

ADASTRA

2007



Peregrine falcon by Phil and Ben Everitt

**An annual review
of wildlife recording in Sussex**

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ADASTRA 2007

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EDITORIAL

YOUR RECORDS ARE SAFE WITH THE RECORD CENTRE

An aspect of a regional biodiversity record centre that is, perhaps, not appreciated as much as it should be is its ability to operate as a back-up facility for the wildlife records from the area concerned of any individual or group.

As we get deeper into the computer age, more and more of our data is committed to digital form. Notebooks and record cards do, of course, remain important but computerised material can be searched, rearranged and distributed so much more easily. People working on their own surely spend much time worrying about hard discs failing, computers catching fire (yes, I know, we all do regular back-ups) or all the other manifold ways in which years of recording work might simply be irretrievably lost.

Sending copies of your data to us (marked confidential if necessary) is a way of ensuring that if you do have the ultimate digital disaster, all your material is securely held by an agency whose business it is to ensure that no data is lost. Once you have had a strong cup of tea, done battle with your insurance company and set yourself up with replacement equipment, we can send all your records back to you so that you can pick up where you left off. Also, if you shuffle off this mortal coil rather more quickly than you had intended, you will have the comfort of knowing beforehand that all your records will be safe for posterity and continuing to do sterling service in the cause of conservation and a greater understanding of the natural world. As well as being a comfort to yourself, this will relieve your relatives of wondering what they ought to do with that vast mass of material they suspect you had tucked away in a computer somewhere, or on various CDs.

Most of our records at Woods Mill are digitally stored (we also have a library of old notebooks, survey reports and other material). If anything happens to the Centre, there is ample back-up provided. We also think in the much longer term about permanent 'deep storage' so that material is preserved through the most severe of human or natural disasters and can be passed on from system to system as the world of digital information changes and grows.

The permanency of recorded data has been a problem ever since writing was invented. One of the most robust systems (perhaps 'the original and still the best') was recording information on tablets of stone, or on fired clay like the ancient cuneiform scripts. Parchment and paper of various kinds has done well, but both deteriorate over long periods of years and very old data has to be kept under special conservation conditions. Printing has ensured that multiple copies of material can be produced and stored in many different parts of the globe. In some ways digital data may seem more fragile than this. It may be easily transmissible, but it is not kept in a thousand libraries because it is not necessary to do so in order to make the material generally available.

However, there is a growing awareness that much could be lost if material is not securely lodged in places other than your own computer(s). So make sure your contribution to knowledge is safe by sending in your records regularly.

THANKS TO OUR RECORDERS

I have found reading through a late draft of Adastra this year a real joy. What is written in these pages is for me the true beauty of biological recording – from the tiny to the shiny and from carapace to feather. Exclamations of excitement and the desire to share the exciting and meaningful experiences of seeking and finding out more about our Sussex biodiversity. It is a poignant reminder for us in the Record Centre of why we spend our time wrestling with databases and imports and exports and deadlines!

It would be honest to say that our 'end' of biological recording (the collation and dissemination of biological records) increases in complexity as technology moves on apace.....Meanwhile, in the natural world (where your bit of biological recording takes place), in the undergrowth, ditches and grasslands, the wonders of nature are more glorious than ever! Reading Adastra is a great reminder of this. New species turning up in Sussex and current species ebbing and flowing around us, influenced by a myriad of parameters, some of which are in our control, many of which are not.

In a nutshell, the principle reason for bringing all this information together about the whereabouts of our species and habitats is to ensure that this information is not lost and is used whenever necessary to influence what choices are made about our Counties.

This will be my 9th Recorders Seminar and so I feel confident to say that the use and relevance of your collated data has increased in importance exponentially. However the more your information is used, and the more pertinence it is given in planning and conservation decisions, the more crucial it is that we get data to the right people in the best format possible to make this mass of knowledge as useable as possible. Our team, over the last nine years has reflected this increase in the need for biodiversity data. It has grown from one to six staff, with the enduring support of volunteers like Alan Gillham and others. It is a comfort that those organisations that are relying on your records, to perform their statutory duty, or just their role as a positive conservation influence in Sussex, endorse the work of the Record Centre, to make this growth possible.

