock/Cuckoo Flower, the latter cut open to show the bright red larvae within. This one seems to be genuinely rare, not just under-

recorded, and likely to be a first for Ayrshire. The NBN shows 3 records in England and nothing else.



Excursion to Havoc, Dumbarton

Pam Murdoch

This summer GNHS returned to explore the Western part of the Brucehills Grassland, having visited the eastern part two years ago. The area is extensive and species rich. We found over 200 species.

Starting by the car park we found a few of the Sand Leeks (*Allium scorodoprasum*) for which the area is famous and across the road a good stand of Glasgow's favourite orchid, Broad-leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*).

Beyond the first meadow with its long grasses we came to a colourful display of yellow Buttercups interspersed with the pale purple Common Spotted Orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) and deep purple Northern Marsh Orchid (*Dactylorhiza purpurella*). In one area, Common Twayblade (*Neottia ovata*) predominated, an orchid new to many.

Thanks to local knowledge, we then found our way through a tunnel under the railway and up into woodland growing on the cliffs, a totally different habitat with leaves of the expected spring favourites such as Wood Sorrel, (*Oxalis acetosa*) Woodruff, (*Galium odoratum*), Dog's Mercury (*Mercurialis perennis*) to name but a few.

We returned to the coast for lunch. Luckily it was low tide, so we were able to go down on the shore to see the Eel-grass (*Zostera noltii*), a perennial completely submerged by the sea. Its thin leaf sheaths enclose the minute green flowers. Continuing along the shore, we found a selection of coastal plants, Scurvy-Grass (*Cochlearia officinalis*), Greater Sea Spurrey (*Spergularia media*), Sea Plantain (*Plantago maritima*) in full flower, Sea Arrowgrass (*Triglochin maritima*), Sea Milkwort (*Glaux maritima*) with its little pink flowers and behind them all, long stands of Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*).

We returned along the hedgerow with its Hedge Bindweed (*Calystegia sepium*) and Hedge Parsley (*Torilis japonica*) just coming into flower. Progress was only held up as we examined the main car park where cracks in the tarmac and sea wall proved another and rewarding habitat.

We hope that such a rich and diverse area will eventually be recognised as a Local Nature Reserve.

Havoc Excursion – fauna

Richard Weddle

This area has been fairly well studied for invertebrates over the last 30 or 40 years, but we still managed to add a significant number of species to the list for the site; these included the Burnished Brass and Straw Dot moths. Other Lepidoptera seen included Meadow Brown and Small Rivulet, though butterflies were rather scarce here as in other locations at that period of this year.

Burnished Brass Moth
by Pat Thomson



Beetles included the first of this year's Red Soldier-beetles (*Rhagonycha fulva*) and a smaller member of the same family: *Cantharis flavilabris* – the latter described as 'local in Scotland' and an addition to the species list. The ladybirds were represented by the 2-spot, and a larva of the 14-spot (*Propylea quattuordecimpunctata*), and the weevils included the metallic-green weevil *Phyllobius virideaeris* .

The grasslands held a number of Mirid bugs, the most colourful among them perhaps *Calocoris stysi* (associated particularly with nettles), and the plentiful alders hosted a good number of Alder spittlebugs – its smaller cousin the common spittlebug was plentiful in all habitats too. One of the oak saplings held a few marble galls, formed by the Cynipid wasp *Andricus kollari* .

Also in the grasslands, particularly around the thistles, there were a number of different species of picture-winged flies, including *Urophora jaceana* , an addition to the species list, and a similar fly with spotted wings, *Palloptera quinquemaculata* . Another Dipteran addition to the list was a 'tiger' cranefly *Nephrotoma flavipalpis* .

I should also mention a vertebrate not recorded at Havoc before: a dead hedgehog spotted at the side of the shoreside road by Su Futter.

Tree Weekend to the Burn, Edzell and St Cyrus

This took place in June. It is hoped to have a report of the Tree Weekend in the November newsletter.

Reminder of PhotoScene Competition Deadline

Darren O'Brien

The end of October is the deadline for entries to be submitted to this year's PhotoScene Competition. You are encouraged to enter, so please send entries to Lorna Kennedy (Lorna.Kennedy@glasgow.ac.uk) by then.

Full details can be found at:

<http://www.gnhs.org.uk/photoscene.html>

Next Newsletter - copy to David Palmar by 22nd October 2021 please.

Thank you very much to all the contributors who have made the newsletters so interesting and worthwhile publishing. Please send contributions by email, preferably as .rtf, .doc or .docx (Word 2007) format.

If you have time, please italicise taxonomic names, and use Verdana font, size 12 points.

If sending photos, please submit only a few as **separate** jpg files (not as part of a Word document), and make them under 200Kb each for emailing).