

Alnwick Wildlife Group

Promoting awareness of the countryside and its flora and fauna



www.alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk

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NEWSLETTER 177 JUNE 2016

Review of May 2016

MEETINGS:

WEDNESDAY 28TH SEPT

SAVE OUR MAGNIFICENT MEADOWS.

SPEAKER: NAOMI WAITE

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RANGER

I drive to Wallington via Rothbury as I have been asked if I wish to volunteer as a Ranger. I arrive at 9.30am from Alnwick and park up in the visitor carpark.

The Ranger station is in one of the outbuildings. Steve explains that one of the walls has collapsed in front of the main hall and asks if I can rebuild it. I say yes. It is a drystone wall and it takes me about an hour to complete the wall and to replace the coping stones.

We next get into the van. There are four of us, two volunteers, a work scheme lad and Steve. We go up to the Wanny Law line as damage has been done to some steps by the sheer volume of human traffic. We check the situation and will come back later to remedy the problem.

Next it's back to Wallington to start thinning some saplings in the West Wood. This job will take some time. There is a second team of about a dozen lads, mainly from the Ashington and Bedlington areas who undertake massive tasks, including the initial job of clearing and footpathing the railway.



We finish for the day at 4.00pm. In those days red squirrels were thriving at Wallington – how things have changed! On my way home I see numerous red squirrels with patches of black and white as part of their fur – a beautiful sight.

David Turnbull

Please send sightings reports for June, no later than 6th July 2016 to: Ian & Keith Davison, The Bungalow, Branton, Powburn, NE66 4LW or Tel: 01665 578 357 or email to redsquirrel@alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk Copies of the monthly Newsletter and sightings will be made available on the web site one month after the paper publication.

AWG welcomes contributions for the newsletter and items for inclusion should be submitted by the 12th of the month to redsquirrel@alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk

MAY 2016:

This month has been dominated by Tawny Owls; a very rare breeding duck (of which more another time), Dippers and Kestrels. However, I will start with one of our very early breeders the Blackbird. It was a pleasure to ring three pulli in their nest of known parents (both already ringed) in my neighbour's garden at the end of April – only for them to apparently disappear from the nest without trace at the beginning of May. However, on the 7/5/16 a trainee retrieved first one and later another from a mist net at home in the garden. Because of their rings I could positively identify them and subsequently saw them being fed by the parents. However, this left one unaccounted for (and we only ever saw two with the parent birds) but then on the 14/5/16 another trainee retrieved number three from a net in good condition. So in this case all three have survived the first few weeks of life save.

At this time of year I also check a number of traditional sites for breeding Dippers. Once site at Rothbury yielded not just a Dipper nest but also close by nesting Grey Wagtails; both were subsequently ringed. I do an annual survey of the River in Hulne Pk for occupied Dipper nests and this year does not seem to be a good one but one female was caught at her nest and ringed and then a couple of weeks later her entire brood was ringed. The male Dipper watched both operations from a nearby rock.



I located six Tawny Owl nests in boxes and all but one have raised young. The females in the case of two of these birds are well known to me. One from Craster was first ringed in 2012 and has bred every year since. Another which always uses a box near Longhorsley was first ringed in 2010 and only missed 2013. News from Kielder were a much larger number of Tawny sites are monitored says they have had a poor breeding year.

Before I start looking for nesting Barn Owls I check this time of year for breeding Kestrels and Little Owls (rare in Northumberland). So far I know of three Kestrel nests; one female of which “stared me out” from her box and quite refused to fly out into my net. Last year we captured the male in a net but clearly she has other ideas. We let her be and will go back to hopefully ring the young in June.

Finally in most years I have started ringing small passerines in boxes (Great Tit, Blue Tit etc.) by this time but this year they are all very late. Strangely Redstarts (a migrant) have already laid eggs, which in my local experience is very early!

*Phil Hanmer
A Ringer & Trainer
Natural History Society of Northumbria Ringing Group
(Hancock Museum)
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PLANT CORNER

On 10th May a small group of us surveyed the early season plants at Branton Ponds. Despite the fact that many species hadn't really got going we still managed to identify 143 species and these included two that I've never knowingly seen before, anywhere.

One of these was achieved by the novel method of throwing a small home-made grappling hook into the pond and dragging it out again with bits of submerged water weed attached. Our efforts – well actually it was Chris Metherell's efforts – eventually pulled out bits of four species. So early in the year our specimens didn't look as healthy as the ones in the photos that I've borrowed from the Web.

