

Field recording days 2015.

Harry Green

Three special field recording days were arranged for the summer of 2015 organised by Worcestershire Recorders and supported by Worcestershire Biological Records Centre, the latter managing the records on their database.

Shrawley Wood 6th June 2015, central grid reference SO806665.

Adjacent to Shrawley Village this ancient wood is nationally important for its extensive stands of Small-leaved Lime. It is SSSI and the section visited is managed by the Forestry Commission who kindly gave permission for us to visit. Part of the wood was planted with conifers in the past and these are gradually being removed by forestry operations. The north side is bordered by the Dick Brook. The southern blocks adjacent to Shrawley Wood House are privately owned and were not visited.

Lower Smite Farm, 4th July 2015, central grid reference SO893593

Lower Smite Farm, near Hindlip, north of Worcester, is Worcestershire Wildlife Trust headquarters. The farmland is managed in a wildlife friendly fashion coupled with practical farming and there are many trial areas cultivated with soil improvement in mind, also old hedges, grassland, scrub with young trees and ponds. Many thanks to WWT for permission to visit.

Yew View, Clevelode, 1st August 2015, central grid reference SO836469.

Yew View is a private house and garden on the west bank of the river Severn at Clevelode, between Upton-on-Severn and Powick. The visit was arranged via Kate MacRea (thank you Wildlife Kate!) with kind permission from the owner David Walker. The area is a mixture of garden, woodland, grassland, old orchard, pools, ponds and a frontage with the river Severn.

The aim of the field recording days is to obtain as many records of as many groups of plants and animals as possible to give a 'snapshot' for the day. Whether we succeed in this aim or not depends on who attends on the day and the weather conditions. 20-25 people booked for each recording day 2015 and attendance was 23, 20 and 19 people. A good range of expertise was present.

The results

The records for 2015 would normally be listed in this the November issue of *Worcestershire Record*. For a variety of reason this has not been possible this year. The lists will be published in the April 2016 number. However, here are a few points and pictures from the events. Also in this *Worcestershire Record* are articles by Will Watson, Martin Skirrow and Tony Simpson on discoveries at Clevelode..

Shrawley Wood

2015 was remarkable for the vast number of Small-leaved Lime seedlings as reported earlier (Green 2015). Mick Blythe recorded over 100 species of Diptera.

Lower Smite Farm

Fine weather, patches of *Phacelia* buzzing with bumblebees, and odd plants introduced with seed mixes on arable land were notable features. Following up on the use of artificial honeydew made of honey and Maraschino (devised by Italian hymenopterist Paolo Rosa) proved interesting in attracting certain bees and wasps. (Baldock 2015).

Yew View, Clevelode

This proved to be one of our most interesting recording days with records of a wide range of invertebrates including those from a pond rich in freshwater life and the river Severn. Notable observations were of Will Watson up to his waist in the pond and nearly up to his neck in the river but he did find a rare water beetle. Also the use of a small aquarium enabled photography of water scorpions and

sticklebacks and a nationally scarce dead wood feeding moth *Esperia oliviella* was found in the old orchard. A scarce bug *Oliarus panzeri* was also recorded. Water beetle, moth and bug are all reported elsewhere in this *Worcestershire Record*.

References

Baldock, D. 2015. Artificial honeydew. *BWARS Newsletter*, Spring 2015 page 25.
 Green, H. 2015. Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata*. Remarkable germination in 2015. *Worcestershire Record* 38:3.



01. Shrawley Wood. Small-leaved Lime seedling. Harry Green



03. Lower Smite Farm. Recorders amongst *Phacelia*. Harry Green



04. Lower Smite. Recorders on herb rich grassland. Harry Green



05. Lower Smite Farm. Recorders amongst scrub and young trees.



09. Yew View. The one that got away - Dave & Jane Scott (L & R) with Geoff Trevis. Harry Green



06. Lower Smite Farm. Recorders dragonfly watching. Harry Green.



10. Yew View. Will Watson in action. Harry Green



07. Lower Smite Farm. Harry Green spraying artificial honeydew.



08. Yew View. Flowers in tall grass. Harry Green



11. How to photograph a Water Scorpion - Rosemary Winnall in action. Harry Green

Images

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