

Alnwick Wildlife Group

Promoting awareness of the countryside and its flora and fauna



www.alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk

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NEWSLETTER 201 JUNE 2018

Review of May 2018

SEPTEMBER MEETING – WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 26TH – “RESTORING RATTY” WATER VOLE REINTRODUCTION – GRAHAM HOLYOAK



Please send sightings reports for June, no later than 6th July 2018 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 2018: There are no special trips abroad to report from this month as all the activity has been close to home. Late April and May is when most birds (especially resident species) breed; forget about the random Robin or Blackbird that tries to breed much earlier in the year, yes some of them do try but most just build a nest and then give it up; or maybe lay some eggs and then fail to incubate them.

I will start with Dippers that in a good year have a brood in April and another one in May. I do an annual survey of traditional nesting sites in Hulne Pk (The Dukes enclosed Medieval Deer Park at Alnwick) and this year I found six active nests (some I can only see with Binoculars others I can physically check and ring the pulli). Six nests sounds good except that this year these are all basically second broods because the first broods never happened. I was able to ring a brood of 5 on the 3/5/18 at a site where I have more usually ringed a brood around two weeks earlier (see pic.) and another at another site on the 10/5/18. At an entirely different site under a bridge near Powburn we usually get a trainee or two wet while I show them how to safely extract a brood of Dippers from a nest, ring and safely return them to the nest. However, this year (due to my other commitments) the brood of three fledged successfully without getting their 'bracelets' so I had to employ Plan B. This required the placing of a net across the river a week or so later and after some patience the adult pair and two juvenile Dippers were captured and ringed (number three has I fear fallen victim to the perils of nature); while adult are very sleek soft brown birds the fledged juveniles have a pale 'scaly' appearance (see pics.). While ringing the dippers we also caught a Common Sandpiper, which proved to be the male of a pair that is nesting in some gravel close to the river. This particular nest is out of the way of dogs and humans that seem to blunder around close to water in May. Personally I would like to ban people from this insensitive activity until at least the middle of June to give wildlife a chance to breed in peace.

I monitor a number of Nest Box locations every year including on a Farm; around a Caravan Site and near the former National Pk centre at Ingram. All these sites are running approximately two weeks late; although interestingly Blue Tits are developing faster than Great Tits. The first nest ringed was on the 26th when 4 pulli Robins were ringed at the Breamish Caravan Site (incidentally the adult female had been ringed on the 20th when the young were too small to ring); we then went on to ring several Blue Tit nests of 8, 5, 2 & 8 respectively. We had to go to Ingram to find some Great Tits including two nests of 7 each. There will be some more of both species to ring in a week although I can already tell its going to be poor year in terms of productivity. The most fascinating find from this month was a Willow Tit nesting not in a hole or a box it has had to partly excavate (which is its usual habit) but in an ordinary sort of wooden nest-box. Those who recognise this species will be tempted to say – it must be its close relative "a Marsh Tit". However, having now shown the female birds photo to several people (photo attached for you all to see) everyone seems agreed that it is a Willow Tit. Clearly this bird has 'not been reading the books'!

Tawny Owls nest in April and May and several of my regular birds who are used to my annual visits tend to just glare at me when I look into their box. One female at Craster is at least seven years old and positively refuses to come out of her box until her owlets are quite close to clambering out of their nest up into the trees (branching). However, one of my trainees did manage to ring the 2 owlets on the 16th (see pic.).

At the end of the month I and my collaborators have started to check on the state of Barn Owls nesting. So far it's very unlike last year when we were actually ringing young Barn Owls in May! To date we have found three nests with a hatching (and incidentally twittering) egg but most are just eggs or even just a pair of owls thinking about breeding. Productivity will be down on last year (when it was exceptionally high) but it's too early to tell if it will turn out to be an average year or actually poor.

Anyone interesting in ringing is invited to get in touch.

*Phil Hanmer 'A' Ringer/Trainer Natural History Society of Northumbria Ringing Group (Hancock Museum)
E-mail: tytoalbas@btinternet.com*

Pictures on the front cover...

PLANT CORNER

This is my 200th Plant Corner article and so it deserves something rather special. You'll have to forgive the rather large number of photos in this article, but at least 70% of them are my own!

