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Black Stork (Jeremy Roberts)

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From the Editor

Pressures on the Editor this year have severely disrupted the production of the present and preceding issues (volumes 14.1 and 14.2: 2006). My apologies to all contributors and readers who have suffered the consequences of these delays.

In this issue (as in the previous one) we are publishing an article which first appeared elsewhere: here we feature the joint paper by Linda Robinson, Roderick Corner and Jeremy Roberts on habitat damage in designated areas in the high Pennines. This links with our series of articles on the flora of this area by the last-mentioned author.

2006 was notable for its cold Spring, hot and sunny July, and record high temperatures for the year as a whole. This led to many unusual wildlife records, reflected in several of the notes in this issue.

David Clarke

Museum News

In June we opened a major new exhibition on the wildlife and environment of the rivers and lakes of Cumbria. Funding came through Eden Rivers Trust from the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Nature, the Environment Agency and the Cumbria Water Vole Project. The Freshwater Life exhibition looks at the Biodiversity Action Plan habitats and species found in Cumbria's freshwater environments and examines the conservation issues affecting them. The displays occupy a large part of the Millennium Gallery and feature a number of new acquisitions to the collections including new specimens of Otter, Mink, Heron, Moorhen, Kingfisher, Dipper, Snipe, Dunlin and Water Vole, mounted for display by Wendy Walker who has also created some lovely habitat settings. There are also a number of new fish specimens including Arctic Charr, Vendace, Brown Trout, Sea Trout, Grayling, River Lamprey, Minnow, Bullhead, Eel, Perch, Pike, Chub and Salmon, cast and painted by Peter Scott of Workington. There is even a Beaver on display, alongside some old favourites from the collections such as the Sea Eagle and the Osprey. Centre-piece of the exhibition is a superb leaping 18lb Salmon prepared by Peter. We have also got the English record rod-caught Salmon – or so it is claimed – caught on the Eden in 1888, on loan from the Natural History Museum. Complimented by stunning landscape photographs by Val Corbett, video-footage of Lamprey, Salmon and the Bassenthwaite Ospreys, and archive news coverage of the 2005 floods there is something for everyone in this show. There is plenty for children too with magnified insects, a fishing game and food-web interactive, footprint rubbings, a gallery worksheet and computer animations on how lakes and rivers form. Please make an effort to come and see the show – and then come back again with your friends and family!

Another recent addition to the collections is a Wryneck, found dead at Smardale CWT reserve on 15th August 2004. This casualty coincided with a significant passage of these birds in Eastern Britain, moving south from their breeding grounds in northern Europe. The specimen was found by Sally Dixon of Hartley and taken to CWT HQ, who passed it on to Tullie House. The bird has been mounted for display by Wendy Walker.

Allen Armsby has been doing great work cataloguing the Society's library and the Museum's natural history archives and journals. He is developing what promises to be a very useful index to natural history publications in Cumbria, as well as the information resources of the Society and Tullie House. Allen will be providing more information on this project as his work progresses.

The Virtual Fauna of Lakeland Website (www.lakelandwildlife.co.uk) has been updated with new distribution maps on the species pages and the addition of checklists to various elements of the county's fauna and flora. The Insecta Cumbriensia pages give detailed access to some of the Museum's large and important insect collections. There is an interactive, animated virtual entomology store where you can open cabinets and drawers to examine the collections of different insects. For those not on broadband, or of a more sensible frame of mind, it is possible to by-pass the flash-animations and go straight to the data on our collections and Cumbrian insect specimens held in other Museums in the North West.

Stephen Hewitt

These notes cover the period May-December 2006 and, as usual, may contain some records that require confirmation.

Birds

This section is based almost entirely on record cards received from Society members, and includes many of my own observations from Talkin Tarn and surrounding areas. During May, **Yellow Wagtails**, now very scarce in north Cumbria at least, were seen near Longtown by many observers. On 3rd May there was a **Little Gull** at Port Carlisle (RA) and the same observer (with PQ) reported a **Blue-winged Teal** and a **Garganey** (both males) at Arthuret Gravel Pits near Longtown on 18th May. There must be a possibility that the former (a North American species) was an escape. A pair of **Greylag Geese** on Talkin Tarn on 9th May had 4 small goslings, so must have nested nearby. The same site in early June produced such unusual visitors for the time of year as a pair of **Shoveler** on 2nd and 3rd drake **Wigeon** on 6th and 7th. Also of note was a **Goshawk** over my house at Milton, Brampton on 30th June.

The autumn saw the usual wader passage, including **Little Stints** and **Curlew Sandpipers** at Anthorn and a **Spotted Redshank** at Port Carlisle, where there was another **Little Gull** on 29th August. Of note in September were an **Australian Shelduck** near Abbeytown (an escape from captivity) on 19th (SG). A **Guillemot** unusually far inshore was at Glasson Point on 11th (R&SG) but even more remarkable was a **Puffin** on the river at Cummersdale on the previous day (GH) – both no doubt a result of strong westerlies.

Late autumn was notable for the scarcity, or even absence, of some of the winter visitors – is climate change affecting their departure from the far north? **Pink-footed** and **Barnacle Geese** plus **Whooper Swans** seem to have arrived on normal dates and in the usual numbers: Whoopers numbered almost 100 in the Kirkbride area with fewer around Rockcliffe and a handful at Talkin Tarn. **Redwing** were a bit late but in good numbers but the usually associated **Fieldfares** were much later and not in large numbers. There was only one report of **Brambling** – in Greystoke Forest on 16th October (IA) until a few showed up at the normally reliable site of Talkin Tarn in mid December. Both **Merlin** and **Hen Harrier** were reported from the Solway Plain in mid November and a pair of **Gadwall** was at Talkin Tarn for most of November and early December. Larger numbers of this species were seen at Longtown but no details are available. **Goldeneye** were extremely scarce at Talkin and few were reported elsewhere and although **Goosander** were more regular, they were only present in ones and twos instead of the flock which can number 100 or more. There was an **American**

Wigeon at Campfield in late November (NF).

A **Swallow** at Anthorn on 22nd October was late but not remarkably so, but a **House Martin** at Hynam Shield, Geltsdale on 28th November really was remarkable (JM). **Ravens** are being seen more frequently in lowland areas lately. The first reported were 17 passing over Greystoke Forest in 2 hours on 8th September (IA), then 2 over Wigton on 2nd November (RH); 7 at Newton Marsh on 12th November (FM) and one at Talkin Tarn on 16th December. Other notable observations include a flock of c.70 **Stock Doves** in a cut Maize field near Farlam on 21st October, with a party of 8 **Tree Sparrows** in the same area. Both **Canada Geese** and **Mute Swans** reached record numbers at Talkin Tarn, with 60 of the former on 2nd December and 19 of the latter in mid December. There was a **Smew** there on 8th December only and 5 **Bewick's Swans** rested briefly on the morning of 19th December. Finally there were reports of both **Leach's** and **European Storm-petrels** in the Solway in mid-December (JM).

