Alnwick Wildlife Group

Promoting awareness of the countryside and its flora and fauna



www.alnwickwildlifegroup.co.uk

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NEWSLETTER 215 AUGUST 2019 Review of July 2019

WEDNESDAY 25TH SEPTEMBER 2019 - PINE MARTENS IN NORTHUMBERLAND SPEAKER: KEVIN O'HARA (THE VINCENT WILDLIFE TRUST).

Kevin O'Hara is the Pine Marten Project Officer for the Vincent Wildlife Trust and he leads the "Back for the Brink" project. Pine Martens seem to be making a good recovery in Scotland and there are now signs of them spreading south into Northumberland and Cumbria. Kevin will update us on the current position and, who knows, possibly even try to recruit some AWG members as volunteers with Back from the Brink.

THE 2019 REPORT FOR TOWNFOOT AND FIELDHOUSE PRODUCED BY JIM CLARK IS NOW AVAILABLE ON THE AWG WEBSITE.

Please send sightings reports for August, no later than 6th September 2019 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

JULY 2019: We had our first ringing session of the year at Howick on Friday 19th July catching only 18 new birds but representing 11 different species. Most notable were the pair of juvenile Nuthatches; I say a pair because one was very obviously a male (with reddish flanks and undertail coverts) and a female. However, they were almost certainly siblings from the same brood hatched at Howick; which always seems to a good population of these vocal and entertaining birds (see pict.) There was also a young Pied Wagtail (see pict.) captured near the Cricket field were they often feed on insects by running along the ground while the Swallows do the same but preferring to catch their prey in the air. We also captured an adult male Chiffchaff, a juvenile chiffchaff and a juvenile Blackcap (all warblers that will migrate south in the next few months).

Rain stopped any ringing on the Saturday morning but we were back for a very busy session on Friday 26th; catching 70 odd birds during the morning. This time the species count went up to 14 (including a young jackdaw that was clearly being too inquisitive for its own good). This time we had five retrapped birds including an adult female Nuthatch, in main moult, first ringed (as an adult) in September 2018. There was also a male Great Tit (also in main moult) first ringed as an adult in September 2017. There was also a moulting adult Chaffinch that had been ringed as a juvenile in Sept 2018. From this ringing record we can correctly age it as a '5' – that is hatched last year but we would not have been able to tell this from its plumage as its moult was so far advanced. Turning to the new birds we captured 9 Tree Sparrows; mostly juvenile birds; although ageing sparrows is often difficult if not impossible due to the habit of the juvenile birds, as well as the adults, of undergoing a main moult (including their wings and tail) in their first year. Finding this many tree sparrows in this part of the arboretum is new and represents some change in local behaviour.

Chiffchaffs seem to have had a good local breeding year as we captured 14 distinctly juvenile birds but no Willow Warblers. There were also 7 Blackcaps along with the resident Tits, 3 Bullfinch (a pair and later a single juvenile) a young Robin and a very colourful adult male Greenfinch (see pict.). 13 Swallows were captured around the cricket pitch including one with exceptional colouration on its underparts. Most of 'our' swallows are very white underneath ('rustica' subspecies) but birds with varying degrees of redness do occur and may represent the subspecies 'transitiva' more usually seen in the Middle East; or birds from a North West African race (see pict.) Rain again stopped us ringing on the Saturday morning.

We did not start ringing this years crop of young Barn Owls until the 17th June which is really very late and so we are still going around the boxes with one visited quite close to my home yesterday. This particular box is shielded on one side by an awkward fence and on the other by some very tall nettles. We had originally ringed both the male and female bird with their 5 eggs on the 4th June. A second visit on the 30th established that the eggs had indeed hatched but all the young were extremely small with no feathers (known as naked young) and it was on the third visit (having navigated the nettles) that we were able to ring four healthy 'owlets' (see pict.) with one showing the very clear underwing spots of a young female. I am really hoping that the weather will not continue to be so extreme for the rest of the summer to give the remaining young Barn Owls a chance to develop and fledge successfully.

