

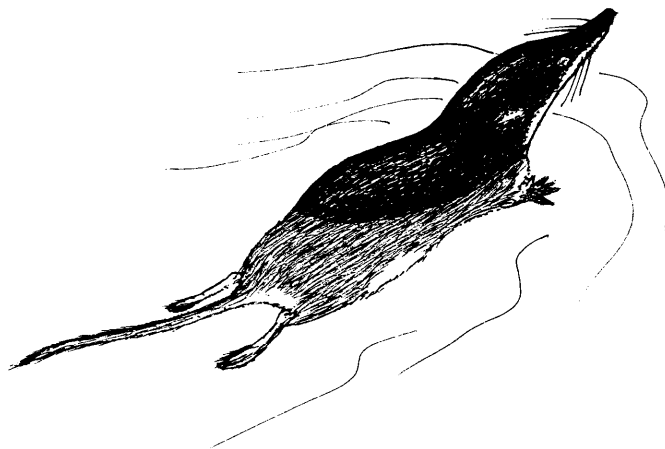
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Water Shrew

(David Clarke)

Contents

Reports on Field Meetings

- Wild Goose Chase, Galloway - John Hamer & Brian Spencer 1
South Solway - David Clarke 2

Notes and Records

- Recent Reports - Geoff Naylor 3
Garden Water Shrews - Margaret & Jeremy Roberts 6
Dicranum tauricum Sapjegin: a moss new to Cumberland (VC 70) -
Roderick W. M. Corner 7
The Red Data Book mining bee *Andrena ruficrus* Nylander at Cliburn Moss NNR -
Neil A. Robinson 8
The beetle *Telematophilus typhae* Fallen on Bulrush in Cumbria R.W. -
John Read 10

Articles

- The bark beetle *Scolytus ratzeburgi* Janson new to Cumberland (VC 70), with
additional records from Westmorland (VC 69) - Stephen Hewitt 12
Some notes on the Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus* L.) at Haweswater, Mardale -
David Walker..... 14
Insects associated with dead-wood habitats in Rusland Woods -
Stephen M. Hewitt, David B. Atty, John B. Parker & R.W. John Read 17

Society Announcements – see end covers

From the Editor

As announced in the previous issue, Steve Hewitt has 'retired' as Editor, though happily he remains Sub-editor for Invertebrates, and will continue to support future issues. The *Carlisle Naturalist* has been very much his brainchild and its growing success and recognition over the past ten years is a great credit to him and to the Society.

There are no current proposals for radical changes to the present format, though more feedback from readers on what they think about the contents and what they would like to see more of would be valuable. Talking of which, the Editor would appreciate a wider range of contributions, which should be possible from our ever-growing readership. Original line illustrations would be most welcome too. One possible departure from present contents would letters to the Editor, perhaps in response to an article, or about any matter appropriate to the journal's scope. I will be pleased to consider this as a new element, starting from the next issue.

And finally, my thanks to contributors to this issue, including the illustrators, and to Jeremy Roberts for 'publishing services'.

David Clarke

Additions to the library:

Many thanks for the following donations to the Society's library and archive.

John Read has given:

The Vasculum. Vols. **80.185.1** (19952000)

Bulletin of the Amateur Entomologists' Society. Vol **44** (1985)

The Naturalist. Vol **105.955, 107,961 & 962, 108.964, 965 & 966**

Stewart, J, Barbour, D. & Moran, S. (1998) *Highland Butterflies: a provisional atlas*.
Inverness, Highland Biological Recording Group.

Geoff Norman has given a run of *British Wildlife* Vols. **2.4, 3.5, 3.6** and Vols. **4.1 to 11.4** (1992-2000) and the *Kent Bird Report* 1984-1987

Geoff Naylor has deposited reports of his natural history holiday trips to Israel, Spain, Hungary and Zimbabwe in the Society's archive.

Derek Ratcliffe has deposited, in the Society's archive, Robbie Brown's journal of his Norwegian trips from 1954 to 1966, together with a typescript version and an article on Norwegian birds that Robbie offered to *British Birds* in 1958.

Stephen Hewitt

Discounted publications to Society members

The following publications of the Society are available to members at the discounted prices shown:

<i>Cumbrian Wildlife in the 20th Century</i> (1996)	£5.00	(retail price £6.50)
<i>Lakeland Ornithology</i> (1954)	£5.00	(2nd hand price £15-£20)
<i>Lakeland Molluscs</i> (1967)	£3.00	(2nd hand price £10-£20)

Also:

<i>Lakeland Birdlife 1920-1970</i> , R.H. Brown (1974)	£5.00	(2nd hand price c.£10.00)
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Field Meetings

1st February 2003, Wild Goose Chase, Galloway

On a bright cold day, eight members set off on the traditional annual trip to Galloway. These did not include our designated leader, Geoff Horne, who was unfortunately ill that day. Our first stop was at Newbie, where it was close to high tide. The wader roost included large numbers of Bar-tailed Godwits as well as Oystercatchers, Redshanks, Turnstones, Knot, Ringed Plovers and Curlews. Ducks included Wigeon, Teal and Shoveler. Between Newbie and Caerlaverock we saw large flocks of geese in flight but comparatively few on the ground. By this time the Buzzard count had reached double figures and after that we stopped counting.

We stopped at Caerlaverock Castle in search of a reported Great Grey Shrike, but it was not in view while we were there. Large numbers of Pintail were seen at the mouth of the river Nith and from there we moved to the usual lunch stop at Glencaple, where some of us saw a Kingfisher.

The next stop was at Auchenreoch Loch, where careful scrutiny of the ducks revealed a Lesser Scaup - one of several individuals of this American species known to be in northern Britain at this time. Moving on to Loch Ken, we followed the usual route along the western side of the loch, where there were good numbers of Pink-footed, Greylag and White-fronted Geese (over 200 of the last). Overall we did not do so well with raptors, but a Red Kite did appear at Loch Ken, which is not that far from the site of the recent introduction of this species into SW Scotland.

From there we headed back to Milton Loch in search of a reported Ring-necked Duck yet another N. American species which has recently been sighted elsewhere in the UK. In failing light, among large numbers of Tufted Duck and Pochard this bird proved somewhat elusive but was seen briefly. A full list of birds seen during the day follows.

John Hamer & Brian Spencer

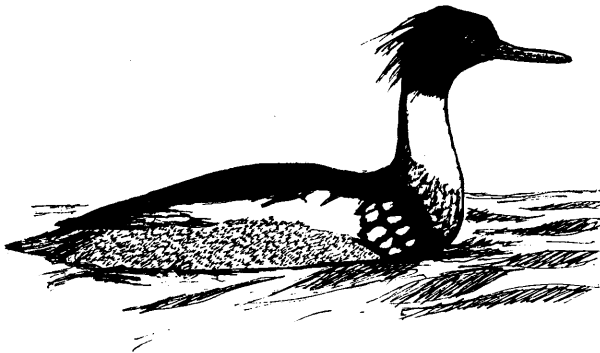
Great Crested Grebe	Barnacle Goose	Tufted Duck
Little Grebe	Shelduck	Lesser Scaup
Heron	Wigeon	Ring-necked Duck
Mute Swan	Teal	Goldeneye
Whooper Swan	Mallard	Red-breasted Merganser
Pink-footed Goose	Pintail	Goosander
White-fronted Goose	Shoveler	Common Buzzard
Canada Goose	Pochard	Red Kite

