

Alnwick Wildlife Group



Promoting awareness of the countryside and its flora and fauna

www.alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk

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NEWSLETTER 175 APRIL 2016

Review of March 2016

MEETINGS:

WEDNESDAY APRIL 27TH

COQUET ISLAND – ITS WILDLIFE AND MANAGEMENT

SPEAKER: PAUL MORRISON

WEDNESDAY MAY 25TH 2016

MANAGING NATURE

SPEAKER: MARJORIE DAVY

Marjorie Davy will speak about the role of Natural England in Northumberland. Marjorie is an extremely competent botanist and her enthusiasm rubs off on people that she speaks to. This will be an entertaining talk featuring habitats in west Northumberland.

SUMMER WALKS UPDATE

1. Don't forget Jim Clark's Harehope walk on Saturday 7th May (see March Newsletter for details).
2. On Saturday 21st May George is organising a trip to a wetland area near Bolam. The details are as follows: Bolam, Corridge and beyond...

Meet at Bolam Country Park car park (car park with the toilet facilities – NZ083 820) at 10 am. Stout boots or wellies are suggested for both Bolam and Corridge. The aim of the walk is to look for a range of wildlife that is found in woodland and wetlands. There may be an opportunity to visit Greenleighton Quarry on the way home. Contact George Dodds on 07702 492229 for further information.
3. Then we have an Extra Date. On SATURDAY 6th August David Turnbull, who is a former National Trust and National Park Ranger, will lead a walk entitled "The Flora and Fauna of Alnwick". We shall meet at 11.00am by the main entrance to Alnwick Cemetery on South Road. The walk is about 3 miles and should last a little over 2 hours. Even though it's a town walk, boots are recommended and there will be some uphill walking. If wet, wear suitable clothing. Highlights should be the cemetery wildlife; an ancient hedgerow; wildlife of at least one of the town trading estates.



Please send sightings reports for April, no later than 6th May 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

MARCH 2016:

Having signed up onto a BTO 'RAS' project we have made a special effort, when cleaning out and repairing owl boxes in the first half of March, to capture and especially recapture adult Barn Owls. RAS stands for ringing adults for survival; and is research aimed at studying the survival of adult birds as distinct from their productivity – which is the purpose of nest monitoring. Interesting recaptures have included a male that's with a female near Wooler that we actually ringed as an owlet at West Fenton in 2011. A male probably hatched in 2012 that's always resided around Rock and has been recaptured several times. Another male that we ringed as an owlet near Craster in 2014 which has now taken up residence in a box at Howick – apparently displacing my oldest known pair of birds (both over 10 yrs old when last encountered). Another male ringed as an owlet in 2013 near Howick is paired up with a new female north of Craster; while a female first controlled (a bird previously ringed by another ringer in another area) in 2012 is again in the Craster area. This bird was actually hatched in Dumfries in 2011! Finally my colleague Maurice McNeely recaptured an owl in an inland box south of Berwick that proved to have been ringed as an owlet in 2014 in a coastal box near Fenham. We have also ringed several brand new owls and controlled another bird near Warkworth - origins as yet unknown but the BTO's computer will track it down for me. I have now imposed my own moratorium on visiting Barn Owl boxes until the end of May – when we will start checking for eggs and young. However, Tawny Owls are now nesting so I will start surveying their nest sites shortly.

The change in weather patterns seems to have brought in a lot of Siskins, Goldfinch and a few Redpolls around my home near Lemmington Hall. This has proved interesting and instructive for several trainees. Highlights have included 42 birds on the 10th which were mostly Siskins but included a Blue Tit from 2012 and a Chaffinch from 2011. 64 birds on the 23rd including a retrapped Redpoll from Jan 2015 a retrapped Siskin from 2012 and another from 2013; and a control Redpoll and a Siskin. Finally on the morning of the 30th we captured 77 birds which included no less than 5 controls (2 Redpoll and 3 Siskin); there was also a Siskin recaptured from 2012. The highlight of the day was a Kestrel (not a usual bird to catch in a mist net) – apparently attracted by all

the small birds around; this was an adult male and its picture is attached on being released.

My ongoing special interest in the rare tits (willow & marsh) took me to a secret ringing location on the coast not far from Alnwick one morning to solve the mystery of exactly which species was visiting garden feeders. A bird was quickly captured and proved to be a Willow Tit; amazingly it had a ring on it already and so is a 'control'. The data has gone off to the BTO and I will soon be able to tell the owners of the garden where their little rare bird is from. I will also be trying to make some nest boxes for this species (quite specialist) in the future.