We are now regularly ringing at the Howick Ringing Station on Friday and Saturday mornings when weather permits. We are usually on site, based on the edge of the Car Park, from 7:00 until lunchtime. If interested in ringing please get in touch or just turn-up.

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







As the botanical year progresses there are always significant changes in the species you see, even on familiar territory. Back in May a number of AWG members got involved in a plant day at Middleton North and we ended up with a good list of 141 species.

On 31st July a group from the Natural History Society of Northumbria covered almost the same route. I say 'almost the same' because in the afternoon we had planned, as at the May visit, to go east along the old railway line and then down the fields to the River Wansbeck. Unfortunately we found ourselves faced with a big herd of cows with young calves, plus a large bull, so discretion proved the better part of valour and we chickened out and any additional species by the river and in the grazing field will have been missed.

There were 38 species that AWG had seen in May that were not seen at the end of July, but we added more than 60 that had not been apparent two and a half months earlier, so the final combined total exceeded 200 species.



This changing of the guard of species over the growing season suggested that for this Plant Corner I could pick out some of the characteristic late summer plants that you could keep a look-out for. Four of my selections are from the same family, Asteraceae, that used (quite a long time ago) to be called Compositae. Many composites mature and flower late and they compete well with the taller, denser vegetation that you get in late July and August.

When Jane and I did the cliff-top walk north from Lamberton the other day we came across some impressive clumps of Hemp Agrimony *Eupatoria cannabinum* (photo left). It's not a typical member of the family because the individual florets are comparatively large and they are not tightly packed together as they are in thistles, daisies, dandelions and their relatives. But these are strong-looking plants which form large clumps and they are sometimes grown in gardens where they are excellent plants for insects.

On the same walk we also found patches of the rather unusual-looking Carline Thistle *Carlina vulgaris* (photos below). It's a strange plant that, even when it's quite young and fresh can look from a distance like a set of dried flower heads. These do not break up when they go to seed so often you can see the genuinely

dead heads well into the winter. Our coastal dune systems are good places to look out for Carline Thistles.



As you drive around the rural countryside at this time of year you can often see tall, robust, yellow-headed Sow Thistle plants. The commonest of these in Northumberland is the Prickly Sow Thistle *Sonchus asper*, but that doesn't fit with my late summer theme because they can be found in flower for much of the growing season. The two later-flowerers are Smooth Sow Thistle *Sonchus oleraceus* and Perennial Sow Thistle *Sonchus arvensis*. Often with Sow Thistles you look at the leaf bases to decide which species you've got, but at this time of year when you see road verge specimens more than 1m tall all you need do is to see if the flower heads are covered in yellow/orange glandular hairs. The plants I was looking at by the road between Whittingham and Netherton certainly had those hairs and so were definitely the Perennial species.





Perennial Sow Thistles

While we are on the topic of yellow composites, it is unfortunate that many are quite often problematical to tell apart. Dandelions are usually obvious, as are the small acid-yellow Mouse-eared Hawkweed, the tall and rather spindly small-flowered Nipplewort and the Sow Thistles. But once you get to the Cat's-ears, the Hawk's-beards, the Hawkbits and the rest of the Hawkweeds things become much more difficult. The very fact that so many of the English names are so similar says something about how superficially similar the species are. The reason I'm going on about this is that this is the season for one of these to come into its own.

Autumn Hawkbit *Scorzoneroides autumnalis* (photos below) can often occur in fairly dense patches in verges and field margins – in fact in a wide range of habitats. My photos were taken in a rocky patch where it was possible to show the leaves in their basal rosette. The leaves are usually more or less hairless and so deeply lobed that it can sometimes be hard to find them in the grasses amongst which the plants more usually grow.