Insects

One very prominent feature of the late summer and autumn was the arrival of a record number of **Hummingbird Hawk-moths**. The first record was on 10th June at Burgh-by-Sands (R&SG) and sightings continued until the last (very late) one at Dalston on 26th November (GH). So far a total of 37 records have been entered into the Tullie House Biological Records database, which is 12 more than the previous best year (2003). After the early record in June, there were 6 more that month, then 7 in July, 3 in August, a peak of 16 in September and just 2 in October. The sightings were distributed all over lowland Cumbria apart from the south-west. Late sightings (of adults) may indicate there will be attempts at hibernation.

Speckled Wood Butterflies have been seen in increasing numbers during the past few years, but have been restricted in range to the far south of the county. This autumn there were at least 6 records north of the usual sites, and some much further north than previously recorded. Blelham Tarn on 22nd September (DJC), although quite far south, is sufficiently detached from the main sites to be noteworthy. All the other records were much further north, viz. Dalston on 22nd September (PW); Burnbanks on 23rd and 25th September (D&WW); Finglandrigg on 28th September (CA); Bowness-on-Solway on 12th October (LS) and Selbystown on 13th October (MS). It will be interesting to see whether any of these have resulted in the founding of new colonies.

In recent years **Small Skippers** have just established a toehold in Cumbria but apart from one at Greystoke, sightings in previous years have been well to the

south and mainly at Smardale. So far there have been 3 or 4 reports at new sites, namely Glasson Moss on 1st and 3rd July (RA), with others in the south at Meathop Moss on 1st July (SL) and Haverigg on 26th July (RH).

Thirty-three records of **Clouded Yellows** have been submitted so far, making the third highest year on record for Cumbria. The dates range from 28th June at Meathop (IB) to 24th October in Barrow (TD). There were 3 in July, 17 in August and 11 in September. Another unusual record was a Holly Blue in my garden at Milton, Brampton on 28th July – presumably of the second brood.

It has been an excellent summer for dragonflies and most of the unusual occurrences are mentioned elsewhere in this issue. Also of interest were **Downy Emeralds** found breeding for the first time ever on Derwentwater (L&JR), their northernmost Cumbrian locality to date. **Migrant Hawkets**, which started to appear in the county only a few years ago, seemed locally frequent in the central Lake District in September/October – despite lack of previous records so far from the coast. Double-figure numbers were present at Blelham Tarn and Loughrigg Tarn, and mating and egg-laying were noted at both (DJC; L&JR; MR). Hopefully, local emergence will be detected for the first time in 2007.

Botanical records

These have included a welcome re-find of **Pyramidal Bugle** (*Ajuga pyramidalis*) in the Kentmere valley (FJR) – its only Cumbrian site, rarely confirmed since discovery of this, its most southerly UK locality, in the 19th century by J. Backhouse. Fungi of note have included two species of unimproved grassland: **Nitrous Waxcap** (*Hygrocybe nitrata*) on Orton Scar – a fourth county record, and the Biodiversity Action Plan **Pink Waxcap** (*H. calyptriformis*) at two new sites in the county – Aira Force, Ullswater, and Sale Fell, Bassenthwaite (all SMH, autumn 2006); the scarce pine-wood specialist **Cauliflower Fungus** (*Sparassis crispa*) was found at Hawes End, Derwentwater, in November (DI).

Pink Waxcap

(David Clarke)



Recorders

A&MA Anne & Mike Abbs; IA Ian Armstrong; RA Roy Armstrong; CA Colin Auld; IB Ian Brodie; DJC David Clarke; TD Tamsin Douglas; NF Nick Franklin; SG Steve Garner; R&SG Russell & Sara Gomm; SMH Steve Hewitt; DI Dorothy Iveson; RH Robin Hodgson; GH Geoff Horne; SL Steve Lane; FM Frank Mawby; JM John Miles; PQ Peter Quinn; L&JR Linda & John Reinecke; MR Mo Richards; FJR Jeremy Roberts; LS Liz Still; MS Malcolm Stott; JS John Strutt; D&WW Dave & Wendy Walker; PW Peter Wilson.

Geoff Naylor and Editor

Field Meetings

1st July: Witherslack area

Leader: David Clarke

A good number met up at the Witherslack rendezvous – one member having attracted (or caught) the attractive wasp-mimicking timber beetle *Clytus arietis* on his car roof! We followed the route of previous visits, first checking the bracken/bramble areas bordering the football pitch behind Witherslack Hall. There were far fewer nectar-rich flowers this season (due presumably to its lateness) and in consequence butterflies needing them were much harder to find. Dark Green Fritillaries were the most abundant of three species expected; of the others, High Brown and Silver-washed we had only a few fleeting, and often distant and indeterminate, views. We moved on through the woodland encountering numerous Speckled Wood Butterflies as we progressed towards the small clearing with a limestone spring seepage. A Northern Brown Argus here appeared briefly and we had some good close encounters with Golden-ringed Dragonflies – a female egg-laying and males disputing territory. In the heat of the day, we decided not to continue up to the top of the scar but to move on to our other venue.

The original plan was to visit Foulshaw Moss but we elected instead to go Cumbria Wildlife Trust's Barkbooth Lot Reserve near Bowland Bridge. This proved a good choice and we immediately found a wider range of butterflies, including Common Blue, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and the previously elusive High Brown. The two water-bodies on the site proved the star attraction. A variety of dragonflies and damselflies were very active at both. At the Reservoir a male Emperor was almost constantly present, and a late Downy Emerald was found resting nearby. The small tarn was equally productive, with an Emperor (possibly not the same one) also often present. The few exuviae round the tarn edge were of Common Darters, which were already on the wing. Steve Hewitt gave us an impressive demonstration of how to find the Medicinal Leech (a rare and protected species for which there is a UK Biodiversity Action Plan). Wading

barefoot in the muddy shallows quickly resulted in almost torpedo-like behaviour in which two leeches homed in to his legs. He returned them to their habitat after quite a short interval!

As we were near the River Winster, we decided to finish the day by checking for presence of the Beautiful Demoiselle at Bowland Bridge. Although there was little suitable marginal vegetation here, we did at least succeed in finding one or two and enjoyed a close look at one we caught.

The day being hot and sunny, the party had some difficulty in passing the local hostelry for a second time and retired for welcome liquid refreshment before leaving for home.

David Clarke

5th August: Borrowdale Wildlife

Leader: Jeremy Roberts

Eight members met at Great Wood car park for the field meeting at Borrowdale. The first part of the day was spent along the Derwent Water lakeside. In the wooded area as we approached the lake we saw patches of Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea lutetiana*) attractively topped with flowers and fruits ripening below. A little further on Jeremy pointed out the hybrid between this and the Alpine Enchanter's-nightshade – Upland Enchanter's-nightshade (*C. ×intermedia*). Superficially this looks very like the common Enchanter's-nightshade being of a similar size but the leaves of the hybrid are more wrinkled and pointed and the fruits drop off readily without ripening. Also in this wooded area between the road and the lake we found vivid green Remote Sedge (*Carex remota*), a luxuriant growth of Pale Sedge (*Carex pallescens*) with its heads looking like miniature corn on the cob, and the grass Wood Melick (*Melica uniflora*).