Phil Hanmer

A Ringer & Trainer

Natural History Society of Northumbria Ringing Group

(Hancock Museum)

E-mail: tytoalbas@btinternet.com



PLANT CORNER

In the middle of March Jane and I were in North Yorkshire on the southern edge of the North York Moors. We took the opportunity to visit Farndale, through which runs the small River Dove. The banks are renowned for their spring displays of the native Wild Daffodil. Inevitably we were a few days too early and very few flowers were open, but the photo shows some of them in their full glory about a week later (courtesy of the Yorkshire Post).



Anyway, that got me thinking about daffodils in the wild in my local area. Note that I deliberately didn't say wild daffodils because I wanted also to look at any clumps of daffs that have clearly originated in gardens but have escaped or been thrown out and have become at least temporarily naturalised.

Stace's New Flora of the British Isles lists 16 species plus another ten hybrids and he acknowledges countless other cultivated varieties of the main species. Swan's Flora of Northumberland is far more grudging. He clearly doesn't take seriously the garden discards because he lists only two species and one hybrid for our county. If you want to see truly wild daffs in North Northumberland you need to explore wet woodlands near the River Coquet at Warkworth and even these are only recorded as "probably native" as opposed to introduced and naturalised.

Here at Titlington Mount I found four patches of daffodils, pictured below. To be fair the first one didn't have any flowering stems this year because it had been badly disturbed last year by hedge planting, but I knew from previous years what the flowers were like and I've pinched a picture from elsewhere.

Richard Poppleton



A. *Narcissus poeticus* (Pheasant's-eye Daffodil) with very short petal tubes with red rims

B. *Narcissus hispanicus* (Spanish Daffodil) with the very long prominent trumpet petal tube



C. } As far as I can tell these are both cultivars of *Narcissus pseudonarcissus* (Wild Daffodil)

D. } and I apologise for the slug-eaten flower in the last photo – it was the least damaged one.



STEWCHAT

Spring! Although the weather is often rubbish in March it is the first true month of spring so things are on the up.

At the beginning of the month, Barn Owl sightings were regular in a few locations down the coast. I saw them at Longhoughton, Hipsburn, Warkworth and Widdrington, but home is always best, so one seen regularly from our kitchen window was always a pleasure. I think they forget the nights are getting lighter because they are always much easier to see during Feb / March and again in November for some reason.

Up to 10 Bramblings still favoured the weedy stubble at the entrance to our village and were seen most fine mornings, as were Brown Hares with up to 16 seen in a single walk.

By mid March our 9 garden nestboxes were being investigated by pairs of Tree Sparrows with at least 4 being occupied already. One pair of House Sparrows has taken to the terrace box on the gable end of the house. Around the same time, the first Toads began to appear in the village.

The 13th was a nice mild day so myself and John took a drive across to the 'AWG adopted' reserve at Branton. It was largely quiet but a Great crested Grebe and 6+ Goldeneye were nice while 8 Adders were basking along the road verge. One our way back, a roadside stop at a likely looking spot produced a good view of a Goshawk immature mobbed by a Sparrowhawk making an ideal size comparison and nearby 12 Buzzards were soaring over the forest. At home another Sparrowhawk was making daily sorties to our bird feeders, with varying amounts of success.

A week later saw John and myself off down to the Coquet Estuary for the first time this month. We checked the seedy field now known as the 'Redpoll Field' after its recent arctic visitor. The northerner was nowhere to be seen, but a replacement in the form of a nice Lapland Bunting gave us the runaround until we got satisfactory views (not good, just reasonable). They are always an exciting find on any local patch.

Back home at Howick that evening, Redwings could be heard migrating north in the dark as they 'seeped' over head as well as the trumpeting of Whooper Swans.

On 21st a Peregrine and a Crossbill flying over were noteworthy first thing at Howick.

It was the 25th of the month before the first butterfly appeared in our garden, a Small Tortoiseshell and it was joined by a good few Buff tailed Bumblebees mainly



Figure 1: Barn Owl seen from our kitchen window.



Figure 2: A Toad emerges along our drive.



Figure 3: Sparrowhawk again through the kitchen window.
feeding on the flowering currant blossoms.