In Northumberland one of the underlying rock types that is in very short supply is limestone. Many of our local soils are quite acidic, although the grasslands overlying outcroppings of the Great Whin Sill are much less so and have their rather different plant communities. But the whin sill, although a much more basic rock type (dolerite), is far from being related to limestone. Dolerite is an igneous rock formed by volcanic action while limestone is sedimentary, formed mainly by the sinking of invertebrate shell material rich in calcium carbonate on to the floors of shallow seas.

When the opportunity came to go on a four day botanical trip to the Malham and Ingleborough areas of the Yorkshire Dales in early June it was an excellent opportunity to spend time botanising in a solidly limestone landscape.

Of course not all the plants in limestone country are different from the familiar ones we have in our area. Many species are remarkably catholic in their habitat requirements, but quite a few seem very specific in their need for the neutral to slightly alkaline conditions created by the calcium carbonate in the soils. Let's take a few examples:

- Meadowsweet *Filipendula ulmaria* is so familiar to us in damp areas that it's easy to forget that it has a sister species, **Dropwort** *F. vulgaris* (right) which is very scarce with us. It grows mainly in calcareous grassland that very often overlies limestone and we found it in good quantities. It was barely in flower, so my photo is one I took several years ago.
- One of the vetches that is not recorded at all in Northumberland is **Horseshoe Vetch** *Hippocrepis comosa* (below), so it was excellent to find quite a good patch in a scrubby woodland area in the hills near Kettlewell.



- When you are in calcareous grassland, one of the key dominant grass species is **Blue Moor Grass** *Sesleria caerulea* (right). It is very rare in our county with only three small known sites. One of these is at Ratcheugh where you almost have to have someone to hold onto your legs as you get down on your stomach to peer over the sheer quarry edge to see a small number of plants just below the rim. In the Dales it is everywhere, but not easy to photograph, so I've had to borrow an image from the internet for this species. At least seeing it regularly over four days has cemented its characteristics in my memory and the photo cannot give the overall slightly blue-green effect of areas with lots of this grass.



- Contrasting with this rather non-photogenic grass is one of the loveliest small primroses. **Bird's-eye Primrose** *Primula farinosa* (next page) doesn't occur at all in North Northumberland and in only a few small areas in the south of the county, but in limestone country in early June it can grow in large swathes. I found some particularly spectacular patches in a disused quarry near Horton-in-Ribblesdale where the two photos were taken.

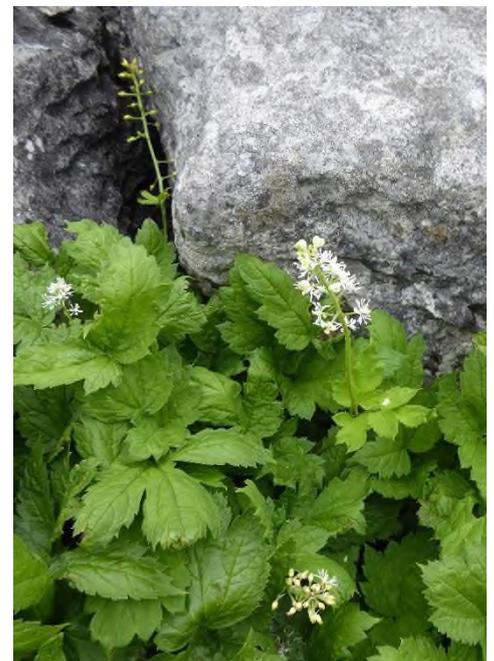


- Similarly there are two saxifrages that are very rare in Northumberland but which crop up quite frequently in the Dales. **Mossy Saxifrage** *Saxifraga hypnoides* (upper photo) can sometimes be found in really impressive patches, such as the one shown, on the edge of a wood south of the Ribbleshead viaduct. The name comes from the fact that when it's not in flower you could easily mistake the mound of foliage for a patch of moss.

The other one, **Rue-leaved Saxifrage** *Saxifraga tridactylites* (lower photo), is a much smaller and less showy plant found in small patches on walls and on limestone pavement.



- I hope all readers will be familiar with the concept of limestone pavement. This occurs where large amounts of limestone has been exposed on comparatively flat surfaces. Unlike some rocks like sandstone which occur in large solid masses in these situations, limestone breaks up into rectangular blocks called clints with deep narrow fissures between them called grykes. The surface of the clints is usually too smooth to retain any soil and to have plant growth, so it is the grykes that hold the interest and on a big area of pavement you can spend many a happy hour peering down into the grykes in search of less common plants.