These plants are most often confused with Common Cat's-ear *Hypochaeris radicata*. Neither species has any stem hairs, but both have small scale-like growths on the stem that some people thought look like tiny cat's ears. There are three things that help to tell them apart in the field. The timing of flowering (earlier for the Cat's-ear and later for the Hawkbit, although inevitably with some overlap); the fact that the Cat's-ear leaves are usually hairier and less deeply lobed so that they look more substantial; and the fact that if you pinch off part of the Cat's-ear flower head and rub it apart on the palm

of your hand you should find some thin straw-coloured / yellowish vertical scales that aren't part of the florets. I did tell you that separating some of these species was rather difficult!





Cat's-ear leaf rosette

Cat's-ear showing small stem "cat's ears"

Which then brings me to the last of these late-season species. Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis* (photos below) may have all its flowers in a fairly tight head, but it is actually in the same family as the Teasels, Dipsacaceae. Many of you will perhaps have Scabious species and varieties growing in the garden, but the main thing about Devil's-bit Scabious is how late in the season the flowers first become apparent and because it tends to grow amongst quite tall thick grassland vegetation, it sometimes needs a bit of searching out. When you do, the fact that there are very few blue-flowered plants among the greens, browns and yellows makes it a really good thing to find. I'm saying blue, but in fact the flower heads are usually more towards the lilac end of the blue range and can sometimes be almost lilac-pink, unlike the clear blue of most of the other Scabious species.





AN EARLY BUTTERFLY SUMMER

(This article was designed to be in the July newsletter, but got held over to this August one, which explains why the dates involved are a bit old)

There's always a danger that when you've been on holiday and seen some interesting things, that writing an article about them ends up as a bit like showing all you friends your interminable holiday snaps. So I thought it was important that, when I chose what to write about following a couple of weeks in Scandinavia in June, I chose things relevant to the UK.

We hadn't gone on holiday with any butterfly fixation, but as it happened our arrival in Denmark coincided with the start of the quite astonishing eruption of the Painted Lady migration that has been happening all over Europe this summer. Yesterday I was reading the Berwick Wildlife Group newsletter (not as good as ours!!) and saw reports of members seeing steady streams of this butterfly moving north up the coast. Certainly in our garden near Powburn we've seen far more of this species than in a normal summer, and at the time of writing the Buddlejas aren't even out yet.

Until I looked it up I hadn't realised that the Painted Lady was such an extraordinary migrant. Not only are there annual migrations from North Africa to Europe each year and back again, but the same phenomenon also happens in the Americas with the insects moving from Mexico to and from the US and Canada. On our side of the Atlantic this is the only butterfly that reaches Iceland. It seems slightly sad that although Painted Ladys will usually breed once they reach Britain, they are unable to survive northern winters in any stage of their life cycle. Anyway, back in Denmark, and later in Sweden, it was quite noticeable that many of them were quite worn, often with edges of wings with bits missing, which is all consistent with these adults having come a long way from their overwintering quarters where they will have hatched out. Because they will breed, fresher recently-hatched specimens will become evident in July.



A classic publicity photo of a perfect adult



A faded worn individual in Sweden

Inevitably experiencing these butterflies made us more than usually aware of others and the next species that appeared was Green Hairstreak in good numbers. In Northumberland you are lucky if you are in the right place at the right time to see any of these small well-camouflaged butterflies in good sunny conditions. In Scandinavia they seem much more numerous and they don't seem to be too sensitive to human movement, so you can often get very close to them in their woodland and moorland habitats. Bilberry is their favoured British plant but the ones I photographed were respectively on Soft Rush stems and the leaf of a young Aspen.