Even though we have had 2 Chiffchaffs wintering at Howick, it took right until the 28th before new singing arrivals appeared . So, with the Dawn Chorus filling out it wont be too long before summer visitors from further afield begin to arrive. I'll have to leave the shed door open...

Stewart Sexton



An audience of 42 gathered to hear Derek Robeson's talk on Habitat Creation in the Borders and Tweed Catchment.

Derek works for the Tweed Forum and he started with a quick summary of the geology of the area, starting with the ancient rocks at St Abbs; the Old Red Sandstones; the SW to NE movement of ice through the Hawick area and the drumlins left by the ice in the Merse. The ice also left kettle holes and many small ponds in unlikely places. It is noticeable in the map above that the River Till which is entirely in Northumberland is included in the Tweed Catchment which therefore extend as far south as Powburn.

The Tweed Forum works mainly with farmers – both helping them to achieve what they want from their farms while at the same time pushing for farming practices which will enhance the environment. There are several underlying aims, such as trying to increase the carbon storage of the land, particularly by conserving the peatlands; improving the extent to which the upland landscapes can give better flood protection to the areas downstream; improving the quality and variety of habitats for wildlife; improving the water quality of the area; helping to control and, if necessary, eradicate the worst invasive alien weed species; improving the profitability of the farms while still meeting the other objectives.

Much work has been based around habitat mapping. It's no good having a policy of, for example, increasing the area

of broadleaf woodland, if tree planting happens randomly. By having habitat maps of farms the intervention strategies can be focused most effectively. All development is a compromise between the needs of the land managers and the needs of wildlife. If the farmer can see the logic of the decisions that are reached, then they are most likely to be cooperative and for the changes to succeed.

On many upland farms sheep are the major problem. They pollute the land and therefore the water courses more than any other animals. But persuading farmers to change their stocking densities or their grazing regimes is often not easy.

The increasing awareness that upland farming practices can and must help flood control by "slowing the flow" has led to much work and the need for much funding. Peatland drain blocking; tree planting with native woodland; creation (or re-creation) of flood-plain wetlands and ponds; deliberate re-meandering of burns and rivers all contribute effectively to slowing water flow, but all are expensive.

The Land Use Strategy (LUS) mapping of the whole of the Tweed catchment has become increasingly sophisticated and it greatly helps to identify the most appropriate areas for different interventions. These LUS maps can be found on the Scottish Borders website.

Derek's talk was well received and gave rise to a good question and answer session at the end.

MICRO-MOTHS – CHOREUTIDAE AND GLYPHIPTERIGIDAE

These two families are quite small in number, but some of the species can be extremely common.

The *Choreutidae* family has only seven British species of which only two have been recorded in Northumberland. The Apple Leaf Skeletoniser (*Choreutis pariana*) larva feeds exposed on the upper surface of apple leaves, which may explain why it is never common and there are only six county records, all south of the Coquet. The Common Nettle-tap (*Anthophila fabriciana*) on the other hand is common everywhere; the larvae feeding on nettles in an untidy spinning.



Choreutis pariana (Wingspan 11-15 mm)



Anthophila fabriciana (wingspan 11-15 mm)



Anthophila fabriciana on Tansy

The *Glyphipterigidae* also contains seven British species, four of which have been recorded from Northumberland. All the species have a characteristic habit of partially raising and lowering their wings every couple of seconds when at rest. The larvae mostly feed in the stems or seed-heads of grasses. The commonest is (*Glyphipterix simpliciella*) which feeds on many grass species, while (*Glyphipterix haworthana*) is restricted to wet moorland where Cotton-grass species grow. If you see Cotton-grass seed-heads still present in late winter, they almost certainly contain the moth pupae.



Glyphipterix simpliciella (Wingspan 6-9 mm)



Glyphipterix haworthana (Wingspan 11-15 mm)



Glyphipterix simpliciella on Dandelion

INVERTEBRATE CORNER

MYRIAPODS:

This is a collective term that includes two arthropod Classes: the Diplopoda (“two footed”) and the Chilopoda (from the Greek word *chilios* meaning “thousand” footed) containing the millipedes and centipedes, respectively.



Centipedes (see photo). are familiar to most people, and are distributed throughout the world in both temperate and tropical regions. There are about 2,500 living species including long, wormlike forms adapted for living in soil (see photo), long legged forms (see photo) common around houses (where they often crawl up plumbing systems and end up in the bath), and more heavily bodied forms that live beneath stones, bark and logs. The largest centipede is the tropical American *Scolopendra gigantea* which can grow to be 30 cm long (see photo). Most centipedes are red-brown in colour, although some tropical species may be green or blue.