In one area near Goredale Scar we found several plants of the very uncommon species **Baneberry** *Actaea spicata* (right). It is not recorded at all in Northumberland. The plant is very poisonous to mammals and therefore to humans, although not to birds which are responsible for dispersing the seeds from its black berries. Despite the toxicity it was once grown in gardens and used in herbal medicine. Even John Richards, the botanical recorder for South Northumberland who had organised the trip, had only once before seen baneberry, so this was regarded as one of our star finds.

All this brings me to the real star of the show. In the 19th Century studying birds often involved shooting and stuffing them first. With botanical study, if you went looking for rare plants you took your trowel and dug them up to look at when you got home. With some more attractive species you might dig them up – or send your servants and employees to do so – and bring them back to your glasshouses to propagate them and then, perhaps, sell them to friends and other keen gardeners and plant collectors. So it was with the rarer orchids whose numbers were often decimated by collectors. In Britain, most notoriously of all, the **Lady's-slipper Orchid** *Cypripedium calceolus*, which was never plentiful in the first place, was reduced to a single plant in the Yorkshire Dales.

In the last century as the concept of conservation was recognised as important, this sad and lonely plant was increasingly heavily protected by concerned local people and even more recently efforts have been made to bring pollen from plants elsewhere (including British plants still growing in cultivation) to try to get the sole survivor to produce seed. This has happened with some success, although the origins of some of the pollen have sometimes been a bit suspect. So now we have the situation where the original protected plant has some small younger neighbours and all are protected in wire cages, both to deter plant thieves and to protect from grazing animals.

We found the site! The only trouble was that between us and the orchid was a deep gulley in the bottom of which, it was discovered, was a high stone wall with barbed wire on top. The slope down from where we were was steep and wet and having already slipped and fallen on wet limestone earlier in the day I was not feeling very mountain-goatish. So my only view of what I understand is the only wild Lady's-slipper in Britain is shown in the photo, taken with a compact camera's digital zoom on maximum, from about 100m away. If you can see it, the flower is the tiny yellow blob in the left-hand part of the cage! The view with binoculars was ever so slightly bigger.



Bill Burlton, however, (who members may remember talked to us about the Border Mires a few years ago) is an ex-climber and he found a way round the various obstacles, reached the plant and took the excellent portrait shown on the next page. I've resisted reducing the size of the image to fit at the bottom of this page because I want this unique bloom to be given full feature-sized recognition.

You will notice that I've not given any information about the location. The only way we knew where to look was that John Richards had seen the plant 40 years ago (before the days of hand-held GPS) and remembered roughly where it was. Until quite recently a dedicated and self-appointed 'guard' would set up residence in a small hut near the orchid during the flowering season and physically warn off intruders, but there was no sign of him this year.

So, a memorable trip with some brilliant plants, several of which were new to me and to most other members of the group that went, with the Lady's-slipper as the *pièce de résistance*.

Richard



Our last meeting of the 2017/18 season saw us welcoming a new member, Jennifer Prince from Alnwick. 33 people were treated to George's special accomplishment of finding an Elephant Hawkmoth caterpillar in his garden in the autumn, putting it in a small box with some food material, allowing it to pupate, keeping it alive over winter and managing finally to hatch it out in May. The adult moth of course had to be released when hatched, but George had brought the remains of the cocoon. He also produced a dead Chiffchaff, which was amazingly small and lightweight.

Finally Phil Hanmer had a tale (and a photo) of one of the Tawny Owl boxes he monitors which, when inspected, had both an owlet and a Goldeneye duckling which clearly the female owl had hatched and not (yet?) eaten. The duckling was released to take its chances on Branton Ponds. But don't go inspecting owl boxes to see if you can match Phil's experience – you don't have a licence!

Our speaker was **Tom Cadwallender** who talked to us in his irrepressible style about some of his ***Birding Adventures in the Americas***. He began in Tierra del Fuego (where else!?) and the sea birds on the Strait of Magellan. There were Magellanic Penguins and Giant Petrel with their 2.5m wingspans, plus Flightless Steamer Ducks. At one inlet called Useless Bay which has the only mainland colony in the world of King Penguins he saw a lonely mate-less male. Presumably still living in hope.

