

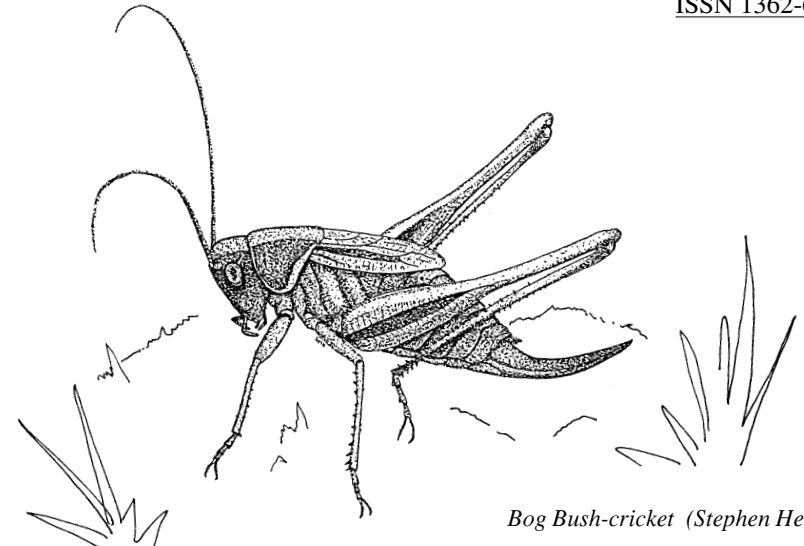
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Bog Bush-cricket (Stephen Hewitt)

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From the Editor

Although weather conditions forced cancellation of the 26th June Field Meeting, and some changes of plans in others, the 2004 season has produced many interesting sightings and discoveries – despite the very unsettled and rather wet summer and early autumn. As well as items about these, it is a pleasure to welcome a couple of contributions from one of our two current life members, who probably also holds the record for length of membership of our Society – see his notes on spiders!

By chance, invertebrates of one sort or another seem prominent in this issue, reflecting current developments. However, the Editor remains keen to receive contributions on any aspects of the fauna, flora, and natural environment of the area. Contributions in the form of good line illustrations relevant to notes or articles would also be extremely welcome. Digital photography is fast becoming the norm, and the ultimate solution to the ‘illustration problem’ could be an ability to utilise some of the very good work now available. However, that would mean a significant rise in the work and costs of producing this journal, which, sadly, at present seems a rather unrealistic ambition. When, and if, we develop a Web-based version, things could change radically – but that is still very much for the future.

David Clarke

Additions to the Society’s Library

Ann Robinson has given recent issues of *Bird Study*, volumes 49, 50 and 51, part 1. She has also given a copy of the Collins Handguide to the Birds of the Indian Sub-Continent by Martin Woodcock, first published in 1980.

Please contact Steve Hewitt (01228-534781 x 248) if you wish to consult/borrow this or any other item in our Library.

Birds & Wildlife in Cumbria 2003

This bumper issue (176 pages!) is now available at meetings, price £5 to CNHS members.

An invaluable ‘digest’ of natural history records for the year. In addition to the county Bird Report there are sections on botany, insects, spiders, mammals. Includes a county sites map and a particularly wide selection of locally taken photographs of species referred to in the text, mainly in colour.

The following is a necessarily incomplete selection of highlights from the period since the last issue – with apologies to anyone who feels their special record has been overlooked.

From the earlier part of the season, I have notes of several **Osprey** sightings away from the Bassenthwaite breeding area. These are: 18th April, 1st May and 7th July on the Armathwaite/Wetheral sector of the Eden (FJR, DJC); also at Castle Carrock Reservoir on 25th June (MN), and from the south of the county, 28th May at Foulshaw (DJC). In the same period there were 4 **Dotterel** on passage on a Lake District summit on 7th May (DJC) and a **Red Kite** was seen near Brampton on 2nd June (AH). I noted **Black Grouse** at Forest Head (an old lek site) on two occasions: 3 ‘grey hens’ on 12th April and a male on 21st April. An escaped **Cockatiel** was a surprise when it flew over Talkin Tarn on 20th April.

Great and Pomarine Skuas, plus a lot of **Gannets**, were off Bowness-on-Solway on 15th May, and 2 immature **Little Gulls** were near the mouth of the Solway Esk on 2nd May (FJR). **Wood Sandpipers**, 2, were feeding in the scrape at Thornhill Meadows NR on 9th May (FJR), and at Talkin Tarn there were 7 **Common Terns** on the unusual date of 22nd June (GN).

Plant records include **Creeping Ladies-tresses** (*Goodyera repens*) and **Lesser Twayblade** (*Listera cordata*) at Cliburn Moss (CA) – very good re-finds of these often elusive species. Also amongst orchids, DJC found a new site (and post-*Flora* tetrad) for the diminutive **Bog Orchid** (*Hammarbya paludosa*) at Blindtarn Moss, Easedale – at its Cumbria altitude limit of 230 metres. **Tunbridge Filmy-fern** (*Hymenophyllum tunbridgense*) was discovered by MP and RG in the Bewcastle area – an important discovery and the only Cumbrian site outside Eskdale; there were a number of other additions to the knowledge of the flora of the North Pennines, for which see page 52.

Butterflies seem to have fared well despite the generally wet summer. They include a male **Brimstone** at High Stand, well north of its normal range on 31st July (GMcC), a **Small Skipper** (photographed) at Smardale (NF), and **Commas** too numerous to list [except a late one at Cumwhitton, 30th Oct! Ed.]. **Small Blues** were reported from St. Bees Head, a site where they have not been seen since the early 20th century (TR). Migrants, especially **Painted Ladies** in late August, were much in evidence, but the only **Clouded Yellow** so far reported was seen at Newbiggin, near Barrow, on 31st August (NR). There was a small flurry of **Holly Blue** records around Carlisle and the lower Eden valley, as reported on page 43.

Dragonflies continued to provide interest. Single males of the **Banded Demoiselle** were seen well away from known sites – at Jockey Shield, Geltsdale (JM), Lazonby (DJC), Finglandrigg (RH) and by the river Petteiril at Carleton (RL).

Emperor dragonflies were reported from Foulshaw Moss (DJC), Barkbooth Lot and Lowick (H&TM). **Migrant Hawk**ers were seen new to Bowness NR (LS, TR) and a mating pair was photographed there on 30th August (AS). They were also seen at High Stand (RL & GMcC), and for a second year at Thurstonfield Lough (DJC), North Plain, and Hawksdale Pasture (IA). **Ruddy Darters** were doing well at Oulton Gravel Pits and were recorded as new at Thurstonfield (DJC). Most unusual of all was a possible sub-adult of the European **Scarlet Darter** at Bowness CWT Reserve in late August – fully reported in TR's Note, page 42.

Two other unusual insects were reported. Firstly, the rarely seen and very large **Birch Sawfly** (*Cimbex femoratus*) was found at Moorthwaite Moss on 20th June (DJC) and later in Geltsdale (FJR): these are the first Cumbria records since 1982. The other was the re-discovery after an absence of records for over 100 years, of the **Bog Bush Cricket** at Wan Fell on 19th September (FJR) – the subject of yet another Note in this issue (page 40).

