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**B R I S C**

**BIOLOGICAL RECORDING IN SCOTLAND**

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identity of this insect and many records are in fact of *Ecdyonurus venosus*. There are confirmed records from only nine rivers - the River Blythe in Staffordshire, the Exe in Devonshire, the Teme at Tenbury, the Usk in Breconshire, the Tees near Durham, the Liffey and Dodder in Ireland, the Blackadder in the Scottish Borders and, most significantly, the Tweed.

The lack of records is partly because the British *Rhithrogena* are represented by two species, *R. germanica* (the March brown) and *R. semicolorata* (the olive upright). Unfortunately, these species are virtually indistinguishable as larvae. To be certain of the identification an adult fly must be examined. The main reason for the lack of records is that very few people routinely look at adult Ephemeroptera. This is why we are asking anglers and other to help conduct a search for the March brown.

We would like anglers to pay particular attention to flies emerging from rivers they fish during the early part of 2004. If possible, we would like them to collect specimens of the insects and inspect them to see whether they are *Rhithrogena germanica* or not.

The first step is to make a judgement yourself. Specimens can be caught with a small net or even a skip-cap and transferred to a small jar or film canister. Sub-imago or duns of *Rhithrogena germanica* and *Ecdyonurus venosus* can be told apart as follows:



***R. germanica***

In *R. germanica*, the large, upright forewings are generally mottled with black, but they have a distinct clear area in the centre where the cross veins are devoid of any colour.

## ***Rhithrogena germanica* - A NATIONAL SURVEY**

The Ephemeroptera Recording Scheme is currently trying to establish the distribution of *Rhithrogena germanica* in the British Isles.

*Rhithrogena germanica* is known by anglers as the March brown. Historically there was some confusion over the



### *E. venosus*

In *E. venosus*, the wings are mottled with brownish-black and most of the cross veins on the forewings are shaded so that there is no distinct clear patch on the wings.

In the olive upright (*Rhithrogena semicolorata*) the forewings are a blue-grey colour, with no obvious mottling.



To be absolutely certain of your identification, you should examine the femur (the section of the leg nearest the body of the fly). In the March brown,

it has an obvious dark oval spot on a much paler background. *Ecdyonurus venosus* does not have such a spot.

Duns and spinners of both species are also best separated by the presence of the tell-tale dark spot on the femur. In addition, the March brown spinner (also known as the great red spinner) has a dark reddish brown body with characteristic straw coloured rings denoting the segments. Its wings are transparent, but the dark veins of the dun are still evident.

If after comparing your specimen with these descriptions you still believe you have caught an adult March brown you should preserve the specimen. Adult up-winged flies can either be killed and preserved directly by placing them in a solution of 3 parts water and 7 parts isopropyl alcohol (available from any chemists - in an emergency, neat vodka will do but please try to obtain IPA). Alternatively, the adult may be placed in a freezer for five to ten minutes to kill it, before being placed in alcohol.

The specimen should be kept in a small tube, which must have a watertight lid. Together with your specimen you should include a small strip of paper with the following details written in pencil inside the tube. Remember that you can write on both sides of the paper.

1. The river and location on the river from which the specimen was taken.
2. The date of collection.
3. Ideally, a grid reference from an OS Landranger Map (or from [www.multimap.com](http://www.multimap.com)).
4. The name of the person who collected the specimen.
5. Your contact details.
6. And, for health and safety reasons, a note of the liquid the specimen is preserved in.

The specimen should then be parcelled up securely and posted, together with a short note on how it was collected, etc. to:

The Ephemeroptera Recording Scheme,  
c/o Craig Macadam,

Bradán Aquasurveys Ltd.,  
109 Johnston Avenue,  
Stenhousemuir,  
LARBERT, FK5 4JY.

More information can be found in the February 2004 issue of Fly Fishing and Fly Tying (<http://www.flyfishing-and-flytying.co.uk>)



## PLANTLIFE

### What is the *Common Plants Survey*?

The *Common Plants Survey* is an ambitious, wild-plant monitoring programme carried out entirely by volunteers who visit and record sites annually. The resultant data is used to determine long-term population trends in the UK's wild plants.

### Why did Plantlife International create the *Common Plants Survey*?

The twentieth century ushered in a new era of intensive agriculture, habitat loss, land-use changes, and increased use of pesticides. Concern has increased regarding the effects of this on the biodiversity of our landscape. Martin Harper, Conservation Director of Plantlife International comments: *'Our common wild plants are the foundation upon which our wildlife - insects, butterflies and birds - rests. We need to monitor the changes in these 65 wild plant 'canaries' and learn to interpret their meaning. In this way we will be in a strong position to respond quickly and help influence change in policy, legislation, attitudes and behaviour. The success of the Common Plants Survey rests entirely on volunteers. We are a nation of gardeners and so we need to tap into the enthusiasm that already exists for plants.'*

### How does the *Common Plants Survey* work?

Following a rigorous protocol, the *Common Plants Survey* data are collected by hundreds of dedicated participants from randomly selected 1km<sup>2</sup> land. Sixty-five easy-to-identify species which are indicative of a wide range of habitats have been chosen, including such familiar plants as traveller's joy from woodland edges, red dead-nettle and common poppy from field margins, heather from moorland, thrift from the coast, and yellow flag and marsh marigold from wetlands. A full colour identification leaflet is provided by Plantlife International for every volunteer.

### How are the data used?

Plantlife International is working towards delivering accurate trend analyses for use by conservation managers, scientists, and the general public. Next year,

a *Common Plants Report* is planned which will give a more accurate picture of how our wild plant populations are thriving. The real changes are taking place at site level and this is what the *Common Plants Survey* is about.

Plantlife International is the UK's leading charity dedicated to the conservation of wild plants in their natural habitat. Set up in 1989 by Dr Jane Smart, the charity carries out practical conservation work, influences policy and legislation, involves its members in many aspects of its work, and collaborates widely to promote the cause of wild plant conservation.

For more information, please call Joanna Thurman in the press office on 01722 342739 or email

[JThurman@plantlife.org.uk](mailto:JThurman@plantlife.org.uk)

## NEW TRAINING COURSE - HOW TO ORGANISE AND LEAD A BAT WALK

BTCV Scotland is running an evening training course with the Bat Conservation Trust on how to lead and organise a bat walk. The course will be lead by Anne Youngman who has many years of bat work experience and is a licensed trainer. The training will be held at Stirling University on 21 May and is aimed at rangers, or those in similar roles, who take the public on guided walks. No prior knowledge of bats or of using bat detectors is necessary. There will be an emphasis on practical activities but will not include handling live bats although we will be watching the University's resident bats who hang out not far from the training room.

The evening will include an introduction to Scottish bats, using bat detectors, carrying out risk assessments and an opportunity to look at the educational resources available from the Bat Conservation Trust. Participants should wear outdoor shoes and bring warm clothes. A bat detector is desirable but not essential as these can be borrowed during the course. It is hoped that after completing the course participants will run a bat walk during European Bat weekend (late August).

For more details contact BTCV Scotland in Stirling Tel. 01786 479 697

### Digitised Watsonian Vice-County maps

These are now available on CD from the National Biodiversity Network free of charge for personal and non-commercial use. To order your copy, tel. 01636 670090 or download zip files for individual Vice-Counties or whole GB polygons from the NBN website [www.nbn.org.uk](http://www.nbn.org.uk)



## Priority Moth Surveys for Volunteers in Scotland, 2004

Butterfly Conservation Scotland is looking for volunteers to help survey for four under-recorded UKBAP priority moth species. The surveys are important to give us a better picture of their current distribution and status. This will allow us to undertake more detailed survey and research at occupied sites and thereby to encourage sympathetic land management.