Kestrel	Common Gull	Blue Tit
Sparrowhawk	Stock Dove	Great Tit
Pheasant	Wood Pigeon	Jackdaw
Moorhen	Collared Dove	Rook
Coot	Kingfisher	Carrion Crow
Oystercatcher	Meadow Pipit	Magpie
Ringed Plover	Pied Wagtail	Raven
Golden Plover	Wren	Starling
Lapwing	Duncock	House Sparrow
Knot	Robin	Chaffinch
Bar-tailed Godwit	Fieldfare	Goldfinch
Snipe	Blackbird	Redpoll
Curlew	Mistle Thrush	Linnet
Turnstone	Goldcrest	Yellowhammer
Redshank	Long-tailed Tit	
Black-headed Gull	Coal Tit	

26th April 2003, South Solway

Leader: Roy Atkins

We started with the tide high at 9.30am, with a cool south-easterly wind at our backs. From the very beginning near Drumburgh the presence of Whimbrels on passage was a feature of the day. In the end, we were to see almost as many of these sub-arctic ‘miniature Curlews’ as of their familiar Solway relative. Along with them, an immaculate Greenshank fed in the shallows at our first stop. With the help of a veritable battery of telescopes we had excellent views of these travellers. Pintail and Red-breasted Merganser were seen offshore. Moving closer



Red-breasted Merganser

(Ann Robinson)

to Port Carlisle, we had splendid views of confiding Ringed Plovers, with Dunlin - now almost in full summer plumage. Although very close, they seemed to merge into the grey boulders amongst which they rested.

Further west, we spent some time overlooking the salt-marsh and shore at Campfield. Linnets were in the hedgerow and gorse, and a singing Whitethroat and Grasshopper Warbler were close by, but the latter never revealed itself, as usual!

The marsh pool was almost dry, but a few Redshank were feeding in the mud. Common Terns fished and chased one another just offshore, and further out were packs of Oystercatcher, with Shelducks, more Whimbrel, *real* Curlews and small numbers of Knot and Grey Plover. Much more distantly, loose parties of Kittiwakes made their leisurely migration eastwards, the largest numbering some 40-50 birds.

We finished off with a walk up the lonning at the RSPB's reserve at North Plain Farm. Dabchick and Teal were on one of the large ponds, but the real treat was the 'water-meadow' created with much hard work by the warden and helpers. Here, about 25 Black-tailed Godwits, now well into breeding moult, were feeding in the shallow water. A group of them obligingly performed a short aerial circuit, beautifully back-lit in a patch of bright sunlight. On return to the farmhouse, the leader was the only one to see a Hawfinch departing rapidly from the bird-table. It failed to re-appear after our 'lunch-break', and the party had to content itself with views of hedgerow Tree Sparrows.

The meeting had been timed to the peak period of skua movements through the Solway, but our ten pairs of eyes failed to detect any. We later heard that others had seen a few, high-flying, Pomarine and Arctic skuas nonetheless. Despite lack of skuas, and relatively small numbers of birds generally, there had been some memorable sights, and the skill and enthusiasm of the leader in explaining finer points of identifications had made the occasion the more enjoyable.

David Clarke

Notes and Records

Recent Reports

This is a selective compilation, variously from record cards, personal observations and personal communications. It covers the period since the last issue of this magazine in autumn 2002 and was written in mid-April 2003. Sites are in the Solway/Lower Eden valley unless otherwise indicated.

Birds

Redwings began to arrive in early October, soon followed by **Fieldfares** and **Bramblings**. Some good numbers of the latter were reported, especially at Talkin Tarn where maximum estimates on different dates varied between 600 and 2000. There were some late Swallows around the end of October.

The first **Smew** of winter appeared at Talkin Tarn on 13th December (GRN) and it was to prove to be the best winter yet for this species at this site. Probably 6 birds (2 males, 4 females) were in the area, but 5 was the most seen together. They were also seen at Castle Carrock Reservoir and Tindale Tarn.

The most exciting bird of the winter was Cumbria's first **Lesser Scaup**, which, apparently, was one of 12 in the country. This North American duck was found by Jeremy Roberts on the River Eden near Armathwaite on 12th January. Subsequently it visited Castle Carrock Reservoir, and then Talkin Tarn where it proved to be quite a big attraction. Its last appearance was at Talkin on 20th February. Also at Talkin Tarn, numbers of **Goosander** just reached three figures in January but declined rapidly afterwards (GRN). Other notable wildfowl were a **Ross's Goose** at Cardurnock in January (with Barnacle Geese, but was it wild?); 2 **Bean Geese** near Anthorn on 5th January were very unusual for the Solway (M&AA); **Whooper Swans** near Rockcliffe reached a maximum of 144 (JS).

Short-eared Owls and **Hen Harriers** were seen regularly in the north Pennines and a possible **Rough-legged Buzzard** was seen near Brampton on 22nd February (DI).

A few **Waxwings** reached our area, with reports of 2 near Penrith (PH); 2 in a Wetheral garden (RHJ) and 8 at Keswick (FJR). In February, a Greenshank at Anthorn (M&AA) was unusual, and 75 **Snow Buntings** on the summit of Cross Fell must have made the climb well worthwhile (FJ&MR).

March saw the arrival of **Chiffchaffs**, **Sand Martins** and even a few early **Willow Warblers**, and some **Water Pipits** were seen at Campfield (RA). **Swallows** began to arrive in early April but a **Pied Flycatcher** at Talkin Tarn on the 8th was unusually early - a week before the average arrival date (GRN). A passing **Osprey** was at Sunbiggin Tarn, Orton, on 12th April (SMH). STOP PRESS: SMH noted 5-10 early **Swifts** over Carlisle on 25th April.

Other Vertebrates

A single clump of **Common Frog** spawn in a garden pond at Wetheral on 26th January was the second year of such early production. (No frog activity in the pond had been noted despite this!) This clump was then frozen into the ice for two spells, before the more normal activity period in late February/early March

(FJ&MR). A **Slow-worm** active at Whitbarrow Scar, Grange-over-Sands, on 6th April (SMH) was the only post-hibernation reptile reported.

There have been at least two recent sightings of **Otters** (the animal, not the more usual tracks or signs). These were on the Eden at Fishgarth Wood on 23rd March (C&RS) and, more surprisingly, on the shore near Bowness-on-Solway where 3 were watched 'playing' on 16th April (FJ&MR).

Insects

A very early **Small Tortoiseshell** was seen at Kirkbride on 24th February (F&SM). The fine, dry March/April weather brought a flush of early records of butterflies and other insects. **Commas** (in both the north and south of the county), **Green Hairstreaks**, **Large** and **Green-veined Whites** and **Orange-tips** were all noted. The last was frequent in west Cumbria on 17th April (JR). **Large Red Damselflies** also emerged early, with good numbers at Bowness-on-Solway CWT Reserve by 18th April (MC). The uncommon **oil beetle** (*Meloe violacea*) was noted at How Gill, Geltsdale on 5th April - two mating pairs and a single (SMH). A **Lesser Swallow Prominent** moth at Brampton on 21st April was about a month ahead of its more usual season (GRN).

Plants

Interesting 2003 plant records include a number of observations of the **Yellow Star of Bethlehem** (*Gagea lutea*) at localities along the River Eden from Bolton to Wetheral, in good flower during March (DJC; MS; FJR). At one of these sites, a **Morel** fungus (*Morchella esculenta*) was also seen (MS). Another 'Spring species', the rarer, and more dangerous, **False Morel** (*Gyromitra esculenta*) appeared in the Editor's garden at Cumwhitton. (It is ironically mis-named *esculenta*!) A tree of the **Small-leaved Lime** (*Tilia cordata*) has been provisionally confirmed from Fishgarth Wood on the Eden, in a very native-looking situation: more in the next issue (DJC).