The Alto Plano in Chile (which Tom insisted should be pronounced "Chillay") has peaks which rise to 40,000 feet and the lakes in this area have six species of Coot, including the Giant Coot, plus colonies of Chilean Flamingo with their pink knees. Further north in northern Chile were the very elegant Grey Gulls. A boat trip into the Humboldt Current produced clouds of Kelp Gulls and various Albatross circling the boat, including the Royal Albatross with a wingspan of 3.5m. There were Elliot's Storm Petrels which uniquely breed 40km inland in the Atacama Desert which at least keeps them safe from predatory gulls, but does require a very long daily round trip to bring food to the young in their burrows.

Throughout his talk Tom was at pains to show us samples of the various types of enchiladas (looked to me like Cornish Pasties!) that seemed to be the staple diet of the tour party. In the harbour at Arica in the extreme north of Chile by the Peruvian border were Inca Terns (right). These startlingly smart birds with their white moustachios sadly are found to be nesting in human rubbish and old car tyres. Nevertheless they were one of Tom's top ten birds.



Crossing the continent to northern Argentina, he spent time in a city wildlife reserve which produced a range of good species including Cream-backed Woodpeckers, Toucans and Red & Black-legged Screamers (Red-legged pictured left). Some of these Screamers are big: the Southern Screamer is goose-sized. At night there were Young's Screech Owls and Scissor-tailed Nightjars.

Further north in Argentina he came across three species of Flamingo, although in fact there is not a vast difference between them. And to show that not all is totally exotic and alien to us in northern Europe there were large numbers of Wilson's Phalarope. In these areas the corvid niches are occupied by Caracaras and there is a range of Finches, including Sierra, Pampas and Black-headed which again occupy niches that in Europe would have our familiar finch species.

One particular excursion into the high plateau area enabled the group to find one of their much-sought-after species, the Tawny-throated Dotterel. The cold deserts here have hummingbirds and woodpeckers plus Spectacled Tyrants, Plant Cutters (that actually eat leaves), Burrowing Parrots and the Sierra Cuckoo. Northern Argentina also has forests and one particular species that we would recognise is the Dipper – but this one has a red-brown throat patch rather than our familiar white and so is the Rufous-throated Dipper (right).



Next to Mexico where there are between 18 and 20 species of Wren, some of which, like the Grey-barred Wren, move around in flocks and often can be used to indicate areas which are good for other small passerines. Much of the group's time was spent looking for particular range-restricted species like the Lesser Road-runner (with a distinctive blue head) and a Ground Cuckoo.

One trip Tom took was to the Caribbean Islands of St Lucia and St Vincent. As one might expect from fairly isolated islands much time was spent seeking out their endemic island species.



Up into North America, one trip was largely concentrated on looking for the many species of Grouse in the Colorado section of the Rockies. A great sight was seeing 35 male Greater Sage Grouse with their amazing inflatable chest pouches on their lekking area early in the morning (left). The Ptarmigan here is the White-tailed species which is at least as hard to see as our species is in Britain. Other birds that operate as garden birds in Colorado are Mountain Bluebird and Pine Grosbeak, plus American Thrush which is sometimes confusingly called American Robin.

Tom was not impressed with Kansas, but found Nebraska much better. In this state there are six different species of Prairie Chicken and if you are lucky you can find their lek sites.

[This account merely skims the surface of the range of birds Tom talked about and showed us and it's not impossible that I may have got some of the names wrong. Apologies if I have. Richard]

Tom ended with a plea to assist the BTO with its current effort to record the presence of Heronries across the British Isles. So if you know of a heronry, please do report it – either directly on the BTO website or by an email to AWG who will pass the information on.

I ended last month mentioning that I am keeping a close eye on the tiny area around our village to see what wildlife can be found. In particular, this month I have been looking for invertebrates in our garden each time I am out grass cutting or whatever.

Inspired by two sources - a small book by Ken Thompson, 'No Nettles Required' that documents a study of ordinary gardens in Sheffield and their use for wildlife, and the work of Jennifer Owen, a scientist who studied the wildlife in her own Leicestershire garden for 30 years from 1972 – I thought I had better open my eyes to the creatures found quite literally on the doorstep.

When people think of wildlife gardening, it is usually about putting up nestboxes and feeders for birds, bat and hedgehog boxes for mammals and maybe a bee box or two, plus it gives an excuse not to get stuck in to the dark patch of rank nettles behind the shed. This is a slightly misleading view of the biodiversity that surrounds our dwellings. If you totalled up all of the species to be found in your garden, you will find that by far and away the majority have 6 or more legs.



Figure 1: Our garden. With the grass cut it looks tidy... but its not really.