### Square-spotted Clay (photo Roy Leverton)

We know very little about this species in Scotland - we have few records of which only two are post

2000. Work in England has shown evening searches for larvae to be a survey good method and that eggs are laid on elm on the edge of woodlands/rides. The larvae then descend to feed on nettle, primrose, dog mercury, and possibly cow parsley. However, in Scotland, the situation may be different. We want to encourage larval searches on mild nights over the winter up until the beginning of May at previously recorded, or suitable new sites, or light-trapping for adults from late July to the end of August. Sites with the most recent records are Tainish (Argyll), Kyle of Lochalsh, Kingussie area, Fort Augustus area and Strathardle, Perthshire. Other sites that require checking include Barcaldine, Corran Ferry and Arisaig. It has also been found in Ayrshire, Peebleshire, Dumfries-shire and Kircudbrightshire.

*[The lava is illustrated in Waring & Jones, Field Guide to Moths of Great Britain and Ireland -ed]*

### Barred Tooth-striped

(copyright Butterfly Conservation)

In England the larvae feed primarily on wild privet - although in Scotland ash may be the foodplant. This species is on the wing from mid-March to the end of



April in southern England but is probably one month later in Scotland. Adults can be found by searching the foodplant from dusk onwards using a torch, or light trapping using actinic (preferably) or MV traps. Again in Scotland the situation could be different. Sites with post-1981 records are Skye, Loch Creran and Thornhill, Dumfries, sites with older records include Canna, Fort Augustus, Ardnamurchan, Killiecrankie and Glen Trool.

### National Moth Night 2004; Saturday 22 May.

2004 heralds a break with tradition for National Moth Night being the first time the event is encouraging the recording of day-flying moths. This bending of the rules allows us to

target two magnificent UKBAP priority day-flying moths in Scotland, the netted mountain moth and the narrow-bordered bee hawk-moth.



#### **Netted Mountain Moth**

(Photo Roy Leverton)

This day-flying moth's distribution is centred on the Cairngorms with outlying sites in Moray, Easter Ross, around Loch Rannoch and northern Perthshire where it flies from late April until early June. The larvae feed on bearberry where

it grows in extensive carpets. There are few recent records, probably because of under-recording due to the remoteness of its habitat.



#### **Narrow-bordered Bee Hawk-moth**

(Photo Roy Leverton)

With its transparent wing-patches and furry body this moth is a fantastic bumblebee mimic. However, there are subtle ways to tell

moth from bee. The moth is more agile, flies straighter and hovers when nectaring, using its long tongue to feed, while the bee has a jerky flight and lands on flowers to feed. It is on the wing from mid-May to mid-June and can be found on moorlands, grasslands and open woodlands where its caterpillar's sole foodplant, devil's-bit scabious, grows in abundant patches. In Scotland there are currently colonies in the Cairngorms, Moray and Easter Ross and in the west from Argyll north to Wester Ross. They can sometimes be attracted to flowering sprigs of lilac taken into the field.

#### **Want to get involved?**

Please let us know if you are interested in taking part in any of these surveys to allow us to co-ordinate them more effectively. No skills or previous experience is necessary and anyone can join in. We can provide information on old records, survey forms and further advice on survey techniques. We have also produced colour information notes on netted mountain moth and narrow-bordered bee hawk-moth to aid recording. For further information contact:

Tom Prescott,  
Conservation Advisor, Butterfly Conservation  
Scotland,  
Mill House, Mill Road, Kingussie,  
Inverness-shire, PH21 1LF.

Tel 0870 77061539.

Email [tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:tprescott@butterfly-conservation.org)

For more information on National Moth Night visit  
[www.nationalmothnight.info](http://www.nationalmothnight.info)

National Moth Night 2004 is jointly organised by Butterfly Conservation and Atropos.

## **SCOTTISH GLOW WORM SURVEY 2004.**

How many of you can say that you have seen a glow worm? My first sighting was on Hambledon Hill in Dorset in 2001. There were hundreds scattered over the side of this large, grassy hill. Along with the glow worms were around 30 people, marveling at the sight: the previous night there had been a guided walk and word of mouth had brought all these people out at 11pm. Thomas Hardy wrote that in his youth he would collect glow worms and read by their light!

It was not until 2002 that I saw my first Scottish glow worm after visiting a site where they had been seen in 1995. I found seven females that night and was very excited by this discovery. Were there any more colonies out there?

A bit of press coverage followed, "The first glow worms sighted in Scotland since 1992!" It even made *The Times*, one column inch, and a reporter from Radio Scotland's "Out of Doors" came along one evening and almost went away without seeing one, but thankfully we did find one to show her. The publicity did result in a few more records coming in from Balquidder, Bellshill, Carbeth (spotted on return from the pub – subsequently checked when sober) and Loch Awe (one colony from the early 1970s to date), plus historical records from folk's childhood memories. What all this told me was that there was a paucity of recent Scottish records for this species and no real grasp of its current status or distribution, a familiar story?

The glow worm, *Lampyrus noctiluca*, is a beetle up to 25 mm long. The flightless female glows strongly to attract a flying mate and then turns out her light. Each female has a glowing life of only a few weeks as she dies soon after mating and laying her eggs. The eggs hatch after a few weeks, the emerging larvae feed on small snails and may remain as larvae for one or two further years. This can lead to sites appearing to lose all their glow worms for a year or two. The larvae will glow, but only faintly and intermittently.

It is thought that worms are declining due to habitat change/loss, increased levels of light pollution, and the use of pesticides and herbicides, but there is not enough information to have proof of this. Another reason for the perceived decline is the drop in number of people walking around in the late evening/nighttime.

Glow worm recording is a great opportunity to be out when it is getting dark. Unless you are a bat person or moth trapper, recording seldom takes place in the dark and many of the sights and sounds of the night are missed; bats flit, woodcock rode and if you are very lucky nightjars churr.

Rather than take the needle in a haystack approach of looking at potentially suitable habitat, fairly open grassland with small species of snail, I would like to focus effort on the previous records we have for Scotland (see the NLC web pages for the records by county), canals and ex-railway lines. Old railways and canals are good places to look for glow worms as they have often been turned into footpaths and cycleways and so offer a safe and even place to walk, away from cars, when it is dark. They also can have relict areas of habitat that have not been intensively managed, increasing the likelihood of glow worms being found there.

I hope to inform as many organisations and individuals as possible to get a good number of folk on the ground looking for these amazing little insects. I hope to report back in early 2005 with the results.

#### **Glow worm survey tips.**

- Look around your site and exit route in the light.
- Wait until it is pitch black, around midnight, before searching.
- June to August is the peak glowing period.
- Chose a dry, warm night.
- Avoid nights with a full moon, the darker it is, the easier it is to see the glow worms light.
- Take a midge net, thin gloves and avoid exposing any skin.

#### **Further Information.**

- The list of sites, a survey form and further information and links relating to glow worms will be available in the Biodiversity section of North Lanarkshire Council's web site [www.northlan.gov.uk](http://www.northlan.gov.uk).
- The UK glow worm web site, which is full of information and links can be found at <http://website.lineone.net/~galaxypix/>
- The UK recorder for Glow worms is Keith Alexander, if you have any records in your notebooks or mind then please do forward them to him at [keith.alexander@care4free.net](mailto:keith.alexander@care4free.net)
- I can be contacted on 01236 780636 or [willetj@northlan.gov.uk](mailto:willetj@northlan.gov.uk).

### **NATIONAL INSECT WEEK 14-20 June**

The Royal Entomological Society's *National Insect Week* is fast approaching, and all over the UK people are getting involved in this exciting event.

*National Insect Week*, sponsored by Castle Cement, is the first initiative of its kind and will be packed full of activities aimed at bringing the amazing world of insects closer to you. We want to encourage the general public to get involved in entomology and learn more about the fascinating world of insects.

The Week is being launched at the Darwin Centre at the Natural History Museum in London on Monday 14 June. Throughout the week museums, institutions and insect groups across the country will be holding their own insect events. As part of *National Insect Week* we are also launching a National Bumblebee Nest Survey (in conjunction with Rothamsted Research) and Insect Watch. We will be asking members of the public to survey the insects in their gardens, schoolyards and local parks to get a better idea of insect life in the UK.