The recent hot, dry weather meant that there was more than usual beach exposed along the lake edge. We inspected vegetation that had been washed up by the waves onto the lake shore. By dissecting the masses of green weed we discovered various plants present. The dominant species was the invasive New Zealand Pigmyweed (*Crassula helmsii*), a water plant that had not been found in Derwent Water 15 years ago. Another abundant introduction present was Nuttall's Pondweed (*Elodea nuttallii*). Next we found several types of small rosettes of plants that would normally grow on the substrate below the water surface. Breaking of a leaf of one of the rosettes we saw two channels in cross-section – this was the Water Lobelia (*Lobelia dortmanna*). The similar looking Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*) had leaves that were spongy in cross-section. Pieces of yet another similar green material had four channels in cross-section and this proved to be the Quillwort (*Isoetes lacustris*). Minute flowering forms of the Shoreweed

and the Pygmyweed were found on the gravelly shore too. Surprisingly large amounts of the Red Data Book plant Floating Water-plantain (*Luronium natans*) with rosettes of strap-like leaves connected by white stolons were also present washed up on the shore. Later we saw some growing on mud at the water edge with the typical aerial spoon-shaped leaves.

As we walked southwards along the shore we passed patches of Slender Rush (*Juncus tenuis*), Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), Greater Burnet (*Sanguisorba officinalis*), and Purple Loosestrife (*Lythrum salicaria*) growing higher up on the gravel. Insects seen included Common Blue damselflies, Peacock butterflies and a Water scorpion (*Nepa cinerea*) on the water edge. After lunch we walked through the woods behind the shore. Touch-me-not Balsam (*Impatiens noli-tangere*) was in flower. We scanned the plants looking for Netted Carpet moth caterpillars, but found none. Jeremy took us to see a particularly spectacular large oak tree that had three species of lungwort lichen growing on its trunk – *Lobaria pulmonaria*; *Lobaria virens*, a flatter green lichen that was bearing brown apothecia; and the rarest in Cumbria, *Lobaria amplissima*.

Crossing the road we climbed upwards through an area of bracken and spotted a Raven overhead. Soon Jeremy was drawing our attention to Alpine Enchanter's-nightshade (*Circaea alpina*) growing under the bracken. This plant is much smaller than its relatives that we had seen earlier in the day. As we made our way back to the Great Wood car park we saw the Tall Fescue (*Festuca altissima*), a plant whose distribution is restricted to ravines.

Once back at the car park we moved on to the Bowder Stone car park to visit Cummaccatta Wood. Here we were lead to a large boggy area was dominated by White Beak-sedge (*Rhynchospora alba*). The area is floristically fascinating, with the eyebright *Euphrasia scotica*, Round-leaved Sundew (*Drosera rotundifolia*), Butterwort (*Pinguicula vulgaris*), Bog Bean (*Menyanthes trifoliata*), Bog Pimpernel (*Anagallis tenella*), and the Lesser Clubmoss (*Selaginella selaginoides*). The Devil's-bit Scabious (*Succisa pratensis*) and Grass-of-Parnassus (*Parnassia palustris*) were just coming into flower beside the wet stoney flushes. Two bracket fungi – Hoof Fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*) and Birch Bracket Fungus (*Piptoporus betulinus*) – were seen on an large dead Downy Birch.

Dark pools of water lay between the hummocky *Sphagnum* mosses in the wetter areas. The insects seen included Silver-Y moth, three dragonflies – Black Darter, several Golden-ringed, and a Keeled Skimmer – while the big horsefly *Tabanus sudeticus* was observed laying its eggs on rush stems. The area was a new discovery for most of us, who no doubt will return on other occasions.

As we walked back up the road to the cars we all thanked Jeremy Roberts for leading us on a particularly good day over one of the most attractive areas in Cumbria.

Marie Saag

Notes & Records

Six-stamened Waterwort (*Elatine hexandra*) discovered at Talkin Tarn

On 28th September 2006, while at Talkin Tarn, I noticed patches of a small green plant growing on the substrate at depths of about 20cm and more. Having seen the Six-stamened Waterwort (*Elatine hexandra*) very recently in Windermere the 'jizz' bells rang in my head. A diminutive little plant, with short stems rooting at the nodes, which bear pairs of small oval leaves, it spreads along the sandy or silty substrate, forming dense, vividly-green patches, and even flowers underwater. Shoots collected on 6th October by Jeremy Roberts were carrying flowers in all stages of development from bud to ripe fruit releasing seed.

The plant is growing in some abundance at Talkin Tarn this year, in association with Shoreweed (*Littorella uniflora*), and Alternate Water-milfoil (*Myriophyllum alterniflorum*), especially in depths of about 40 to 60cm. Some patches were up to 50 cm across, although most were smaller. The plant was most abundant and



Six-stamened Waterwort (stem 2.5x; flower 5x)

(Jeremy Roberts)

luxuriant along the south-west shore north of the Tarn End Hotel, with more scattered patches along the south and east shores.

Currently, deeper water is dominated by masses of rooted Nuttall's Waterweed (*Elodea nuttallii*), a vigorous alien plant, which is likely to have a shading-out effect. There are no records of *Elatine hexandra* at Talkin Tarn in the past, the nearest known locations being Thurstonfield Lough and Longtown Ponds. If it had been as abundant in the past at Talkin Tarn as it is today then Ralph Stokoe or others would have been likely to find it. This prompts me to think that either it has been present in very small amounts up until now and is suddenly flourishing or that it is a recent arrival. It will be interesting to observe what happens over the next few years.

My thanks go to Jeremy Roberts who confirmed my initial identification and helped to ascertain its distribution within the tarn.

Marie Saag, 3 Castle View, Hayton, Carlisle CA8 9HH

An invading harvestman?

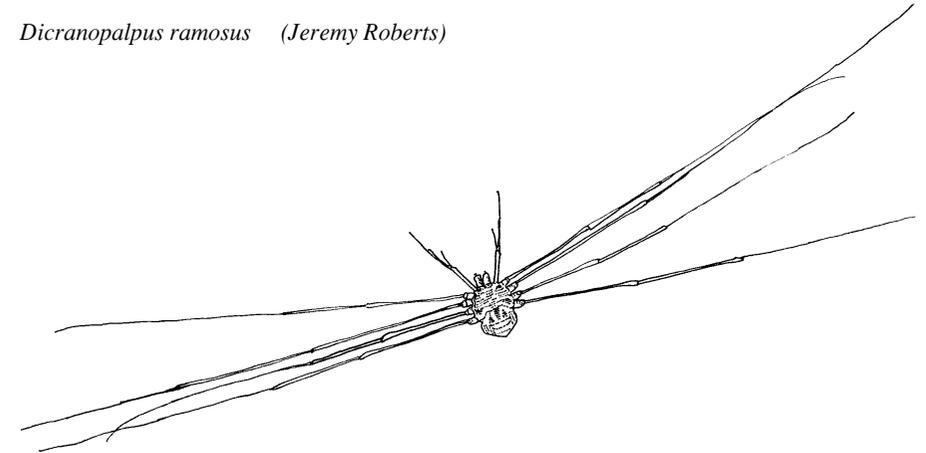
On 9th September I happened to notice a harvestman (or harvest-spider; Class Arachnida, Order Opiliones) resting in a very exposed position on the north wall of our house at Wetheral Pasture on the southeast side of Carlisle.