Bird reports for late summer/autumn have included a **Quail** calling at Fenton, Brampton on 21st August (RS) and a **Wryneck** found dead at Smardale CWT Reserve on 15th August (A&SD). The latter has since been passed to Tullie House by the Trust. The usual passage waders (i.e. **Whimbrel, Ruff, Greenshank** and **Green Sandpiper**) appeared on the Solway, but also a few **Little Stints** and higher than usual numbers of **Curlew Sandpipers**. There have been unprecedented numbers of **Black-tailed Godwits** in the Bowness area with one count of 340 and, at around the same time, 2000 **Redshank** at Port Carlisle (TR). Even more exciting were some sea-bird movements off Workington in mid September – involving **Sabine's Gulls**, both **Leach's** and **European Storm-petrels** and at least one **Wilson's Storm-petrel** (FJR *et al.*). Inland, SH saw 2 late **Swifts** at Langwathby on 10th September, and later still JS saw 5 over Carlisle on 19th September.

Finally, a **Grey Squirrel** crossing the road just outside Cumwhitton village on 3rd October (DJC) is a far less pleasing note on which to end.

Recorders: CA Colin Auld; IA Ian Armstrong; DJC David Clarke; A&SD A & S Dixon; NF Nick Franklin; RG Ron Groom; AH Anthea Hargreaves; SH Stephen Hewitt; RH Robin Hodgson; RL Richard Little; GMcC Gordon McCreddie; H&TM Heather & Tony Marshall; MN Mick North; MP Mike Porter; TR Tristan Reid; FJR Jeremy Roberts; NR Neil Robinson; AS Alastair Servante; RS Rob Shaw; LS Liz Still; JS John Strutt.

Geoff Naylor

Natterjacks evening, 21st May

Leaders: Mike Abbs & Frank Mawby

A total of 17 people met on a cold but dry evening on the Solway at Anthorn to look for, and hopefully listen to, the local colony of Natterjack Toads. Unfortunately, the weather was against us and there was no calling at all, although two adults were found close to the breeding pools. These toads were reasonably large for the species and Frank Mawby estimated that they could be several years old. There was speculation that the breeding season could have been over, although the owner of the land reported that they were active a few nights later when more favourable conditions returned.

There were a large number of tadpoles in the pools – of two distinct sizes. This may have been due to two different laying periods or the larger tadpoles could have been those of the Common Toad, but it is very difficult to distinguish between species at this stage. Our cold vigil was relieved by a fine sunset and the sighting of a bright 'satellite' (believed to be the Space Station) which crossed the sky just before we left the site.

Anne Abbs

[The very wet 2004 summer maintained pool levels and enabled Natterjacks on the north side of the Solway at Caerlaverock to 'call' and to spawn for the second time! It seems this also happened at south Solway sites. Ed.]

South Solway, 14th August

Leaders: Anne & Mike Abbs

Six members met at Anthorn on a dry day (for once!) to explore some of the local wildlife habits of the area. A check of Moricambe Bay turned up Ringed Plover, Knot, Golden Plover, Oystercatcher, Lapwing, Black-tailed Godwit, Curlew, Redshank, Black-headed Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Cormorant and Swallows hawking insects over the water. An examination of the saltmarsh found late flowering specimens of the naturalised Tall Melilot (*Melilotus altissimus*), and Wild Celery (*Apium graveolens*) amongst the more common coastal plants. The Melilot is of interest as it has increased dramatically in the area over recent years.

The group then moved on to explore a nearby area of farmland that has been increasingly productive for birds in recent years. Whilst bird numbers were small, the variety of butterflies kept us busy: these included Wall Brown, Meadow Brown, Large White, Painted Lady, Small Copper, Green-veined White, Small White, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell.

After lunch, we moved round the coast to explore the Campfield Marsh reserve and the nearby Bowness Gravel Pits reserve. A variety of common small passerines were seen, but unfortunately few dragonflies, possibly due to poor weather in the preceding days, though a Common Hawker did give good views. In the sheltered

'ride' beyond the eastern pools, Wall Brown butterflies were frequent and Painted Ladies and Peacocks were especially abundant. The day ended with a visit to Glasson Moss NNR to examine some of the recent restoration work undertaken by English Nature and to see the Intermediate Sundew (*Drosera intermedia*) which has quite a restricted distribution in Cumbria. Other sites in the vicinity remain to be explored another day in what is becoming a particularly rich wildlife area.

Mike Abbs

'East' Coast Birding, 25th September

Leader: Geoff Naylor

A combination of weather conditions, wind direction, recent reports and a general disinclination to drive to the north-east resulted in a change of title from 'East' to 'West'! The day began in the car park by Silloth Lifeboat Station and, although there was a strong westerly wind and a fairly rough sea, there was little of interest other than a lone Guillemot flying south, and a group of 3 Turnstones on the beach to the north of the town.

After a brief call at Border Marsh where a Crane had been seen recently (no Crane, only Goldfinches, Skylarks and Meadow Pipits!) we moved to the next venue, Anthorn. Here the mud flats held large numbers of Golden Plover, Lapwing and Curlew along with a small party of Knot, a few Dunlin and also a few Curlew Sandpipers. A flock of 55 Pink-footed Geese flew south at a great height and presumably continued towards their main wintering grounds on the Lancashire coast. 4 Red-breasted Mergansers were asleep on a mud bank.

We moved on to Campfield Marsh where the pools had a good number of Teal and the receding tide-line had Shelduck, Wigeon and a Pintail or two. Lunch was taken at North Plain Farm, during which a Red Admiral and a Green-veined White were the only butterflies of the day. The subsequent walk also revealed Common and Black Darter dragonflies and the pools at the end of the lonning had a few Mallard, lots of Teal, up to 15 Shoveler and a handful of Wigeon. Another flock of about 100 Pink-feet flew over, also very high. There were brief views of Buzzard and Sparrowhawk.

Bowness railings proved to be a worthwhile stop – the main feature being a flock of Black-tailed Godwits. At least 130 were counted and there were probably more in the distance. This is a remarkably large number for this area, but had been exceeded in the previous week by a count of 340! The odd Knot and Curlew Sandpiper were identified before moving on to Port Carlisle. Here, Bar-tailed Godwits were added to the list and a close view of a Greenshank provided a pleasant conclusion to the day.

Geoff Naylor

Ferns, 10th July

Leader: Jeremy Roberts

With the memory of Jeremy's previous tutoring of a ferns workshop still vivid in my mind (although most of the disseminated knowledge of ferns themselves had long since evaporated), I was shocked to discover that nine years had elapsed since that event. This summer's reprise was therefore long overdue and attracted a number of people from across the county. The day followed the now familiar format of a morning session in the museum looking at specimens and becoming familiar with the terminology and identification characters of the group, followed by an afternoon in the 'field' putting our newly acquired 'expertise' into practice.

Jeremy had produced an excellent 'new improved' version of his *Guide to Cumbrian Ferns* booklet for the day (setting a daunting standard for prospective tutors of future workshops) and we worked through the elegant and instructional text during the morning session, getting familiar with the terminology, anatomy and life history of the ferns in general. It was then time to get to grips with the identification key. Jeremy had brought along fresh-picked fronds of some of the commoner ferns for us to study as well as potted specimens from his garden of a few of the rarer species. It wasn't long before we were all merrily making snipping signs in the air and muttering "one, two, three..." under our breaths as we worked out whether the fronds before us were once, twice or three times pinnate. If you want to know what I'm talking about, get a copy of the booklet (available at meetings).

