

Worcestershire Recorders Field Recording Days 2022

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2022 saw three field recording days, all towards the south of the county and all well attended, despite varied weather.

Note: At the time of producing this issue of *Worcestershire Record* (number 50) we had received the following number of records per site: Naunton Beauchamp- 310. Wild Goose- 595. Green Farm- 271. **If you still have records to submit, please send them to WBRC as soon as you can.**

All records from these meetings will be published in the Spring 2023 edition of the *Worcestershire Record* (Number 51).

The first meeting was held on **4th June at Naunton Beauchamp**, visiting Naunton Court Orchard, an apple and pear orchard on ridge and furrow owned by the Vale Landscape Heritage Trust in the morning, and adjacent fields owned by The Heart of England Forest, including 12 acres of SSSI in the afternoon. The day was rather cold but 17 people came and quite a few species were recorded. The orchard has many veteran fruit trees, some fallen over and others at worryingly drunken angles. A mass of Apple Ermine *Yponomeuta malinellus* caterpillars were on one of the trees and a Pear Shortwing beetle *Glaphyra umbellatarum* was spotted on another. Green Tortoise Beetles *Cassida viridis* were found near the pond on mint *Mentha* sp.



01. Green Tortoise Beetles *Cassida viridis* found on mint *Mentha* sp. Naunton Court Orchard 04.06.22. Gary Farmer.



02. Apple Ermine *Yponomeuta malinellus* web and (inset) caterpillar, Naunton Court Orchard 04.06.22. John Taylor.



03. Recording at Naunton Beauchamp 04.06.22. Nicki Farmer.

The Heart of England fields are grazed or used as hay meadows, and the SSSI had an excellent show of meadow flowers including Ladies Bedstraw, Oyeye Daisy, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Dropwort and Knapweed. Small China-mark *Cataclysta lemnata* moths were found in the cattle trough, and near a small pond we found a particularly large Grass Snake. An alternative to wildlife spotting came in the form of various planes as the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight passed overhead from the Midlands Air Festival at Ragley Hall.



04. Aircraft from the Battle of Britain Memorial Flight passing over Naunton Beauchamp, 04.06.22. Nicki Farmer.

On 2nd July we recorded at **Wild Goose Rural Training**, near Grimley on the west bank of the Severn. Here old gravel settlement pits now host a 36acre nature reserve attached to a smallholding, both acting as a centre for training adults and young people about horticulture and nature. The old settlement pits provide a variety of habitats, one remaining as a large lagoon, the others are sandy habitats supporting willow seedlings and dry reed beds with sandy banks ideal for invertebrates. Until a few years ago, one of the pits contained quicksand!

Twenty people came, on a very wet day, with rain not stopping until well into the afternoon - hence the draw of the cafe was too strong for many. Many and varied plants were recorded. On the insect side, an Emperor Moth *Pavonia pavonia* larva was found in the undergrowth, and a Lunar Hornet moth *Sesia bembeciformis* came to a lure.



05. Emperor Moth caterpillar. Wild Goose Rural Traing 02.07.22. Rosemary Winnall.



06. Lunar Hornet Clearwing moth at lure. Wild Goose Rural Training 02.07.22. Rosemary Winnall.

The final meeting for the year took place in **August 6th at Green Farm** a Worcestershire Wildlife Trust reserve, a recent purchase of 59 acres of land abutting Monk Wood. 26 members attended this field meeting. We parked in the main Monk Wood car park and walked up through the wood to gain entry off the bridleway. Unfortunately the hay meadows had all been cut by this date, which reduced our recording results, the botanists amongst us did their best to make as many records as possible in the circumstances, picking through the drying hay to identify meadow plants. The drought and heat had dried up the wetter parts of the reserve leaving water in only one pool, where several species of dragonfly were noted including an inquisitive Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea*. A good amount of Wood Small-reed *Calamagrostis epigejos* was noted in the ditches around one of the hay fields. The hedges between the fields were nice and species rich, and included a lot of Small-leaved Lime *Tilia cordata* and Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*. A good number of insect records were made including a Hornet *Vespa crabro* nest,

Lesser Marsh Grasshoppers *Chorthippus albomarginatus*, a Nomad Bee *Nomada flavopicta*, a Wood White butterfly *Leptidea sinapis*, and a number of leaf miners new to the site. There were good numbers of Hirundines and flocks of Linnets over and around the fields, and Buzzard, Kestrel and Sparrowhawk were seen but the Hobby seen on the earlier reconnaissance visit failed to show. As it was such a hot day it gave us a good excuse to sit in the shade of a large tree and catch up on each other's' stories from the previous two restriction years.



07. Unfortunately the hay meadows had been cut before our visit to Green Farm, limiting the number of species records for the day. Nicki Farmer.



08. An inquisitive Southern Hawker *Aeshna cyanea* at Green Farm 06.08.22. Madi Farmer.

Images

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