I was struck by the arrangement of the legs, which were all stuck out perpendicularly from the body, parallel and in 'bundles'. Not being able to recollect seeing harvestmen resting in that posture, I wondered if this might be a different species, and took some photos. The other striking feature was the pair of very long palps – about twice as long as the body – with a shorter 'branch' about halfway along. When I prodded it, it moved off – looking distinctly 'ordinary' whilst walking – before settling down again, and gradually bringing its legs into the same parallel arrangement.

A little research on the internet revealed a likely identification: *Dicranopalpus ramosus*, an African species which was originally described from Morocco in 1909. The first record from Portugal was in 1948; Spain in 1965; France in 1969 and Britain in 1957 (first record Bournemouth).

I e-mailed a photo to Dave Blackledge, who replied: 'This is indeed *Dicranopalpus ramosus*. The speadeagled resting posture and forked palp are diagnostic.' Dave also drew attention to the note by Neil Robinson in the Spider chapter of *Birds and Wildlife in Cumbria* in 2002, page 124, which details records from v.c. 70 at Eskdale Green (NY1400) in August 2002 and v.c. 69 at Natland (SD5298) in September of that year.

Dicranopalpus ramosus (Jeremy Roberts)



Geoff Naylor kindly checked the Tullie House records and found only four records, all by B. Savile in July 2003: Aira Force; Windermere; Brantwood; Humphrey Head.

It is probably already frequent in the Carlisle area, but it would be well worth keeping an eye out for it and reporting any occurrences.

With grateful thanks to Dave and Geoff for their contributions.

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

Birch Mocha moth (*Cyclophora albipunctata* (Hufnagel)) on Wedholme Flow

On the evening of Thursday 24th August, on the southern fringe of Wedholme Flow (NY21855127), a single Birch Mocha moth was drawn to a light trap at about midnight.

Three light traps were being run that evening along the edge of the moss by Russell and Sara Gomm, Richard Little and Frank and Shelagh Mawby. Two traps were on the peat bog on an area dominated by Heather and Bog Myrtle with much scattered scrubby birch. The third trap which drew the Birch Mocha was situated amongst well-developed Gorse and Bog Myrtle, and wet fen meadow dominated by Soft Rush. The nearest birch woodland lay some 50 metres to the east of the trap site. The moth was captured and identified by Sara and Shelagh. The evening was clear calm and cool.

The Birch Mocha has not been reported from North Cumbria for almost 100 years.

A search for 'Birch Mocha' on Tullie House Museum's *Virtual Fauna of Lakeland* website (www.lakelandwildlife.co.uk) returns records for the following parishes in the Solway area: Burgh-by-Sands (last recorded 1882), Carlisle (1882) and Hayton (1913). The only relatively recent record for the county is from Beetham parish in the south of the county, in 1978. However, I note from the Natural England site files that I recorded this species at Finglandrigg Wood NNR in June 1989.

Full list for the evening for three traps was:

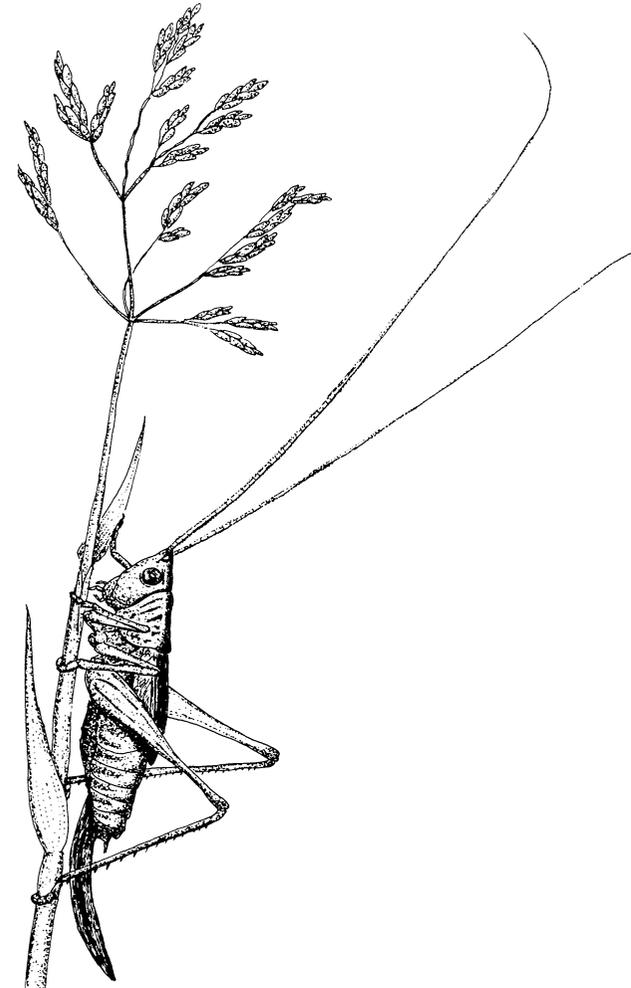
Ear moth agg (<i>Amphipoea</i> agg)	23+
Crescent (<i>Celaena leucostigma leucostigma</i>)	17+
Large Yellow Underwing (<i>Noctua pronuba</i>)	5
Sallow (<i>Xanthia ictertia</i>)	4+
Square Spot Rustic (<i>Xestia xanthographa</i>)	4+
Flounced Rustic (<i>Luperina testacea</i>)	3+
Common Marbled Carpet (<i>Chloroclysta truncate</i>)	3+
Canary Shouldered Thorn (<i>Ennomos alniaria</i>)	3+
Silver Y (<i>Autographa gamma</i>)	2
Antler (<i>Cerapteryx graminis</i>)	2
Neglected Rustic (<i>Xestia castanea</i>)	2
Common Rustic (<i>Mesapamea secalis</i>)	2
Small Wainscot (<i>Chortodes pygmina</i>)	1
Common Carpet (<i>Epirrhoe alternata alternata</i>)	
Angle Shades (<i>Phlogophora meticulosa</i>)	
Birch Mocha (<i>Cyclophora albipunctata</i>)	
Double Striped Pug (<i>Gymnoscelis rufifasciata</i>)	
Oblique Carpet (<i>Orthonama vittata</i>)	
Dark Arches (<i>Apamea monoglypha</i>)	
Haworths Minor (<i>Calaena haworthii</i>)	
Lesser Yellow Underwing (<i>Noctua interjecta caliginosa</i>)	
Rush Veneer (<i>Nomophila noctuella</i>)	

Frank Mawby, Wayside, Kirkbride, Carlisle CA5 5JR

Short-winged Cone-head (*Conocephalus dorsalis* (Latreille)) new to Cumbria

On 30th July I visited the Cumbria Wildlife Trust reserve at Humphrey Head near Grange over Sands. On the Sea Rush (*Juncus maritimus*)/Common Cordgrass (*Spartina anglica*) saltmarsh, seaward of the embankment on the west side of the Head (SD390740-SD388741), I tried out my bat detector to see if I could pick up the calls of any grasshoppers or crickets and was amazed at the tremendous sound from the rushes. The song of crickets was all through the rushes and also coming