Green Hairstreaks

Although the Green Hairstreaks were nice, we have seen them in small numbers once or twice here, which brings me to several species which do occur in Britain but which we've never seen before. The first, of which we saw at least three separate individuals, was the Glanville Fritillary. In Britain you only see it in the Channel Isles and the Isle of Wight and perhaps in a few south coast locations. They were very obliging insects, sitting with their wings outstretched, just inviting photos. When we first saw them we didn't know what they were, but a quick look in the book left us quite clear that they were Glanville Fritillaries with the distinctive under-wing pattern and those dark dots in the orange panels near the hind margin of the forewings when see from above.



Glanville Fritillaries

Then there were two (three?) butterflies we saw in Sweden. The Grizzled Skipper is becoming increasingly rare in Britain and is not found anything like as far north as Northumberland, so that was a good spot. In fact the place we saw it was nearly 5° of latitude further north than Newcastle, so its British distribution must have more to do with our Atlantic climate than the actual distance north.

The next one was clearly a white butterfly and at first we thought it was a rather faded Green-veined White, but when we checked it was a species called the Cryptic Wood White. My photos are rarely brilliant but in this case most of the fuzziness in the wing patterning is because that's how the butterfly is rather than my focus being badly out. I suppose that's what makes it "cryptic". In the British Isles it's only found in Ireland, north and south. Its related species, the Wood White, lacks the pale greenish yellow background colour.



Grizzled Skipper

Cryptic Wood White

Then there was the large dark butterfly with obviously pale wing edges that we saw from the car while driving on a gravel road in the forest. I can't really claim it as a confirmed sighting because it had moved on before we could stop, but we're convinced it had to be a Camberwell Beauty which is a rare migrant to the UK. Those few we do get probably come across from Scandinavia. We've never seen one before and I couldn't get a photo, but if you don't know what it looks like, here's what the internet shows. What a shame we couldn't get a definite i.d. of this magnificent beast.



For the last of our good butterfly sightings, when we got back home we thought we'd just seen the species that has very recently been the subject

of an introduction (or is that a reintroduction?) into the Rockingham Forest in Northants. But when I checked on-line it seems that we didn't see a Chequered Skipper, but a Northern Chequered Skipper which is shown as having a distribution across Russia and through much of Scandinavia, but not in Britain. So I suppose this one is out of step with the other butterflies in this article, all of which are found, albeit rarely, in the UK. Mind you, why this should be found across in Denmark but not here is less obvious. It was a really nice little butterfly and you can get an idea of its size from Jane's finger in the background of the right hand photo.



Northern Chequered Skipper

On Saturday 3rd August the AWG effort to survey aspects of the wildlife at Middleton North, near Scots Gap, moved to moths. Thanks to Stewart, who organised it all and to Keith and George who brought their traps and equipment to add to Stewart's gear, five of us gathered on the old abandoned Wannee railway line at Middleton and set up four light traps. They were powered by a new neat 4-stroke generator which AWG has bought to enable us to carry out this sort of exercise. (Like all other AWG equipment, the generator will be available for any member who wants to borrow it for wildlife purposes).

We met at 9.00pm while it was still light so the equipment could be assembled and tested. As dusk fell, in semicloudy and mild conditions, the light traps were switched on and the period of hopeful waiting began. For those who have not indulged in moth trapping, the usual pattern is that the traps are run until about 12.30am, with notes being made about interesting species, but actual counts are left until the morning. In the traps there are egg boxes which are refuges for the moths that fly into the traps and where they can rest and be safe from predators. Then in the light of day when the trapped moths are quiescent they can be identified and counted and then carefully released into suitable deep cover.

In this case, however, since we had no intention of either sleeping on site or of driving 25 miles home and then 25 miles back in the morning, we did the counts as best we could between 12.30 and 1.00am. This is not too easy as the moths are still active – sometimes frantically so – and the air is thick with midges and other small non-moth flying things. So you have to be willing to put up with a fair degree of discomfort as you are being bitten and as moths tend to land on you and crawl down your neck.