Many of you may remember from your GCSE (well, more probably O level!) biology the experiment involving Canadian Pondweed (*Elodea canadensis*). If you put a sprig in a test tube in bright light it soon starts producing bubbles of a gas. The number of bubbles each minute varies with the intensity of the light and if you collect the gas in a tube you can show that it will cause a glowing wooden splint to burst into flame, showing that it is oxygen given off during the process of photosynthesis. You may well have it in your fish tanks or ponds at home as an oxygenating plant. It has been known in Britain since about 1840, but far more recently, in 1966, another *Elodea* species appeared in the UK – Nuttall's Pondweed (*E. nuttallii*). The photo shows quite nicely how the leaves of the two species differ. We found both at Branton and Swan's Flora has no records of Nuttall's Pondweed at all in Northumberland.

Spiked Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum spicatum*) was a good find. It is described as scattered and occasional



Elodea canadensis and *E. nuttallii*

in our area. Much more exciting – if such things excite you – was the Rigid Hornwort (*Ceratophyllum demersum*) which was known from only two sites in North Northumberland, neither of which was Branton. This was one of the two species that were new to me.

The other new species for me was a lovely little diminutive vetch growing in the gravelly patches by the sides of the west pond. This was Spring Vetch (*Vicia lathyroides*).



Myriophyllum spicatum



Ceratophyllum demersum



Vicia lathyroides

These gravel areas had a range of interesting small plants and you needed sharp eyes to spot the vetch which was only growing to about 3cm high and which had very small purple vetch flowers. It only flowers in April and May, so if you miss it you have to wait another year.

Richard Poppleton

BRANTON PONDS BIOBLITZ – SUNDAY 3RD JULY (BUT STARTING ON THE SATURDAY EVENING!)

We are having our first attempt at a mini-bioblitz at Branton Ponds in support of the Hedgeley Estate's new management regime at the Branton Wildlife Reserve. The idea of a bioblitz is that we try to identify as many organisms as we can.

WHERE IS THE RESERVE?

You travel up the A697 to Powburn and continue north beyond the main village and past the big petrol station. Just before you leave the 40mph limit there is a road on your left to Branton. Follow the straight stretch and go carefully round the tight little double bend. After about another 200m you will see a rather unpromising double gateway on your right, one side of which is permanently open. This is the gate into the reserve's carpark. The Grid Reference is NU 049 166 which you'll find on OS Landranger 81 or Explorer 332 maps.

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

All events will start in the carpark.

BATS: Meet at 9.30pm on Saturday 2nd July. George Dodds will lead a bat detection walk around the ponds and along the river. He'll have a bat detector. If you have your own do bring it. You'll need suitable footwear (boots or wellies), suitable clothing (it can get chilly once the sun is down), insect repellent and a torch. The walk will last a couple of hours.

MOTHS: Meet at 9.30pm on Saturday 2nd July. Stewart Sexton will lead a moth trapping exercise with one or more light traps. Being by the trap while moths are attracted can be magical. Many moths can be identified as they flutter around or land on or in the trap, the bottom of which has egg boxes to give them somewhere safe to hide. The trapping will last until midnight or even later, but you won't be committing yourself to staying longer than you want. Wear suitable clothing etc (see BATS above).

MOTHS AGAIN: At 9.00am on Sunday 3rd July Stewart will open up the trap(s) and identify all the moths nestling in the egg boxes. Even if you can't be at the trapping the previous evening you may like to be at the "grand opening".

BIRDS: At 10.00am on Sunday 3rd July Ian and Keith Davison will lead a bird walk around the ponds and down the river Breamish. Some members of the North Northumberland Bird Club are likely to be there. The walk will be scheduled to last between 2 and 3 hours. Wear suitable footwear and clothing appropriate to the weather. Bring binoculars and scopes if you have them.

PLANTS: Starting at 10.30am on Sunday 3rd July, Richard Poppleton will lead a plant hunt around the ponds. We have 143 species recorded from a mid-May visit but we'll be looking to bring that total up to well over 200. Boots or wellies are a must and if you have waterproof trousers they will enable you to get down and personal with some of the small plants without getting badly wet knees. If you have a hand lens or a field guide, do bring them. Plant hunts take a long time, so you'll need to bring some lunch if you intend to stay for the full stretch. We'll aim to finish by mid-afternoon.