Millipedes (see photo) are more secretive than centipedes, and avoid light as much as possible. Their habitats are very similar to centipedes, but some species live in old earthworm burrows and others live commensally in ant nests. Still others live in caves. There are about 7,500 species many of which live in the tropics. A distinguishing feature of the class is the presence of doubled trunk segments, derived from the fusion of two original segments. Each “diplo-segment” bears 2 pairs of legs (see photo), from which the name of the class is derived. Millipedes vary greatly in size from 2 mm to 30 cm (see photos). The number of body segments is also variable, ranging from just 11 to over 100. Millipedes tend to be black or brown, but some southern Californian species are luminescent (see photo).





Centipedes are essentially carnivorous, feeding mostly on insects, but also on worms and slugs. Scolopendra, the large tropical form, may eat mice (see photo) and small birds which it subdues with poison injected from two modified front legs (see photo). Occasionally some species turn to plant food, and can become serious pests. Millipedes are primarily herbivores, feeding on a wide variety of dead and decaying leaves.



The many-legged condition of myriapods is related to their, likely, marine ancestry – they are thought to have been among the first arthropods to invade land over 400 million years ago, and also to their life style. Millipedes are somewhat slow-moving, requiring relatively powerful propulsion as they move continuously through soil and decaying vegetable matter. Centipedes, in contrast, are fast-moving predators that search for and run down their prey. Millipede gaits can be regarded as “low-gear”, whereas centipedes are “high-gear”. For equivalent motor size (measured as the volume of locomotory muscles), millipedes are arranged with gearing like bulldozers, and centipedes like racing cars. Millipedes have many short, wide segments and many relatively short legs, while centipedes have fewer long, narrow segments with longer legs. One result of this is that at any one time, in the millipede, the majority of the limb tips are on the ground, while in the centipede, less than 1/3rd of the limbs are simultaneously supporting (and propelling) the trunk. Thus, while it is possible for the millipede to have its pairs of legs in phase with each other, in the centipede the gait demands that the paired legs be in opposite phase; to ensure stability and support of the trunk without sagging. The power bottom gear of the millipedes therefore, involves long backstrokes with many legs pushing simultaneously. In contrast, the faster gait of centipedes involves few legs propelling at once by backstrokes of short duration - however, this results in some sacrifice of stability to speed.

The difference in movement between the two groups has led to differences in other body functions and behaviours. For example, in centipedes, defence consists largely of fleeing, although some are equipped with poison claws. Other centipedes have repugnatorial glands on their undersides. These produce a nasty smelling or irritable fluid which may persuade a predator to look elsewhere. These glands are, however, much better developed in the slower-moving and more vulnerable millipedes. Each gland consists of a large secretory sac, which empties into a duct and out through an external pore. The principal components of the secretion vary in different species, but aldehydes, quinones, phenols and hydrogen cyanide have been identified. In the case of hydrogen cyanide, it is liberated when a precursor and an enzyme are mixed in a double-chambered gland.

Continued below A Day in the Life of a Ranger...

A DAY IN THE LIFE OF A RANGER

My title in those days was Ranger or Warden and as a child of about three years approached me he asked if I was the gardener (for Druridge Pools). I had to turn away and stifle a laugh when he asked this, but I didn't succeed. It was the way the little boy hesitated during the question: "hey mister, are you the... gardener?" that made it funny.

Ten o'clock and time to start. Two weasels are chasing each other round and round in the gateway. They haven't noticed me as they stand. They were just two metres away from me, the larger weasel (I presume the female) chasing the smaller.

A little later I am approached by a lady who tells me that a dog has been locked in the roasting inside of a car and can I help. I drive her to the car and judge the dog to be overheated. I literally had my wheelbrace in the air ready to smash the side window when the lady shouted "someone's coming". It was the return of the car owner, just in time. A lucky escape for the car window. If I had smashed it I should have told the owner to make a damages claim at the National Trust Scots Gap office.

I patrol to the far end of the site to find half a dozen Six-spot Burnet moths on Ragwort – a beautiful sight indeed. The 'far end' in those days was 'spoiled' by the opencast lorries coming out of the mine on the recently-built road.