Contributors

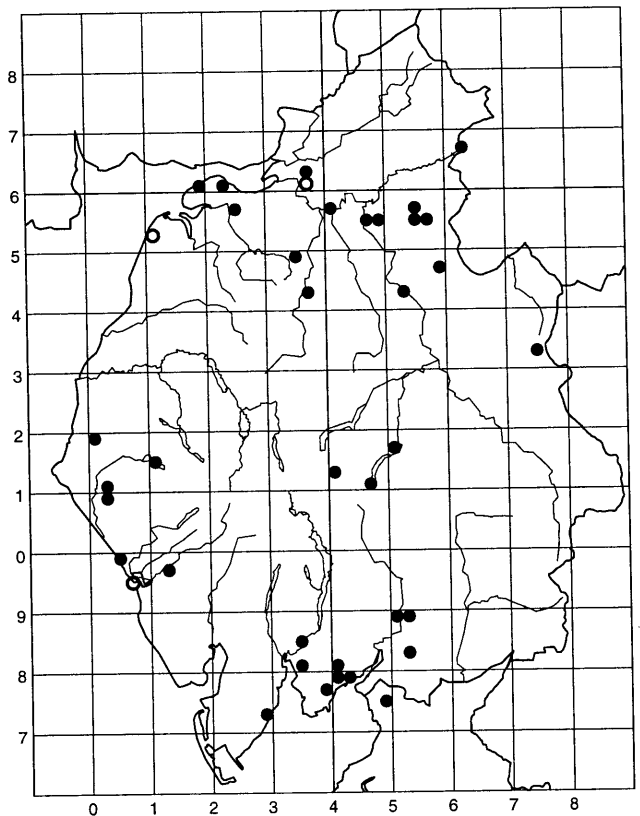
C&RS: Chris & Rob Shaw; DI: Dorothy Iveson; DJC: David Clarke; Frank Mawby; GRN: Geoff Naylor; FJ&MR: Jeremy & Margaret Roberts; JR: John Read; JS: John Strutt; MC: Mike Critchley; M&AA: Mike & Ann Abbs; MS: Marie Saag; PH: Peter Harris; RA: Roy Armstrong; RHJ: Bob Jones; SMH: Stephen Hewitt. Un-credited records are from several sources/dates.

Geoff Naylor, CNHS Recorder

Garden Water Shrews

On 25th February 2003 JR thought to give the 'frog-house' in the garden pond at Wetheral Pasture a clean after winter, and after the ice of previous weeks had melted off the pond. The 'frog-house' is a commercially-bought floating structure which in essence is a length of vertically-arranged 10cm-diameter metal tube, surrounded by a polystyrene collar and lid which keeps the tube afloat. This maintains a free way open to the water through icy spells, and also has an internal ledge above water level on which amphibians can rest - and do so, in numbers. Air holes to the outside ensure gaseous exchange, but are narrow, and could not allow any but tiny animals through. When the lid was prised off, there was an expected single immobile frog on the ledge, but also, most unexpectedly, swimming in the 'pool' of water within the tube, there was a large and very much alive Water Shrew. After a second of seeing daylight flooding into its hitherto inviolate retreat, it 'duck-dived' in a flash, and vanished below into the pond. Needless to say, this was the first time we had recorded a Water Shrew in the garden. Common Shrews appear to be often present.

By a curious coincidence, just two days later, we found a long-dead and desiccated Water Shrew on the floor of the



Water Shrew (*Neomys fodiens*) Symbols: tetrads
(Filled circles: 1980 onwards; open circles pre-1980
Map created in DMap from Tullie House
Biological Records database)

garden shed. When doing some work on the pond edges a few weeks later, I found in one area (where there were moss-cushions close to the water) several collections of many empty and damaged shells of Great Pond Snails in shallow burrows in the moss. Both findings seem to confirm that we have - or had - a 'population' of Water Shrews.

We were surprised to see this mammal in a garden situation, about 750 m from the river Eden, and 500 m from the Pow Maughan beck. More interesting, however, was the speculation as to where the living individual had survived the period when the water in the pond was 'sealed' very firmly with over an inch of ice. Did the shrew elect to remain within the pond, in which case its survival depended upon the frog-house keeping clear water, or would a Water Shrew leave the water before it froze over?

With thanks to Stephen Hewitt and David Clarke for confirming the identity of the specimen.

Margaret & Jeremy Roberts, Eden Croft, 2 Wetheral Pasture, Carlisle CA4 8HU

[*Editor's note:* the map of recent records opposite suggests that Water Shrews are probably much under-recorded: they are quite widely distributed, and can even occur in the uplands in mountain streams. There appear to be no other garden pond records, so perhaps this observation will encourage a second look at good-sized ponds. Look for tunnelling signs close to water level. Confusion with the much larger, and rarer, Water Vole is unlikely, but identifications must be certain: Water Shrews are almost black, with whitish fur below.]

***Dicranum tauricum* Sapjegin: a moss new to Cumberland (VC 70)**

On November 6th 2002, in the company of Derek Ratcliffe, I visited the Woodland Trust Reserve of Miltonrigg Wood to the east of Brampton and collected a small neat dark green moss tuft from near the base of a smooth-barked young hardwood tree, probably an Ash. Examining it later under the lens I was struck by the fact that almost all the leaf apices had broken off neatly at the same level. I wondered if it could be *Dicranum tauricum*, and this tentative identification was kindly confirmed by Gordon Rothero. The grid reference of the site was NY/563615 and the altitude 140m above sea level.

This species has spread and increased in abundance in recent years especially in areas of atmospheric pollution (Corley 1992). The Bryophyte Atlas (Corley 1992) shows the nearest known sites to this locality for this species to be to the east in Northumberland, where it has been recorded since 1950 in two 10km squares. The

first record for Westmorland (v.c. 69) was made by Robert Walker on the bark of a Crab Apple tree in Sea Wood, Bardsea in 1982 in the southern extremity of the county. There appear to be no other records for Cumbria of this species.

From the appearance of the impoverished state of the lichen flora on the trees and the uniformity of the bryophyte cover there is no doubt that Miltonrigg Wood is subject to atmospheric pollution. This gives credence to the statements that this is a species which is tolerant of pollution. As it was not recognised at the time of collection its actual status in Miltonrigg Wood is unknown. Voucher material has been placed in the herbaria of the British Bryological Society and Tullie House Museum, Carlisle.

Reference

Corley M. F.V. (1992) in: Hill, M.O., Preston, C. D. & Smith, A.J.E. (Edtrs). *Atlas of the Bryophytes of Britain and Ireland*. Volume 2. Colchester: Harley Books.

Roderick W. M. Corner, 36 Wordsworth Street, Penrith CA11 7QZ

[*Editor's note*: it may come as a surprise to many that the atmosphere around a rural town such as Brampton could be described as 'polluted'. These days the effects are not so much due to local smoke and industrial activity as to trans-European air movements, the impacts of which have increased due to global warming: polluted air from eastern Europe can have measurable effects - in warm, still conditions especially. With thanks to Richard Speirs for this information.]