OTHER THINGS: If you have an interest and expertise in other groups of organisms we would strongly encourage you to come along to find and record whatever you can – butterflies, dragonflies, beetles, aquatic invertebrates all come to mind. We shall have some pooters, collecting tubs, pond sweep nets and trays and identification charts, but if you have your own equipment or books please bring them.

Let's make this a really enjoyable event that collects lots of data. Quite what we'll do if it pours with rain remains to be seen!

DEATH OF BOTANY

On 10th May this article appeared in The Guardian newspaper. It seems to me to have important relevance for us as a Wildlife Group. I have slightly abridged it, as allowed by The Guardian's Open Licence Terms and to remain within the maximum 500 word limit set by those Terms. If, having read it, your conscience is just a little stirred by your lack of knowledge of wild plants, do be aware that any and all botanical survey work that AWG does gets fed into local and then national databases – so perhaps it's time to get involved!

WE'VE KILLED BOTANY, LET'S SAVE THE FLOWERS

Michael McCarthy – author of *The Moth Snowstorm: Nature and Joy*

There have been no national ceremonies to mark the end of botany. A discipline that had flourished in our universities for centuries slipped quietly away into oblivion in 2013 with the graduation of the last students on the last undergraduate botany course, at Bristol. You can't do a botany degree in Britain any more.

A handful of universities still offer degrees in plant science, but these courses now focus on genetics, molecular studies and biotechnology, and barely touch on taxonomy and identification, which were at botany's heart. It is possible to complete one, a leading botanist told me, without being able to identify a single British wild flower.

Yet even more, the disappearance of botany as a subject is symbolic of a general lessening of the felt relevance of plants to modern lives. For instance there seems now to be an entire disconnect in people's minds between plants and our utter dependence on them. Most of us just don't get the fact that all human existence – with our smartphones and chat about what is cool and what is not – is ultimately dependent on a suite of about 30 crop plants and that without them we are dead.

Plants are not cool. Killer whales, tigers, peregrine falcons – they are all cool. But the plants that are in every way just as wonderful, are ever more disregarded and seen merely as part of the background of life, like pavements or buildings or central heating.

This misapprehension, this simple ignorance, matters very much in a world where wild plants are increasingly endangered – including many wild relatives of those 30 crop species which may be needed to boost resistance to climate change and plant disease at a time where feeding the soaring world population sustainably will be a terrifying challenge. A fifth of the world's 391,000 known wild plant species are thought to be threatened with extinction. Plants need friends; plants need advocates; plants need a champion and yesterday they may have found one, with a groundbreaking publication from the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew.

The *State of the World's Plants* starts with a baseline assessment of what plants there are on earth, what threats they face and what policies can protect them. It is a piece of horizon-scanning, a massive data-gathering exercise, but beautifully produced and wholly accessible to non-specialists. No one has done this before.

It makes Kew, uniquely, a global voice for plants. Kew has always had worldwide influence but it has never shouted out loudly, as an advocate, for all the plants of the Earth. There has perhaps been no need to do so, but there is now and Kew has the unique authority to do it.

Botany may have breathed its last, but the plants endure, fascinating, vital to our lives as they always were. That they now have such a powerful voice cheering them on is something to rejoice in.

This abridged article is reproduced courtesy of Guardian News & Media Ltd.

MEETING OF WEDNESDAY 25TH MAY

Our final meeting of the season coincided with pouring rain – the first for a while – so our audience of 26 was a bit down on our usual total. George produced a splendid live Poplar Hawk Moth (from Alan Fairclough); a lovely robin's nest (brought by Philip & Vivien Boulton) and a rather dead Common Shrew (from Keith Davison).

Marjorie Davy from Natural England then gave her presentation on "Managing Nature". For several years she has been a Farm Adviser for NE and spends much of her time out helping farmers to adapt the management of their land to meet the requirements of the various Stewardship schemes. It is important to realise that virtually all British habitats are managed by humans.



Her particular interest lies in the management of meadow habitats. Achieving a good meadow is rather like gardening on a farm scale. A good meadow not only produces good quality hay but has a vibrant suite of specialist pollinating insects which rely on the plants. Meadows need to earn their keep by providing hay for stock in the winter. The recipe for a quality hay meadow is:

- Light grazing by sheep and lambs in the spring
- The spreading of muck (but not too much)
- Shutting up the meadow from grazing from early May

- Hay making in late July (if left too late the grasses lose much of their nutrient value)
- Cattle grazing after the harvest – cattle plunging creates small hollows for wild flowers

The death of traditional hay meadows was the development of silage. Silage is baled or put in clamps in the wet state so it needs lush young grass which hasn't dried off.