So it may sound from reading this article that we are bemoaning our fate of 'wrestling with databases' while the recorders get to go and have all the fun! This is simply not the case (though we do wrestle with databases, we do not bemoan our fate) as the satisfaction of seeing biodiversity records being used appropriately far outweighs any technical hangover that we may be suffering from.

My thanks as always extend to all of you who make the time to work with the Record Centre throughout the year, but particularly for those County Recorders who provide the halfway house between being out in the field and wrestling with databases. These County recorders work very hard to share your data in formats that work between our organisations. It is tough and unglamorous work, and we are extremely thankful for the time they put into it.

Henri Brocklebank, Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre Manager

ADASTRA RECORDING DAY AT BURWASH, EAST SUSSEX

by Penny Green, Biodiversity Records Officer, Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre

The SxBRC arranges regular field days when we invite recorders to join us in under-recorded areas in Sussex. All recorders are welcome to join in and explore areas where perhaps they wouldn't normally venture. Previous recording days have seen us at Powdermill Wood near Battle, Petworth Park, Friston Forest and Preston Park in Brighton. As well as collecting lots of new data for a site it is a great social event where recorders can catch up with each other and new-comers can get to know other people in the recording community. It is also a time when we can learn from others.

For the May 2007 recording day we worked in conjunction with the Sussex Botanical Recording Society (SBRS) to visit one of the unrecorded tetrads of the Sussex Flora project at TQ62S which is in the Burwash area. Over 30 enthusiasts turned out for a day of delving in to the various habitats around Burwash. With hand-lenses, pooters, binoculars and nets at the ready the group split in two in order to explore different areas (some of the SBRS group went in to the next tetrad TQ62T to survey for the Sussex Flora project). Everyone in the group moves at different speeds, with some crawling on the ground combing through the grass and others racing off to a pond that they can see in the distance, wildly waving their nets as they go.

We planned a route on footpaths (around 6km in total) which took us through woodland, arable farmland and orchards. There were many apparently ancient species-rich hedgerows to investigate too. The prevalence of hornbeam in the hedgerows may well be associated with the early iron industry, for which this area was renowned. Much to the delight of the group, we picnicked beneath a large **wild service tree** *Sorbus torminalis* and then found more examples in an adjacent hedgerow.

The route took us in to all four of the 1km squares of the tetrad so the SBRS could get maximum coverage for their survey. In TQ62S the SBRS gathered 110 new plant records with highlights including **early purple orchid** *Orchis mascula* and **green field-speedwell** *Veronica agrestis*, the latter being found in Burwash High Street. In TQ62T, where the 'offshoot' group went, 119 new plant records were found with **small-leaved lime** *Tilia cordata* and **plicate sweet-grass** *Glyceria notata* being of particular note.

Other exciting species found on the day included **brown argus** butterfly *Aricia agestis*, a variety of different ladybirds including an egg-laying **harlequin ladybird** *Harmonia axyridis*, two damselflies the **banded demoiselle** *Calopteryx splendens* and **beautiful demoiselle** *Calopteryx virgo*, **grass snake** *Natrix natrix*, **palmate newt** *Triturus helveticus*, **hobby** *Falco subbuteo* and singing **nightingale** *Luscinia megarhynchos*.

If you don't already receive information about the Adastra Recording Days (you will do if you are on the seminar email list) please let us know and we can add you to the email list:
pennygreen@sussexwt.org.uk

MAMMALS

by Dawn Scott, Fran Southgate & Penny Green, Sussex Mammal Group (SMG)