The Red Data Book mining bee *Andrena ruficrus* Nylander at Cliburn Moss NNR

Cliburn Moss NNR is home to one of Cumbria's, in fact Britain's, rarest bees: the mining bee *Andrena ruficrus*. This is one of the solitary bees, of which there are actually far more species than the familiar and conspicuous social bumble bees. They have no worker caste - individual females make simple nests consisting of a few cells either grouped like a bunches of grapes around tunnels excavated in the ground, in the case of mining bees, or in rows in tunnels in soft wood or mortar. The cells are provisioned with a paste of nectar and pollen. An egg is laid in each, then the cells are sealed and left to develop - there is no parental care. *Andrena ruficrus* is one of the mining bees. Smaller than a honey bee, its most conspicuous feature is the bright orange combs of hairs on its hind legs. It has a remarkably early flight period: from mid-March to mid-May, after which it is not seen until the next year. This coincides with the flowering of willow catkins which are its main source of nectar and pollen, though on one occasion in early May it was

found foraging on roadside dandelions, presumably when the catkins had gone over.

Andrena ruficrus is a nationally rare bee, classed as RDB3. It is distinctly northern in distribution: most records have been from Scotland and Yorkshire. It is usually found in heathy places with sandy soils; occasionally in disused sandstone quarries. Cliburn Moss is one of only 8 places where it has been found since 1970, and the only site where it is known to be present in North West England. Here it is nesting in sandy ground which is slightly elevated above the general level of the valley mire. Its holes are excavated on the faces of slight banks, usually just under vegetation, and therefore not easy to see.

The history of knowledge of this bee at Cliburn began in 1996 when I identified some bees for Steve Hewitt. Among these were a male and female *Andrena ruficrus* which he had collected at Cliburn Moss on 7 April 1991. It was not until 1998 that Steve was able to show me the precise site. This proved to be the sloping bank of a ditch right on the boundary of the NNR, where sandy soil was created by the breakdown of soft red sandstone. This seemed to be the vestige of a heathy area, once probably more extensive, which had been overtaken by pine and birch. It was in danger of becoming shaded by developing birch scrub, which probably would have made it unsuitable for the bee. In 1999 I showed the site to Reserve staff and they were able to arrange to cut back the shading birch. In 2000 I was dismayed to be unable to find any bees at the site - but, fortunately, the explanation was simply that I visited too late in May. In 2001 I was unable to visit due to the Foot and Mouth Disease restrictions. This year, 2002, I decided to start really early, on 4th April, with immediate results - I found females flying back to their holes at the original site, and males flying along the white split trunk of a recently fallen willow tree about 200 m away. This is a mating behaviour followed by some species of bees, whereby the males frequent conspicuous sites, often tree trunks, which are visited by the females. On a later visit with Colin Auld, Assistant Site Manager, we were able to establish that there are about 10 nest holes at the original site, about half that number at another place further along the boundary ditch, and, most encouragingly, that there is a third colony of about 10 nest holes on the heath at the west end of the NNR.

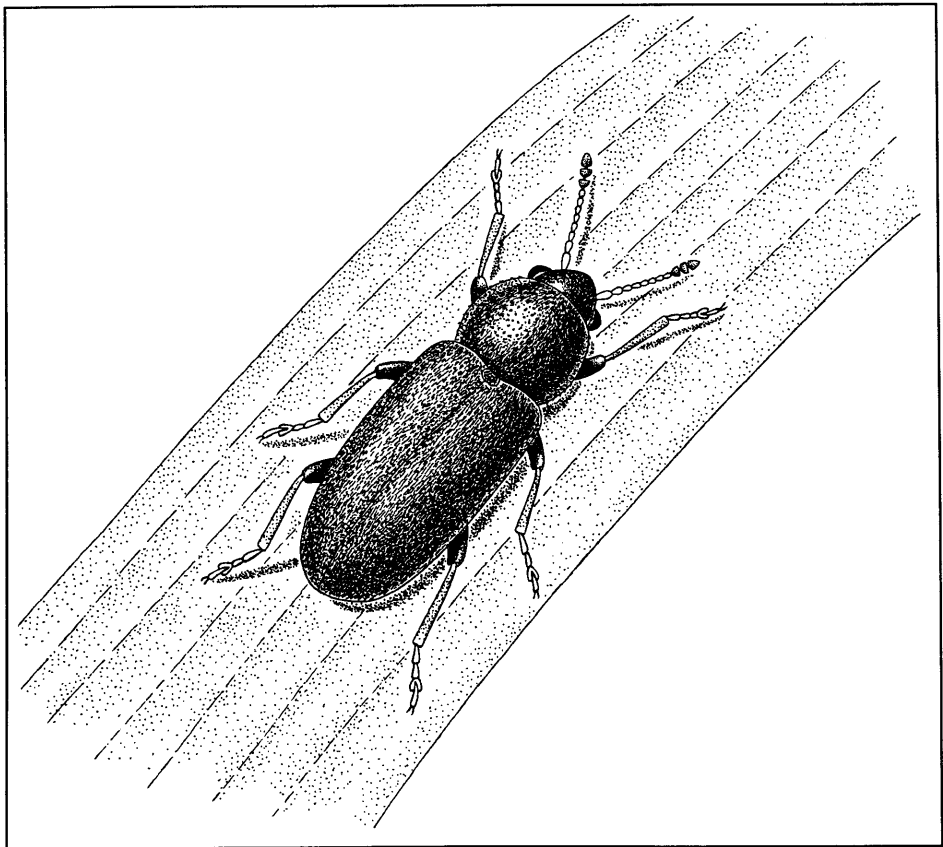
It seems unlikely that Cliburn Moss is the only place in Cumbria where this bee exists, but so far my attempts to find it in other places, e.g. Cowraik Quarry and Whinfell Forest, have drawn a blank. However, it is reassuring to know that it is safe in the NNR.

Neil A. Robinson, 3 Abbey Drive, Natland, Kendal LA9 7 QN

The beetle *Telematophilus typhae* Fallen on Bulrush in Cumbria

David Atty has recently recorded *T. typhae* as new to Cumbria and VC 69 Westmorland (Atty 2002). I would like to add here a few records of mine for this minute cryptophagid beetle from two 10km squares in West Cumbria. In all cases the beetle was found on Bulrush (*Typha latifolia* L.) and specimens were found particularly in between the leaf sheaths of individual plants. The sites were: Low Church Moss, Beckermeth (NY0105), 14.xii.1997; River Keekle (NY0017) 30.xi.1997; nr Keekle Bridge (NY0117), 30.xi.1997; nr Priestgill (NY0018), 23.i.2000.

T. typhae appears to be well established at the River Keekle site, and on various occasions the beetle was found in association with a variety of other species of Coleoptera. These were: *Agonum thoreyi*, *Stenus bifoveolatus*, *S. canaliculatus*,



Telematophilus on Bulrush

(John Read)

S. nitidiusculus, *S. pallitarsis*, *S. picipenis*, *S. pubescens*, *Coccidula rufa* and *Apion flavipes*. Two species of Heteroptera bugs were also found: *Chilacis typhae* and *Chartoscirta cincta*.

Reference

Atty, D. (2002) A few beetles from Claife Heights, including *Donacia aquatica*. *Carlisle Naturalist* **10**(2): 30.