The afternoon sortie was to Geltsdale where we were joined by another fern expert – Mike Porter. Starting at Jockey Shield we walked down to the river at Hynam Bridge, on which structure Wall Rue (*Asplenium ruta-muraria*) was growing. After pointing out the field characters and characteristic growth forms of various species, Jeremy set us loose to see how many different ferns we could identify in the immediate vicinity. Bracken (*Pteridium aquilinum*), Male-fern (*Dryopteris filix-mas*), Lady Fern (*Athyrium filix-femina*), Lemon-scented Fern (*Oreopteris limbosperma*), Common Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*) and Hard Fern (*Blechnum spicant*) were fairly easy, Broad Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris dilatata*) was less obvious, and Scaly Male-fern (*Dryopteris affinis*) decidedly obscure. A walk up the lane beyond Jockey Shield and we were shown the fern-allies Field Horsetail (*Equisetum arvense*) and Wood Horsetail (*E. sylvaticum*), and another species of fern, lurking inconspicuously by the roadside, Narrow Buckler-fern (*Dryopteris carthusiana*). Finally a short detour into the edge of the wood provided the finale to the day in the form of a small stand of the very attractive Beech Fern (*Phegopteris connectilis*).

Everyone present declared the day to have been a very pleasant, relaxed and positive learning experience, giving us all a basic working knowledge of the

common fern species and the tools with which to develop our skills and proceed to the more difficult and rarer species. Jeremy and Mike were warmly thanked.

Stephen Hewitt

Ladybirds, 21st August

Leader: Stephen Hewitt

We began our workshop session in Tullie House with a look at some NOT-ladybirds! Certain species of fungus beetles, plant-hoppers and shield-bugs can look superficially like the everyday idea of a ladybird so it was important to know just what to look for. Ladybirds are beetles and so have fully-hardened wing cases and biting jaws. We are used to seeing the 7-spot but they can be anything between 1 mm and 10 mm long, usually brightly coloured, but not necessarily red and black, and distinctly marked but not always with spots. Their family is Coccinellidae and there are 42 British species.

Moving on, we needed to know the names of the parts of a ladybird referred to in the key: head, antenna and mandible were straightforward; pronotum, scutellum, and elytron less so, but we were soon trotting them out like professionals. The proportions of the antennae and pronotum distinguish the ladybirds from other beetles. To make it possible for us to progress after a two-hour workshop, Stephen provided us with a key he had adapted for use in Cumbria for the 23 obvious species found in the county. The others are tiny and easily overlooked.

So, we were off. The first thing we had to look for was a hairy upper side. Have you ever heard of a hairy ladybird?! I exaggerate. You actually need to use a hand-lens to look for minute hairs. If it is hairy then it is the wonderfully named *Subcoccinella vigintiquatuor punctata* – a ‘24-spot’ to you and me. If it is not hairy then you move on through the key.

Using the specimens from the Tullie House collection and a video linked to a microscope Stephen showed us all the species recorded for Cumbria – the ones with black spots on red; red spots on black; black spots on yellow; yellow spots on black and other combinations of ground colour with streaks, ‘eyes’ and fused spots; sometimes on the pronotum and sometimes on the elytra. It was easy to see the features on the museum specimens – they kept very still!

Stephen had also collected live examples of some of the species and they were less co-operative, especially when we needed to look at the undersides for white spots beneath the middle and hind legs. The ladybirds were in perspex containers, passed round for us all to examine and released in the afternoon to continue their feeding. Most of them eat aphids, but some feed on mildew and the 24-spot on vegetation. Habitat preferences range from conifers to willows to hedgerows; dry heather to marshy grassland to river shingle; moors to gardens.

Knowing how rarely I see a ladybird when out walking, I did not expect to see many examples on our afternoon outing. However, Finglandrigg Wood NNR was an ideal place to visit as it has so many habitat types in a compact area and Stephen and Jim Thomas worked very hard with their sweep-nets and beating tray to find ladybirds for us to identify. By the end of the afternoon we had seen eleven ladybird species. They are listed below, with the vegetation on which we found them:

24-spot *Subcoccinella vigintiquatuor punctata* (roadside verge and rushy pasture)

22-spot *Psyllobora vigintiduopunctata* (herb layer)

14-spot *Propylea quatuordecimpunctata* (trees and scrub)

18-spot *Myrrha octodecimguttata* (pine)

Heather *Chilocorus bipustulatus* (heather, as expected, and birch)

Eyed *Anatis ocellata* (pine)

Kidney-spot *Chilocorus renipustulatus* (heather, birch and sallow)

Striped *Myzia oblongoguttata* (pine)

10-spot *Adalia decempunctata* (oak)

7-spot *Coccinella septempunctata* (generally)

Cream-spot *Calvia quatuordecimguttata*

It was sheltered and sunny in the wood and we enjoyed seeing other insect species as well as the ladybirds. Shieldbugs (the subject of a workshop next August) were represented by five species: Forest Bug *Pentatoma rufipes*; Parent Bug *Elasmucha grisea*; Birch Shieldbug *Elasmotethus intersinctus*; *Troilus luridus*; and Hawthorn Shieldbug *Acanthosoma haemorrhoidale*. Of the butterflies, Purple Hairstreak was the most unusual, and we also had Peacock, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Painted Lady, Wall Brown, Small Copper, and a stunning Comma caterpillar. Dragonflies included Common Hawker and Common Darter. The Dwarf Gorse was in full flower. Being the middle of an August afternoon, the birds were almost silent and not showing. We did disturb a Brown Hare, which looked most peculiar with its ears flattened against its body for the first few seconds as it rushed away.

With very many thanks to Stephen for sharing his expertise with us and for preparing the booklet with its key and distribution maps and the handy laminated chart for use in the field. (The booklet is available through the Tullie House Shop).

Margaret Roberts

The Bog Bush-cricket (*Metrioptera brachyptera* (L.)), re-discovered in the Eden valley

On 19th September 2004 I was with a group from plant conservation organisation Plantlife, hoping to relocate Marsh Clubmoss (*Lycopodiella inundata*) on Wan Fell near Great Salkeld (NY5336), one of its few Cumbrian stations. As I had seen this plant at the site in 1993 I was able to direct the group to the spot where I had last seen it. The site, a small bare hollow in wet heathland, was even more heavily colonised by *Sphagnum*, etc., than in 1993, and the plant could not be found. The heath itself, however, was looking in very good condition, with fine *Sphagnum* lawns in places, and *Cladonia* species now conspicuous under the heathers.

Whilst searching nearby in a patch of tall heather near a *Sphagnum*-filled hollow, my attention was attracted to a movement at my feet, and I soon had in my hands an impressive large 'grasshopper', with a squat body, very long rear legs, a striking curved ovipositor a third of its overall length, and bizarrely long whip-like antennae. Mike Hall took some digital photographs of the animal before it used its enormous hind-legs to make its escape.

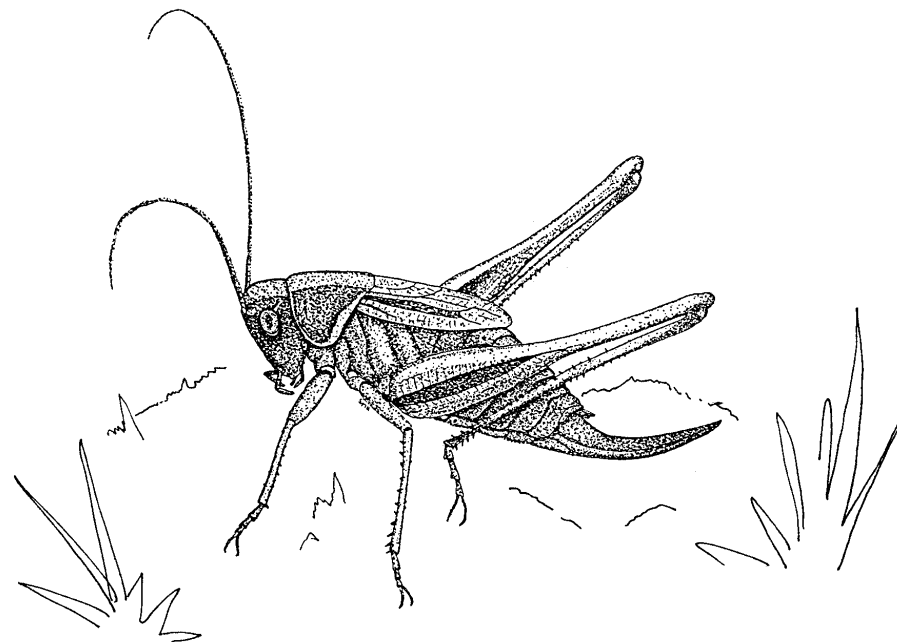
I was certain that this must be the legendary Bog Bush-cricket a species I had never knowingly encountered before – legendary because I knew very well that it had been recorded in the Wan Fell area in the past, yet as far as I knew there had been no recent records, in spite of many visits by naturalists, and specific searches for it.