At that time there was always damage to be reported

to Mike at Newton-by-the-sea as campers and visitors alike got their firewood from the stiles and fences. The money taken at the site entrance barely covered the cost of materials for the repairs. Luckily the government paid the wages of the Scheme lads so the Trust did not lose out. The team of lads was half a dozen strong.

Back then there were no mobile phones so if an emergency happened I had to drive a mile to the Widdrington Inn to call emergency services.

It's now four o'clock. Time to go home. I'll call at Sisters with the rubbish on the way home and check for any damage at Alnmouth South Beach. I asked Mike one day why the road to the South Beach is not tarmacked. He told me that leaving it rough is part of the management plan – leaving it rough discourages people from using the South Beach. Clever!



David Turnbull

Continued from Invertebrate Corner.

The fluid is usually exuded slowly, but one Haitian species, *Rhinocricus lethifer*, can emit a spray over a distance of 70 cm. Millipedes have another protective behaviour, and that is to roll the trunk into a tight coil. The last body segment is expanded laterally and covers the head (see photo). Despite their pugnacious attitude to life, female centipedes are very protective of their eggs and young (see photo).



Dudley Williams
Newton on the Moor

WHAT WILDLIFE TO LOOK FOR IN APRIL 2016

Spring has just about arrived, although the sight of Redwings and Fieldfares moving in a south west direction at the weekend was seasonally strange. The buds on many of our trees and shrubs are just about to burst. Sand Martins and Chiffchaffs have arrived in good numbers. Swallows and the first Willow Warblers have appeared as have Sandwich Terns offshore. Our resident birds are busy building nests and laying eggs. At 5 front Street, Glanton, there is a scramble for suitable nest holes in our House Sparrow terrace nest-boxes.

SPECIES OF THE MONTH: GREAT CRESTED NEWT

The largest of our native newt species. During the breeding season males develop a jagged crest which has a break at the base of the tail and females take on a 'bulky' appearance. Adults can be up to 15 cm in length. Skin is black or dark brown and has a rough, 'warty' appearance. Underside is bright orange with irregular black blotches. Males have a crest along their backs which is more pronounced during the breeding season. They also have a white flash on the tail which is in contrast to females that are yellow/orange colour.

Great Crested Newts favour large ponds with abundant weeds and no fish. They are active at night, spending the day at the bottom of ponds or in vegetation. The main sources of food are invertebrates and tadpoles. Single eggs are folded inside leaves of aquatic plants. Larvae have a filament at the tail tip and black blotches

over the body, tail and crest. Larger than all other newt species encountered in the UK, they reach a length of 50 – 90mm before metamorphosis.

In Northumberland, a Northumberland Wildlife Trust survey suggested that the species had distribution



centered on south east Northumberland. Further surveys suggest that they are more widely distributed especially in ponds to the east of the A1. They can be found at the pools at Quarry House, Hepburn. This location holds all three species of British newt; Great Crested, Palmate and Smooth.

Please remember that Great Crested Newts are fully protected under UK law. It is an offence to kill, injure, capture, disturb or sell them, or to damage or destroy their habitats. This applies to all life-stages