R.W. John Read, 43 Holly Terrace, Hensingham, Whitehaven, CA28 8RF

The bark beetle *Scolytus ratzeburgi* Janson new to Cumberland (VC 70), with additional records from Westmorland (VC 69)

Stephen Hewitt, Tullie House Museum, Castle Street, Carlisle CA3 8TP

On a visit to Naddle Woods (NY5015) on 9th February 2003 I came across several large and ancient birch trees at the top of the wood above the dam. Some were infested by the Hoof Fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*) and I also noticed some distinctive insect borings, consisting of a series of holes some 2-3mm in diameter arranged in vertical lines on the trunk and branches of one or two of the largest dead birch trees. I recalled having seen these distinctive borings previously at Rockcliffe Moss (NY3762), some 10 years ago. On describing them at the time to Richard Lyszkowski (a coleopterist based near Stirling), he informed me that they were characteristic of a bark beetle associated with birch and at the time reported only from Scotland. Although he told me the beetle's name I promptly forgot it. However, on finding the bore-holes at Naddle I looked up the species in Joy (1932) and found that the nationally scarce *Scolytus ratzeburgi* seemed to fit the bill. On conferring with David Atty, he directed me to a note published by Jonty Denton (Denton 1999) on the discovery of bore-holes and long-dead adults of *S. ratzeburgi* in birch trees at Burnbanks (NY5115) on 14th August 1997. A second visit to Naddle in March confirmed the borings reported by Denton still present in birch trees by the Haweswater Beck and showed them to be clearly of the same characteristic pattern as those that I had found at the top of the wood.

On 16th March I visited Glenamara Park, Patterdale (NY3915) with John B. Parker. Here we again found a few large old birch trees, including one dead tree with the characteristic bore-holes of *S. ratzeburgi*. A few days later on 30th March I found further borings of *S. ratzeburgi* in a dead birch in Glencoyne Park (NY3819). Finally, a visit to Knotts Wood, Geltsdale (NY5754) with Peter Lurz on 5th April produced another birch with *S. ratzeburgi* bore-holes.

Denton (*op. cit.*) refers to previous records for *S. ratzeburgi* in Cumbria reported by Read (1989). However, John Read (pers. com.) informs me that this reference is based on specimens in the G.B. Routledge Collection in Tullie House Museum and that he now believes there may be some confusion over the synonymy, resulting from the use of the old name of *S. destructor* in the collection, which has in the past been used by different authors for both *S. ratzeburgi* and the more widespread *S. scolytus* (Pope 1977). Having checked the collection I can confirm that the specimens labelled *Scolytus destructor* in the Museum collections are all referred to Olivier 1795, which is now a synonym of *Scolytus scolytus* (Fabricius, 1775). The only specimen of *S. ratzeburgi* in the Museum's collections is in the

G.B. Routledge Collection, collected from Loch Rannoch, Perthshire in 1860. David Atty (pers. com.) points out that Hyman (1992) states that *S. ratzeburgi* is known from Sutherland south to Hawick in Scotland and only mentions an old, unconfirmed record of the species in south Hampshire from England. Jonty Denton's report from Burnbanks appears therefore to be the first authentic published record of *S. ratzeburgi* in England, Cumbria and Westmorland (VC 69), whilst the reports published here for Rockcliffe Moss, Glencoyne Park and Geltsdale are the first records for Cumberland (VC 70).

S. ratzeburgi then appears to be widespread, if local, in some of the most ancient of north Cumbrian woods, where there are large old dead birch trees. Denton (*op. cit.*) observed that all the borings at Burnbanks were old and that there was no evidence for the continued presence of the species at the site. This is true for all the locations reported here and the continued presence of the species in Cumbria requires confirmation. What is rather curious is the absence of historical records from past collectors such as F.H. Day and colleagues particularly given the recent discoveries around Carlisle, including such historically favoured collecting grounds as Geltsdale. It may be that the characteristic borings were not then recognised as being diagnostic of *S. ratzeburgi* or, less probably, that the species is a relative newcomer to the county.

Acknowledgements

My thanks to John Read and David Atty for their help with this note.

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Some notes on the Red Deer at Haweswater, Mardale

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The Nab, Martindale, has long been known as a deer sanctuary and the valleys around it seen as the classic location for the deer-watcher. The Haweswater area can offer better protection however - and better opportunities for the observer. While the Martindale deer are regularly stalked, some of the Haweswater herds are only culled as agricultural pests and some are not shot at all. To my knowledge, only two deer have been shot in Riggindale since 1980 and this is now probably the true sanctuary for this area.

The Haweswater herd is mostly composed of hinds and followers (calves of the year and yearlings). Some stags are usually present but these tend to be the younger 'staggy'. The older stags are to be found in Martindale and they only join the hinds for the rut, with the biggest avoiding most of the smaller valleys.

Numbers: Since I began watching here in 1980 there have been some noticeable changes in the size of the population here. Numbers were quite low during the 1980s but the '90s saw increases that have been maintained in spite of the number of human visitors. The total number of autumn deer for this area is now in the order of 150 animals, compared to about 90 during much of the 1980s.

There are deer to be seen in most areas, of course, and these often move from their preferred ground with the result that regular counts of the same area can vary greatly. This is especially true at sheep-gathering times when more than 60 have been counted in Riggindale, compared to the now usual 40-45. Deer can be seen in all locations, from the small valleys close to farmland, to the highest tops. They are also to be found in the woods, with those around Naddle valley the most used. Much of this woodland was fenced off in the 1980s, though, and woods such as Mirkside and Naddle Corner no longer hold the deer they once did.

Hinds and followers in Riggindale: The hinds with their calves, yearlings and staggy are the mainstays in this area and have caused the noted increase in numbers. For much of the year these animals divide up into family groups rather than staying in a large herd. Such a group could be a hind, its most recent calf and the yearling along with a previous calf and its youngster. Each group has its preferred area and when undisturbed these can be scattered about valley. The staggy form small groups away from the hinds and these tend to keep to the remotest, and often highest, parts of the valley. It is a few years before they leave

to join the stag herds elsewhere. The groups unite after disturbance, and when they are rounded up by the stags, but even then they wander off and the stags have to work hard to keep them in check. If left alone, they would live out their lives in a very small area, coming to the lower ground in the harsher weather but generally remaining where they can find good grazing.

Calves: The number of calves born in Riggindale has increased from 4-6 per year during the 1980s to 13-15 per year now. There has not been such an increase in the neighbouring valleys and the number of young born has probably fallen in the Naddle area. Here they compete more directly with sheep for the available grazing. It is clear that not all of the hinds calve each year and some calves will be lost to eagles and foxes. Even so, productivity is fairly high with more than half the hinds having surviving calves in the autumn.

Most calves are born in June, although occasional ones are seen in late May and there are also even later ones. In 1996, for example, it was suspected that one calf could not have been born before late July; it was small and still in its spotted coat in September. Such animals would usually have little chance of surviving the winter but this one lasted at least until the following April. Hill deer also almost invariably only produce single calves, but in 1996 I strongly suspected a hind of having twins. They were found when still quite small, were seen together on many occasions, and always ran to the same hind when unsettled. There was nothing to suggest that one had been adopted as no dead hinds were found - but no calves could be identified as twins after September.

Stags: With most stags to be found in Martindale (and formerly on Shap Fell) it was not until the rut that the biggest animals were seen in Riggindale. While the youngsters had heads of thin, pale antlers with only 6-7 points, the rut brought in many 10-pointers and a few 'royals' with dark, heavy and well balanced antlers of 12 points; and even bigger ones appeared on rare occasions, such as in 1988.

The intermediate-sized stags, with 8-10 points, arrive first, and try to divide up the hind herd, but their early arrival usually results in the herd scattering rather than being held. The master stags arrive after this, usually in mid September. With heavier heads, they quickly oust the others, even when they are out-numbered four to one. The lighter stags are no match for these and do not fight to retain the hinds. It is only when the bigger ones meet, or when a travelling stag passes through the valley, that any real fights are seen. Such occasions have been rare recently as selective culling elsewhere has taken out most of the big animals; this has also resulted in the younger stags holding and covering hinds. They all roar their

presence during the rut but the amount of activity now bears no comparison with earlier years.