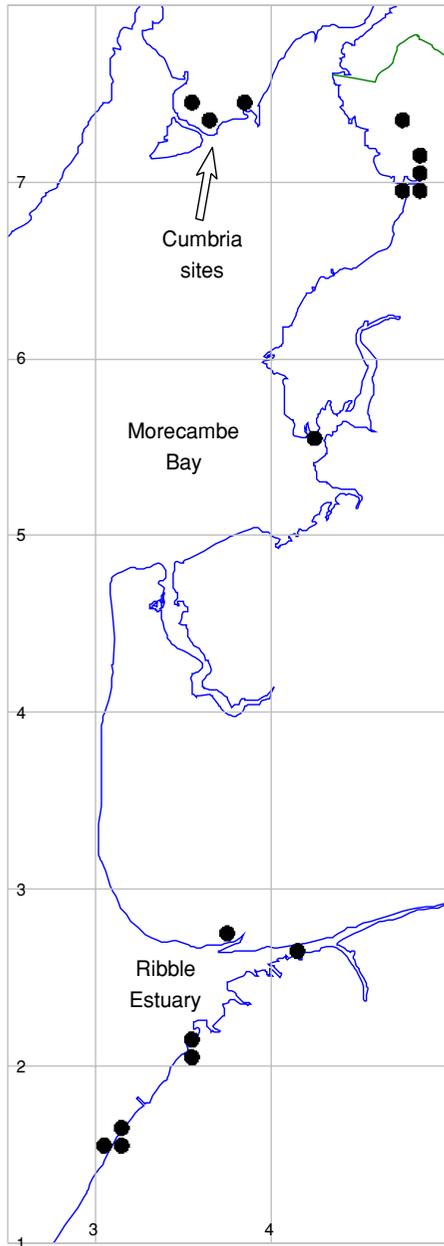
Short-winged Cone-head (Stephen Hewitt)



from the *Spartina*. The insects were very hard to see in the rushes, but in the low *Spartina* we quickly found six specimens, both males and females, on the flowering stems and were able to confirm their identity as Short-winged Cone-heads (*Conocephalus dorsalis*). The cone-heads do a very quick flip round the stem as soon as they are aware of anything looking at them, so they are easy to miss unless there are several pairs of eyes. In September, with the aid of a bat detector, Wendy Nelson was able to pick up the species nearly four kilometres further west at Gully Nab, SD3574.

Until 2002 when it was first found on the Ribble marshes, Anglesey was the furthest north this species was known on the west side

Short-winged Cone-head:
distribution in NW England



of Britain. In September last year after seeing it at Marshside RSPB reserve on the Ribble Marshes, I found it on Sea Rush in the saltmarshes west of Leighton Moss, SD4773. Then in June this year Jeremy Steeden swept nymphs from the north side of the Ribble Estuary in Sea Club-rush (*Bolboschoenus maritimus*) SD3727 and SD4126. A month later, with a bat detector, Linda Renshaw found cone-heads stridulating amongst Common Reed (*Phragmites australis*) on the River Keer estuary (SD4871) and in September I was able to track the song south along the coast as far as Bolton-le-Sands, SD4769. On a rather cool day late in September I heard one male near the south end of the Heysham peninsula, SD4255. However I could not find it, even on a beautiful sunny day, on the Cockerham Marshes.

Since the Short-winged Cone-head is a small bush cricket, well camouflaged with its green sides and brown dorsal stripe, and with a very high-pitched call inaudible to many ears, it must be readily over-looked. The abundance of specimens at Humphrey Head suggests it must have been there for a few years at least. At this rate, it cannot be long before it is found on the Solway marshes and it would be well worth searching there with the aid of a bat detector on a calm sunny day between late July and the end of September. It seems just to need some shelter and warmth in damp long(ish) vegetation.

Another notable species recorded on

the Humphrey Head reserve in July was the Speckled Bush-cricket (*Leptophyes punctatissima*). Wendy Nelson was sure she had seen one sunning itself on shrubs along the hedge beside the lane at the foot of the headland (SD388742) a few days before our visit. With the bat detector we picked up the very distinctive short sharp click repeated after several second intervals, but in spite of careful searching we were not able to see the insect. The only other Cumbrian localities for this spectacular insect are St Bees Head where it was first found by Roy Atkins in 1992 and around Whitbarrow Scar where it was first noted by Stephen Hewitt in 1998.

Dr Jennifer Newton, Holly House, 94 Main Street, Hornby, Lancaster LA2 8JT

Further records of the Birch Sawfly (*Cimbex femoratus* (Linn.)) and related species

Some records of this rarely encountered large sawfly were given in my note in *Carlisle Naturalist* 13.1 p. 8 (2005). Very recently, Bob Wright has shown me two photographs from Blackmoss Pool (NY44), not far from a site mentioned in the article. One of these shows an adult insect photographed on 21st July 1985, and is clearly of this species.

The other image is of a large sawfly cocoon attached to a leafy birch twig, taken in 1993. It is brown in colour and well-attached length-wise to the twig, which was about two metres above ground. One end of the cocoon is missing and has been very neatly opened to the full diameter by being bitten off by the emerging insect. As mentioned in my note, *C. femoratus* pupates in leaf litter. The identity of the cocoon-maker must remain a little in question, but the related, and smaller, cimbicid species of the genus *Trichiosoma* pupate on twigs and *T. lucorum*, the larvae of which feed on birch, seems the most likely, but not the only, species possible. As records of this genus are also infrequent, this is at least evidence worth noting. I should be keen to hear of any other instances. Cocoons that are apparently still viable (i.e. intact) should be recorded and their exact location pin-pointed in some way if possible (so that they could be re-found). Preferably, they should not be removed from the habitat. Opened cocoons could safely be collected.

David Clarke, Burnfoot, Cumwhitton, Brampton, Cumbria CA8 9EX

The Bog Bush-cricket – first evidence of an established population at Wedholme Flow

On the evening of August 13th 2006 F and SM put out a ‘Heath’ moth trap on the southern fringe of Wedholme Flow (South Solway Mosses National Nature Reserve) at NY219513. This area is difficult to access and consequently not visited regularly. The vegetation here fitted the description of the habitat of the Rosy Marsh Moth (*Coenophila subrosea*) and the prospect of possible occurrence

of this species had prompted the effort.

The trap was left out overnight and collected at around 8a.m. the following morning and taken back home. On opening the trap, the first insect to jump out was a large 'grasshopper'. It was eventually captured and quickly identified as a Bog Bush-cricket (*Metrioptera brachyptera*). A photograph was taken for confirmation. The insect (an adult female) and the moths trapped that evening were released later the same day back onto the area where they were captured.

This part of Wedholme has not changed greatly in the past thirty years, other than the scrub growth being taller, giving it more enclosed feel. This area fortunately missed being burnt by fires in the Spring of 1988 and again twice during the 1990s. It has probably not been burnt over for at least thirty years or even longer - quite an achievement in an area where late-winter burning was until recent years a regular occurrence. There has been some drain-damming in this area as part of recent management. The *Sphagnum* carpet under the heath plants has more than 75% cover and has a natural hummock/hollow structure.