Having found one, others soon began to appear, and within a few minutes I had located three more examples, all with the wonderful ovipositor and thus female. All seemed to be at a similar stage of development – apparently fully adult. Three were strongly marked with stripes of rich deep green along the head, pronotum, and inner and outer margins of the wings, the rest of the body being brown. The fourth had shades of brown in these areas.

Some other members of our group were familiar with the species, and were able to confirm my tentative identification. Mike Hall's fine photos have also been checked by Stephen Hewitt.

A similar species is Roesel's Bush-cricket (*M. roeselii*), which has the ovipositor proportionally much shorter and more curved, and different markings on the pronotum. It is said to be increasing its range from southern England and according to Biological Records Centre data on the National Biodiversity Network Gateway web site (www.searchnbn.net), was reported from the Fleetwood area of Lancashire in the early 1990s. It occurs in rough grassland rather than in the wet heaths essential to the Bog Bush-cricket in Britain.

Stephen Hewitt checked the Tullie House Museum database the following day, and confirmed that the Bog Bush-cricket had been reported once only at this site:



Bog Bush-cricket (2× life size)

(Stephen Hewitt)

by F.H. Day (in *Transactions of Carlisle Natural History Society* for 1928) as long ago as on 29th July 1900! No specimen exists in the Tullie House collections from here. In Cumbria, Bog Bush-cricket has a restricted distribution, being known from several of the Morecambe Bay mosses but only two sites in the north of the county, Wan Fell and Wedholme Flow. The latter site also has only one record, from 1991.

Given that the species has only rudimentary and non-functional wings (except for a very rare female full-winged form), and that Wan Fell is surrounded by intensive farmland in all directions, it seems hardly credible that the insect can be a recent re-immigrant. It must be presumed therefore that it has been here – or at least very close by, the extent of suitable wet ground being very limited – ever since Day discovered it. If this is true, then it has done a very good job of lying low. Let us hope that it puts on more sustained show for the twenty-first century than it did for the twentieth!

The site is an area of wet heathland, dominated by Heather and Cross-leaved Heath, with several pools and ditches currently very wet and filled with *Sphagnum*. Surrounding this area are slopes with deep bracken, and open patches

of birches, pines, and Rowan. Small saplings of birch and pine are appearing on the heathland, and this colonisation may need to be halted in future if the heath is not to revert to woodland. The heath area is part of a larger Site of Special Scientific Interest.

It will be interesting to see whether further searches can locate the insect more widely over Wan Fell, for instance in Long Moss and the intervening wetter ground.

I am grateful to Stephen Hewitt for confirming my identification, and for supplying several details for this note.

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

A possible occurrence of the Scarlet Darter dragonfly (*Crocothemis erythraea* (Brullé)) at Bowness-on-Solway Nature Reserve

On August 30th 2004 – a particularly fine day – I was at Bowness Nature Reserve (NY2061) and had been checking one of the grass-fringed pools where I had observed Ruddy Darter (*S. sanguineum*) the previous week. After failing to locate any of this species, I made my way back to the board-walk, where I noticed some Common Hawkers (*A. juncea*) patrolling over grass and scrub. Within thirty seconds or so one of the hawkers chased another dragonfly directly in front of me. The newcomer appeared quite broad-bodied – I estimated it was between Keeled Skimmer (*O. coerulescens*) and Black-tailed Skimmer (*O. cancellatum*) in abdomen width.

This insect landed on the top of some low vegetation approximately four metres from me. As I looked at it through binoculars I was astounded to see the abdomen was red – very close to the coloration of Common Darter (*S. striolatum*). The sides of the abdomen had quite noticeable brownish-yellow ‘half moon’ markings. The thorax appeared brownish-red in colouration with a paler area on the top side of the thorax between the wing bases. The eyes and head all appeared dark reddish in colouration. The legs appeared dark. The insect sat perched on the vegetation with head directed downwards. Initially the wings were set outwards but it soon set them with tips pointing forwards. Unfortunately, the insect was only in view for about ten seconds, so I was unable to note any other details apart from the fact the wings looked very fresh in appearance, and without the ‘wear and tear’ of an ageing specimen. The insect soon took flight and I failed to relocate it, despite extensive search of the surrounding areas.

This dragonfly completely baffled me, as it did not look like any species that I have seen or would expect to see in the UK. If it had been a more striking red on the abdomen and lacking the yellowish spots I might have suggested that it was a

European species, the so-called Scarlet Darter (*Crocothemis erythraea*) – of which I have no experience. Certainly, it most resembled how I would expect this species to appear.

I contacted David Clarke to see if he could help me to identify it, and he in turn forwarded my notes to other national contacts. He was also able to direct me to a web page link (www.libellen.nl/europa/pictures/turkey/crocerytm.html) which showed an immature male *Crocothemis*. I was very excited by this, as the insect shown looked very similar to the dragonfly I had observed: the only slight point of difference was that the yellowish markings on the abdomen of my insect were rather more noticeable than that in the image.

David’s contacts included Adrian Parr, the British Dragonfly Society’s co-ordinator for records of migrant dragonflies. The Scarlet Darter has so few (and very southerly) UK records that the possibility that I had just seen one on the Solway was a little difficult to accept. However, the timing of the record coincided with a strong immigration Painted Lady butterflies on the Solway, and the local appearance of a few Migrant Hawker dragonflies.

Post Script (David Clarke): *the Scarlet Darter male initially has a yellowish abdomen, but matures to a brilliant scarlet; during the transition between the two phases the yellow colour temporarily remains in the form of yellowish crescents, but only for a few days. If the insect Tristan saw was an immature Crocothemis, this poses the interesting possibility that it could even have emerged elsewhere in the UK. It is frustrating that contact with the insect was so short and that no picture could be taken in the time, but it is very commendable that Tristan was able to get so much detail nonetheless. It now turns out that a female Scarlet Darter was apparently recorded in Hampshire on 19th September 2004. The current position is that Tristan’s record is to be reviewed by the Rarities Committee that Adrian Parr convenes.*

Tristan Reid, 5 Meadow Road, Wigton, Cumbria CA7 9SB

Second generation of the Holly Blue Butterfly (*Celastrina argiolus* (L.)) in the lower Eden valley in 2004

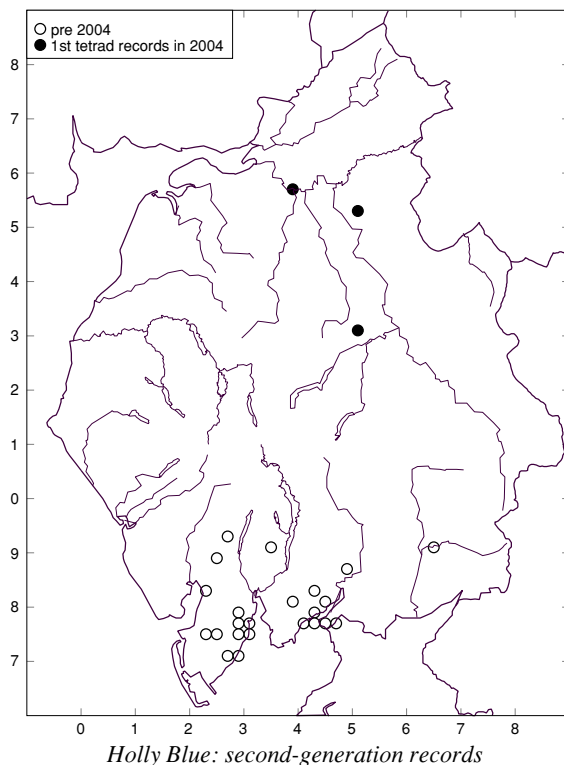
Recent records for this species in north Cumbria are few and far between, so the several occurrences reported this year are of interest. Of special note are adults in late summer, apparently the first instances of the second generation of this species in north Cumbria.