Figure 2: Garden Spider nest of spiderlings on the bathroom window sill.



Figure 3: While on the spider theme, this is my first Cucumber Spider in a lilac

Many of the older wildlife gardening books focus on having only native species, growing a nettle patch, be untidy etc, but really none of this is required. If you have a garden, with a wide variety of plants but no real interest in the animals that visit, you will still have garden wildlife. This can be improved significantly by adding a few things or not as the case may be.

1. Do not use chemicals in any form.
2. Have a compost heap.
3. Do not be too tidy.
4. Grow as many plants as possible (whether natives or not).

And that's about it really. A pond will up the stakes too, as will a tree or two, but it doesn't matter if you have neither space, time nor inclination. You will still attract invertebrates that in turn will attract larger species.

So, what has turned up in our Howick garden this month?

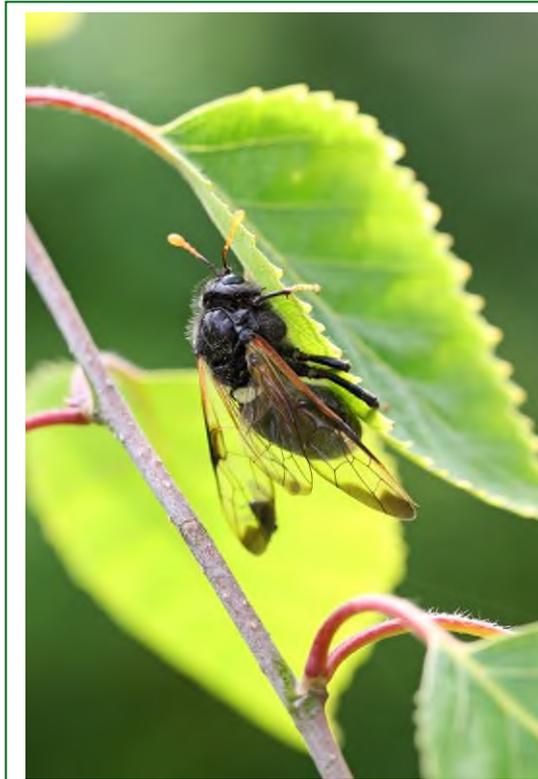


Figure 4: This huge Birch Sawfly landed in our small birch and appeared to lay eggs in the leaves.

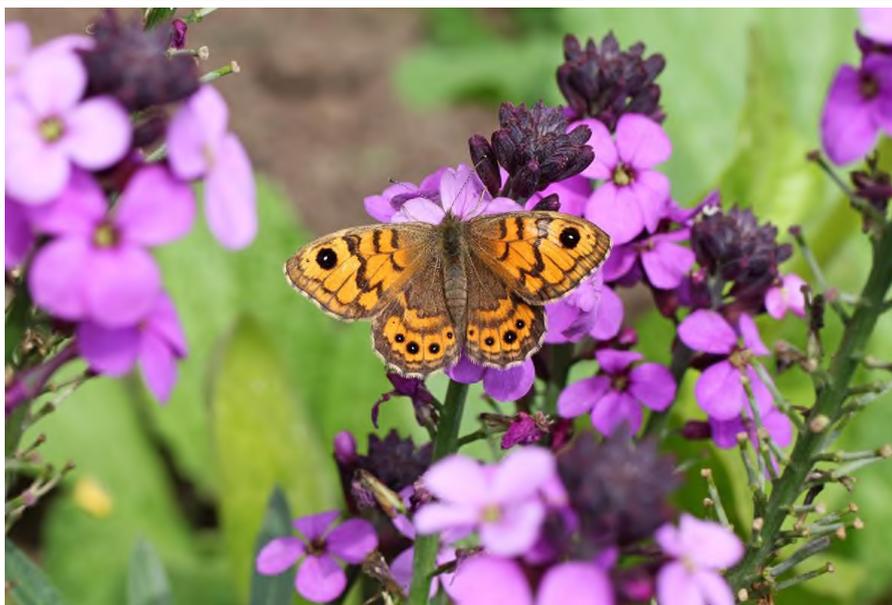


Figure 5: Wall Brown, a regular visitor on fine days.



Figure 6: A garden first was this *Nemaphora degeerella*, a Long Horn Moth, on our Hemp Agrimony.

This is just a selection of the highlights and of species I have been able to put a name to. Hopefully there will be more to come over the rest of the summer...