#### **How can you get involved?**

If you would like to take part in this exciting initiative we would love to hear from you. Here are a few ideas to get you started:

- Hold an insect event at your venue
- Set up your own insect hunt (as part of the Insect Watch)
- Hold a competition with your local paper (e.g. a Big Bug drawing competition)
- Invite school groups to visit your venue
- Hold a talk at a local venue on any entomological topic

If you can not get involved in this way, perhaps you could advertise *National Insect Week* in your local area. The RES can support you by publicising your event in your local and regional press. Your event would also appear on the *National Insect Week* website [www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk](http://www.nationalinsectweek.co.uk) - site to go live in April.

If you want to know more about *National Insect Week* or register your interest, please email [info@nationalinsectweek.co.uk](mailto:info@nationalinsectweek.co.uk)

### ***Fumaria purpurea* WORKSHOPS**

*Fumaria purpurea* is an endemic species that has arisen from a hybrid between two of our commoner *Fumarias* species. Its distribution is not well known as *Fumarias* are a difficult group to identify. To help with identification, two workshops are planned where all six Scottish species of *Fumaria* will be available for comparison. After looking at the plants there will be a field trip to see some of them growing in an arable context. The first workshop is in Edinburgh on 21 August, starting at the Royal Botanic Garden at 10.00am. The second is in Inverness on 4 September. For more details or to request another workshop contact

Heather McHaffie  
Conservation Officer  
Royal Botanic Garden Edinburgh  
20 A Inverleith Row  
Edinburgh EH3 5LR

Direct dial: 0131 248 2876  
e-mail [h.mchaffie@rbge.org.uk](mailto:h.mchaffie@rbge.org.uk)  
<http://www.rbge.org.uk>

### **RECORDER 2002 TRAINING**

I am intending to run one-day Recorder 2002 Basics training courses at Glasgow University over the next few months. I already have a number of potential candidates, and would like to hear from anyone else who is interested, so that suitable dates can be arranged.

I am also keen to run a more advanced course. I would 'customise' this according to the needs of those attending. It could include, for example, using taxon groups, export filters, the 'banded report writer', querying in the database using SQL, or using the Import Wizard.

#### **If you are interested, please email me:**

[RichardWeddle@lineone.net](mailto:RichardWeddle@lineone.net),  
or phone 0141 339 1343.

## A BRISC RECORDERS DAY

The first BRISC Recorders Day will be held on Saturday 19 June 2004 at Cullaloe Wildlife Reserve in Fife. The day will begin with a brief introduction to the site at 11.00 and will run to 16.00, however you don't have to stay for the whole day - you can come along for an hour or spend all day on the reserve. The only stipulation is that you must make your records available to BRISC so that we can pass them on to the local LRC and relevant National recorders. Please bring your own lunch and study equipment (wellingtons are advised). There are no toilets on the site - the nearest toilets are in Aberdour, approximately 2 miles away.

### Why a Recorders Day?

The aim of the day is to bring together as many biological recorders as possible. It does not matter if you're just starting out or you have been recording for years. The idea is to record the wildlife of the site, and it is hoped that participants will be able to benefit from the experiences of

other recorders. At the end of the day there will be an opportunity to share your findings and records with other participants and to contribute your records to FERN and National Recording Schemes.

### Where is it being held?

Cullaloe is a Scottish Wildlife Trust reserve near Aberdour. It is on the grounds of what was once the Burntisland reservoir. Part of the reserve is designated an SSSI (Special Site of Scientific Interest) and supports several local and nationally rare plants. The whole reserve is accessible but care must be taken not to disturb nesting birds or trample on any of the areas that support the rarer plant species. As well as ample car parking space, and several bench seats for the use of visitors, there is also a woven wickerwork screen (acting as a hide) on the southern shore of the loch.

### What habitats are present?

Within its boundaries Cullaloe contains a variety of environments including the old loch (rich in wildfowl and rare plant life), the wooded areas of mature woodland trees

to the south and north of the loch (woodland birds and wildlife), the floor and banks of the drained reservoir (willow carr), the lower pools (aquatic insects and plants), several wild rough grassed areas (wild flowers, butterflies and insects), and the steep slopes along the boundary to the east of the reserve. Two rare plants grow at Cullaloe: Water Sedge, and Mudwort. Mudwort grows on the muddy shores of the loch and, to enable this plant to flower and seed, the loch is partially drained each summer between the months of June and October.

### How to get there?

Access to the Cullaloe Reserve is just off the B9157-Aberdour to Kirkcaldy road, 2miles east of the Braefoot Bay roundabout. The reserve is on the south side of the road and sign-posted. The entrance is by a small cottage, and there is disabled parking at the top of the drive, and more car parking spaces near the lower pools.

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## NOTES FROM THE CHAIR:

**Now is the time for renewal of subscriptions. If you pay by Standing Order, you need do nothing. If not, please pay promptly. A renewal form is enclosed with this mailing. Please also indicate if you would be willing / prefer to receive *BRISC Recorder News* electronically.**

Those who turned up for the annual conference will confirm that it was an interesting day with speakers covering the urban theme both from a national and a local perspective. Robin Harper, MSP, having indicated that he wanted to attend, very kindly agreed at the last minute to chair the morning session. It was just a pity that the audience was so small. We thought we had an interesting and relevant programme, but perhaps a Saturday is less popular for this kind of event? This issue was discussed at the AGM when the majority present nevertheless felt that Saturday was preferable to a weekday. The conference and minutes of the AGM are covered elsewhere in this newsletter.

There has been a growing feeling among the committee that we could make fuller use of BRISC's website for members' benefit. This was also discussed at the AGM, and a series of changes and additions are now planned. These will include a section listing surveys currently on the go in Scotland and how to get involved; a section advertising forth-coming training events and how to book (members' input will be critical for both of these); a members' private section, accessible through a pre-circulated password, to carry material of special interest to members: e.g. it would be possible to download the latest

newsletter in colour; notes of meetings, etc. It should become possible to record on-line for groups such as bumblebees. This development will take a little time to complete, but do visit our website at [www.BRISC.org.uk](http://www.BRISC.org.uk)

Following the joint BRISC/SNH seminar in Perth on 22 October 2003, Alan McKirdy of SNH Natural Heritage Data Unit has agreed to chair a group to investigate how a fully functioning network of Scottish Local Records Centres can become a reality. Key stakeholders were invited to a first meeting at Battleby on 31 March, with several short presentations by BRISC and SNH, followed by a very positive discussion. There will be more about this in the July issue of *BRISC Recorder News*. This is an extremely welcome development and we are most grateful to SNH for being so supportive.

As a partner of Scottish Environment LINK, BRISC actively supports a second phase of the Everyone Campaign, which will focus on the elections over the next three years, starting with the European election on 10 June 2004. It is well to remember that most legislation impacting positively on biodiversity originates from Europe, so it would do no harm whatsoever to remind prospective MEPs that there are a lot of people here in Scotland who care deeply about the health of our environment. The new campaign was launched on 30 March 2004. Check out [www.everonecan.org](http://www.everonecan.org) for details and suggestions for action. A postcard as a reminder to vote is enclosed with this mailing.

Anne-Marie Smout

## **PROMOTING AND PROTECTING BIODIVERSITY IN NORTH EAST SCOTLAND**

The North East Scotland Biological Records Centre (NESBReC) is about to launch the first season of surveying the habitats of Aberdeenshire and Aberdeen City, with an initial focus on areas under development pressure. The survey work constitutes the main activity within this 3 -year Heritage Lottery funded project on 'Promoting and Protecting Biodiversity in North East Scotland'.

Janet Imlach, the NESBReC Biological Recorder has provided expert guidance on the project specification and work programme, with Isobel Davidson now employed as the project assistant. Aberdeenshire Council is NESBReC's parenting body and formally submitted the bid to Heritage Lottery Fund, while the staff at NESBReC along with their Management Group, will manage the project. The recruitment of surveyors and trainees is now well underway.