Following this exciting find, S and RG set out on the following day to see if any more insects could be located - using a mini-bat detector to convert the rather weak, high-pitched song to more audible frequencies. Within minutes of arriving at the site where FM had trapped, they succeeded in finding at least fifteen singing males and a number of females, disturbed by their movement through the undergrowth. After spending nearly twenty minutes on the site it began to rain, the singing stopped, and they abandoned further searching.

During the next couple of weeks a few more hours were spent in likely habitat on Bowness Common, Drumburgh and Glasson Mosses, without success, recording only common 'short-horned' grasshoppers such as the Meadow, Common Green and Mottled grasshoppers, and the Common Ground-hopper (*Tetrix undulata*). It is hoped to carry out a more systematic and thorough search of likely places next year.

As the Bog Bush-cricket may well have disappeared from its single outpost in Scotland (*British Wildlife* Vol. 17 No. 5 June 2006), the present discovery underlines the interest and importance of the Wedholme population.

Frank & Sheila Mawby, Wayside, Kirkbride, Carlisle CA5 5JR
Russell & Sara Gomm, Demesne Farm, Main St, Burgh-by-Sands,
Carlisle CA5 6AW

[*Editor's note:* the only previous record of Bog Bush-cricket from the Solway Mosses was a single individual found by Stephen Hewitt in 1991 on the northern side of Wedholme Flow (NY207537). Subsequent searches (without the aid of a

bat detector) have failed to re-find any crickets in that area and it is most gratifying to finally locate what is possibly the most northerly extant British population of these spectacular insects.]

Black Stork over Lanercost

Part of the price to be paid for enjoying a large garden, and all the work that entails, is a narrowing of one's horizons. Whilst I'd hate to think I've become a slave to my garden, inevitably I have to spend a lot of time in it - time that in the past I might have spent in the field exploring new bits of country. The flip-side, of course, is that you get to know your 'local patch' (i.e. your garden) intimately. Because this is slap-bang in the middle of the Irthing valley, I'm able to enjoy some 'borrowed' countryside too, along with the wildlife that goes with it.

In the six years that I've been here, I've discovered that the Irthing valley is a genuine migratory 'flyway' for many different birds. I've been surprised that birds one would normally associate with the coast, such as Shelduck, Greenshank and Whimbrel, are regularly to be seen, or heard, flying over the valley. Perhaps because it is such a busy 'flyway' it was only a matter of time before a real treat would come along. Of course, you have to be there to see it when it does so.

I happened to be in the right place at the right time on the 8th June this year.



Black Stork (Jeremy Roberts)

Having got home from work, I took a stroll down the garden to see what had changed since I did the same thing the day before (June's like that). I was distracted by the anxious calls of the pair of Oystercatchers that nest in the field in front of my house. Looking up I saw that they were mobbing a large black and white bird. My first thought was Osprey, which I've seen overhead here a couple of times, but it didn't look right. I ran to the house, grabbed my binoculars and quickly found the bird again (not too difficult because the Oystercatchers were still mobbing it). It wasn't a bird of prey at all. Instead it was a stork, a Black Stork. Whilst the bird was clearly high in the sky, the Oystercatchers were very small beside it, I found it difficult to estimate how far away it was from me (perhaps 300 m). However, it was a perfect summer evening. It was cloudless, the bird was slightly to the south-east of me and with the sun in the west, the visibility was perfect: so good that its reddish trailing legs and bill could be clearly seen along with its black head and neck (held stiffly outstretched, quite unlike a Heron), black wings and white under-parts. The bird was in view for the full three or four minutes that it took to circle overhead (perhaps it was looking at the river) and drift north over Haytongate and Hadrian's Wall. In all the time my wife and I watched it, the stork flapped its wings just the once in a very slow, languid manner.

Although the weather conditions were perfect here in Cumbria, the east coast was 'enjoying' a south-east wind with the sea haar that usually accompanies it. Perhaps the stork had got lost over the southern North Sea and found itself over the north of England. I wonder what happened to it next?

Mike Gardner, Burtholme Cottage, Lanercost, Brampton CA8 2HH

[Assuming only one bird was involved, Mike's observation falls into a pattern of wanderings of this individual over large tracts of northern England, which include: Whitburn, Co. Durham 16th May; Frosterly, Co. Durham 17th May; Plenneller, Northumberland 17th May; Wycham Forest, Yorkshire 23rd May; Filey, Yorkshire 23rd May; Lanercost 8th June; St Abbs area 7th-23rd; July; Blyth 23rd July. I am grateful to John Miles for obtaining the 'trail' details. The Black Stork is a summer migrant to its breeding grounds in eastern Europe, and a local resident in southern Spain. *Ed.*]

Dragonflies in Cumbria in July 2006

In sharp contrast to the period which preceded it, July, in Cumbria (and nationally) was hot and sunny almost throughout. This led to several interesting examples of how dragonflies respond to such situations - and perhaps a foretaste of events likely to recur.

A marked increase in records of the usually relatively scarce Emperor Dragonfly from many parts of the county soon became a feature. One at Dogber tarn at 550 metres a.s.l. above Warcop in the upper Eden valley on 13th July (JM) was in an atypical habitat, perhaps even suggesting possible movement from an easterly direction.

At a time when there were many sightings elsewhere in the UK, the finding of a Lesser Emperor (by NF) at Boaterby Quarry pool some 10 km SE of Carlisle on 14 July was a 'first' for the county. The site is a large, deep scrub-fringed pool, formerly a sand and gravel quarry, and not an especially notable dragonfly site. The lone male was the only aeshnid present at that time, and conspicuous when over the pool. However, it spent periods of up to 45 minutes at a time away from the water, making it sometimes difficult to trace. The insect remained there until at least 18th July.

At much the same time, four Black-tailed Skimmers (two males, two females) appeared at Tindale Tarn on the RSPB's Geltsdale Reserve, some 20km east of Carlisle. They were first found on 18th July (SW). This was only the second county record of the species (the first having been near the Gosforth in 2005 and also involving just a few individuals). Several instances of mating were observed. On the following day at the same site another obvious immigrant, the Red-veined Darter was yet another county 'first' (BP). The maximum count of individuals was on that day, when at least 6 males were noted. Numbers of both species gradually dwindled during the following week.

Two further species were yet to be added to the 'Tindale migrants' list. On 26th July DA & PW had a close view of a 'mystery' red darter with much yellow on its wings, and black all along the lower side of the abdomen. They were not able to photograph it, or to re-find it the next day, but some features clearly suggested a Yellow-winged Darter - which has been noted on only two previous occasions in Cumbria: the record is therefore somewhat tentative. Finally, on 28th July a male Ruddy Darter was seen by FJR and others, again out of normal range for this species. Movements of both of these species were a feature elsewhere at this time - including NE England.

Tindale Tarn is a large and rather wind-exposed upland water, at some 220 metres above sea level, in the NW foothills of the Pennines. Its character and location are

far from ideal for the migrants. This poses the interesting question of where these may have travelled from - there having been no reported sightings in the south of the county at that time. It is tempting to speculate that rather than having come from the south, they could have reached Cumbria from an easterly direction, perhaps through the 'Tyne Gap', aided by easterly winds. Another record of a Black-tailed Skimmer, from a country garden 10km NW of Tindale on 21st July (AM), seems to bear this out. Surprisingly, the only other report of Red-veined Darter was a male at the Lesser Emperor site on 26th July (CG) - again supporting the idea of an easterly rather than southerly origin for this species. The only other 'migrant' was the Broad-bodied Chaser: on 23rd July AS had a brief view of a male over his garden pond at Bowness-on-Solway, and there was at least one other sighting of this species in the south of the county.