An alternative – haylage – involves cutting grass at the same time as you would for hay, but baling it without leaving it to dry. So in poor weather when a hay crop might be totally lost, making haylage is a good alternative.

DAY	Hay	Haylage
1	Cut	Cut
2	Spread ("ted") to dry	Row up and bale
3	Ted again	
3/4	Row up and bale	

Contractors can sometimes make haylage all in one day.

The use of artificial fertilisers on the land increases the grass yield but leads to increased numbers of stock and so increased volumes of muck, all of which encourage larger coarse grasses so that hay meadow wild flowers cannot compete. Experience has shown that the key to a good hay meadow is not so much the date of mowing, but the date when the meadow is shut up from stock.

Marjorie then moved on to the idea of creating hay meadows on small scales in domestic gardens. She has done this in her own garden and after four years is starting to see the sort of results she hoped for. In gardens the early stage of sheep grazing has to be replaced by an early mow. So, the broad rules to create your own meadow are:

- Study your site – you MUST aim for low fertility
- Remove the turf – this removes weeds and impoverishes the soil
- Add wildflower seed from July to September
- In year 2 (and thereafter) mow before 7th May and again after 15th July

- Remove the cuttings to avoid re-enriching the soil
- Add plug plants of chosen wildflowers or, better, follow the method below



Marjorie runs a Coquetdale Wild About Club for children mainly on an empty plot at Townfoot in Rothbury. Among other things they grow wildflowers in large plastic tubs with drainage holes drilled in the bottom. Lots of crocks in the bottom, then some soil

followed by some compost and on top a deep layer of gravel. When the plants are ready to be removed for planting out elsewhere the whole tub is tipped out and a spade is used to cut out deep cones of soil with the required plants. This is much better than using plug plants which have little depth of soil and can be pot-bound. The tub grown plants have deep root runs. It helps if you can identify the different species from their roots in the upturned contents of the tub.

If you are planting wildflower seed direct on to your meadow area, then cover your soil with a deep layer of sand, which suppresses weeds, and sow your seed on to the sand.

If you have no ground of your own to create a meadow the you may be able to make use of rural road verges, parts of cemeteries, parts of school grounds or even green roofs on your garden sheds. It was clear from the questions and the way that Marjorie was buttonholed after the talk that her ideas on creating meadows were of great interest.



Wildflower tubs in the Rothbury plot

MICRO-MOTHS – YPONOMEUTIDAE- PART 2

Continuing the Yponomeutidae family, I start with a taxonomic problem that has only been recently resolved. There is a species called *Prays fraxinella* that has larvae that feed in the shoots of Ash (*Fraxinus excelsior*) and is widespread, though never common, in Northumberland. Most are white with black markings as shown below, but the species shows various degrees of melanism, to the point where the black markings can hardly be distinguished. Occasionally slightly smaller specimens are caught (including in our county) that are completely black except for an orangey head. There have been arguments as to whether these constitute a separate species for well over a century, but the larvae look similar, feed on Ash in the same manner and there are only very minor differences in the dissected genitalia. It was not until this century that DNA analysis confirmed that it is a true species, now called *Prays ruficeps*.



Prays fraxinella (Wingspan 15-17 mm)



Prays ruficeps (Wingspan 14-16 mm)

I will finish the family with the *Ypsolopa* genera containing 26 British species, 12 of which are found in Northumberland. The family is characterised by strongly forward facing antenna (like Caddis-flies) and boat shaped pupal cocoons. *Ypsolopa dentella* is fairly common, the larvae feeding on Honeysuckle (*Lonicera*) species. *Plutella xylostella* is extremely common, their numbers being reinforced by mass migrations from the continent. The larvae feed on Cruciferae and can be a pest on Brassica (Cabbage) species



Ypsolopa dentella (Wingspan 20-22 mm)



Plutella xylostella (Wingspan 12-17 mm)

Alan Fairclough



Ypsolopa dentella cocoons

WHAT WILDLIFE TO LOOK FOR IN JUNE 2016

Again the weather has been very changeable. Periods of reasonably hot weather have been followed by cool north easterly winds that have brought low cloud and rain. Periods of sunshine have seen good numbers of butterflies with small numbers of migrants such as **Red Admirals** and **Painted Ladies**. One of the other noticeable wildlife features has been the numbers of **Diamond-backed Moths**. A walk on a farm near the coast in early June produced tens of these moths with every step taken and yet very few were inland on the same day. These micro-moths are highly migratory and have two or more generations between May and September. Their larvae feed on vegetables as well as weeds.