Janet Chubb's photo shows the scene around one of the main trapping points in what looks uncannily like some sort of satanic ritual. With Janet behind the camera, the other two people in the shot are Charlie Bennett, the landowner, and his son Milo who joined us at about 10.30 and stayed to the bitter end at 1.00. Even from this distance you can just see some of the cloud of small insects swarming around Charlie on the far side of the light.



This article is not intended as a full report on the results of the night. Stewart has already written that and it will appear as part of the overall report we shall be writing up for Charlie Bennett in the next month or so. When it's ready we shall send it out to all our members. But it would be silly not to mention some of the most memorable features of the night.

As dusk fell the first few moths began to appear, but many of them were small micro-moths and there were some other things attracted to the lights like Caddis Flies, other flies, parasitic wasps and an occasional beetle. These latter need to be removed from the trap because otherwise they have an unfortunate habit of wandering around among the egg boxes and eating other things.

Then after it has become fully dark the larger moths start to appear. Now I appreciate it's not fair to be rude about a species just because it is big, blundering and present in unreasonable numbers, but in some ways Large Yellow Underwings are a bit of a pain. They were there in their hundreds. Stewart's eventual count for the species was 200 but I'm pretty sure that was an under-estimate. They continually blunder into your face and you don't want to flap them away with your hands too vigorously because you don't want to harm them.



There's always a danger that if I write an article like this people will assume that I know what I'm talking about in the identification of the moths. Wrong! In fact of the five AWG members present I was way and above the most ignorant and Stewart was way and above the most expert. One of the most impressive things is that those who know what they are talking about can identify not only the often quite large macro-moths, but also the often-tiny micro-moths. One or two of these micros have the added challenge of the need to look at them closely to be sure that what you are seeing isn't a small dried bird-dropping. In the end Stewart's records showed that we'd counted 767 moths of no fewer than 80 species. There was a general feeling that some of the totals were under-estimates and that if we'd been able to do the counts the following morning the species total would have gone up as well because there would undoubtedly have been single specimens of some extra species that we missed. Stewart said he would have expected an early August count in that sort of habitat and in suitable weather conditions to have yielded closer to 100 species.

I've only lifted two images from the ones that will appear in Stewart's full report, but one of them had to be the beautiful White Plume that looks so different from almost all the other types of moths. The other was a Marbled Clover that had only been recorded once before in Northumberland and, amazingly, the previous record had come just five days earlier from Kirknewton where Sean Hackett from the National Park had trapped one and brought it to George for confirmation of the identification.





So many thanks to all who came for what was, for me, a memorable night and there might just be a few species that I shall now recognise that I wouldn't have before.

Richard

Five members of Alnwick Wildlife Group trapped this site, a disused railway line from 9pm – midnight on 3rd August 2019. This was made possible with the kind permission of the landowner, Mr Charlie Bennet. Charlie and his son, Milo also attended on the night.

Temp – 16 degrees at midnight. Wind – Light SE1. Cloud Cover – 30%

Traps Used – 3x 125w MV Robinson Type traps, 1x 125w Skinner Trap on table over a sheet.

Highlights – The National Status is shown in the far right column below.

73.072 Marbled Clover *Heliothis viriplaca* was the find of the night, being only the 2nd record for Northumberland after the first, taken at Rothbury only a week ago on 27th July. This species breeds mainly in the Norfolk Suffolk Brecklands with a few small colonies in south coast counties. This individual will almost certainly be a continental migrant arriving on favourable conditions with the masses of Painted Lady butterflies that have been in the press recently.

It should be noted that one trapping session can only show a tiny fraction of the species that will be present on site, with moths having a seasonal emergence. It is however, a nice sample of the diversity of lepidoptera that can be found on site.

For further reference on the Northumberland Status of any of these species please see http://www.northumberlandmoths.org.uk/

All records will be submitted to the Northumberland Moth recorder for inclusion onto the county and national data bases.