Four surveyors, along with four trainees, will carry out fieldwork in 2004 and three surveyors will be employed in both 2005 and 2006. The project is innovative in two important respects: it will use and test the Integrated Habitat System, including its habitat classification system, translation software, survey methodology, and data management protocols; and the data will be entered in the field directly into hand-held PCs connected to Geographical Positioning System units.

The Integrated Habitat System (IHS) addresses the need to collect and manage data required to implement and monitor the UK Biodiversity Action Plan and was developed by the Somerset Environmental Records Centre. So far the IHS has only been tested and used in England and SNH is supporting this project as an important trial of the IHS in Scotland. The IHS has been designed to address the need to map and analyse habitat data using GIS and to make best use of existing data. It integrates the Biodiversity Broad and Priority Habitats, elements of Phase 1, and the complete UK Habitats Directive Annex 1 list. In North East Scotland the IHS will be used to survey on the ground to Priority Habitat level with some use of aerial photographs, which are held only for Aberdeen City.

NESBReC is also organising a programme of taxonomic training workshops and field days to complement the training element within the survey work. These aim to develop and increase the network of people recording local biodiversity through improving the skills of novice recorders, encouraging specialist recorders to record new taxon groups, and encouraging the recording of under-recorded and difficult groups.

Alan Cameron

## **LETTER PAGE**

*[BRISC is always keen to publish letters and viewpoints from members and to encourage a healthy debate on relevant issues – ed]*

## **A Biological Recording Resource Centre?**

As an entomologist I realise that biological recording can be an expensive business. What with various nets and traps, tubes and preservatives, microscopes and identification guides, the fully equipped entomologist probably would not have much change out of £1000. If you add training courses and visits to museum collections and libraries to this you could probably double this figure.

I have often thought that it would be great if there was a resource centre that aspiring entomologists (and for that matter recorders of any group) could 'drop into' to use the facilities to collect, study and subsequently record the local wildlife.

Centres offering facilities such as these do exist in the UK. The British Entomological and Natural History Society has purpose built premises within Dinton Pastures Country Park near Reading, which houses a natural history library and collection, with facilities for books, periodicals and specimens to be consulted and studied, and equipment to facilitate fieldwork and study (such as microscopes, nets, etc.).

Similarly, the John Spedan Lewis Trust for the Advancement of the Natural Sciences have a field centre in the village of Leckford in Hampshire. You can apply to the trust for use of the field centre and I believe that the centre is also open for use every weekend. They have a voucher collection that has been built up through the use of the centre and they periodically publish the findings of various researchers at the field centre.

It strikes me that Scotland lacks a similar set-up. The Field Studies Centre at Kindrogan is perhaps the obvious choice for a Scottish Biological Recording Resource Centre, however it fails on one key point - accessibility. Not only is it miles from anywhere but access is through organised courses - you can't just turn up and record/study. While very reasonable, the courses are generally too expensive for the ordinary volunteer.

I believe that accessibility is the biggest barrier to biological recording. Scotland has many world class facilities, such as the Scottish Natural History Library in Kilbarchan and the voucher collections at the National Museum of Scotland, however accessing these resources requires planning and prior contact. While many Local Records Centres have a variety of reference books and field guides for use by their recorders, and some provide access to microscope facilities, as far as I am aware there are none that maintain a voucher specimen collection.

Could we develop a Biological Recording Resource Centre in Scotland? I think we could. I think it would be great if the Scottish Wildlife Trust could donate a room at one of their visitor centres to be used exclusively for biological recording. Other possible locations could include country parks or greenspace projects. The room would not have to be big - enough to house a modest natural history library, together with field and study equipment. The location would

however have to be fairly accessible by public transport to ensure that it was truly 'available to all'.

I believe that such a facility in Scotland, would not only act as a focus for biological recording, but also open up fieldwork and recording to a much wider audience. I would be interested in hearing other reader's thoughts on this.

Craig Macadam

E-mail [craig.macadam@bradan-aquasurveys.co.uk](mailto:craig.macadam@bradan-aquasurveys.co.uk)

## CONFERENCE 2004 REPORT



Morning session: from left Andy Scott (BTO), Scott Ferguson (SNH), Anne-Marie Smout, Matt Shardlow (Buglife), Robin Harper, MSP (chair) - photo Alan Cameron

### Secret Wildlife: Recording the Urban Environment

was the theme of this year's conference, which took place at the Students Union, Teviot Row House, Edinburgh, on Saturday 6 March. Forty-two delegates and speakers attended – rather fewer than we had hoped for, but as usual it turned out to be a good day with seven varied and interesting presentations. Two papers from the afternoon session are published below, as well as the minutes of the AGM. It is hoped to publish the remaining presentations in the July issue of *BRISC Recorder News*.

Anne-Marie Smout

### *Discovering some of Edinburgh's less well-known wildlife*

**Bob Saville**

#### **Lothian Wildlife Information Centre Co-ordinator**

The talk covered some of the more interesting of the 5000+ less well-known species occurring in Edinburgh.

Wildlife in cities is not as well known as might be expected for a number of reasons.

- There are not enough specialist recorders to make discoveries.
- There is so much wildlife to be discovered.
- Recording effort tends to focus on well-known sites leaving many areas completely unrecorded.

#### **Under-recording of well-known sites**

Even well known sites such as Holyrood Park still turn up new species. For example during an invertebrate survey of the park an attempt to rediscover the tiny Red Date Book

(RDB) snail *Truncatellina cylindrica* resulted in the discovery of the blind white snail *Cecilioides acicula*, a first record for Scotland.

One of the remits of the Lothian Wildlife Information Centre (the local biological record centre for the Lothians) is to encourage local recording, particularly of the less-well recorded groups. One of the ways that the Centre achieves this is by organising recording visits, six times a year to under-recorded sites. The aim of these visits is partly to discover what species occur, partly to encourage recorders to start specialising. One memorable visit was along the Water of Leith in the Stockbridge area when Keith Bland and I simultaneously made interesting discoveries – a micromoth new to Scotland and the first discovery in Britain of the so-called Madeiran barklouse – a species only known previously from three specimens from Madeira.

Edinburgh has many disused railway walkways which are an attractive feature of the city and Edinburgh Council classified the whole network as an Urban Wildlife Site in its Urban Conservation Strategy. Recording of vascular plants did not turn up any unusual species but the studies of flies associated with damaged trees undertaken by David Robertson along the walkway, resulted in the discovery of several RDB species for which very few specimens have been found in Britain.

#### **Recording at brownfield sites, gardens etc.**

Within the city, Edinburgh includes a whole range of places that you always find in cities that are not generally classified as sites and consequently go largely unrecorded. These are places like gardens, amenity parks, waste grounds and cemeteries. A remarkable number of interesting species have been found in such places. For example, in the 1980s Keith Bland found a grayling butterfly on the window to his garden at Blackford. This was the first record since the 19<sup>th</sup> Century and it was a mystery what it was doing there. In the 1990s there were more odd sightings. Following some detective work by the Centre team it was discovered that the butterfly was associated with the bare ground along the working railway lines.

LWIC aims to have data from the complete range of local areas and in order to help fill this gap we have carried out our own surveys. One such study was the Lothian Secret Garden Survey. This was part public survey, part specimen collecting study. The public were asked to fill in forms for their gardens and list the species they see and some of the details of the garden such as its size and location. From the 170 forms sent back to us we selected 16 that represented the full range of Lothian garden types from urban to rural, upland to lowland, large to small. The LWIC team then visited each of the 16 gardens on six occasions and recorded whatever wildlife we could identify and collected specimens of the rest. Of the 16 gardens chosen seven were in Central Edinburgh.

