

The extraordinary lacewing *Drepanopteryx phalaenoides* (Linnaeus, 1758) found at Grafton Flyford, Worcestershire.

Gary Farmer

On 18th August 2019 I swept a leaf-like insect from low tree foliage at Grafton Flyford, Worcestershire SO9620 5574. Initially I thought it was a moth and after taking a reference photo of the insect in the sweep net (01) I lifted it out and placed it on a leaf to take a more 'natural' photo. To my surprise it drew out its head and neck from under its wings and revealed itself to be a lacewing (Neuroptera) (02 & 03). The distribution of this extraordinary 'living leaf' is noted as disjunct and as having centres of distribution in south-east and north England with isolated records from the Midlands (Plant 1997).



01. *Drepanopteryx phalaenoides* in net. Gary Farmer.



02. *Drepanopteryx phalaenoides* closed on leaf. Gary Farmer.



03. *Drepanopteryx phalaenoides* showing head. Gary Farmer.

Reference

Plant C.W. 1997. *A key to the adults of British Lacewings and their allies*. AIDGAP guide. Field Studies Council 9, pages 179 – 269.

Images

- 01. *Drepanopteryx phalaenoides* in net. Gary Farmer.
- 02. *Drepanopteryx phalaenoides* closed on leaf. Gary Farmer.
- 03. *Drepanopteryx phalaenoides* showing head. Gary Farmer.