On 2nd and 3rd May, a male was present in DC’s garden at Cumwhitton, mostly

flying fast and erratically at two metres or more above ground, around shrubs and hedges. This was unusual in that it was the first seen there in 30 years. The nearest previous record was another ‘casual’, flying through the village of Kirkoswald in spring 1997, noted by Stephen Hewitt. Another virtually certain sighting in spring 2004 was from Wetheral, from which there are also no previous records. The most enduring source of records in the Eden valley is along Beacon Edge, Penrith, including the cemetery, some distance from any of these locations.

The novelty of DC’s first record was compounded when another Holly Blue, this time a female, appeared in the Cumwhitton garden on 20th August. By then there had already been a number of records from Carlisle of this second generation. A male was seen in Tullie House grounds, on 2nd August (GN, SH *et al.*). The source of this individual could have been nearby Etterby, where Dorothy Iveson saw one only a few days later. Here, Nick Franklin found a small concentration of Holly Blues – though only ever one female – on the south-facing bank of the Eden. A maximum of six were seen on more than one occasion in the middle of the month, nectaring at Bramble and Rosebay Willowherb; some were still present there in early September. The species was also seen August in a Penrith town garden (SH).

These records are apparently the first ever reports of second-generation Holly Blues in north Cumbria. A partial second brood is noted in some years in the south of the county. The map opposite shows the distribution of second-generation records held in the Tullie House Biological Records Database, from which the extreme southerly trend is evident. For the purposes of this note, we have plotted only records from 1st August onwards, since it is possible (just) for the two generations to overlap in July; data from 2004 is still coming in, and may be incomplete.



Fine weather often prompts insect dispersal, but there had not been settled periods of good weather round about the times of these records. A more likely explanation is that the very good summer (and moderate winter) of 2003, plus the fine early spring of 2004 have given this species something of a boost, and we have been seeing the outcome. Emmet & Heath (1989) specifically refer to the Holly Blue as ‘nomadic’ – presumably indicating a tendency to wander widely. This fits in with some of these observations; also, the species may be genuinely expanding its range. The ‘Millennium Atlas’ (Asher *et al.*, 2001) points out that a 6-7 year cycle of abundance is a feature of this species: perhaps 2004 will prove to be one of the peaks.

Apart from Northern Ireland, the north-western limit of persistent populations of the Holly Blue in Britain is at about the latitude of Keswick (a small, isolated population in Dumfriesshire having reportedly died out). There have been sporadic records in Cumbria north and east of this, especially around Dalston (NY34 & 35), Skelton (NY44) and Penrith (NY53), but with the exception of Penrith, these seem to have declined since the 1980s. The most northerly Cumbrian records pre-2004 are Moorhouse (NY35) in 1974, and at Carlisle (NY35 or 45) and Brampton (NY56) in 1950.

[Authors’ note: any blue butterfly seen in Cumbria earlier than late May – especially if not in grassland – is very likely to be this species rather than the widespread Common Blue (*Polyommatus icarus*), which does not favour woodland, or shrubby gardens, and flies low down over open grassy places.]

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Flies from the Honister Pass flushes on a fine June day

As suggested in *Carlisle Naturalist* 11 (2), p. 34, flushes and seepages can be fascinating habitats in which to look for Diptera. The better ones support an impressive array of scarce and unusual species, the precise assemblages of which can reflect various physical, chemical and biotic factors. But the author’s experience of them is largely from the southern half of Britain, so a chance to examine an upland seepage in the Lake District was an exciting prospect. The

chance came on the afternoon of 16th June 2003, a very fine day. The visit consisted of about three hours of persistent sweeping of flushes directly east of the slate quarry (NY227135) and the adjacent Hause Gill. It resulted in a list containing a good number of upland specialists including seven species new to me (not an easy feat after 25 years of fly recording). Another surprise was the presence of species such as *Spilogona denigrata* and *Hercostomus aerosus* in open habitat. In southern Britain, these are woodland species.

It is hoped that the following species list will contribute towards a better understanding of the assemblages associated with upland flushes and provide a basis upon which to compare other examples in the Lakes and elsewhere. Species marked with an asterisk (*) are considered characteristic of upland or northern areas (though sometimes present in a few southern bogs in places like the New Forest). Such species produce one useful parameter for comparing the quality of a flush. An 'N' denotes a Nationally Scarce species, and a 'pN' a species that ought to be added to this category (the recently recognised *Platycheirus ramsarensis*). The presence of rare species is another useful parameter that complements the previous one.

- Rhagionidae: *Rhagio scolopaceus*
 Tabanidae: *Haematopota crassicornis*
 Hybotidae: *Bicellaria intermedia*, *Platypalpus nigritarsis*, *P. notatus*
 Empididae: *Hilara canescens* *, *H. chorica*, *H. interstincta*, *Rhamphomyia nigripennis*
 Dolichopodidae: *Campsicnemus compeditus* *N, *Chrysotus cilipes*, *Dolichopus atratus*, *D. plumipes*, *D. urbanus*, *D. vitripennis*, *Hercostomus aerosus*, *H. germanus*, *Rhaphium longicorne*, *Sympycnus cirripes* *, *S. desoutteri*, *Syntormon zelleri* *N, *Tachytrechus consobrinus* *N
 Syrphidae: *Melanostoma mellinum*, *M. scalare*, *Platycheirus ramsarensis* *pN
 Psilidae: *Loxocera aristata*, *Psila 'rosae'* (undissected)
 Ulidiidae: *Herina frondescentiae*
 Tephritidae: *Tephritis conura* *
 Chamaemyiidae: *Chamaemyia juncorum* *
 Sciomyzidae: *Dictya umbrarum* *N, *Hydromya dorsalis*
 Sepsidae: *Sepsis punctum*
 Opomyzidae: *Opomyza germinationis*
 Chloropidae: *Chlorops calceatus*
 Ephydriidae: *Hydrellia maura*, *Scatella stagnalis*

- Scathophagidae: *Scathophaga furcata*, *S. stercoraria*
 Anthomyiidae: *Chirosia histicina*, *Hylemya variata*, *Pegoplata infirma*
 Fanniidae: *Fannia rondanii*
 Muscidae: *Coenosia femoralis*, *C. means* *, *C. tigrina*, *Helina latitarsis*, *Lispocephala verna*, *Myospila meditabunda*, *Phaonia tuguriorum*, *Spilogona denigrata*, *S. meadei* *, *S. solitaria* *

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The hoverfly *Sphegina sibirica* Stackelberg new to Cumberland/Cumbria

The author spent a few hours on the morning of June 16th 2003 on the river shingles of the River Derwent at Grange (NY254175). This resulted in a single female of the hoverfly *Sphegina sibirica*, which was both a first encounter for the author and apparently the first record for Cumbria (S. Hewitt – pers. comm.). *S. sibirica* is a rather distinctive *Sphegina* as it is usually extensively orange (the three other species having a predominantly black ground colour to the body), and the chitinous plate behind the hind coxae is incomplete (complete in the other species). The Nationally Scarce soldierfly *Beris clavipes* and two rather local species, the water-snipefly *Ibisia marginata* and picture-winged fly *Tephritis leontodontis* were also encountered, the latter two being new to the author. However, no shingle-specialist species (such as certain *Lonchoptera*, *Tachydromia* and empidid flies) were found.