There have been serious fights, of course, and in Mosedale on October 28th 1987 I watched as a 10-pointer took on a 'royal' for the 20 hinds he was holding. The 'royal' had clearly had a busy rut as he was lame and looked tired. The two stags began their ceremonial promenade, marching side by side but remaining silent before simultaneously turning head down and locking antlers. Even though I was some 300 metres away I could hear their antlers rattling as they clashed. The fight lasted about six minutes and came to an abrupt end when the top points of one antler broke off. The lighter stag was then unable to defend itself and twisted out to escape. The other did not pursue, as usually happens, and nor did it roar its triumph, it just limped off as well - something of a hollow victory at such a late date. I later retrieved the broken antler and found it to be about 45cm long and with a diameter of 27mm at the break.

The stags usually remain on the hinds' ground for a few weeks after the rut to regain their strength before returning to their own hills. One or two sometimes stay longer but these tend to be the older or weaker individuals which may not survive the winter. I have sometimes found their remains where they have died, seeking a last safe shelter in the lee of a broken wall or cairn of rocks.

While the rut is usually looked on as the most interesting time for the deer-watcher (and this is probably still true for Martindale), the lack of big stags here now makes it less of an attraction than in the past. It was only in 2001 that interest increased again. The access restrictions imposed because of Foot and Mouth Disease allowed the deer to move on to the lower ground and resulted in stags holding hinds and roaring from enclosed pasture, and even in the field at the bottom of my garden. The vegetable patch was invaded in the winter and I was able to track the animals from my garden, through the woods, and back up to the fells. For the most part, though, the best time to watch the deer now is around calving time - unless you want to follow them at night and turn around to find a 'fully armoured' 15-stone stag only ten metres away in your torch beam!

Red Deer are one of the classic Lakeland animals and allow the local watcher sightings that are not easily repeated between here and the Scottish Highlands. During the rut they provide a natural spectacle that is unique in England and hopefully will continue to delight us for many years to come.

Insects associated with dead-wood habitats in Rusland Woods

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The Lake District National Park Authority (LDNPA) owns and manages an area of semi-natural broad-leaved woodland in the Rusland Valley, including the well-known landmark of the Rusland Beeches a row of mature Beech trees along the roadside at the bottom edge of the woods. The main National Vegetation Classification (NVC) components of the woods are W17 (Sessile Oak-Downy Birch-*Dicranum majus* woodland), W11 (Sessile Oak-Downy Birch-Wood Sorrel woodland), W9 (Ash-Rowan-Dog's Mercury woodland), W7 (Alder-Ash-Yellow Pimpernel woodland) and Yew woodland. The dominant woodland types are W17 (most acid and upper areas) W11 (lower slopes less acid). W9 occurs as stripes in gullies and also some larger areas on the lower flatter ground. There is a significant beech element (within W17, 11 and 9) in one or two areas, presumably regenerated from the Rusland Beeches. The larger part of these woods form the bulk of Yewbarrow Woods SSSI and candidate Special Area of Conservation.

In 2002 the Park Authority requested a survey to assess the value of these woods for saproxylic insects (species feeding on, or in association with, dead wood). The survey also aimed to identify features of particular value for these species and to make suggestions as to the future management of these woods with regard to invertebrate conservation. This article is based on the interim report to the LDNPA (Hewitt *et al* 2003).

The Survey

The majority of saproxylic invertebrate species are found in the insect Orders Coleoptera (beetles) and Diptera (flies). The survey therefore aimed primarily to gather information on the occurrence of dead wood species in these groups.

The woods cover a large area on steep and rough ground, necessitating the selection of smaller representative areas in which to concentrate the survey. Accordingly Skinner Pasture (SD3487) and Border Moss Wood (SD3486) were selected for special attention, although a walk through survey of some of the remaining area was also conducted.

Survey methods included sweep netting, beating tree foliage and branches, examination of dead wood, beneath bark, in rot holes and sap runs looking for adults and larvae of saproxylic species. Larvae were collected from dead wood, reared through and emerging adults were identified. An Owen emergence trap was

used to collect insects emerging from dead wood collected on the site.

Skinner Pasture

This area consists of mixed woodland on a gentle slope above the road, which steepens as one climbs up through the wood. A stream flows through the wood and under the road. There are dense stands of Yew, Oak and Birch trees with Cherry and Beech. Holly is common in the under-story.

The fallen trunk of a large felled beech at the entrance to the site was obviously attractive to a number of saproxylic insects particularly flies such as *Clusiodes albimanus* and *C. gentilis*. The stump of this tree with its heart-rotted centre was also attractive to hoverflies of the genera *Criorhina* and *Xylota*, the larvae of which feed in decaying roots of mature trees.

The open sunlit roadside had bramble flowers which attracted adult saproxylic species later in the season. The longhorn beetle *Ruptila maculata* was seen here, as was the nationally scarce dead wood hoverfly *Brachypalpus lenta*.

The stump of a felled beech tree on the roadside had heart-rot and larvae of the hoverfly *Xylota sylvarum* were reared from it, with adults of this species observed in the vicinity later in the season. Another stump had fermenting decay beneath the bark and larvae of *Xylota nemorum* were found here, together with large numbers of fungus gnat larvae. Adults of *Criorhina berberina* and *X. nemorum* were observed prospecting for oviposition sites around this stump later in the season.

The dead, standing, limbs of another roadside Beech tree were the focus of attention for a number of dead-wood flies. The saproxylic craneflies *Ctenophora atrata* and *C. pectinicornis* were seen flying about the dead limb and copulating. The nationally scarce hoverfly *Brachypalpus laphriformis* (a species of rot holes and sap runs) was also seen here, as were *Criorhina berberina* and *C. floccosa*, suggesting that one or more of the beech trees in this vicinity have root decay.

Higher up in the wood, an oak tree with a limb torn off had developed a sap run in the wound. A larva of *Brachypalpus laphriformis* was collected here. This tree also had some dead branches with hatched pupae of the cranefly *Dendrotipula flavolineata* protruding.

Elsewhere, larvae and adults of the nationally scarce Black-headed Cardinal Beetle (*Pyrochroa coccinea*) were found under bark of fallen timber. Three other nationally scarce beetles were found here; *Cerylon fagi* and *Rhizophagus nitidulus* were also collected from beneath bark, as was the shiny fungus beetle *Tritoma bipustulata* which is associated with bracket fungi. Adults of the nationally scarce robber fly *Dioctria oelandica* were seen in the wood during May and the nationally scarce cranefly *Diogma glabrata* was collected here and in Border Moss Wood in

July. Both species are associated with ancient semi-natural woodland.

A clearing by the stream within the wood provided a sheltered sunny location with bramble flowers and other nectar sources utilised by adult woodland insects such as the longhorn beetle *Ruptela maculata* and the hoverflies *Brachypalpoidea lenta* and *Criorhina berberina* etc. The nationally scarce fly *Megamerina dolium*, which breeds in dead wood, was also found in this area.

The stream running down through the wood is shaded and has accumulations of dead leaves and fallen sticks and branches. Flies of the family Lonchopteridae breed in the wet leaves, including the local *Lonchoptera trista*. The wet sticks lying in the stream provided suitable larval habitat for the saproxylic crane fly *Lipsothrix remota*.