Another presumed 'hot weather movement' was a small party of Banded Demoiselles on the river Kent at Kendal on 26th July (FG). This is the first record of this species from the south of the county, and is suggestive of a local movement northwards from Lancashire. In the north of the county there was further evidence of movement of this species: an interesting first-occurrence in the mid Eden valley, on the River Eamont near its confluence with the Eden on 27th July (DS). The numbers here (c. 12) were sufficient to suggest that the site may be worth following up as a potential breeding area.

Most of the above records seem to reflect dispersals in exceptional conditions, both locally and nationally. A change to cloudy conditions for the whole of August brought this episode effectively to a conclusion, though Emperors continued to be seen. The species new to the county this year are respectively the seventh and eighth to be added since 1995.

Recorders

DC: David Clarke; CG: Clive Griffiths; NF: Nick Franklin; FG: Fred Gould; DI: Dorothy Iveson; AM: Anthony Marshall; JM: John Martin; BP: Brian Pollinger; FJR: Jeremy Roberts; AS Alastair Servante; DS: David Scott; SW: Steve Westerberg; PW: Peter Wilson.

David Clarke

Damage to the vegetation of the Northern Pennines by the use of motorcycles and quad-bikes

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In the past few hundred years the Pennines have been used by farmers for grazing their animals and managed by landowners for grouse shooting. The farmers and keepers always accessed this isolated area via footpaths, bridleways and farm tracks on foot or on horseback up to around the 1930s and 1940s when motorised transport such as tractors and four-wheel drive vehicles began to be used. Most recently quad-bikes have joined these access resources. For many years there have been motor-cyclists venturing on to the fells. Indeed one of us can remember seeing groups on the summit plateau of Cross Fell almost twenty years ago, causing damage to the shallow peat. Earlier this year a group of motor-cyclists camped overnight on the same summit.

The formation of the Pennine Way in 1965 opened up the area to fell-walkers and as a result parts of this long distance path between Cross Fell and Little Dun Fell, Little Dun Fell and Great Dun Fell and parts of Knock Fell had paving stones laid to stop the quite serious erosion caused by walkers' feet. Motor-cyclists are keen to pit themselves and their machines against the obstacles presented by the landscape itself, and so obviously will not keep to the paved way, which in any case has many stretches in the form of steps intended for walkers, not wheeled traffic.

Erosion of the wettest ground is one of the most damaging features of the bikers' activities. Since 2000, damage by motorcycles and quad-bikes has increased dramatically. There are now organised groups who arrive in cars and vans with low-loaders in tow and up to twenty scramble bikes on board. Such off-road enthusiasts come from as far away as Bolton in Lancashire and Liverpool. When challenged the bikers maintain they have the right to be there, one group causing damage to a farmer's allotment above Ousby claiming that "we have the right to roam".

Under section 34 of the Road Traffic Act 1988 it is an offence to drive a motor vehicle without permission on to common land, moorland or land of any

description that does not form part of a road. It is also an offence under that section to drive a motor vehicle on a footpath or bridleway. Unfortunately this did not apply to off-road vehicles, and some motorcycles (for example scramble motorcycles). An amendment to section 34 was included in the Countryside and Rights of Way Act 2000 which had the effect of extending to off-road vehicles the offence under section 34 of the 1988 Act. This came into force on 1 February 2001.

Affected areas include stretches from Green Fell above Ousby, south along the summits via Cross Fell, Little Dun Fell, Great Dun Fell and Knock Fell veering east to Dufton Fell and on towards Meldon Fell. Most of this ground is above 600m, with Cross Fell the highest point at 893m. It consists mainly of the uplifted bands of Carboniferous limestone, gritstone and shale, with lines of variously enriched springs flowing from just below the summits giving rise to extensive flushed areas down the slopes, many with rare and protected species in their communities. These vulnerable habitats, totally dependent on their fragile drainage systems, are without doubt most at risk of damage by motorcycles.

The summits, especially Cross Fell with its extensive plateau and to a lesser extent, Little Dun Fell, have a drier Woolly Fringe Moss (*Racomitrium lanuginosum*)/Stiff Sedge (*Carex bigelowii*) sward on their tops whilst Green Fell, Dufton Fell, Meldon Fell and the Bulman Hills (one of the most spectacular examples of giant glacial erratics known in the northern Pennines) have areas of limestone grassland with several rare species. Both of these habitats have numerous motorcycle tracks criss-crossing them.

The blanket bog communities are mainly on the lower slopes and their very nature tends to discourage the motor-cyclists, exceptions being areas such as the Trout Beck track from Great Dun Fell down to the Moor House access road at Trout Beck bridge. This area has had considerable damage to some eroded peat areas and old mine heaps.

Melmerby and Ousby Fell have illegal gravel roads which were built in 2004 without planning permission by shooting interests, from the new Ousby Shooting Lodge to Black Burn Hut, and in 2005 from the Ousby Shooting Lodge down Swarth Beck to the top of the waterfall. According to one source, a track formed by motorcycle use is visible from Black Burn hut to Greg's Hut on the Pennine Way – thus giving an easily accessed circular route into what was once an essentially isolated area and part of the 'Moor House and Cross Fell Site of Special Scientific Interest'. Although these roads are gated, scramble-bikes can easily by-pass them.

Damage to habitats and bird life is discussed below:

Green Fell (above Ousby)

All the flushes on the northern and western side of Green Fell are criss-crossed with motorcycle tracks. One flush on the north-facing slope has the very rare arctic grass Alpine Foxtail (*Alopecurus borealis*) and Sheathed Sedge (*Carex vaginata*) discovered as recently as 2002. In 2002 this flush had a deep tyre track obviously caused by a scramble bike skidding, sliding and churning up the mud and vegetation all the way up its centre – a 'scar' still visible in 2004. Other flushes on the west side of Green Fell have many tyre marks through them and onto the limestone grassland summit. All these flushes have the two previously mentioned species in them, and Mossy Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hypnoides*), Hairy Stonecrop (*Sedum villosum*), Marsh Valerian (*Valeriana dioica*), Marsh Violet (*Viola palustris*) and other species (Robinson, 2003). The limestone grassland has the rare *Alchemilla glomerulans* (a Lady's-mantle), Moonwort (*Botrychium lunaria*) and Autumn Gentian (*Gentianella amarella*) as well as commoner limestone grassland species.

Cross Fell

The flat plateau of Cross Fell is well described by the late Derek Ratcliffe in his book 'Lakeland', Chapter 10 'The Pennines'. The 'Woolly Fringe Moss heath' he describes as declining is now recovering well due to reduced grazing since foot and mouth disease in 2001 but it is well tyre-marked by much motorcycle activity. On the northern flank the flushes again have taken the brunt of the damage. The extensive 'quaking bog' has effectively been partially drained by tyre channels running through it. One of these flushes has a large population of Alpine Foxtail, with hundreds of heads, first reported in 2002. This flush too has motorcycle tracks running through it. On the southern slopes of Cross Fell facing Little Dun Fell deep ruts have been made through some fine *Sphagnum* lawns with peaty debris churned up by the revving wheels and thrown onto the surface giving an unpleasant damaged appearance to a previously pristine site. Just below this area more ruts have effectively re-directed a small drainage channel from running down the east side of the fells to the west.