Some of the Edinburgh findings were to say the least unexpected. For example, we sent a specimen of a brown cup fungus found in the garden of a terrace house in Polwarth to Roy Watling. This turned out to be *Geopora*

*cervina* only the second site in Britain for it. Another interesting find turned up when we were doing some water trap studies in a garden in Corstorphine. The specimens collected were sent to David Horsfield who was equally amazed to find a specimen of *Delia caledonica* among the collection. This muscid fly has RDB status and was previously only known in Britain from Scottish mountain sites.

The reasons why some of these species were present in the gardens were occasionally worked out. At one garden at Seafield the woodlouse *Porcellionides pruinosus*, a species not previously recorded from the Lothians, was found. This is known to be associated with manure and a search at the farm where the gardener obtained his manure turned up the woodlouse. Another curious find was a tiny white millipede called *Brachychaeteuma bagnalli*. This species has Notable A status and was known from about 20 sites in Britain. It was found in 4 of the 16 gardens including one in central Edinburgh. This suggested that a quarter of all Lothian gardens have this 'rare' millipede. The suspicion that it may have been spread via garden centres was confirmed when it was found at a West Lothian centre. One of the values of recording at the full range of possible places and not sticking to the familiar sites is that you can get a clearer perspective on species distributions. The discovery of *bagnalli* in gardens has added an extra dimension to our knowledge of its distribution.

In a similar way, the two known locations in Britain of the ichneumon *Ctenopelma ruficornis* – Rannoch Moor and Dalry Community Park – immediately put its distribution in perspective.

#### **Why are so many unusual species being found?**

- Some groups are so poorly recorded that it would be more surprising if new species were not being discovered. In general, there are far too few specialist recorders to have any chance of getting a reasonable coverage of any area.
- I suspect that many more species than we are currently aware are being transported to where they are by human activity and by garden centres in particular.
- Increasing numbers of species are of their own volition moving northwards.

#### **Are there any species that prefer the urban areas to the countryside?**

- Not many clear cut examples (unlike in southern England). There is a solitary bee that is only known in Scotland from within the city. Many bees and wasps have a distinctly southern distribution and the extra warmth of the city may be just enough to allow them to survive at an otherwise hostile latitude.

There is a great deal more of Edinburgh's wildlife still to be discovered. What we need are specialists who are capable of doing the recording. Anyone recording locally should ensure that their records are sent to the Lothian Wildlife Information Centre.

## ***Vacant and derelict land and biodiversity:***

### ***A North Lanarkshire perspective***

**Jonathan Willet**

**North Lanarkshire Biodiversity Officer**

#### **Some figures**

To start with some bald figures, North Lanarkshire contains 14% of all the Vacant and Derelict (V&D) land in Scotland, this covers 1509 hectares, or 3% of North Lanarkshire.

#### **Why has North Lanarkshire got so much V&D land?**

The opening of the Monkland's Canal in 1793 to transport coal to Glasgow really started the Industrial Revolution. After 1828 hot-blast iron smelting was developed allowing the exploitation of the vast quantities of ironstone in the area. Iron gave way to steel in the late-19<sup>th</sup> Century, eventually giving rise to Gartcosh, Ravenscraig and Dalzell steelworks.

By the 1980s the last two pits had shut, as had two out of the three steelworks. These factors plus the decline of the manufacturing industry locally, lead to nearly all of the V&D land that we find in North Lanarkshire today.

#### **Some biodiversity**

In 2003, Scottish Enterprise commissioned a survey of half of the V&D sites in North Lanarkshire. The results found that 20% of the sites had medium to high biodiversity (plants, obvious vertebrates and invertebrates were the main indicators for this).

The fact that 80% of these sites have low biodiversity may be misleading. This measure of biodiversity may be species richness, so sites may have a low number of species but these species may be rare. As the survey was a general one, it is very likely that any species difficult to find and identify were overlooked.

Another issue about these low biodiversity sites is that they are a snapshot of now, not of what they could develop into. Such bare sites being allowed to colonise naturally are very rare in our highly managed landscape and are therefore very important. Bare substrates such as those found on bings offer a great opportunity for bryophytes and heath development. stagshorn and fir clubmoss are found on several bings, as are lichen and moss heaths which are more reminiscent of upland areas.

Bings have often been restored to full vegetation cover by sewage cake, seeding and tree planting. The results do not maximise the potential biodiversity, as the special habitats of the bing are normalised to that of the surrounding area. However management can enhance the biodiversity of a bing if it works with the substrate. On Fallin Bing just east of Stirling large areas were hydroseeded with a wildflower mix in the early 1990's. In the summer huge numbers of common blue butterflies, meadow browns and six spot burnet moths can be found flying in these 'meadows'.

Ironically the V&D land in our area is becoming one of the better habitats to see UK Biodiversity Priority Species such as brown hare, grey partridge, linnet and skylark. The grayling butterfly is only found on two sites in North Lanarkshire, both are V&D sites.

There is still a paucity of recent biological records from these sites, though in the late 1980s, early 1990s much floral surveying of bings was done by Jim Dickson and others. As the bulk of V&D land is found in urban areas, they are readily accessible to lots of people, so there is great scope to increase our knowledge of these sites, which is close to zero for most post-industrial sites.

One site that bucks this trend and is one of the best-studied areas locally is the old Gartcosh Steelworks, which is being developed as a business park. During the planning application, surveys were commissioned and a large number of great crested newts were found on site. Elaborate mitigation measures involving translocation and fencing have been taking place. Across the railway line from this site at Kilgarth, an ex-landfill site, new ponds are being created here but a few hundred meters away there are large areas of rubble filled ponds, just the kind of habitat that great crested newts like.

### **Conclusion**

The Glasgow and Clyde Valley Structure Plan and the Lanarkshire Derelict Land Strategy both seek to increase the amount of V&D land that is developed and/or treated. This could be an opportunity or a threat depending on how development and treatment (nutrient poor meadows, not all trees please!) are categorised.

Efforts to increase the awareness of the value of V&D land for biodiversity amongst local people, developers and organisations needs to be allied with efforts from the owners of such land to reduce the impacts of vandalism and fly tipping on such sites to improve their public image.

In our heavily modified and managed landscape all land, including protected sites, is managed in a way that we think fit for its purpose. Therefore very few lowland areas are allowed to develop left to their own devices. So, perhaps it is not the species that are found there but the unmanaged successional development of these sites that is their greatest value. Nature will express itself in a manner fit for a particular site if only given the opportunity and time to do so.

## **BRISC ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2004**

**held at Teviot Row House, Edinburgh, on  
Saturday 6 March 2004 at 12.45 – 13.15**

### **Apologies**

Apologies were received from Dave Budworth, Ian Evans, Jeremy Greenwood, Sara Hawkswell, Barbara Hogarth, Jessie McKay, Ro Scott, Barbara Sumner, Richard Sutcliffe, Andy Wakelin.

### **Minutes of BRISC AGM 2003**

Minutes of previous AGM, held 22 February 2004 were accepted as a true record of proceedings. Proposed by Adrian Sumner, seconded by Richard Weddle.

### **Chair's Report**

Because the Chair's Annual Report for 2003 had already been circulated with the January mailing and also included in

delegates' packs, Anne-Marie Smout proposed not to go into details of that report, but instead to look ahead at issues relating to the future of BRISC.

An important area of work for the coming year will be to recruit new recorders and planning for a new project to address this is already underway in co-operation with BTCV Scotland.

BRISC continues to work hard on promoting a national strategy for Local Records Centres and details of this would be discussed under the last agenda item 'Position Statement'.

The BRISC committee is organising a 'Recorders Day' at Cullaloe Wildlife Reserve in Fife aimed at attracting a wide cross-section of BRISC members and their friends, including beginners and experienced recorders alike. Details will be published in *BRISC Recorder News*.

Members will be invited to recommend sites that they would like to see as venues for future recording days. Jonathan Willet offered to propose a site in North Lanarkshire for an event in 2005.