After the re-launch of the Sussex Mammal Group (SMG) last year there have been several more county-based activities focusing on mammals. The push for volunteers and mammal sightings has included running activities such as awareness days like the Stanmer Park *Brighton and Hove Goes Wild* event, production of a new SMG flyer, writing articles and running mammal based training days and talks. As a result we now have over 30 new mammal group volunteers. Last year has seen 633 mammal records submitted (so far!) of 19 different mammal species sighted across the county (excluding bats and cetaceans). So a big thank you to all those who sent in records last year. The most frequently recorded mammal was the **mole**, with over 225 records from just two recorders. Good news for our **brown hare** records, with over 30 sightings this year, but rather disappointingly many of the 2007 mammal records are of introduced species such as **mink**, **munjac** and **grey squirrels**. There were only four records for **stoats**, three for **water shrews**, three for **dormice** and none for **weasels**. Where are all our weasels? Although it is important to monitor common and introduced species, if you do see one of our rarer native species please submit your record. A volunteer has been out and about surveying for **water voles** in East Sussex which has boosted our records. And thanks to all the volunteer surveyors in the Pagham Nature Reserve and Selsey Manhood peninsula who have helped create a long term picture of how water voles are doing in the area.

For our county's **dormice** we are assessing and surveying potential sites that could be new sites to be incorporated into the National Dormouse Monitoring Scheme. The SMG is keen to establish contacts with everyone working on dormice in the county or knows of sites with dormice that aren't monitored. This will allow us to compile a comprehensive list of county dormice recorders and also make sure as many important sites for dormice are monitored. We are also in collaboration with Southern Counties Mammals Groups and are hoping to have coordinated regional monitoring as well as county monitoring.

This year we have also been taking part in the pilot survey for the Mammal Society's forthcoming National Small Mammal Monitoring Survey (NSMMS) funded by the Joint Nature Conservation Committee (JNCC). The aim of the survey is to establish long term monitoring surveys for small mammals across the UK. As many small mammals require different survey techniques, the pilot scheme has involved trialing several of these techniques including nest counting for harvest mice, latrine, run and burrow surveys for field voles, baited tubes for water shrews and Longworth live trapping for all other small mammals. A two day rapid survey undertaken in summer and winter 2007 conducted at Binstead, West Sussex resulted in the discovery of eight different species including harvest mouse, yellow-necked mouse and pygmy shrew. The survey was undertaken with untrained volunteers supervised by a trainer. This demonstrated that with training and a small amount of effort we can use our enthusiastic volunteers to help detect and hopefully monitor the presence of our county's less seen small mammals. The NSMMS will be going nation-wide shortly. The SMG is running a training session on these survey methods on the 29th March 2008 for all those wishing to take part in the forth-coming national survey.

The Sussex Otters and Rivers Partnership (SORP) has been working towards creating and sustaining land and water partnerships in all **water vole** Key Sites in Sussex. The Chichester Sustainable Farmland Partnership and the Pett and Brede Water for Wetlands Project are still having positive benefits for water voles in these two core areas. More recently, the Wildfowl and Wetlands Trust re-introduced a large number of water voles to their site at Arundel. The water voles have bred well, and have been seen flourishing in a number of ditches around the re-introduction site. SORP will be carrying out a variety of surveys and practical conservation works to try and allow this new population to expand throughout the Arun valley and to provide wetland habitat linkages with existing populations on Amberley and Pulborough brooks.

A recent cluster of sightings of otters on the river Arun indicates that there is now regular otter activity in the area. This was confirmed by the discovery of a large, adult male otter weighing nearly 10kg and measuring 1.15 m close to Emsworth in October 2007. Apart from having been a victim of a fatal collision trauma, the otter was otherwise apparently very healthy! As a result, this year we will be starting regular otter survey training days in a bid to establish a long-term volunteer survey team for Sussex. If you are interested in helping, and don't mind if you don't find very many otter signs, then please contact the Sussex Mammal Group.

If you would like more information about the SMG, please get in contact with Penny Green at Pennygreen@sussexwt.org.uk or 01273 497521.

BADGERS

by *Jason Ede*, Chairman, Badger Trust – Sussex

2007 has been a year of mixed fortunes for badgers in Sussex. The threat of a large scale badger cull on downland around the Ouse and Cuckmere rivers has taken up a great deal of our time and energy, but we were resolved to achieve our aim of revitalising our surveying activity. Badger Trust – Sussex (BT-S) was fortunate earlier in the year to secure a donation of £1,100 from the Sussex Police Property Act Fund to purchase essential survey equipment. BT-S currently has around 1,500 sett records on its database, including records donated by the great badger naturalist E.D. Clements (known affectionately as 'Clem'), whose work includes The National Badger Sett Survey (1988). Many of these records are old, and need updating, prompting the need for sett surveyors conducting regular biodiversity surveys.