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A second site for the RDB3 bee *Colletes floralis* Eversmann in Cumbria – and England!

Colletes floralis was believed to be confined in Britain to the Western Isles and the west coast of Scotland and Ireland until 18th July 1994 when Michael Archer found a male and female at Sandscale Haws. He found another female on 10th July 1997 which suggested that there was a small established population. As this bee is scarce throughout its range on the Continent, the British populations are considered to be of international importance (Falk, 1991).

In 2002 the National Trust asked me to find out more about it at Sandscale, particularly its habitat requirements and size of the population, but in spite of careful searching I was unable to find it. The only clue which Michael Archer had been able to give me was that it was probably not far from the car park. However, in 2003 I succeeded in finding a few females (and took one for identification)

foraging the Hemlock Water-dropwort (*Oenanthe crocata*) along the stream which runs down through the gully near the car park.

In June this year, 2004, I was able to confirm the presence of a small population of *Colletes floralis* – foraging the same patch of streamside Hemlock Water-dropwort where I had seen them in 2003. The scanty appearances in 2003 had led me to wonder whether the colony was located somewhere else and bees were only occasionally visiting the NNR. However, this year I made regular sightings in June and July of small number of males and females at a 40 m stretch of the Water-dropwort, from which I concluded that it was more likely there was a small population somewhere in the immediate vicinity, but I was unable to find the nest site, despite much searching. On 12th July I visited Haverigg Haws, the smaller dune system about 5 km further north on the opposite side of the Duddon Estuary. I saw two females, one of which I caught for identification, going to holes in a small erosion patch, which established that there is a population on this second site. The location is adjacent to a ditch lined by Hemlock Water-dropwort, which appears to be the favoured forage plant of this bee in June in Cumbria. This was no longer in flower by 12th July. On 18th July I saw one female disappear into a hole in the erosion patch, which was all that I managed to see further of the bee at this site.

By 5th July the females which I had been seeing at Sandscale since 14th June were looking distinctly faded and worn, but they were joined by larger, brighter, females that I assumed to be the first *C. fodiens*, which becomes common in July. It was fortunate that I took a specimen, because it proved to be *C. floralis*. This suggests that there is an early cohort of small females that emerge in June, followed by a later cohort of larger females that emerge in July. This could explain the long flight period of mid-June to mid-August which is quoted for *C. floralis* (Else, in prep.). The female taken at Haverigg on 12th July was of this later cohort which, again, looked like *C. fodiens*, and presumably would have lived on into August.

Next year I hope to find out more about the population at Haverigg, and to track down the elusive nest site at Sandscale. I hope also to search at Eskmeals, the next dune system about 20 km further north up the coast, where I hear there is Hemlock Water-dropwort around a pond behind the dunes.

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The seed-beetle *Bruchidius villosus* F. (Coleoptera, Bruchidae) in Cumberland (VC70)

Bruchidius villosus, also known as *B. ater*, *B. cisti* or *B. fasciatus*, is a small (2-3 mm), blackish beetle, the adults of which are mostly recorded in June on Broom (*Cytisus scolopendrius*), laying their eggs on the pods. A second generation emerges throughout August. It is a local species, commoner in southern England. (I used to find it, sometimes in numbers, in west Gloucestershire on Broom bushes, in late May and June.) The latest distribution map (Cox, 2001) has post-1970 records in eastern England up to S.E. and S.W. Yorkshire, but in the west only as far north as Shropshire and Anglesey.

On 10th June 2004, after a day water-beetling at Bowness-on-Solway NR, I strayed for ten minutes onto Campfield Marsh. On an isolated Broom at NY208621 were a few beetles, including a single *B. villosus*. I hope to revisit the Solway to ascertain whether there is a larger colony on the marsh.

Then on 15th September, on a brief visit to Derwent Water, I was greatly surprised to find a solitary *B. villosus*, again on a Broom, by the lakeshore at the Isthmus (NY261228). On numerous previous visits to this area these bushes have produced several species of weevils, but never a *Bruchidius*.

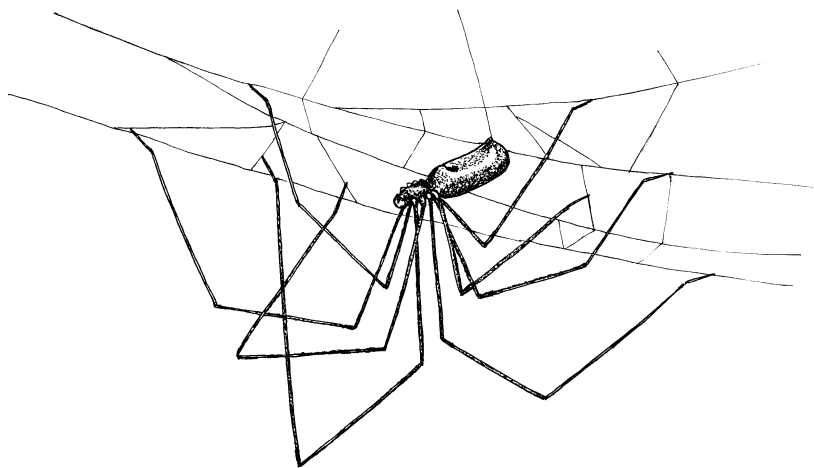
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The 'Daddy-longlegs' spider *Pholcus phalangoides* (Fuesslin) in Cumbria

This remarkable, widely-distributed synanthropic spider is common throughout central Europe and has a history going back to 1773 when it was first described from Switzerland – and then by John Blackwall in Britain some 90 years later.

It was not recorded from Cumberland by Harry Britten in his article in this Society's *Transactions* (Vol. 2, 1912). The first record for north-west England was probably mine, when it was found in the wine cellar of the Old England Hotel at Bowness-on-Windermere in 1956. It is now recorded in abundance south of a line from Galway in Ireland to Anglesey and across to Spurn Point. North of this line, records are infrequent but have included Shetland, Orkney and Fair Isle, as well as lowland Scotland in the west.

In France it is abundant in human habitations and vineyard cellars. It is likely that it was originally introduced into England from such cellars when bottled wine used to be exported in slatted wooden crates before the modern era of sealed cardboard boxes. The crates went to the homes of the wealthy, and to large hotels and cathedrals – all associated with the service of table or sacramental wine. For example, in 1961 adults of both sexes were to be found under the tops of almost every apse of the Chapter House in Salisbury Cathedral, and I have found them

*Pholcus phalangioides*

(David Clarke)

deep in a window recess near the entrance of Isel Hall, Cockermouth, but not in more modern private houses. Its preferred habitats are those of complete darkness (or shaded from direct light) which are dry without access to water, or in dark damp cellars. From experience, I know that adults can live for up to three years. At the house of my daughter – a vicarage at Bibury in Gloucestershire – it is abundant to the point of nuisance and found everywhere: along upper angles of walls, cornices and ceilings, in cupboards, behind wardrobes, under tables and even inside a grandfather clock!