Several of the Yew trees in this area had evidence of old sap runs, although none were noticed to be particularly active at the time of the survey.

Elsewhere in the wood, a fallen birch with a water-filled rot-hole in the trunk provided material from which the nationally scarce Dolichopodid fly *Systemus scholtzi* was reared.

Border Moss Wood

This area of woodland on the west side of the road stands on level ground with wetter areas. Several Yew trees had active sap runs attracting saproxylic flies including the scarce hoverfly *Brachypalpus laphriformis*, a larva of which was identified from one wet sappy hollow.

An Oak tree had a large sap run which remained active throughout the collecting season. Flies captured at the sap included the hoverflies *Brachyopa insensilis* and *B. scutellaris*.

An open area with flowering stands of thistles, Common Valerian, Greater Bird's-foot Trefoil and Marsh Bedstraw attracted many nectar feeding insects, including the adults of saproxylic species such as the local longhorn beetle *Strangalia quadrifasciata*.

A small peaty stream flowing through an area of willow carr had adults of the Red Data Book fly *Tachydromia woodi* running about on the wooden rails of a small footbridge. The Red Data Book crane fly *Gonomyia abbreviata* was also collected in this vicinity.

Discussion

Rusland Woods contain a considerable amount and variety of dead wood habitats and clearly provide suitable habitat for a number of saproxylic insects, including a

number of nationally rare and scarce species. A variety of niches are exploited by different species, including dead standing timber, dead fallen timber, sap runs, water filled pockets, rot holes, heart rot, sappy decay beneath the bark and root decay. Many of these niches require the presence of fungi to begin the decay process and create the breakdown products on which the insect larvae feed.

A total of 728 records of 343 species have so far been identified, including 19 nationally rare or scarce species. Several species regarded as regionally notable are also included in this list. 61 primary woodland-indicator species were identified using lists produced by Harding (1977), Fowles *et al* (1999) and Stubbs (1982) with some additions of our own. 12 of these indicator species are classified as nationally rare or scarce. 18 species were collected as larvae or pupae in dead wood (see table 2).

The present management of the woods appears generally beneficial for saproxylic insects. The closed canopy woodland creates the shady or semi-shade conditions which help prevent fallen wood drying out and thus retain its suitability as a larval habitat for Dipteran larvae in particular. Open areas within the wood encourage nectar-rich flowers, which are important for adult insects. In addition some saproxylic species, particularly Coleoptera, require dead wood, often still standing, in more open sunny situations.

Beech although not considered native in northern England is nevertheless a very valuable tree to saproxylic insects, once it reaches maturity and begins to die back. Mature beech trees very often form water-filled rot holes in the forks of branches and roots, they readily develop heart-rot and root decay and retain dead limbs on the tree thus providing good larval habitat for a variety of saproxylic species. The mature beech trees along the roadside are one of the most important sites for saproxylic invertebrates in the wood. Their more open situation provides greater sunlight required by some species. Several have water-pockets, heart-rot and root decay as evidenced by the stumps of those that have been felled and the attentions of adult saproxylic species prospecting of oviposition sites.

Many of the saproxylic species listed are common and widespread and not necessarily confined to areas of ancient semi-natural woodland. Comparison of the results of this survey with the invertebrates of other woodlands is problematic. At a national scale, most information is available only for woods in southern England and many of the species recorded do not occur in the north. A national system of assessing woodlands for the conservation of dead-wood Coleoptera has been developed (Fowles *et al. op. cit.*). However in spite of efforts to overcome bias, this system continues to favour sites in southern and eastern England where most of the indicator species occur. The only northern broad-leaved woodlands to

feature in 55 sites listed were one each in Cheshire, Derbyshire and Northumberland. A considerable amount of work on saproxylic Diptera has been conducted in recent years by the Malloch Society (Rotheray *et al* 2001), resulting in a greater understanding of their ecology and distribution and this information needs to be included in the assessment of woodlands' invertebrate conservation value.

Comparison with local woodlands is highly desirable but no other Cumbrian woods have received such intensive survey effort and comparison is therefore difficult. Tullie House Museum presently has 1510 records of 174 recognised woodland-indicator species in Cumbria on its biological records database. These records can be used to compare the conservation value for invertebrates of different woodlands in the county based on the Saproxylic Quality Index described by Fowles *et al. op cit.*) for beetles, but here including all taxa. As a result of this survey, the Rusland Woods appear to be the best in Cumbria for saproxylic insects, based on number of woodland indicator species recorded. However, when account is taken of the rarity of the indicator species present, then woods such as Eden Gorge (NY5143), Roudsea Wood (SD3282) and others score above Rusland Woods. Although these calculations are based on all available records over the last 100 years and more, they still relate to too few species for each wood for the results to be significant. It must be restated that no other woods have had the same amount of survey effort as Rusland Woods in recent years and so comparison is not particularly useful at this stage.

Further survey work on saproxylic insects at various woodland sites in Cumbria would enable the invertebrate value of individual woods to be assessed in relation to other woodlands in the region.

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Table 1: Saproxylic insects recorded from Rusland Woods in 2002 and their UK status

Beetles (Coleoptera)

a round fungus beetle	<i>Agathidium seminulum</i>	Local
a shining fungus beetle	<i>Scaphidium quadrimaculatum</i>	Local
a rove beetle	<i>Phloeonomus punctipennis</i>	Local
a rove beetle	<i>Gabrius splendidulus</i>	Common
a rove beetle	<i>Quedius maurus</i>	Local
a rove beetle	<i>Quedius plagiatus</i>	Local
a rove beetle	<i>Leptusa fumida</i>	Common
a rove beetle	<i>Leptusa ruficollis</i>	Unknown
a rove beetle	<i>Dinaraea aequata</i>	Common
a short-winged mould beetle	<i>Biblorus bicolor</i>	Local
a click beetle	<i>Denticollis linearis</i>	Common
a click beetle	<i>Ampedus balteatus</i>	Local
a click beetle	<i>Melanotus villosus</i>	Common
a soldier beetle	<i>Malthodes flavoguttatus</i>	Local
Woodworm	<i>Anobium punctatum</i>	Common
Ant Beetle*	<i>Thanasimus formicarius</i>	Local
a narrow bark beetle	<i>Rhizophagus dispar</i>	Common
a narrow bark beetle	<i>Rhizophagus nitidulus</i>	Notable/Nb
a shiny fungus beetle	<i>Triplax aenea</i>	Local
a shiny fungus beetle	<i>Tritoma bipustulata</i>	Notable/Na
a cerylonid beetle	<i>Cerylon fagi</i>	Notable/Nb
a cerylonid beetle	<i>Cerylon ferrugineum</i>	Local
hairy fungus beetle	<i>Mycetophagus atomarius</i>	Local
Black-headed Cardinal Beetle	<i>Pyrochroa coccinea</i>	Notable/Nb
a false darkling beetle	<i>Orchesia undulata</i>	Local
a longhorn beetle	<i>Aseum striatum</i>	Local

a longhorn beetle	<i>Rhagium bifasciatum</i>	Common
a longhorn beetle	<i>Rhagium mordax</i>	Common
a longhorn beetle	<i>Grammoptera ruficornis</i>	Common
a longhorn beetle	<i>Rutpela maculata</i>	Common
a longhorn beetle	<i>Strangalia quadrifasciata</i>	Local
a bark or ambrosia beetle	<i>Dryocoetinus villosus</i>	Local