Badger sett surveying remains the best non-intrusive survey method for badgers and can be undertaken with relative ease without the need for expensive equipment and without requiring any licence from Natural England. Details recorded include location, habitat, threats to the sett (human or natural), altitude, aspect, tracks and signs, access details, keyholder, and whether the sett is active. All setts, whether active or not are recorded as badgers often re-colonise inactive setts.

The first training session took place in October 2007 for six new sett surveyors who will be covering areas of Uckfield, Crawley, Brighton, Haywards Heath and East Grinstead. The training took place over one day, and included lessons on badger ecology and biology, map reading and compass work,

identifying badger tracks and signs, completing survey paperwork, and the final 'exam' included a survey of a live sett in the grounds of the training venue.

BT-S has around 12 more surveyors waiting to undertake training early in 2008, allowing us to increase our coverage across the county. Training is free to any member of BT-S, and survey equipment issued includes map, field compass, weather-proof clipboard, where-wolf (grid reference aid), reflective clothing, FSC key to mammal tracks and signs and a guide to sett surveying.

For more details about sett surveying or any other aspect of the work undertaken by BT-S please feel free to contact the group by any of the following means.

jason.ede@hotmail.co.uk

07979 033415

BT-S Hotline 07910 198720

www.badgertrust-sussex.org.uk

GRASSHOPPERS, CRICKETS AND ALLIED INSECTS (ORTHOPTERA & RELATED ORDERS)

The headline news item for orthopteroids in 2007 was the discovery of a **southern oak bush-cricket** *Meconema meridionale* on a garage wall in Seaford by Sarah McKenzie in November. This is the first confirmed record of the species for Sussex. Until recent decades this insect was regarded as something of a rarity. Chopard *Faune de France 56, Orthoptéroïdes* (1951) describes it as very rare in France and mentions records from Italy and Tyrol. Since then southern oak bush-crickets have turned up with increasing frequency in urban locations further north; in Switzerland, Germany and at Cherbourg and Rotterdam. Roger Hawkins recorded it for the first time in Britain in 2001 at Thames Ditton. It is now well established in the London area, where I saw it in a couple of places myself in 2007. These insects closely resemble the common **oak bush-cricket** *Meconema thalassinum* in appearance and behaviour, being nocturnal arboreal insects that are bright green in colour and a few centimetres in length. The southern oak bush-cricket though has very short stubby wings and could be mistaken for a nymph of the common species. It has been suggested that *M. meridionale* may have been introduced as a result of the trade in exotic plants from Italy or that the insects have simply been hitching rides on vehicles. It is one of a community of southern insects that have become established in northern cities in recent years. The heat-island effect of cities coupled with warmer weather may partly explain this phenomenon. As well as being a first for Sussex, the Seaford record is a first for the south coast. Our other newcomer, the **sickle-bearing bush-cricket** *Phaneroptera falcata*, was reported for the second year running from Hastings Country Park.

John Paul, Sussex recorder for Orthoptera and related orders.

LIFE ON A LIMB. NEWHAVEN HARBOUR ARM

by *Gerald Legg*, Booth Museum of Natural History Brighton

A visit to the seashore along the Sussex coast soon reveals a rich variety of life, particularly on the exposed chalk wave-cut platforms. Rock pool rambling is a common and rewarding pastime. What is less obvious is the life hidden beneath the waves, largely because most people do not have access to the undersea world. The Victorians were key to identifying and categorising our rich and diverse wildlife. Their knowledge of the seashore was profound, based upon personal, up close investigation, but when it came to life beneath the waves they were restricted to indirect investigation: dredging, netting and coring samples from the seabed. A consequence of this was that they had a very limited view of what was present where and when. Take the **sandelled anemone**, *Actinothoe sphyrodeta*, which is recorded in the Ray Society monograph of British sea anemones as rare with only scattered records. Go and actually look at rocks and wrecks offshore and this sea anemone is quite common. Their view was restricted by their sampling technique, something that also happens today even on land. It is easy to fall into the trap of thinking something is rare when it is not, only appearing rare because the sampling technique used is not up to the job, or there are few people looking.