The spider has a cylindrical body of up to 10 mm length. The legs are extremely long, about six times longer than the body. The adult female can often be seen clutching a globular cocoon of eggs which is carried about within the confines of a very untidy, shapeless web of silk, so fine as to be almost invisible. (There are nice drawings in Bristowe (1971), pp. 111-2). When disturbed, the spider drops its body to the limit of its eight legs and then oscillates so rapidly as to become almost a blur – a defence strategy against predators.

As will be apparent from the 'Atlas' (Harvey *et al.* 2002), the species is rare in Cumbria. It seems to require a constant ambient temperature of about 50°F. In addition to the Windermere record, there is one from 1964 from a bedroom of what was a small hotel at Grasmere. On 12th October 2003, it was noticed by my daughter in the ladies' toilets at the Kirkstile Inn, Loweswater, and by me in the men's toilet – both being indoors and immaculately clean: Natural History is everywhere!

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John Rowland Parker

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The crab spider *Philodromus aureolus* (Clerck): some mid-winter observations

Apart from an occasional synanthropic species, only rarely do I see spiders of any sort in deep mid-winter at my detached house on the outskirts of Keswick in Cumbria. Exceptions to this are occasional and almost annual occurrences of *Philodromus aureolus*, which appears as sub-adults or adults on indoor walls.

The following is from my 'Observations Notebook':

On 1st November 1990 what appeared to be an adult male of the above species was discovered on an inside wall of my unheated utility room adjacent to the garage. The spider was collected in a glass tube with plastic closure, and when I could see it was a sub-adult I lost interest in it. On 8th November it was still alive, although I had not provided any food. I thought it might be helpful to provide a minute droplet of water, but when I did this I was surprised to see it had a very adverse effect: within two hours the spider was in a collapsed and curled-up state and unable to walk. However, it made a recovery when transferred to a dry tube. By 16th November it had consumed four very minute midges and two mosquitoes which I had been able to provide. The spider passed through the final moult on 1st December, after which it had food only very occasionally (without water) when I remembered to provide it. Fully grown, it was less than 4 mm in length.

Not inappropriately, after six months, the 'bottled spider'(*) died on the day and month of both the birth and death of William Shakespeare, 23rd April: 1564 and 1616 for him, and for the spider 1991. I am left wondering whether the spiders come indoors in the winter in an attempt to find an over-winter habitat where there is less humidity. It will be clear from these brief notes that the phenology described for this species (and most of the British spiders) in the literature is incomplete.

John Rowland Parker

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(* King Richard III: Act 1, Scene 3)

A further note on the flora of the Cross Fell range

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This short note follows previous articles summarising botanical findings on the Cross Fell range (Roberts, 2002; Roberts, 2003).

Various interruptions contrived to limit my own visits to the high tops of the Cross Fell range in 2004, although others managed some very useful exploration.

The following list is a selection of new records from the 2004 season, with conventions following those in Roberts (2002), detailing:

- i) *New tetrad records* ('NTR'), and *new hectad* (i.e. 10-km square) records ('NHR'), additional to Halliday (1997), references to which are abbreviated to 'FoC' in the list, or to Roberts (2002; 2003).
- ii) *New upper altitude records* for Cumbria ('NAR'), where these exceed those given in Halliday (1997), or Roberts (2002; 2003) by 20 metres or more.
- iii) An asterisk, i.e. 'NAR*', signifies a record which exceeds that given as an upper altitudinal limit for Britain and Ireland in the recently-published *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* (Preston *et al.*, 2002) ('NA'), or Pearman & Corner (2004) ('P&C'), where higher, and which therefore represents a new altitude record for the British Isles as a whole.

Species appear in alphabetical order of scientific name. Other recorders were: RC = Roderick Corner; RG = Ron Groom; MP = Mike Porter; LR = Linda Robinson.

Full details, including fuller grid-references, have been lodged with the B.S.B.I Recorder for VC 69 and VC 70, Dr Geoffrey Halliday.

Alchemilla glomerulans (a lady's-mantle)

NHR (for NY63), and thus **NTR** (for NY6636): a few plants of a hairy-leaved *Alchemilla* were seen in flushed grasslands on the western flank of Green Fell in 2002. These were however very depauperate, and were left for 'later examination'. They were soon refound on a visit on 28th August, when time allowed a more thorough inspection. About 15 plants were found, at around NY66483618, altitude 693m. Unfortunately, there were many sheep grazing, and the plants were no larger than in 2002. However, it was clear that these showed the distribution of hairs typical of *Alchemilla glomerulans* (abundant appressed hairs on all surfaces) and could be readily separated from neighbouring plants of *A. glabra* (having very sparse appressed hairs) and *A. filicaulis* ssp. *vestita* (having abundant spreading hairs). Two separate plants are known from Knock Ore Gill/Knock Fell at the other end of the range (Roberts, 2003).

Alopecurus borealis (Alpine Foxtail)

With a wetter season in 2004, many more flowering heads were produced than in 2003, and as in the rainy season of 2002 fresh stems were appearing as late as September. RC found as many heads on the north flanks of Cross Fell in 2004 as in 2002 – 'hundreds of inflorescences', after an almost blank year in 2003. It is clear that many stems disappear over the course of a season, presumably to grazing animals, before shedding seeds. Even in the sheep-proof enclosure at Knock Ore Gill all but one of eight stems seen in the early season had disappeared by August; voles are the most likely culprits here. Of several stems seen by LR just beyond the fence, all disappeared promptly, perhaps to the combined assault of sheep and voles. Counts of heads in the late season therefore are likely to greatly underestimate the total production of flowering heads.

NTR (for NY7228): LR and Paul Maurice found a new colony in a spring on the south flank of Dufton Fell on 13th May, which had about 100 heads on first finding, about 60 heads when RC visited on 25th May, and only 15 when seen by RC, RG, LR, and the writer on 7th August.

LR mentioned an abundance of foxtail heads showing in flushes west of the Pennine Way on the north flanks of Great Dun Fell close below the CAA station (NY7032). As I did not know the plant in this series of springs, I surveyed the site in detail on 20th August. The plant grows in great quantity, and the final count of heads was 940, making this one of the larger sites so far surveyed. Many of the colonies of the foxtail here are in much more acid flushes than is typical, in places emerging from dense patches of Common Cottongrass (*Eriophorum angustifolium*). This suggests that it may be worth keeping watch for the plant in the numerous 'brown' high-level acidic percolation mires in the range as well as the 'green' mineral-rich springs and flushed grasslands. The plants in the highest spring-heads at 822m match the highest altitude in FoC: 820m on Cross Fell (tetrad NY6834).

Botrychium lunaria (Moonwort)

NAR, 810m (FoC gives 780m on Great Dun Fell (in tetrad NY7030); the plant reaches 1155m on Ben Lawers (NA)); dry short turf by a flushed area, with an unusually acidic assemblage of associates, including Bilberry (*Vaccinium myrtillus*), Heath Bedstraw (*Galium saxatile*), etc., north flank of Great Dun Fell, NY7032 (20th August).

Carex capillaris (Hair Sedge)

NAR, 710 m (FoC gives 580 m on Tyne Head; the plant reaches 1155m on Ben Lawers (NA)); Meldon Hill, NY7629 (27th June – RC & LR).

Carex vaginata (Sheathed Sedge)

Two areas discovered in 2004 are described here, one with two sites.