Flies (Diptera)

a crane fly	<i>Ctenophora pectinicornis</i>	Notable/Nb
a crane fly	<i>Ctenophora atrata</i>	Notable/Nb
a crane fly	<i>Tipula (Dendrotipula) flavolineata</i>	Local
a crane fly	<i>Limonia (Neolimonia) dumetorum</i>	Common
a crane fly	<i>Limonia (Achyrolimonia) decemmaculata</i>	Local
a crane fly	<i>Epiphragma ocellaris</i>	Local
a crane fly	<i>Austrolimnophila ochracea</i>	Common
a crane fly	<i>Lipsothrix remota</i>	Common
a fly	<i>Xylophagus ater</i>	Local
a dance fly	<i>Oedalea holmgreni</i>	Common
a dance fly	<i>Euthyneura halidayi</i>	Local
a dolichopodid fly	<i>Systemus pallipes</i>	Local
a dolichopodid fly	<i>Systemus scholtzii</i>	Notable/Nb
a hoverfly	<i>Ferdinandea cuprea</i>	Local
a hoverfly	<i>Brachyopa insensilis</i>	Notable/Nb
a hoverfly	<i>Brachyopa scutellaris</i>	Local
a hoverfly	<i>Sphegina clunipes</i>	Local
a hoverfly	<i>Sphegina kimakowiczi</i>	Local
a hoverfly	<i>Brachypalpoides lenta</i>	Local
a hoverfly	<i>Brachypalpus laphriformis</i>	Notable/Nb
a hoverfly	<i>Chalcosyrphus nemorum</i>	Local
a hoverfly	<i>Criorhina berberina</i>	Local
a hoverfly	<i>Criorhina floccosa</i>	Local
a hoverfly*	<i>Criorhina ranunculi</i>	Notable/Nb
a hoverfly	<i>Xylota sylvarum</i>	Local
a fly	<i>Megamerina dolium</i>	Notable/Nb
a fly	<i>Clusia flava</i>	Local
a fly	<i>Clusiodes albimana</i>	Local
a fly	<i>Clusiodes gentilis</i>	Local

(regionally notable)

* Species recorded on a visit to the site by SMH, G.E Rotheray and R. Lyszkowski in 1996 but not seen in 2002.

Table 2: Records of early stages of saproxylic insects from Rusland Woods 2002

Scientific name	GB status	Sex or stage	Tree sp.	Comment
Diptera: Tipulidae				
<i>Tipula (Acutipula) fulvipennis</i>	Common	larva, adult reared	Ash	larva under bark of fallen Ash
<i>Limonia decemmaculata</i>	Local	larva, adult reared		larva in dead wood
<i>Epiphragma ocellaris</i>	Local	larva, adult reared	Birch	pupa under bark of Birch log
<i>Austrolimnophila ochracea</i>	Common	larva, adult reared	Birch	pupa under bark of Birch log
<i>Austrolimnophila ochracea</i>	Common	larva, adult reared	Birch	pupa under bark of dead Birch
<i>Lipsothrix remota</i>	Common	larva, adult reared		larvae under bark of sticks in stream
<i>Dendrotipula flavolineata</i>	Local	pupa	Oak	hatched pupae in dead timber
Diptera: Xylophagidae				
<i>Xylophagus ater</i>	Local	larva, adult reared		larva in dead wood
Diptera: Rhagionidae				
<i>Rhagio lineola</i>	Common	larva, adult reared	Ash	larva under bark of fallen Ash
<i>Rhagio lineola</i>	Common	larva, adult reared		larva in bracket fungus
Diptera: Empididae				
<i>Clinocera (Kowarzia) bipunctata</i>	Local	larva, adult reared		larva in wet dead wood
Diptera: Dolichopodidae				
<i>Medetera flavipes</i>	Local	larva, adult reared	Birch	
<i>Systemus pallipes</i>	Local	larva, adult reared	Yew	larva in sap run on Yew
Diptera: Syrphidae				
<i>Systemus scholtzii</i>	Notable/Nb	larva, adult reared	Birch	larvae in water filled rot hole in fallen Birch
<i>Myathropa florea</i>	Common	larva, adult reared	Birch	larvae in water filled rot hole in fallen Birch
<i>Myathropa florea</i>	Common	larva	Birch	larvae in water filled rot hole in fallen Birch
<i>Brachypalpus laphriiformis</i>	Notable/Nb	larva, adult reared	Oak	larva in sap run on Oak where limb torn off
<i>Brachypalpus laphriiformis</i>	Notable/Nb	larva	Yew	larva in wet sap run/water pocket
<i>Chalcosyrphus nemorum</i>	Local	larva, adult reared	Beech	larva in heart-rot of felled Beech stump
<i>Xylota sylvorum</i>	Local	larva, adult reared	Beech	several larvae in heart-rot of felled Beech stump
Coleoptera: Cerambycidae				
<i>Strangalia quadrifasciata</i>		pupa, adult reared	Birch	Adult emerged from dead wood in Owen emergence trap
<i>Rhagium bifasciatum</i>		larva, adult reared		

Scientific names of host trees: Ash: *Fraxinus excelsior*; Birch: *Betula* sp.; Oak: *Quercus* sp.; Yew: *Taxus baccata*; Beech: *Fagus sylvatica*.

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NNR: National Nature Reserve; RDB: Red Data Book; SSSI: Site of Special Scientific Importance; VC: Vice County.

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Council: Anne Abbs, John Hamer, Stephen Hewitt, Geoff Norman, Jeremy Roberts, Brian Spencer, Ann Robinson, Bob Wright.

Secretary: Roy Atkins, c/o Tullie House Museum, Castle St., Carlisle CA3 8TP.

Assistant Secretary: Marie Saag.

Treasurer: Dorothy Iveson, 60 Etterby St., Carlisle.

Recorder: Geoff Naylor, c/o Tullie House Museum (home tel 016977 46663).

Subscription Rates: Adult £6.00; Family £8.00; Junior £3.00; Affiliated £5.00.

(Affiliated members receive the *Carlisle Naturalist* only)

Membership application forms are available from the Secretary.

Summer Programme 2003

26th April (Saturday): South Solway shore & Campfield Marsh Leader: Roy Atkins
Depart 9.30 am.

9th May (Friday evening): Geltsdale Leader: Malcolm Stott
Depart 5.30 pm. Meet Jockey Shield (NY557557) at 6.00 pm.

31st May (Saturday): Fishgarth Woods Leader: David Clarke
Depart 1.30 pm. Meet Moorthwaite (NY502504) at 2.00 pm.

14th June (Saturday): St Bees Head Leader: Roy Atkins
Depart 9.30 am. Meet Sandwith (NX964147) at 10.30 am.

28th June (Saturday): Gowk Bank, Butterburn Leader: Frank Mawby
Depart 9.30 am. Meet at (NY679737) at 10.30 am.

5th July (Saturday): Crosby Gill & Great Asby Scar Leader: Jeremy Roberts
Depart 9.30 am. Meet roadside (NY626112) at 10.30 am.

26th July (Saturday): Whitbarrow Woods & Scar Leader: Stephen Hewitt
Depart 9.30 am. Meet Witherslack Hall (SD436859) at 10.30 am.

8th August (Friday evening): Moth trapping, Cliburn Moss
Leaders: Mike Clementson/Richard Little
Depart 8.30 pm. Meet Cliburn Moss (NY573257) at 9.00 pm.

4th October (Saturday): Fungus foray, Miltonrigg Wood Leader: Geoff Naylor
Depart 1.00 pm. Meet at layby in Milton (NY555605) at 1.30 pm.