### **Development Officer's Report**

Alan Cameron reported that the main area of work of the Development Project continued to be advocating for Local Records Centres and working to strengthen the network through building understanding and partnerships, particularly with SNH. The project has provided input to the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy on the critical role of wildlife recording in monitoring and reporting on biological outcomes and hopes to see this represented in the final document. Members were directed to the published Annual Report for a fuller account of work undertaken.

### **Membership Report**

Alan Cameron reported that the BRISC membership is 144. Individual memberships stand at 99; there are 36 corporate members, and 9 reciprocal arrangements with similar bodies. Current members will be asked to renew their membership in the forthcoming issue of *BRISC Recorder News*, and the twelve individuals who have not re-joined since 2002 will not be contacted again. It will be a priority for 2004 to conduct a membership drive.

### **Treasurer's Report**

Mark Simmons confirmed that the BRISC accounts have been examined and approved. It should be noted that the Development Project is 100% externally funded. Expenditure for the past year slightly exceeded income. This will be an issue in the near future and is under discussion by the committee, which has considered options including increased membership fees and project income. Options for reducing expenditure are difficult to identify but include electronic delivery of *BRISC Recorder News*, though it is recognised that most members prefer to receive a paper copy. However, electronic copies may be more suitable for corporate members and would allow the use of colour. It was proposed that members could be asked to say whether they preferred electronic delivery in the membership renewal notice.

Approval of the accounts was proposed by Jonathan Willet and seconded by Keith Bland.

### **Website Manager's Report**

The website manager Andy Wakelin sent his apologies but members attention was directed to the section on website in the Annual Report.

Ken Watt asked if the web address was prominent enough in *Recorder News*, and Jonathan Willet asked about website access, and whether useful. AMS said that there is scope to make it more useful, for example through listing current surveys and training opportunities. Members input would be critical here.

Richard Weddle asked about *Recorder News* on the website. AMS raised the possibility of having a 'private page' accessible by members only with a range of material including the latest Newsletter.

### **Election of Committee**

The Chair thanked the committee members for their support and help, without which BRISC could not operate.

Lesley Brown is standing down from the committee and she was thanked for her considerable input over five years both as a committee member and as membership secretary.

Due to internal changes in SNH, Geoff Johnson has stood down from the committee and will be replaced by the new NBN Co-ordinator, when appointed.

Jonathan Willet and Jenny Storey have been co-opted from North Lanarkshire Council to share representation on the committee.

All other committee members were prepared to stand again. Adrian Sumner proposed re-appointing the committee members, seconded by Keith Bland.

Anne-Marie Smout has been Chair for the last six years and announced that she will be standing down at the AGM in 2005.

### **Position Statement on Local Records Centre network**

Alan McKirdy, Head of the SNH's Natural Heritage Data Unit, has agreed to Chair a national LRC strategy group and will invite stakeholders to an inaugural meeting on 31 March. This initiative follows from agreement made at the joint BRISC/SNH seminar on the future of the LRC network that was held in Perth in October 2003. Jon Mercer made a well-received presentation on the work of Scottish Borders Biological Records Centre at the Perth meeting and will be invited to provide input on LRC services.

As a contribution to developing a national strategy BRISC has drafted a Position Statement that presents a vision of twelve fully functioning LRCs with at least two staff members, to work alongside satellite centres and managers of datasets covering smaller areas, such as rangers services. The Statement is set out in a leaflet that was circulated to all members prior to the AGM. Two comments had subsequently been received by email, and these were read out. The Position Statement was then approved on a show of hands.

### **A.O.C.B.**

It was proposed that the BRISC Annual Conference may attract more delegates if it were to focus more on recording, although it was agreed that it is best to continue to hold the conference on a Saturday.

Jonathan Willet expressed the gratitude of the BRISC committee and of the membership for all the hard work undertaken by Anne-Marie Smout over the past year.

There was no further business and the AGM closed at 13.15.

## **BOOK REVIEWS**

**Fara, P. (2003). *Sex, Botany & Empire*. Icon Books, Cambridge. ISBN: 1-84046-488-7; hbk. £9.99.**

This is a third book by Fara on the history of science, about which she lectures as a fellow of Clare College, Cambridge. Her style is both entertaining and informative and if readers wish for a lively romp through the lives of Carl Linnaeus and Sir Joseph Banks, this is the book for you. The *sex* part embraces Banks' activities with the ladies of Tahiti and Linnaeus' match-making of plant and human anatomy. *Botany* is a theme throughout and *Empire* relates to Banks' determination to benefit Britain and its colonies by the discovery and redistribution of plants for useful purposes. There are 15 text black and white illustrations, suggested further reading, 7 pages of notes but no index and little about fauna.

All members of BRISC must at some time have written L or Linnaeus as the authority of a species name and wondered about the man himself. Here is a brief history of the great Swede: his system for classifying plants, botanic gardens and excursions to popularise both his methods and himself. Here too, is the truly awful manner in which the female sex was considered a kind of lower order, such that the essential framework of Linnaeus' system had to be based on the number of (male) anthers with sub-groups only determined by the number of (female) pistils. He claimed that his Language of Flowers was so straightforward that even women could understand it; yet coupled descriptions of his plant categories in a curious mixture of prudishness and eroticism. It quite took me back to when, as an undergraduate, I first saw the detailed paintings of flower anatomy in a corridor of the Oxford botany department.

The early part of Banks' story is, of course, crucially related to the Pacific explorations of James Cook. However, there is also much of interest in Fara's comparison of Banks' and Linnaeus' characters, both having hugely self-aggrandising appetites combined with a degree of self-deception – even to the clothes they selected for their portraits. In their lives, Banks possibly had the edge over the elder scientist because of his remarkably long-lasting power base as President of the Royal Society, confidant of George III and substantial landowner. Making full use of his hard-won and tenaciously held privileged position, Banks generated a constant flow of ideas: conversion of Kew into the world's leading botanic garden; introductions and re-distribution of thousands of

plants, collected by others at his behest, such as flax, and breadfruit from Tahiti to the West Indies (hence the Bligh mutiny story); wheat, barley and other agricultural crops to New South Wales – along with convicts. The ecological harm done by some of these introductions can be set alongside the confidence of a quote from one of Banks' allies that 'the best use the land can be put to, is to cultivate that crop, whatever it be, which produces the greatest profit valued in money'. Possibly a bit challenging for some 21<sup>st</sup> Century attitudes but nevertheless, a book warmly recommended.

As an addendum, look into <[www.iconbooks.co.uk](http://www.iconbooks.co.uk)> or, better still, send for Icon Books' catalogue at Grange Road, Cambridge CB2 4QF for several dozen titles on the history of science and scientists: a rich source of entertaining learning for teen-agers and students of all ages.

Thomas Huxley

**Shelton, R. (2004). *The Longshoreman*. Atlantic Books, London. ISBN: 1-84354-161-0; hbk. £14.99.**

This is the autobiography of a biologist who, in the last nine years of a career in marine fishery research, became Head of the Freshwater Fisheries Laboratory at Pitlochry and now, in partial retirement, is Research Director of the Atlantic Salmon Trust. What he has to say about the current state of marine and freshwater fisheries is therefore of considerable interest, not just for the future availability of our fish suppers but also for the livelihood of the many communities involved in sea and river fishing. However, were it only for Dick Shelton's opinions on matters of great current concern – especially in Scotland - I doubt that this book would have received so many warm commendations. Rather, what must set *The Longshoreman* high on the list of exceptional books, is the author's immaculate story telling, whether about his early family experiences with rod and gun, or about the complex relationships between anatomy, physiology and ecology of a rich cast of shelled and backboneed 'fish', or the many skippers and other sea-going characters that populate these pages.

Divided into about fifty chapters, enlivened by about the same number of mostly small, black & white illustrations, subjects range from histories of fishery scientists, university professors and their research laboratories; and about biological events: from how lobsters with their hard shells sense their surroundings, to eels, lampreys and the life cycle of the salmon. I must have read many descriptions of this complex story (made more so because of the number of specialist names for different stages) but none so well written as here. There is also much about boats and deep water dredging, adventures in rough seas, railway engines, and childhood memories – often told in the present tense to give immediacy to the action – and always with a perfectionist's love for *le mot juste*, be this a naval term or seaman's oath. There are several chapters about the strenuous work involved in studying the actual or potential

effects of pollution, and there are some useful pages of further reading but no index.