With the advent of safe and relatively simple diving as well as the development of underwater video, remotely operated vehicles and sonar, our understanding of marine life has blossomed. Diving means that marine sites can be monitored and befriended in the same way as terrestrial sites. We can also easily see what damages we are doing to them through fishing, aggregate extraction and anchoring.

One site of particular interest and easy to reach on a regular basis is located along the length of the western site of the Newhaven Harbour Arm and its immediate vicinity ([visit chelifer.com/marine](http://visit.chelifer.com/marine)). From 1630 onwards piers were constructed at the eastern and western sides of the New Haven harbour. The current western arm was constructed in 1890 to protect the harbour and is now showing signs of its age and has had to be closed to public access through health and safety considerations. Newhaven Harbour Arm extends 700m SSE, starting at Lat N 50° 46':42" (50.780203N) ; Long E 0°:03':092 (0.052401E) ; Grid Reference TV447998 curving to Lat N 50°:46'34" (50.776156N); Long E 0°:03':27" (0.057543E) ; LR TV451994. Fishermen used to use this extensively which makes surveying (diving) more interesting. Old line is still commonly found together with fishing weights and hooks. In addition pieces of nets, ropes etc are present entangled amongst the protective concrete blocks. Potting also occurs making for extra hazards.

After an SAS hike across the shingle beach with its attendant dunes of pebbles you reach the sea. Initially the seabed continues as shingle over which sand eels and other fish can be seen. This leads onto areas of shallow chalk gullies that may or may not be filled with dead seaweed, silt and other debris and areas of sand. Following the wall takes you along a concrete ledge that is exposed at low water. On the seaward side of this are concrete blocks the tops of which are exposed at very low tides. Moving from the top of these blocks to the bottom there is a succession of species starting with lower shore species and then passing through a sublittoral fringe habitat and down to full circalittoral. The tops are often covered in mussels and deeper with kelps and red seaweeds.

Further down the ecology changes to 'low animal turf' comprising anemones, sponges, hydroids etc. Where the ledge ends larger concrete blocks are stacked on concrete 'sacs'. These blocks help to protect the wall against wave action, a necessary feature as the arm faces into the teeth of the prevailing SW winds and waves. They provide a great variety of places for life to live which means that a huge range of organisms can be found at different depths and at different times of the year. As you go further along the harbour arm the communities of species found change. The maximum depth is around 15m at high tide. Visibility can vary from 1 to 10 metre, commonly 2-3 m.

Species found on the blocks and adjacent sediment include **elephant-ear sponge** *Pachymatisma johnstonia*, **fleshy sulphur-sponge** *Suberites carnosus*, **breadcrumb sponge** *Halichondria panicea*, **goose-bump sponge** *Dysidea fragilis*, **seafirs** *Sertularia argentea*, *Obelia geniculata*, *Dynama pumila*, **sandelled anemone** *Actinothoe sphyrodeta*, **dahlia anemone** *Urticina felina*, **daisy anemone** *Cereus pedunculatus*, **sea anemone** *Epizoanthus couchii*, **deadman's fingers** *Alcyonium digitatum*, **barnacle** *Semibalanus balanoides*, **common prawn** *Palaemon serratus*, *P. elegans*, **hermit crab** *Pagurus bernhardus*, **velvet swimming crab** *Necora puber*, **edible crab** *Cancer pagurus*, **spiny spider crab** *Maja squinado*, **spider crab** *Hyas araneus*, **slender spider crab** *Macropodia tenuirostris*, **squat lobster** *Galathea squamifera*, **lobster** *Homarus gammarus*, **large necklace shell** *Euspira catena*, **netted dogwhelk** *Hinia reticulata*, various **seaslugs**, **mussel** *Mytilus edulis*, **piddock** *Pholas dactylus*, *Hiatella arctica*, *Barnea candidula/parva*, **oyster** *Ostrea edulis*, **cuttlefish** *Sepia officinalis*, **little cuttle** *Sepiola atlantica*, various Bryozoans, **seamats**, **horseshoe worm** *Phoronis hippocrepia*, **starfish** *Asterias rubens*, *Echinocardium cordatum*, **light-bulb seasquirt** *Clavelina lepadiforme*, **leathery sea squirt** *Styela clava*, **star ascidian** *Botryllus schlosseri*, **gooseberry sea squirt** *Dendrodoa grossularia*, **sea squirts** *Aplidium punctum*, *Morchellium argus*, *Ascidiella scabra*, *A. aspera*, *Botrylloides leachi*, *Ascidia mentula*. Fish: **bib** *Trisopterus luscus*, **poor cod** *T. minutus*, **pollack** *Pollachius pollachius*, **conger eel** *Conger conger*, **common eel** *Anguilla anguilla*, **greater pipefish** *Syngnathus acus*, **ong-spined sea scorpion** *Taurulus bubalis*, **bass** *Dicentrarchus labrax*, **red mullet** *Mullus surmuletus*, **crokwing wrasse** *Crenilabrus melops*, **goltsinny** *Ctenolarbus rupestris*, **tompot blenny** *Parablennius gattorugine*, **shanny** *Lipophrys pholis*, **common goby** *Pomatoschistus microps*, **sand goby** *Pomatoschistus minutus*, **dab** *Limanda limanda*, **plaice** *Pleuronectes platessa*, **Dover sole** *Solea solea*, and **topknot** *Zeugopterus punctatus*.