Areas between Cross Fell and Great Dun Fell

The motorcycle and quad-bike damage is at its most obvious in these areas. FJR notes how deep tyre ruts have damaged an area of montane mire. There are extensive flushed areas on all sides of these summits varying in pH, the more calcareous flushes on the eastern flanks of these fells supporting Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*), Hairy Stonecrop, Three-flowered Rush (*Juncus triglumis*),

Chickweed Willowherb (*Epilobium alsinifolium*), Alpine Willowherb (*Epilobium anagallidifolium*), Alpine Foxtail and many other associated species all dependent on the fragile drainage systems above them remaining intact.

Another remarkable flush with thousands of heads of Alpine Foxtail extends from a spring on the north side of Great Dun Fell, just below the summit almost to the lowest point between Great Dun Fell and Little Dun Fell. Even more remarkable was the discovery in 2005 in the same flush, of four extensive patches of Water Sedge (*Carex aquatilis*), covering an area of 860 m², not previously recorded in England in a montane locality (Roberts, 2005b): previous sites are by rivers or in lakeside swamps. Unfortunately this flush has seen a lot of motorcycle and quad-bike damage. In early 2006 a tractor and trailer was driven through the main Water Sedge patch causing some deep ruts. This use was sanctioned by English Nature in connection with the erection of a new fence and gate at Tees Head north of Little Dun Fell, which is to be part of the 'reheafing' of sheep to particular ranges. Unfortunately, the boggy nature of the ground at the saddles limits the options for routes across the ground for wheeled vehicles. For legitimate uses such as this, much care needs to be taken in attempting to find a drier route avoiding the more sensitive areas.

On the south facing slope of Little Dun Fell to the east of the Pennine Way bikers have run through a fine base-rich flush system with the rare Arctic-alpine moss *Meesia uliginosa*. Their tracks are not only destroying the plants but radically altering the dynamics of the drain- age of these flushes.

Knock Ore Gill & Green Castle

This area has some of the best Marsh Saxifrage flushes on the western side of the Pennines. In 2003 and 2004 it was noted that a quad-bike had been attempting to ride up one of these steep flushes. In August 2005 over the bank holiday week-end even more serious damage was done to this flush by people sliding down on a discarded towel; only time will tell whether this will heal or wash out. Species present in these flushes include Alpine Foxtail, Sheathed Sedge, Water Whorl-grass (*Catabrosa aquatica*), Three-flowered Rush, Mossy Saxifrage and Hairy Stonecrop. A small colony of Alpine Forget-me-not (*Myosotis alpestris*) has a few visible motor-cycle tracks passing nearby.

Knock Fell, Dufton Fell and Meldon Fell

There is evidence of motorcycle tracks along the summit grasslands and limestone grasslands but not on the same scale as the Dun Fells, Cross Fell or Green Fell. Again there are important flushes along here with Marsh Saxifrage, Alpine

Foxtail, Sheathed Sedge, Globeflower (*Trollius europaeus*) and *Euphrasia scottica* (an Eyebright), rare in the high flushes. There are also important limestone grasslands with Hair Sedge (*Carex capillaris*) and the very rare and protected Spring Gentian (*Gentiana verna*).

Near Knock Coal Shop there is an example of the kind of damage any interference to the natural drainage causes to these important habitats: a flush with Alpine Foxtail and Marsh Saxifrage has had a moor grip (drainage channel) dug across it. Immediately below this point the mineral rich water is drained off by the grip, and the flush below this point has reverted to acid mire identical to huge areas nearby. The result has been not simply to destroy part of a site with 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 (Roberts, 2004).

Bird life

Numbers and variety of birds are low along the main routes followed by bikers. However these include a number of important species. The Golden Plover is a nesting bird of the slopes and plateaux. It is a species of conservation concern and has a declining population. Increasing disturbance has been implicated in its decline, of which the noise and intrusion of bikers may be an important part. There is also the obvious risk of direct damage to nests, young, and nesting habitat. The Dotterel is now almost extinct as a nesting bird along the range and as with the Golden Plover the same threats from bikers apply. Other species of conservation concern which nest in areas actually or potentially disturbed or damaged by motorcycles are Dunlin, Short-eared Owl, Ring Ouzel, Merlin and Snipe. Breeding along Trout Beck are Common Sandpipers, Dippers, Ring Ouzel, Oystercatcher, Pied and Grey Wagtails and Teal. This is another area much affected by motorcycle intrusion.

Conclusions

This area is almost all under National Nature Reserve, Site of Special Scientific Interest or Special Area of Conservation designations, and also in an Area of Outstanding Natural Beauty. Ultimately the County Councils are legally bound to protect these areas. The failure to prevent the illegal Melmerby and Ousby Fell road from forming a circular route with the Pennine Way has left the area very vulnerable to this sort of vehicle damage.

Perhaps locking of some gates and erection of notices at access points stating the illegality of using them would help, although a notice put up by the Police at the entrance to the private track to Ousby Shedder was torn down.

The Parish Councils along with the Commoners along the fell bottom are keen to stop these motor cyclists after numerous complaints of damage. They are actively encouraging members of the public to report bikers to the Police and ask for their calls to be 'logged'. Some members of the public are already photographing and video-ing these bikes and attempting to note number plates.

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All material for publication should be sent to David Clarke, Tullie House Museum, Castle St., Carlisle CA3 8TP. Copy deadline for the next issue is:

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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 CD/DVD in rich text or plain text 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

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Field Meetings & Workshops 2007

5th May: *Thirlmere: upland birds*

Leader: Geoff Horne, dep: 9.30am; meet lay-by opposite Shoulthwaite Farm, NY300205, 10.30am.

9th June: *Sandscale Hawes NR, Askam-in-Furness – sand dune flora and fauna*

Leader at site: Pete Burton, dep: 9am (Carlisle leader: S. Hewitt); pay car park at venue: SD200/756, 11.15am.

23rd June: *Rockcliffe Marsh NR – saltmarsh birds and plants*

Leader: Mike Carrier, dep: 10.00am. Numbers limited, phone 07767-888-619 after 15th June to confirm interest.

14th July: *Smardale & Waitby Greenriggs – orchids and other flora of limestone*

Leader: Geoff Naylor, dep: 9.30am.

28th July: *Stable Hervey Moss, Coniston - dragonflies and other insects*

Leader: David Clarke, dep: 9.30am. Venue rendezvous SD281/915 – bridge over Black Beck, 11.00am - phone 07767-888-619 if going direct.

27th Oct: *Waxcaps and other fungi on Latrigg*

Leader: Steve Hewitt, dep: 9.30am.

Summer Workshops: *it is hoped to arrange at least one identification workshop at Tullie House (with afternoon field visit) later in the year – spiders and/or woodlice are amongst possible topics. Details will be mailed to all members.*