Stewart Sexton, Howick.

9 members met at Lamberton to enjoy the diverse wildlife on this seacliff top walk.



Whilst flora was below expectation possibly due to recent bad weather, Thrift, Purple Milk Vetch, Red Campion and Primrose were flourishing and a patch of Meadow Saxifrage, whilst now almost over, was still evident.

Good views of Peregrine actually flying below our feet were thrilling, while other birding highlights included Fulmar and cliff nesting House Martins.

However the main target, the Small Blue Butterflies, did not disappoint. Up to 30 of these surprisingly small butterflies (mainly males) were seen. Other butterflies were relatively scarce apart from abundant numbers of Small Heath, a few Walls and 2 Cinnabar moths.



The weather behaved and the site which was new to 8 of the group seemed to impress.

Thanks to Mora Rolley for the photographs.

A DIGRESSION

At the 25th of April meeting of the Alnwick Wildlife Group the speaker, Lord James Joicey, began his presentation with a digression. He had, the previous day, visited the salmon and trout breeding facility at the head of Kielder Reservoir. He was struck by the observation that at this time of year the salmon were undergoing smoltification, a physical and physiological process evolved to prepare these fish for their run out to sea. This despite the fact that, for over 40 years, the Kielder population has been cut off from the sea by the dam. These changes persist as they have a genetic basis within the fish.



Salmo salar (see photo above) is generally regarded as an anadromous species (born in freshwater, migrating out to sea to mature, returning to spawn in their rivers of origin), but there are populations which exhibit non-anadromous behaviour. The presence of a land-locked population of Atlantic salmon in Kielder is a U.K. example of the amazing range of life history tactics seen in this species. Some years ago, I did some work on ouananiche an extreme example of non-migratory Atlantic salmon which may be of interest to readers. Unlike the U.K. where land-locked populations are rare, Newfoundland, Canada, has many such populations, probably a result of the province's glacial history.

Ouananiche (an aboriginal term, pronounced "oowanish") are widely distributed throughout Newfoundland and Labrador where they occur in various land-locked situations, such as isolated lakes and rivers, as well as in sections of rivers cut off by waterfalls. Newfoundland's freshwaters are oligotrophic (nutrient poor) hence fish populations grow slowly but can reach maturity at very small sizes. For example, in an isolated tributary in southeastern Newfoundland, male ouananiche mature at 1+ years of age and the females at 2+ and 3+. Average length for mature females is 10.2 cm and 9.2 cm for males [see photo below of a mature male (left) and mature female, with eggs (right); ruler scale is in centimetres].



Genetic comparison of fish from an isolated, non-anadromous population and a sample of anadromous fish from the main river indicated that, over the years, there had been some genetic divergence between the two

populations. The very wide range of life history tactics seen in Atlantic salmon results from a greater plasticity in genotype (the genetic constitution of an individual organism) and ability to colonise diverse waterbodies than is seen in other salmonids. Pacific salmon (*Onchorhynchus* spp.) occupy a similar range of habitats, but they have achieved this by evolving into at least six species, including Coho, Sockeye, Chum, Chinook, Pink and



Steelhead (see photos above). *Salmo salar* has accomplished this through plasticity, thought to be related to, in the case of Newfoundland, the absence of a diverse indigenous freshwater fish fauna - the latter allowing the genus to express its full evolutionary potential, which elsewhere is kept in check by rigorous competition (for more details see: Gibson, R.J. and R. Haedrich, 2006. Life history tactics of Atlantic Salmon in Newfoundland. Freshwater Forum 26: 38-45).

Dudley Williams

Newton on the Moor



You may get this newsletter before the Holy Island trip on 24th June, so I've left the details in for that event as a reminder.

SUNDAY 24th June Holy Island – orchids, dune flora, birds. Led by Richard

Safe crossing is until 11.10am and we can get off again from 3.45pm, so this will be a full day trip. Binoculars, plant field guide and hand lenses will be useful if you have them. Remember the problem with Pirri-pirri Bur and wear footwear and clothing that provide as few attachment opportunities as possible. Meet at The Snook parking area (track on your left about halfway between the mainland and the island) at **11.00am. Bring lunch**

O.S. Landranger 75 O.S. Explorer 340 Grid Ref NU 105 436

SATURDAY 7th July Alnwick Lion Bridge to Peter's Mill. Led by David

Meet at the Lion Bridge at **10.00am**. Park either in Bailiffgate or the Peth or in the parking layby on the north side of the bridge. The walk involves riverside and woodland walking and there may be mud, so choose suitable footwear. Distance probably about 3 miles.