The geography ranges from Buckinghamshire and the Norfolk coast to St Andrews and the Highlands of Scotland, with huge sweeps of stormy sea, way out beyond Rockall. The politics are subdued but clear in intent, especially in the last chapter. There may be a few readers who will be put-off by the author's enjoyment of guns and wildfowling, find some of the descriptive chapters about, eg lobsters, too detailed, or be unconvinced by the notion that, at heart, all men are hunters and thus that this activity is an acceptable connecting thread between doing research and enjoying field sports. If so, they will be missing much really well written and enjoyable descriptions about a life spent in fishery research; about the connection between childhood and adult interests, all virtually free of unkind comments about past colleagues, which says much for the generosity of the author.

My only regret is that a few of the illustrations are rather too small and smudgy and suspect this is an increasingly common fault to be laid at the door of publishers and Bill Gates. Scanned in 'grey-scale' illustrations may look good on the screen but often do not stand up to reproduction.

Thomas Huxley

## FORTH-COMING EVENTS

*(see also extensive programme for field meetings arranged by FERN and NESBReC, as well as the 2004 course list for the Kindrogan Field Centre on the following pages)*

- **22 April - Launch of Natural Heritage Trends and 'The seas Around Scotland' – John McIntyre Centry, University of Edinburgh, 18 Holyrood Park Road**
- **25 May - Launch of the Scottish Biodiversity Strategy – Murrayfield Stadium Conference Centre, Edinburgh**
- **26 May – Scottish Environment LINK AGM and visit to Lochore Meadows Country Park, Ballingry, Fife**
- **5 June – Corroul, Loch Ossian - organised by the Dragonfly Society. For further details contact Pat Barry Tel 01546 605316 (evenings)**
- **6 June – Loch Tullach, Doire Darroch Pine wood, Rannoch Moor – Dragonfly outing - info and contact details as above.**
- **10-20 June – National Insect Week (see inside newsletter p.5 for further details)**
- **19 June – BRISC Recorders Day at Cullaloe, Fife (see inside newsletter p.6 for further details)**
- **26 June - Loch Lomondside, Stirlingshire – organised by the Dragonfly Society. For further details contact Jonathan Willet Tel 01236 780636 (office hours)**
- **27 June – Queen Elizabeth Forest Park –Dragonfly outing - info and contact details as above**

## FERN (Fife Environmental Recording Network) EVENTS 2004

This year FERN have organised six events which we'd like to invite you to take part in. If you are interested in recording species, why not come along to one of our recording days? The purpose of these days is to look at sites that are under-recorded, or where records would help inform the management of a site, and record everything that we see to put together a comprehensive species list. Or perhaps you'd like to learn more about a particular subject? This year FERN have organised three workshops with varied subject matter, as opportunities for gaining knowledge and improving your own skills.

We hope to see you at our events!

### MAY

#### **Saturday 29<sup>th</sup>, Lochore Meadows, 10.30am – Bumblebee workshop**

*Interested by the bees in your garden? Want to know more? Then come along to this workshop by FERN's bumblebee recorder Anne-Marie Smout and learn how to identify your local bumblebees.*

### JUNE

#### **Saturday 26<sup>th</sup> – Recording day at Tullylumb Plantation (Cardenden Woods)**

*Help us put together a list of all the species found in this interesting site. Introduction and background on the site supplied by Colin Peacock from the Forestry Commission.*

### JULY

#### **Saturday 24<sup>th</sup> - Recording day at the lochs of Devilla Forest**

*Help us put together a list of all the species found in this interesting site. Devilla Forest boasts a variety of habitats and several lochs supporting a wide range of species. With Colin Peacock (Forestry Commission,) and Richard Smith (Fife Countryside Rangers).*

### AUGUST

#### **Saturday 21<sup>st</sup>, Torry Bay Local Nature Reserve Recording day.**

*Help us put together a list of all the species found on this beautiful and interesting stretch of Fife's impressive coastline. With Fife Countryside Rangers.*

### SEPTEMBER

#### **Wednesday 8<sup>th</sup>, Fife House, Glenrothes, 7.30pm**

#### **'A journey into the secret microscopic world around us' – by William Penrice.**

*All around us is a diverse and fascinating world of tiny creatures too small to be seen. Enjoy immersing yourself for an evening in a world more alien than any Science Fiction, all on your doorstep. Through a series of live demonstrations, computer simulations and hands on activities we will explore this tiny world up close.*

### OCTOBER

#### **Saturday 2<sup>nd</sup>, 'The Geology of Fife', The Lomond Hills**

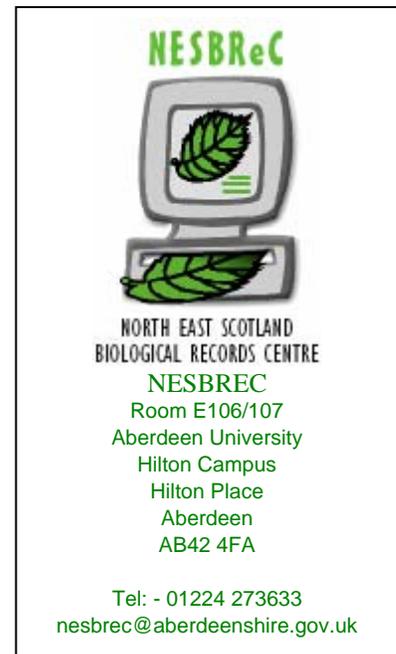
Come and learn about the varied and interesting geodiversity of Fife and its links with biodiversity. With Mike Browne from British Geological Survey.

*If you wish to attend any of these events or are looking for more information, please contact FERN to book a place. Further information on these events will be shortly available on [www.fifedirect.org.uk/FERN](http://www.fifedirect.org.uk/FERN)*

**Wildlife Recorder** (the yearly survey and recording booklet published by FERN) will be available in Fife libraries, museums, rangers bases and local offices from last week in April 04. It is also available direct from FERN. Please contact Julie Bett, FERN, (Fife Environmental Recording Network), Tel (01592) 413793 or e-mail [Julie.Bett@smtp5.fife.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.Bett@smtp5.fife.gov.uk)

## 'Promoting and Protecting Biodiversity in the North East of Scotland' Project

*NESBReC Recording and Identification Workshops 2004*



| Date                   | Title                    | Trainer               | Location           |
|------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 21-24 April            | Bryophyte Identification | Dr Martha Newton      | Mar Lodge          |
| 8 May                  | Seaweeds                 | Clare Scanlon         | TBA                |
| 19 June                | Botanical Walk           | Ian Green             | Crossbrae, Turriff |
| June<br>provisional    | Rare Plants              | Andy McMullen         | Deeside            |
| 03 July<br>provisional | Botanical Walk           | Kathy Fallowfield     | Deeside            |
| 10-11 July             | Grass Identification     | Lynne Farrell         | TBA                |
| 17 July                | Beetles                  | Peter Dennis          | Macaulay Institute |
| 12-13 August           | Mammal Identification    | Mammal Society        | Lochinch           |
| 28 August              | Hoverflies               | Kenn Watt             | TBA                |
| 22-24 October          | Lichen Identification    | Brian & Sandy Coppins | Mar Lodge          |

Booking is essential.

If you are interested in a course please contact Isabel Davidson at NESBReC.