The **House Martins** at 5 Front, Glanton are presumed to be sitting on eggs and on the verge of hatching. It has been noticeable this year that there has been an increase in the number of nests on Front Street with at least 6 'mud domes' being occupied. The **House Sparrows** have moved back into the 'hole in the wall' and have successfully raised their first brood. The numbers of pairs of **Swifts** have also increased in the village this year with at least 9 pairs being present.

SPECIES OF THE MONTH: PIPISTRELLE BATS

Up until relatively recently, there was supposed to be only one species of Pipistrelle Bat. The advancement in bat detector sensitivity and genetics has resulted in their being three species: Common, Soprano and Nathusius.



COMMON PIPISTRELLE is the commonest of all three pipistrelle bats. Their population has increased since roost counts began in 1999. This is the most likely bat that you will see feeding outside in your garden in an evening. Common pipistrelles feed in a variety of habitats comprising of woodland, farmland, urban and suburban habitats. Roosts sites can be virtually

anywhere on a building where there are suitable cavities or in a tree or cave. It is estimated that a single Pipistrelle will consume 3,000 small insects per night. Echo location calls can be picked up between 45 and 70 kHz.

SOPRANO PIPISTRELLE: The only way to tell this species apart from Common Pipistrelle is from the frequency of their echolocation calls. Sopranos are generally more selective in their habitat choice with a preference for wetland habitats, over lakes and rivers, around woodland and suburban parks and gardens. Their choice of roost sites are similar to Common Pipistrelles but they tend to roost in larger numbers. Echo location calls can be picked up between 55 and 80 kHz.

NATHUSIUS PIPISTRELLE: This species was recorded first in the Shetland Isles in 1940 and was thought to be a vagrant. It was subsequently raised to a winter visitor with bats being seen migrating with thrushes and other species in the autumn. In the 1990's the first breeding colonies were found. In Northumberland, this species is known to breed in the Ashington area. These colonies were only found through sheer persistence by the Northumberland Bat Group. It is possible that this species is more widespread than was one thought. Echo location calls can be found between 20 and 40 kHz.



Hopefully the weather will improve.

Jackdaw

SIGHTINGS MAY 2016

BIRDS	
Great-white Egret	1 at Druridge Pools on 29th
Little Egret	1 at Warkworth on 4th
Barnacle Goose	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 1st
Brent Goose(Pale Bellied)	1 at Fenham Flats on 8th
Gadwall	1 at Corridge Farm on 21st
Mallard	1 with 7 young on River Aln on 20th
Goosander	1 with 2 young on River Aln on 20th
Pintail	1 at Fenham Flats on 8th
Shelduck	8 at Branton Ponds on 9th
Garganey	1 at Newton Scrape on 10th
Common Buzzard	1 near River Aln on 20th
Demoiselle Crane	1 at Grindon Lough on 31st (probably an escape)
Woodcock	1 at Beanley Woods on 23rd
Avocet	3 at Cresswell Pond on 29th
Ruff	1 at Druridge Pools on 29th including male in full breeding plumage
Dotterel	1 on Holy Island on 15th
Ringed Plover	15 at Fenham Flats on 15th
Little-ringed Plover	6+ River Breamish on 2nd 1 at Branton Ponds on 23rd
Whimbrel	1 at Holy Island on 28th
Wood Sandpiper	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 12th 1 at Druridge Pools on 31st
Redshank	50 at Fenham Flats on 15th
Greenshank	1 at Branton Ponds on 12th
Little Gull	2 at Druridge Pools on 31st
Iceland Gull	1 over Glanton on 25th
Sandwich Tern	10 at Guile Point on 8th
Common Tern	20 at Guile Point on 8th 1 at Branton Ponds on 19th
Arctic Tern	17 at Guile Point on 8th
Little Tern	8 at Guile Point on 8th
Black Tern	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 12th
Cuckoo	1 near Ingram on 6th 1 at Harehope on 7th 1 at Eglington on 7th 1 at Threestoneburn on 8th 1 at Beanley Moor on 8th 1 at Longframlington Common on 21st 2 at Holystone Woods on 22nd 2 at Post Office Pylon on 23rd 1 at Black Clough on 23rd 1 at New Moor Crossroads on 23rd 2 at Beanley Woods on 23rd 1 at Smeafield on 3rd
Barn Owl	1 at Branton Ponds on 1st
Short-eared Owl	1 at Holy Island on 28th
Swift	5 over Wooler on 6th 2 at Glanton on 3rd 1 at Branton on 8th 2 at Belford on 4th and 6 on 5th
Hoopoe	1 at Harthope Valley on 20th
Green Woodpecker	1 at Holystone Woods on 22nd
Great-spotted Woodpecker	1 near River Aln on 20th
Grey Wagtail	1 in Harthope Valley on 17th
Yellow Wagtail	2 at Corridge Farm on 21st