SUSSEX SEaweEDS 2007

by Ian Tittley, Sussex Marine Algae recorder

Two field trips were undertaken on the Sussex coast in 2007. The first in April was to the Pett Level (Cliff End) and Fairlight section of coast. Overall the species diversity recorded was not as great as elsewhere in the county. At Cliff End the foreshore was largely of sand but with protruding mud and barnacle-covered boulders. Piddock-bored clay and sub fossil tree-trunks were also present. At Fairlight sandstone rock outcrops occurred more extensively and there were more seaweeds. The second seaweed survey was in May at Newhaven to the west of the harbour. Here, a wave-cut platform of chalk, incised by deep channels longitudinal to the shore created a range of micro-habitats for marine algal growth. In places the chalk foreshore was overgrown by mussels. All

species except one (*Pterosiphonia pennata*) have been previously recorded in the county; the discovery of *P. pennata* at Newhaven represents its most eastern limit of distribution in England.

Species recorded

Site grid references for list below:

1	Pett/Cliff End	TQ 89087 13270
1A	Pett/Cliff End	TQ 8665 12433
2	Fairlight	TQ 88216 11906
3	Newhaven	TV 44433 95886

Chlorophyta (green algae): *Bryopsis plumose* (1A,3); *Chaetomorpha mediterranea* (1); *Cladophora* sp. (2); *Ulva compressa* (3); *Ulva lactuca* (1, 2, 3); *Ulva prolifera* (1, 3).

Phaeophyceae (brown algae): *Asperococcus compressus* (3); *Cladostephus spongiosus* (1A, 2); *Dictyota dichotoma* (3); *Ectocarpus fasciculatus* (3); *Elachista fucicola* (3); *Fucus serratus* (1, 2, 3); *Fucus vesiculosus* (1); *Hincksia granulose* (3); *Laminaria digitata* (3); *Petalonia fascia* (3); *Pylaiella littoralis* (2); *Saccorhiza longissima* (3); *Sargassum muticum* (3); *Stypocaulon scoparium* (3).