NTR (for NY7628 - in 1-km square NY7629): RC and LR visited Meldon Fell on 27th June to prospect for *C. vaginata*, after RC had earlier speculated that there appeared to be suitable habitat there, whilst viewing across from its known sites on Dufton Fell, about 1.2 km to westward. They duly found the plant on the western slopes of Meldon Fell, in a patch 8 m × 3 m, altitude of 705 m. This is an interesting extension to its range, and suggests that other colonies will be found, perhaps in the Mickle Fell area and beyond.

NHR (for NY73), and thus **NTR** (for NY7030 - two sites, both in 1-km square NY7131); site (2) is **NAR**, 752 metres.

After the discoveries of 2002 and 2003, several interested parties tramped great distances over the fells, some of them several times, to pay their respects to the plant in its remote locations at the far north and south ends of the range. Thus it was ironic when, within a few days, two sites were found in the extremely well-botanised area at the head of Knock Ore Gill!

(1) Firstly, on 18th July, LR found a good colony of the species in the Knock Ore Gill valley, hardly 20 m from the tarmac road up to the CAA site on Great Dun Fell! On a further visit to this site on 7th August LR showed RC, RG and the writer this new find (a patch 10 m × 6 m), and RG located a second patch, 4 m × 2 m, within a few metres. Fruiting spikes were found in each patch. Both sites are in northwest-facing steep flushed grassland below limestone, at an altitude of 715-720 m.

(2) By a remarkable coincidence, MP and the writer, unaware of LR's find, visited Knock Ore Gill on 23rd July, and in an enclosure around a limestone sinkhole close to the Pennine Way on the north side of Knock Fell found themselves standing on a patch of sedge leaves which they felt sure was *Carex vaginata*. (Both have stood in this exact spot on many past occasions, as have numerous other botanists: indeed the writer led CNHS to the spot in 2000!) No fruiting spikes could be found, thus making confirmation of the identity of tufts of sedge leaves somewhat problematic. It was reassuring on 7th August to have RC, RG and LR concur as to the identification! The patch is 6 m × 1 m, and about 220 m from site (1). At an altitude of 752 m, this site is the highest of any yet found in England. The habitat is different from the other known sites: the plants grow in thin turf above limestone outcrops, and occupy a gradient from thin soil on a ledge on exposed limestone with various calcicole species, up to thicker soil a few metres back from the edge, adjacent to calcifuges such as Stiff Sedge (*C. bigelowii*). Other sites are all in flushed grasslands below

limestone outcrops.

This enclosure contains several plants which were introduced from elsewhere by the Nature Conservancy Council in the 1950s. Although *Carex vaginata* was not among the species deliberately introduced at that time, the possibility exists that it could have been inadvertently introduced into the enclosure. Now that we know the plant occurs as an undoubted native in several north Pennine sites both close to, and remote from here, we can safely assume that inadvertent introduction is very unlikely, and that the plant happened to be present when the enclosure was erected.

This species has a reputation for being 'shy-flowering'; in my experience, 'erratic-flowering' might be more appropriate. 2004 was evidently a good season, at least for some colonies. LR mentioned that on 14th May one of the Green Fell patches had 50 heads, and on 25th May RC saw about 100 flowering heads in an area of approximately 10 m × 10 m on Dufton Fell. RC reports that on this date the flowering heads were springing from the somewhat withered leaf-rosettes surviving from the previous season, whilst the new season's distinctive broad-and-tall apple-green leaves had yet to emerge. This observation might explain why non-flowering plants can be difficult to locate in the early season.

Lolium perenne (Perennial Rye-grass)

NTR (for NY6634): one plant, in spring above Ardale Head, NY6735 (28th August). (By a few metres, this is also **NAR***, 708m (*P&C* (after Roberts (2002)) give 700m for Knock Fell, NY71.29; *FoC* and *NA* give 570m).)

Ranunculus hederaceus (Ivy-leaved Crowfoot)

NAR*, 810m (*FoC* and *NA* give 770m on Little Dun Fell): spring on north flank of Great Dun Fell, NY7032 (20th August).

Sagina nodosa (Knotted Pearlwort)

NAR, 810m (*FoC* gives 740m on Knock Fell; *NA* gives 850m for Ghlas Maol): spring on north flank of Great Dun Fell, NY7032 (20th August).

Saxifraga hirculus (Marsh Saxifrage)

NTR for NY7228 (13th May) LR and Paul Maurice found a small new colony on the south flank of Dufton Fell, growing a little further down a flush-zone from the *Alopecurus borealis* site mentioned above.

(This is yet another site which has been damaged by moorland drainage. A 'grip' had been driven across the fellside and through the site for the saxifrage. A few metres below the present extent of the saxifrage, the mineral-rich water drains off into the grip, and immediately below this point the vegetation at once loses its

flushed nature and reverts to acid mire identical to huge areas nearby. The result has been not simply to destroy needlessly part of a site of some very rare plants, but also to drain away the mineral-rich water which provided the only nutrient inputs into what is otherwise impoverished acid heath.)

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Marsh Saxifrage

(Jeremy Roberts)

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Information for Authors

The *Carlisle Naturalist* publishes material on all aspects of the natural history of Cumbria. General articles, results of personal research, news items, records and letters of relevance to Cumbrian naturalists are welcomed. Material accepted for publication must not be submitted in a similar form to any other journal.

Material should be clearly legible – ideally type-written double-spaced on one side of white A4 paper, or submitted on DOS-formatted 3.5 inch computer disc in ASCII or RTF format and accompanied by a paper copy. Only species and genera should be underlined. Authority names should be given in full. Illustrations should be in black ink; they must be originals and not photocopies. Whilst every care will be taken of original artwork, the editor can not be held responsible for any loss or damage. References should be given in full at the end of the article or note.

Authors of papers two or more pages in length will be provided with 10 reprints. Papers may be submitted to a referee.

Opinions expressed in the *Carlisle Naturalist* are not necessarily shared by the Council of Carlisle Natural History Society nor the Editorial Panel.

Standard abbreviations used in this issue:

CWT: Cumbria Wildlife Trust; NNR: National Nature Reserve; VC: Vice-county.

For Conservation status definitions (e.g. Nationally Scarce, etc) consult: www.jncc.gov.uk/species/Species_Status_Assessment/hierarchyoflists.htm

Carlisle Natural History Society Council and Officers

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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. Tullie House contacts (Steve Hewitt or David Clarke): tel. 01228-543781, or email to: nature@tulliehouse.co.uk

Winter Programme 2004/5

At Tullie House Museum, starting 7.15 p.m. prompt.

October 6th ‘Barnacle Geese on Bear Island’ – an illustrated talk by Brian Morrell
(WWT Caerlaverock)

October 20th ‘Shieldbugs’ – an illustrated talk by Dr Steve Judd

November 3th Members’ Night – 1: contributions from the membership

November 17th ‘The Ring Ouzel’ – an illustrated talk by Chris Rollie

December 1st ‘Water Voles’ – an illustrated talk by Ruth Dalton

January 5th ‘The Mute Swan’ – an illustrated talk by John Colman (joint meeting with Cumbria Bird Club)

January 19th ‘Project Gambia: conservation of marine mammals and reptiles’
an illustrated talk by Roy Armstrong

February 2th ‘Flora of the Fells Project’ – an illustrated talk by Martin Varley

February 5th (Saturday) – Field meeting: Loch Ken, Galloway (‘Wild Goose Chase’) Leader: Geoff Horne. Depart 9 a.m. from Carlisle College.

February 16th ‘Watchtree – the creation of a nature reserve’ – an illustrated talk by Brett Carson

March 2rd AGM and Members’ Night – 2: AGM followed by contributions from the membership