[i.davidson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk](mailto:i.davidson@aberdeenshire.gov.uk)



# KINDROGAN COURSE LIST 04

Kindrogan Field Centre, Enochdhu, Blairgowrie, PH10 7PG

Tel : 01250 870 150

Fax: 01250 881 433

e-mail: [kindrogan@btinternet.com](mailto:kindrogan@btinternet.com) Web: [www.fieldstudiescouncil.org](http://www.fieldstudiescouncil.org)

In partnership with The Scottish Field Studies Association

|   |                             |                      |         |
|---|-----------------------------|----------------------|---------|
| First Aid for Remote Places                     | Philip Glennie              | 15 - 19 March        | £230    |
| Lichen Identification                           | Sandy & Brian Coppins       | 29 March - 2 April   | £250    |
| Lichens   | Sandy & Brian Coppins       | 3 - 10 April         | £350    |
| Spring Highland Moths                           | David Brown                 | 5 - 10 April         | £265    |
| Spring Birds                                    | Russell Nisbet              | 16 - 18 April        | £120    |
| Biological Recording (Intermediate Level)       | Sarah Whild                 | 19 - 22 April        | £200    |
| Highland Family Wildlife Weekend (6 - 12 yrs)   | Andy & Fay Williams         | 30th April - 3rd May | Various |
| Mammal Identification Workshop                  | The Mammal Society          | 7 - 9 May            | £155    |
| NVC Heathland (Intermediate Level)              | Ben Averis                  | 19 - 21 May          | £165    |
| River Fly Identification Workshop               | Craig MacAdam               | 21 - 23 May          | £130    |
| Introduction to Mosses                          | Gordon Rothero              | 21 - 23 May          | £130    |
| A Weekend on Bats                               | John Haddow                 | 21 - 23 May          | £130    |
| Drystone Dyking (Introduction)                  | Drystone Walling Assn.      | 21 - 23 May          | £120    |
| Archaeology of Orkney                           | Robin Noble                 | 22 - 29 May          | £640    |
| Plant Photography                               | Gordon Rutter               | 4 - 6 June           | £120    |
| Key Skills in Plant Identification              | Robert Callow               | 4 - 9 June           | £265    |
| Tree Identification (Introduction)              | Jerry Dicker                | 4 - 6 June           | £120    |
| Tree Identification & Ecology (Intermediate)    | Jerry Dicker                | 6 - 9 June           | £190    |
| Orchids of Scotland                             | Brian Allen                 | 18 - 20 June         | £120    |
| Grass Identification                            | Judith Allinson             | 22 - 26 June         | £230    |
| Photography in the Scottish Highlands           | Les Borg                    | 24 - 28 June         | £230    |
| Mountain Flowers in the Scottish Highlands      | Mike Scott                  | 25 June - 2 July     | £330    |
| Water Plants                                    | Nick Stewart                | 3 - 10 July          | £350    |
| Introduction to the NVC                         | Phil Lusby                  | 6 - 9 July           | £250    |
| Butterflies and Moths                           | David Brown                 | 13 - 17 July         | £230    |
| Drawing and Painting in the Scottish Landscape  | Gordon Highmoor             | 17 - 24 July         | £330    |
| Highland Family Wildlife Weekend (6 - 12 yrs)   | Andy & Fay Williams         | 23 - 26 July         | Various |
| Freshwater Algae                                | Elliot Shubert & Eileen Cox | 24 - 31 July         | £395    |
| Navigation Skills and Hillwalking               | Philip Glennie              | 30 July - 1 August   | £130    |
| Identifying Sedges & Rushes                     | Fred Rumsey                 | 7 - 13 August        | £300    |
| Fern Identification                             | Heather McHaffie            | 13 - 16 August       | £190    |
| Castles, Gardens and Distilleries               | Andy Williams               | 14 - 18 August       | £280    |
| Mosses and Liverworts                           | Martha Newton               | 14 - 21 August       | £330    |
| Moths in Scotland (Intermediate Level)          | Paul Waring                 | 16 - 20 August       | £250    |
| Sphagnum Mosses                                 | Martha Newton               | 21 - 25 August       | £230    |
| Fungi   | Alan Outen                  | 21 - 28 August       | £330    |
| Botanical Illustration in the Highlands         | Claire and Kery Dalby       | 21 - 28 August       | £330    |
| Identifying Spiders                             | Paul Lee                    | 6 - 10 September     | £250    |
| NVC Woodlands (Intermediate Level)              | Ben Averis                  | 17 - 19 September    | £165    |
| Paranormal Perthshire                           | Gordon Rutter               | 17 - 19 September    | £120    |
| Aquatic Invertebrate Identification (Beginners) | Brian Morrison              | 24 - 26 September    | £120    |
| Introduction to Small Mammals                   | Judi Oates                  | 24 - 26 September    | £120    |
| Survival Skills                                 | Andy Gingell                | 24 - 25 September    | £120    |
| Working with Natural Dyes                       | Marianna Lines              | 24 - 26 September    | £120    |
| How do Birds Weather the Weather?               | Norman Elkins               | 1 - 3 October        | £120    |
| Autumn Birds                                    | Russell Nisbet              | 15 - 22 October      | £330    |
| Capturing the Scottish Landscape                | Sue Murdoch                 | 15 - 22 October      | £330    |
| Autumn Landscape Photography                    | Chris Rowley                | 15 - 22 October      | £330    |
| Birds for Beginners                             | Nick Mutch                  | 22 - 24 October      | £120    |
| Communication & Presentation Skills             | Judi Oates & Andy Williams  | 25 - 29 October      | £230    |



## Committee Members as of April 2004

**Anne-Marie Smout, Chair** elected since 1998 –  
c/o Chesterhill, Shore Road, Anstruther, Fife, KY10  
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[AMSmout@aol.com](mailto:AMSmout@aol.com)

*Also Newsletter editor; shares with AC representation  
on National Biodiversity Network LRC Steering Group,  
Council for National Federation for Biological  
Recording, and (with AC & BB) different aspects of  
Scottish Environment LINK*

### Alan Cameron, BRISC Development Officer

Co-opted 2002  
BRISC c/o BTCV, Balallan House, Allan Park, Stirling,  
FK8 2QG

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[brisc@btcv.org.uk](mailto:brisc@btcv.org.uk)

*Also Secretariat and Memberships; shares with AMS  
representation on NBN LRC Steering Group, Council  
for National Federation for Biological Recording, the  
Biodiversity Challenge Task Force of Scottish  
Environment LINK, and (with Paul Kirkland)  
represents BRISC on Scottish Biodiversity Forum's  
LBAP subgroup*

### Mark Simmons, Treasurer

elected since 1998

c/o Perth Museum, 78 George Street, Perth, PH1 5LB  
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[mjsimmons@pkc.gov.uk](mailto:mjsimmons@pkc.gov.uk) (Mark Simmons)

### Andy Wakelin, Website Manager

co-opted August 2000

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[andy.wakelin@which.net](mailto:andy.wakelin@which.net)

**Brian Boag** co-opted then elected since 2002  
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*Represents BRISC (Agricultural Task Force) on  
Scottish Environment LINK*

**Gill Calder** co-opted Spring 2003

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**Jennifer Davidson** co-opted April 2004  
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### Paul Kirkland

elected since 2001

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*Represents BRISC (with AC) on Scottish Biodiversity  
Forum's LBAP subgroup  
Serves on the Management Team for the  
Development Officer*

### Craig Macadam

elected since 2003

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FK5 4JY

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### Jon Mercer

elected since 2001

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Ancrum, Jedburgh TD8 6UQ

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**Jenny Storie/ Jonathan Wills** Co-opted summer  
2003

Conservation and Greening Unit, North Lanarkshire  
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[jonathan.wills@virgin.net](mailto:jonathan.wills@virgin.net)

*JW represents BRISC on the LBAP partnership group  
and on the Scottish Squirrel Group*

## Management Team for the Development Officer's post as of April 2004

Anne-Marie Smout – BRISC (Chair)

David Jamieson – BTCV

Jennifer Davidson – SNH

Mark Simmons – BRISC

Paul Kirkland – BRISC

Alan Cameron – Secretary

**DEADLINE** for next issue of  
*BRISC Recorder News* is  
**16 JUNE 2004**

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