O.S. Landranger 81 O.S. Explorer 332 Grid Ref NU 186 138

SUNDAY 5th August Quarry House Ponds. Led by Jim

Meet at Quarry House farm at **10.30am** on the moor road. We shall have a look at the ponds for amphibians, aquatic plants etc, and then walk down to Chatton Sandfords. Distance about 5km c.2½ hours. Wet moorland, so stout footwear and midge repellent advised.

O.S. Landranger 75 O.S. Explorer 340 Grid Ref NU 104 247

SATURDAY 22nd September Shepherds Law for waxcaps etc. Richard & Jane.

Nothing is certain with fungi, but we'll hope the waxcaps are up and in good fettle. If not we'll indulge in a good walk through Beanley Plantation. Meet at the point where the bridleway crosses the minor road between the A697 and Eglingham at **10.30am**. Park tidily where you can on the verge. We'll aim to be back at the cars by 1.00 at the latest. Stout footwear.

O.S. Landranger 81 O.S. Explorer 332 Grid Ref NU 084 167

SIGHTINGS MAY 2018

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BIRDS	
Great-northern Diver	1 at Cheswick on 7th
Red-throated Diver	2+ at Cheswick on 7th
Glossy Ibis	1 at Druridge Pools on 12th and again on 29th
Spoonbill	1 at Druridge Pools on 26th
Little Bittern	1 at Waren Mill on 5th
Whooper Swan	2 at Druridge Pools on 26th
Barnacle Goose	3 at Holy Island on 31st
Shelduck	5 chicks on Monk's House Pool on 29th
Common Scoter	45 at Cheswick on 7th
Long-tailed Duck	A small group of males calling on Fenham Flats on 31st
Pintail	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 18th
American Wigeon	1 at Grindon Lough on 30th
Garganey	1 at Druridge Pools on 29th
Sparrowhawk	1 at Holy Island on 31st
Merlin	1 on Holy Island on 6th
Marsh Harrier	2 at East Chevington on 12th
Water Rail	1 at Druridge Pools on 26th
Woodcock	1 at Beanley Woods on 17th
Oystercatcher	Pair with 2 chicks at Branton Ponds on 15th
Avocet	9 at Cresswell Pond on 12th
Ringed Plover	2 at Hedgeley Lakes on 4th
Little-ringed Plover	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 4th
Redshank	18 at Hedgeley Lakes on 4th
Greenshank	2 at Druridge Pools on 26th
Pectoral Sandpiper	1 at Druridge Pools on 29th
Wood Sandpiper	1 at Low Newton flash on 13th
Curlew	7 at Hulne Moor on 24th
Whimbrel	2 at Branton Ponds on 2nd 3 at Cheswick on 7th 1 at Holy Island on 31st
Ruff	2 at Druridge Pools on 12th
Black-tailed Godwit	3 at Druridge Pools on 12th
Little Tern	2 over Holy Island on 13th
Cuckoo	1 at Alnwick Moor on 6th 1 at Callaly on 7th 1 at Beanley Moor on 13th and 2 on 14th 1 at Alnwick Moor on 24th
Short-eared Owl	1 on Holy Island on 6th
Barn Owl	1 at Humbleton on 3rd 1 at Branton Ponds on 7th 1 at Doddington on 13th 1 near Hedgeley Hall on 17th 1 north of Doddington on 29th 1 at Bolton on 14th 2 at Bolton Woodhall on 25th 1 at Abberwick on 25th
Tawny Owl	1 near Hedgeley Hall on 17th
Swift	1 at The Hirsell on 3rd 6 over Branton Ponds on 8th 1 over Alnwick on 12th and 20 on 31st
Kingfisher	1 at Branton Ponds on 8th 1 on River Breamish on 20th
Great-spotted Woodpecker	2 at Smeafield on 17th
Tree Pipit	1 at Holystone Woods on 7th
Dunnock	2 fledglings in Alnwick on 30th
Stonechat	3 at Beanley Moor on 14th 7 at Hulne Moor on 24th
Whinchat	A pair on Holy Island on 6th several in College Valley on 19th
Wheatear	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 4th 50+ on Holy Island on 6th 1 at Dunsdale on 20th
Redstart	4 at The Hirsell on 3rd 2 at Holystone Woods on 5th and 6+ on 7th 1 at Brizlee Woods on 24th 1 at Allenbanks on 30th 1 at Holy Island on 31st 1 near Broome Park on 7th 2 at Abberwick on 17th