Code	Taxon	Vernacular	Individuals	Status
	Amphipoea oculea agg.	Ear Moth agg.	3	
	Cnephasia sp.	Cnephasia species	10	
	Mesapamea secalis agg.	Common Rustic agg.	48	
16.001	Yponomeuta evonymella	Bird-cherry Ermine	35	Common
17.003	Ypsolopha dentella	Honeysuckle Moth	1	Common
18.001	Plutella xylostella	Diamond-back Moth	4	Migrant
20.012	Argyresthia goedartella	a moth	2	Common
31.001	Carcina quercana	a moth	1	Common
32.032	Agonopterix angelicella	a moth	4	Local
35.04	Bryotropha terrella	a moth	2	Common
41.002	Blastobasis adustella	a moth	15	Common
41.003	Blastobasis lacticolella	a moth	1	Common
45.03	Pterophorus pentadactyla	White Plume	2	Common
49.004	Ditula angustiorana	Red-barred Tortrix	1	Common
49.025	Pandemis cerasana	Barred Fruit-tree Tortrix	2	Common
49.026	Pandemis heparana	Dark Fruit-tree Tortrix	4	Common
49.057	Cnephasia longana	a moth	1	Common
49.109	Agapeta hamana	a moth	9	Common
49.156	Hedya nubiferana	Marbled Orchard Tortrix	1	Common
49.166	Celypha lacunana	a moth	4	Common
49.24	Epinotia immundana	a moth	1	Common
49.255	Epinotia nisella	a moth	1	Common
49.265	Eucosma cana	a moth	1	Common
62.035	Acrobasis advenella	a moth	4	Common

63.033	Udea lutealis	a moth	9	Common
63.038	Pleuroptya ruralis	Mother of Pearl	41	Common
63.064	Scoparia ambigualis	a moth	1	Common
63.067	Eudonia lacustrata	a moth	10	Common
63.089	Agriphila tristella	a moth	58	Common
63.093	Agriphila straminella	a moth	31	Common
63.102	Catoptria falsella	a moth	4	Common
63.114	Elophila nymphaeata	Brown China-mark	1	Common
63.118	Nymphula nitidulata	Beautiful China-mark	6	Local
65.007	Cilix glaucata	Chinese Character	2	Common
69.016	Deilephila elpenor	Elephant Hawk-moth	1	Common
70.013	Idaea biselata	Small Fan-footed Wave	29	Common
70.016	Idaea aversata	Riband Wave	1	Common
70.045	Scotopteryx chenopodiata	Shaded Broad-bar	28	Common
70.053	Xanthorhoe designata	Flame Carpet	1	Common
70.059	Camptogramma bilineata	Yellow Shell	1	Common
70.061	Epirrhoe alternata	Common Carpet	5	Common
70.074	Hydriomena furcata	July Highflier	10	Common
70.094	Ecliptopera silaceata	Small Phoenix	1	Common
70.098	Dysstroma citrata	Dark Marbled Carpet	1	Common
70.1	Colostygia pectinataria	Green Carpet	6	Common
70.131	Mesotype didymata	Twin-spot Carpet	4	Common
70.133	Perizoma alchemillata	Small Rivulet	4	Common
70.134	Perizoma bifaciata	Barred Rivulet	2	Local
70.226	Opisthograptis luteolata	Brimstone Moth	1	Common
70.239	Selenia tetralunaria	Purple Thorn	1	Common
70.241	Crocallis elinguaria	Scalloped Oak	1	Common
70.243	Ourapteryx sambucaria	Swallow-tailed Moth	1	Common
71.017	Pheosia tremula	Swallow Prominent	2	Common
72.002	Rivula sericealis	Straw Dot	4	Common
72.003	Hypena proboscidalis	Snout	2	Common
72.024	Phragmatobia fuliginosa	Ruby Tiger	5	Common
72.043	Eilema depressa	Buff Footman	1	Local
72.045	Eilema lurideola	Common Footman	24	Common
73.012	Diachrysia chrysitis	Burnished Brass	2	Common
73.017	Autographa jota	Plain Golden Y	2	Common
73.023	Plusia putnami	Lempke's Gold Spot	1	Local
73.072	Heliothis viriplaca	Marbled Clover	1	RDB3
73.084	Bryophila domestica	Marbled Beauty	1	Common
73.16	Apamea scolopacina	Slender Brindle	1	Local
73.162	Apamea monoglypha	Dark Arches	18	Common
73.168	Lateroligia ophiogramma	Double Lobed	3	Local
73.171	Litoligia literosa	Rosy Minor	4	Common
73.216	Cosmia trapezina	Dun-bar	15	Common
73.254	Cerapteryx graminis	Antler Moth	4	Common
73.291	Mythimna pallens	Common Wainscot	3	Common
73.293	Mythimna impura	Smoky Wainscot	25	Common
73.298	Mythimna ferrago	Clay	2	Common
73.342	Noctua pronuba	Large Yellow Underwing	200	Common