Rhodophyta (red algae): *Aglaothamnion hookeri* (1A); *Ahnfeltia plicata* (3); *Calliblepharis ciliata* (3); *Ceramium ? botryocarpum* (2, 3); *Ceramium cimbricum* (3); *Ceramium deslongchampsii* (2); *Ceramium ? flaccidum* (2, 3); *Ceramium gaditanum* (2, 3); *Ceramium virgatum* (3); *Chondria dasyphylla* (3); *Chondrus crispus* (1, 2); *Corallina officinalis* (1); *Cryptopleura ramosa* (3); *Cystoclonium purpureum* (3); *Gelidium pusillum* (2, 3); *Gracilaria gracilis* (3); *Gymnogongrus crenulatus* (3); *Halurus flosculosus* (3); *Hypoglossum hypoglossoides* (3); *Lomentaria clavellosa* (3); *Lomentaria orcadensis* (3); *Mastocarpus stellatus* (2); *Osmundea pinnatifida* (3); *Palmaria palmate* (2); *Phyllophora pseudoceranoides* (3); *Phymatolithon lenormandii* (2); *Plocamium cartilagineum* (3); *Polysiphonia fucoides* (1, 2, 3); *Polysiphonia nigra* (3); *Polysiphonia ? stricta* (3); *Porphyra* sp. (1) *Pterosiphonia pennata* (3); *Rhodymenia holmesii* (3); *Rhodythamniella floridula* (1, 2).

STONEWORT NEWS

by Frances Abraham

Since the last Charophyte item, in *Adastras* 2005, recording has been creeping along, mainly with useful updates of older records. Perhaps the most interesting finds have been new records for the now rare native form of *Nitella mucronata* (*N. mucronata* var. *mucronata*), which turned up in 2006 both in a small pond beside Warnham Mill Pond (Alan Knapp) and in a sheltered corner of the Arun near Harwoods Green (Martin Willing and Frances Abraham).

Stoneworts are to be included in the new *Flora of Sussex* which is currently being prepared by the Sussex Botanical Recording Society. Very few people record them, and, for heaven's sake, not so very many people rummage around in ditches and ponds anyway. So – whatever group you are

working on, if it takes you to slightly brackish or freshwater habitats, it would be hugely appreciated if, should you come across any plants resembling these illustrations, you could send some samples with the usual details to Alan Knapp or to myself. Press them gently in loo paper – if sent in a plastic bag they will probably arrive looking like spinach soup. All records are of interest for this group, however widespread the species.

The stonewort species below, from left to right, are *Tolypella prolifera*, *Nitella flexilis* and *Chara vulgaris*



SUSSEX BOTANICAL RECORDING SOCIETY – VASCULAR PLANTS 2007

By Paul Harmes & Alan Knapp, vascular plant recorders for East and West Sussex respectively

Once again our year's recording for the new Flora of Sussex has produced a large number of records and yet more surprising discoveries. We are now half way through the main recording period for the flora and well over half of the 1025 tetrads have more than 200 vascular plant species recorded and less than 100 tetrads have not had at least one good recording visit. One remarkable achievement was an SBRS field meeting led by Bruce Middleton in the Midhurst Common area (tetrad SU82Q) where we recorded over 310 species in just under 5 hours, bringing the total for the tetrad to 425 species. The finds included an alien new to Sussex, *Sedum sexangulare* (**tasteless stonecrop**), in Midhurst cemetery.

Of the new finds this year perhaps the most surprising were two species of *Lotus* (**bird's-foot trefoil**), one not seen in Sussex for over 50 years and one never seen before in the county. In June *Lotus angustissimus* (**slender bird's-foot trefoil**) was discovered in a very sandy former arable field near Coates. This was the first time it had been seen in Sussex since 1932, when it was at Fairlight in East Sussex. Shortly afterwards a second colony was found about 100m away in the same field and in July a third colony was found in another field nearby. In September the SBRS held a field meeting at Durleighmarsh Farm near the Sussex/Hampshire border and, in the afternoon, found a mass of *Lotus*

subbiflorus (**hairy bird's-foot trefoil**) growing on the headland of an asparagus field. This is the first Sussex record for this species. As we walked further along the field edge we found more *Lotus subbiflorus* and then, growing with it, a few plants of *Lotus angustissimus*.

A species we expect to see more frequently as a result of climate change is *Himantoglossum hircinum* (**lizard orchid**) and this expectation was supported by the appearance of a single plant in the Ouse valley south of Lewes this year. This is the third single plant to appear in the last 2 years and the question now is whether any of them will establish a stable colony as the history of lizard orchid appearances contains many examples of single plants appearing but only lasting a couple of years before going, never to be seen again.