Black Redstart	1 on Holy Island on 13th
Ring Ouzel	2 near Hawsen Burn on 2nd
Blackbird	2 young birds at Smeafield on 13th
Grasshopper Warbler	1 at The Hirsell on 3rd
Blyth's Reed Warbler	1 at Low Newton Pool on 27th
Reed Warbler	2 on Holy Island on 6th
Marsh Warbler	1 on Holy Island on 29th
Common Whitethroat	2 on Holy Island on 6th 1 at Branton Ponds on 13th
Lesser Whitethroat	1 on Holy Island on 29th
Chiffchaff	1 in Alnwick on 5th
Spotted Flycatcher	1 at Holystone Woods on 7th
Pied Flycatcher	1 Holystone Woods on 5th and again on 7th 1 at Branton Ponds on 10th and there until 15th 2 at Allenbanks on 30th
Willow Tit	1 at Branton Ponds on 3rd
Red-backed Shrike	2 at Low Newton on 13th 1 at Holy Island on 28th
Raven	1 near Beanley on 24th
Bullfinch	2 in Glanton garden on 2nd
Greenfinch	1 at Smeafield on 29th 4 in Alnwick on 9th
Yellowhammer	1 at Abberwick on 17th
MAMMALS	
Grey Squirrel	3 at The Hirsell on 3rd
Brown Hare	5 at Branton Ponds on 4th
Weasel	1 at Branton Ponds on 3rd 1 near Embleton on 7th
Badger	1 near Ellingham on 5th
Fox	1 at Branton Ponds on 11th 1 at Beanley Woods on 17th
Otter	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 19th
INVERTEBRATES	
Orange Tip	1 at Holystone Woods on 5th 5+ at Waren Mill on 5th 1 at Smeafield on 1st
Small Copper	1 on River Breamish on 20th
Green-veined White	2 at Branton Ponds on 5th
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary	9 at Debdon on 31st
Peacock	3 at Branton Ponds on 5th
Small Tortoiseshell	2 at Smeafield on 12th
Painted Lady	1 at Debdon on 31st
Green Hairstreak	4 at Alnwick Moor on 6th
Speckled Wood	2 at Branton Ponds on 7th and 3 on 18th
Wall	3 at Branton Ponds on 18th 4 at Smeafield on 28th
Emperor Moth	4 at Alnwick Moors on 6th 6+ at Debdon Moor on 12th
Knot-grass	1 at Branton on 7th
Lunar Marbled Brown	1 at Branton on 7th
Streamer	1 at Branton on 7th
Pale Prominent	1 at Branton on 20th
Swallow Prominent	1 at Branton on 19th
Lesser Swallow Prominent	2 at Branton on 7th
Poplar Hawkmoth	1 at Branton on 11th and 2 on 18th with 9 on 27th
Least-black Arches	1 at Branton on 12th
Engrailed	1 at Branton on 12th
Lunar Thorn	1 at Branton on 12th
Red Sword-grass	1 at Branton on 19th
Black-tailed Damselfly	Numerous at Branton Ponds on 20th
Common Blue Damselfly	3 at Branton Ponds on 18th numerous at Branton by 20th

Red and Black Froghopper	1 at Branton Ponds on 20th
REPTILES	
Adder	2 at Branton on 17th
Common Lizard	1 at Smeafield on 19th
PLANTS	
Celery-leaved Buttercup	At Branton Ponds on 18th
Common Whitlow Grass	In College Valley on 19th
New Zealand Willowherb	On River Breamish on 20th
Water Aven	On Alnwick Moor on 24th in Crawley Dene on 24th
Lousewort	On Alnwick Moor on 24th
Chickweed Wintergreen	On Alnwick Moor on 24th on Hulne Moor on 24th
Bloody Cranesbill	At East Chevington on 26th
Purple Milkvetch	At Druridge Pools on 26th
Early Purple Orchid	At East Chevington on 26th
Woodruff	At Powburn on 28th in Roddam Dene on 28th
Sanicle	At Powburn on 28th
RAINFALL	22mm
OBSERVERS	I&K Davison, G Dodds, P Jobson, M Popely, S Reay, J Rutter, S Sexton.