73.343	Noctua fimbriata	Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	1	Common
73.345	Noctua comes	Lesser Yellow Underwing	3	Common
73.346	Noctua interjecta	Least Yellow Underwing	5	Common
73.348	Noctua janthe	Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing	8	Common
73.353	Xestia baja	Dotted Clay	5	Common
73.358	Xestia sexstrigata	Six-striped Rustic	6	Common
73.361	Xestia triangulum	Double Square-spot	1	Common
	Total	767 Moths of 80 species		



Figure 1: The trap site 'base camp'.



Figure 2: Marbled Clover, the highlight of the night.



Figure 3: Beautiful China Mark, 6 trapped was an excellent count of this scarce species in the county.



Figure 4: Barred Rivulet



Figure 5: Elephant Hawk-moth



Figure 6: Ear Moth agg. Can only be indentified to species by dissection.



Figure 7: White Plume



Figure 8: Epinotia immundana one of the tiny 'micro moths'.



SIGHTINGS JULY 2019		
BIRDS		
Great-crested Grebe	A pair at Branton Ponds with 2 young	
Manx Shearwater	126 past Boulmer on 2 nd and 93 on 7 th with 3 on 30 th 11 at Snab Point on 9 th	
Little Egret	7 at Warkworth Gut on 28 th	
Spoonbill	1 at Cresswell Pond on 9 th	
Giant Petrel sp	1 at Cullernose Point on 2 nd this bird was first seen at Whitburn and was	
	tracked up the coast an astonishing find.	
Goosander	50 at Fenham Flats on 7 th 9 at Newton Point on 25 th	
Eider	35 at Fenham Flats on 31 st	
Baikal Teal	1 still at Druridge Pools on 9 th	
Marsh Harrier	2 at East Chevington on 15 th	
Merlin	1 at Holy Island on 27 th	
Peregrine	3 at Fenham Flats on 7 th	
Red Kite	1 at Yeavering on 2 nd	
Water Rail	1 at Branton Ponds on 11 th	
Woodcock	2 at Beanley Woods on 6 th	
Common Snipe	6 at Newton Scrape on 19 th	
Lanwing	200 at Hedgeley Lakes on 14 th	
Dunlin	2 at Hedgeley Lakes on 24^{th} and 6 on 27^{th}	
Little-ringed Ployer	2 at Newton Scrane on 19 th	
Ringed Plover	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 24 th	
Golden Plover	200 at Newton Point on 25 th 100 at Craster on 13 th	
Pacific Golden Ployer	1 at Holy Island on 23 rd and on 27 th	
Ruff	1 at Newton Scrane on 11 th 2 at Hedgeley Lakes on 29 th	
Greenshank	2 at Low Newton on 7 th	
Snotted Bedshank	1 at Cresswell Pond on 9 th and 26 th	
Green Sandniner	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 14 th and 2 on 24 th	
Wood Sandniner	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 26^{th} and 4 on 27^{th} 2 at Newton Scrane on 11^{th}	
Common Sandpiper	12 at Hedgeley Lakes on 20^{th} A at Newton Point on 25^{th}	
Black-tailed Godwit	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 24^{th} 26 at Newton Scrane on 25^{th}	
	150 at Smeafield on 31 st	
Whimbrel	1 at Fenham Flats on 31 st	
Arctic Skua	3 at Boulmer on 2^{nd} and 2 on 30^{th} 1 at Craster on 27^{th}	
Great Skua	1 off Warkworth on 1/ th	
Mediterranean Gull	1 on Holy Island on 27 th 1 at Low Newton on 4 th	
	2 at Cresswell Pond on Oth	
Roseate Tern	1 off Boulmer on 30 th 1 at Low Newton on 19 th	
Stock Dove	1 at Felton Park on 21 st 1 at Alpwick Cemetery on 27 th	
	1 at Kontstone Farm on 27 th	
	1 at Branton Ponds on 6 th	
Nightiar	1 at Beanley Woods on 6 th	
Kingfishor	2 at Folton Bridge on 20^{th} 1 at Powburn on 20^{th}	
Grey Wagtail	2 at Alpwick on 18 th 2 at Felton Bridge on 20 th	
Vellow Wagtail	1 at Hedgeley Lakes on 27^{th} 2 at Low Newton on 2^{nd}	
Dippor	1 at Folton Bridge on 20 th	
Goldcrost	5 at Smoofield on 12^{th} and 12 on 17^{th}	
Hedgebog	1 at Branton on 5 th	
Bottle-nosod Dolphin	20 off Craster on 11 th	
Harbour Perpoise	1 off Cractor on 22 nd	
narbour Porpoise		