Jack Daw

SIGHTINGS MARCH 2016

BIRDS	
Red-throated Diver	2 at Guile Point on 13th 3 at Stag Rocks on 8th
Black-throated Diver	1 at Guile Point on 13th
Great-crested Grebe	1 at Branton Ponds on 12th and 2 displaying on 25th
Slavonian Grebe	2 at Stag Rocks on 8th and 8 on 22nd
Little Egret	1 at Brandon Ford on 3rd 2 at Beal Point on 12th 2 at Fenham Flats on 13th 1 at Branton Ponds for most of month 1 at Budle Bay on 8th and 22nd
Whooper Swan	58 over Branton Ponds on 12th 19 over Beal on 12th 6 at Branton Ponds on 14th 2 at Turvelaws on 13th
Greylag Goose	300 at Budle Bay on 22nd
Tundra Bean Goose	1 at Harpers Heugh on 5th
White-fronted Goose	3 (of the form flavirostris) at Harpers Heugh on 5th
Pink-footed Goose	110 at Harpers Heugh on 5th 400 at Budle Bay on 8th and 800 on 31st 2500 on Milfield Plain on 19th
Brent Goose	3 at Harpers Heugh on 5th 319 at Fenham Flats on 13th 1000 at Budle Bay on 8th
Barnacle Goose	18 at Harpers Heugh on 5th 8 at Budle Bay on 31st
Pochard	2 at Branton Ponds on 4th
Pintail	30+ at Fenham Flats on 5th
Long-tailed Duck	12 off Cheswick Beach on 12th 5 at Stag Rocks on 8th
Common Scoter	55 at Stag Rocks on 8th
Red-breasted Merganser	3 at Guile Point on 13th 4 at Stag Rocks on 8th 23 at Budle Bay on 22nd
Common Buzzard	4 at Smeafield on 15th
Peregrine	1 at Belford on 1st
Sparrowhawk	1 at Branton on 10th 1 at Elwick on 13th 1 near Belford on 13th
Water Rail	1 at Branton Ponds on 28th
Bar-tailed Godwit	82 at Fenham Flats on 13th
Black-tailed Godwit	1 at Fenham Flats on 13th
Lapwing	300 at Yearle on 1st
Ringed Plover	4 at Hedgeley Lakes on 6th
Sanderling	68 at Fenham Flats on 13th
Green Sandpiper	3 at Hedgeley Lakes on 6th and 1 on 28th
Lesser-black Backed Gull	2 at Branton Ponds on 8th
Iceland Gull	1 at Branton Ponds on 6th
Mediterranean Gull	1 at Branton Ponds on 15th and again on 24th
Barn Owl	1 at Branton Ponds all month 1 at Turvelaws on 6th and 25th 1 at Yearle on 13th 1 at Alnwick on 30th
Kingfisher	1 at Branton Ponds on 28th
Swallow	1 at Brandon on 27th
Meadow Pipit	30 at Branton Ponds on 24th
Grey Wagtail	1 near Linhope on 25th
Stonechat	2 on Beanley Moor on 25th
Mistle Thrush	A pair nest building at Smeafield on 11th
Fieldfare	100+ at Beanley Wood on 25th 150 at Doddington on 19th
Redwing	10 at Beanley Wood on 25th

Chiffchaff	1 at Branton Ponds on 23rd and 5 on 28th
Willow Tit	1 at Branton Ponds on 11th
Treecreeper	1 at Branton Ponds on 10th
Raven	2 at Linhope Spout on 20th 1 in Harthope Valley on 20th 1 near Holborn Moss on 28th
Crossbill	1 at Beanley Wood on 25th
Siskin	2 at Smeafield on 18th
Lesser Redpoll	1 at Yearle on 19th
Yellowhammer	24 at Doddington on 19th
Lapland Bunting	1 at Coquet Estuary on 20th
MAMMALS	
Stoat	2 (one in full ermine) at Branton Ponds on 2nd
Red Squirrel	2 at Branton First School on 3rd 1 near Belford Mains on 13th
Roe Deer	3 at Branton Ponds on 2nd 4 at Milfield Plain on 19th
Brown Hare	1 at Milfield Plain on 19th
INVERTEBRATES	
Pale Brindled Beauty	1 at Branton on 3rd
March Moth	1 at Branton on 12th
Twin-spot Quaker	1 at Howick on 25th
Red Chestnut	1 at Howick on 25th
Agonopterix arenella	1 at Branton on 22nd
Herald	1 at Brandon Farm on 17th
Peacock Butterfly	1 at Branton Ponds on 14th 1 at Elwick on 21st
Small Tortoiseshell	1 at Smeafield on 14th 1 at Howick on 25th
Red-tailed Bumblebee	1 near Beal Point on 12th
Buff-tailed Bumblebee	1 at Branton on 13th several at Howick on 25th
Early Bumblebee	1 at Howick on 25th
REPTILES	
Adder	2 at Branton Ponds on 7th and 8 on 11th and 14 on the 14th
Slow Worm	2 at Branton Ponds on 13th and 4 on 29th
AMPHIBIANS	
Common Frog	Frogspawn at Branton Ponds on 11th many at Lemmington Hall on 12th Frogspawn in Harthope Valley on 22nd
Toad	Hundreds on road from Bamburgh to Branton on 11th many at Bamburgh on 13th
PLANTS	
Coltsfoot	In flower at Branton Ponds on 11th
Marsh Marigold	In flower at Branton Ponds on 17th
OBSERVERS	W Banks, G&R Bell, S Carrott, I&K Davison, T&J Dean, A Hall, P Hanmer, S Reay, S Rippon, J Rutter, S Sexton.