Tree Pipit	1 at Beanley Woods on 8th 3 at Holystone Woods on 22nd
Robin	Fledged family at Smeafield on 6th
Bluethroat	2 on Holy Island on 15th
Wheatear	6 on Holy Island on 5th
Stonechat	3 at Warkworth on 4th several at Low Newton on 10th including 1 juvenile
Whinchat	1 near Ingram on 6th 1 in Harthope Valley on 17th 6 at Fenham Flats on 15th
Redstart	1 River Breamish on 7th 6 at Holystone Woods on 22nd
Ring Ouzel	1 at Hawsen Burn on 17th
Grasshopper Warbler	2 at Warkworth on 4th
Lesser Whitethroat	1 at Warkworth on 4th 1 at Holy Island on 13th
Subalpine Warbler	1 of the Western race on Holy Island on 15th
Garden Warbler	Several at Branton Ponds by 8th
Spotted Flycatcher	1 at Branton on 5th 1 at Corridge Farm on 21st 2 at Holystone Woods on 22nd 3 at Holy Island on 26th
Pied Flycatcher	2 on Holy Island on 15th 1 in Harthope Valley on 17th 2 at Holystone Woods on 21st and 1 on 22nd
Treecreeper	1 at Branton Ponds on 19th
Nuthatch	1 at Holystone Woods on 22nd
Red-backed Shrike	1 at Holy Island on 13th
Hooded Crow	1 at Fenham Flats on 9th
Crossbill	2 at Holystone Woods on 21st
Siskin	8 at Smeafield on 28th
INVERTEBRATES	
Pine Beauty	1 at Branton on 5th
Hebrew Character	4 at Branton on 5th
Powdered Quaker	4 at Branton on 5th
Muslin Moth	2 at Branton on 8th
Pebble Prominent	1 at Branton on 9th
Pale Prominent	1 at Branton on 29th
Sallow Kitten	1 at Branton on 27th
Lunar Thorn	1 at Branton on 9th and 1 on 28th
Flame Carpet	2 at Branton on 10th
Elephant Hawkmoth	1 at Branton on 27th
Poplar Hawkmoth	1 at Branton on 27th
Scalloped Hazel	1 at Branton on 11th
Cinnabar moth	1 at Low Newton on 11th 1 at Holy Island on 15th and many on 28th
Dark Tussock	2 caterpillars on Holy Island on 5th
Shuttle-shaped Dart	1 at Branton on 15th
Common Heath	Many on Post Office Pylon and Black Lough moors on 23rd
Comma	1 at Branton Ponds on 4th 2 at Holy Island on 15th
Green-veined White	2 on Holy Island on 5th
Speckled Wood	6+ at Branton Ponds on 9th
Small Copper	1 on Beanley Moor on 14th
Orange Tip	1 at Branton on 23rd
Blue-tailed Damselfly	1 at Branton Ponds on 28th

Red and Black Froghopper	Several at Branton Ponds on 27th
MAMMALS	
Red Squirrel	1 at Branton Ponds on 2nd 3 at Holystone Woods on 22nd
Grey Squirrel	1 in Alnwick on 14th
Brown Hare	5 at Branton Ponds on 9th
Common Pipistrelle	1 at Branton on 15th
Soprano Pipistrelle	1 at Branton on 26th
Roe Deer	13 at Holy Island on 13th
REPTILES	
Common Lizard	1 at Cunyan Crag on 8th
Adder	2 at Branton Ponds on 9th
Red-eared Terrapin	4 at Bolam Lake on 21st
PLANTS	
Greater Stitchwort	At Holystone Woods on 22nd
Dog Violet	At Holystone Woods on 22nd
Yellow Pimpernel	At Holystone Woods on 22nd
Northern-marsh Orchid	At Holy Island on 26th
RAINFALL	36mm
OBSERVERS	E Baonza, I&K Davison, G Dodds, P Jobson, S Reay, H Tindle,
	A.W.G outing.