FUNGI	
Giant Puffball	1 at Netherton on 6 th
Blackening Waxcap	Several at Whittingham on 15 th
PLANTS	
Lesser Twayblade	7 spikes found near Goldscleugh
Grass of Parnassus	On Holy Island on 27 th
INVERTEBRATES	
Common Darter	2 at Hedgeley Lakes on 14 th 1 at Branton Ponds on 24 th
Four-spotted Chaser	1 at Branton Ponds on 26 th
Southern Hawker	1 at Branton Ponds on 24 th
Common Hawker	1 at Branton Ponds on 15 th
Banded Demoiselle	1 at Branton Ponds on 28 th
Scalloped Oak	1 at Branton on 22 nd
Swallowtail moth	3 at Branton on 15 th
Marbled Clover	1 at Kirknewton on 29 th (1 st for the County)
Poplar Hawk-moth	4 at Branton on 15 th
Elephant Hawk-moth	1 at Branton on 15 th
Bedstraw Hawk-moth	1 at Kirknewton on 29 th
Svensson's Copper	1 at Branton on 29 th
Underwing	
Old Lady	1 at Branton on 28 th
Pinion-streaked Snout	1 at Branton on 22 nd
Common Blue Butterfly	20+ at Holy Island on 23 rd
Dark Green Fritillary	Many at Holy Island on 23 rd
Comma	1 at Branton Ponds on 15 th and 1 on 24 th 1 in Alnwick on 28 th
Small Heath	1 at Branton Ponds on 15 th
Ringlet	50+ at Branton Ponds on 22 nd
Meadow Brown	20+ at Branton Ponds on 22 nd 4 at Smeafield on 6 th
Painted Lady	1000's at East Chevington on 30 th 200+ at Smeafield on 29 th 1000's at Craster on 29 th
Red Admiral	1 at Smeafield on 2 nd
Small Tortoiseshell	20+ at Smeafield on 15 th
Horntail Wood Wasp	1 at Belford on 5 th
RAINFALL	75mm
OBSERVERS	I&K Davison, G Dodds, M&J Drage, S Hackett, M Hall, A Keeble,
	S Reay, S Sexton.