One of the hardest vascular plants to spot is *Wolffia arrhiza* (**rootless duckweed**) because, fully grown, it consists of green spheres less than 2mm in diameter and is reputed to be the smallest flowering plant in the world. This year it appeared in such large quantity in ditches near the A259 across Pevensey Levels that patches of it could be seen some distance away. However in West Sussex we have not been so lucky. It normally occurs in ditches in the North Stoke to Arundel area but many of these ditches are now very overgrown and no plants have been seen in that area for about 7 years. If anyone has seen it recently in West Sussex please let Alan Knapp know.

As well as native species we have had a number of interesting record of aliens, including a small patch of the attractive *Trifolium resupinatum* (**reversed clover**) on shingle at the back of the beach just east of Sovereign Harbour near Eastbourne. This species gets its name from the flowers which are upside down compared to most other clovers. Other finds of interest include *Angelica archangelica* (**garden angelica**) NE of Billingshurst and the Mediterranean species, *Scorpiurus muricatus* (**caterpillar-plant**) on the same farm as the hairy bird's-foot trefoil mentioned above.

ORCHIDS IN SUSSEX 2007

By David C. Lang, Sussex Orchid Recorder

It is all too easy to be carried along on a tide of opinion and, for many of us, the flood of words about global warming is just such an example.

I honestly felt that those orchid species flowering early in the spring were appearing some ten to fourteen days earlier, while the main season and late summer flowering species were unaltered. However, my records date back to 1952 and, somewhat to my surprise, I found the flowering dates for species such as **early-purple orchid** (*Orchis mascula*), **early spider-orchid** (*Ophrys sphegodes*) and **green-veined orchid** (*Orchis morio*) to be unaltered.

2007 was, in many ways, an *annus horribilis*. Many of the early flowering species either flowered in much reduced numbers, or failed to appear above ground at all. I suspect that the prolonged late hard frosts checked the plants at a critical stage of growth, and they simply shut down for the season. Early spider orchid in its locations around Beachy Head was just such an example, yet at

Castle Hill – where it is sheltered from the east and flowers later in any event – it put on a splendid show, despite the dryness of the sward.

Burnt orchid (*Orchis ustulata*) similarly flowered in small numbers in Caburn Bottom, and non on the south face of The Caburn.

The undoubted highlight of the year was a magnificent **lizard orchid** (*Himantoglossum hircinum*), as mentioned by Paul Harmes and Alan Knapp above, on the banks of the river Ouse south of Lewes. Originally spotted by an enthusiastic naturalist out walking his dog, it attracted a lot of admirers and fortunately suffered no ill effects. Both that plant and the plant at Beachy Head set good seed. There is some evidence that this species is expanding its range in the UK in response to warmer summers, a pattern duplicating the situation in the 1920s and early 1930s which was subsequently reversed by the bitter winters of the 1940s.

Fly orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*) is rapidly becoming a rarity in Sussex and could not be found in most of its old sites in 2007. It has never been widespread in East Sussex and may soon disappear there along with along with **lesser butterfly-orchid** (*Platanthera bifolia*). Changes in climate with changes in woodland management – especially the maintenance of woodland rides – have been implicated.

High summer was certainly dry and many orchids put on a poorer than average show. **Fragrant orchids** (*Gymnadenia conopsea*) and **musk orchids** (*Herminium monorchis*) were few in number or absent from most sites, but surprisingly both **southern marsh-orchids** (*Dactylorhiza praetermissa*) and **early marsh-orchids** (*D. incarnata*) flowered well in their known habitats, where soil moisture was evidently sufficient. Late-flowering **burnt orchids** (*Orchis ustulata* var. *serotina*) had a poor flowering season and were absent from most sites in East Sussex.

The end of the orchid season was smitten by drought, so that most of the helleborines made a poor showing and those that did flower soon withered without setting seed. **Pendulous-flowered helleborine** (*Epipactis phyllanthes*) suffered most of all with only three scrawny individuals lingering on at Swanbourne Lakes, Arundel. Elsewhere numbers were reduced and one colony appeared to have been eaten off by deer, leaving bare stems and leaves only.

I expected **autumn lady's-tresses** (*Spiranthes spiralis*) to be similarly affected, and indeed nothing appeared until late August when rain brought on a stunningly good display in many sites.. Those flowering at a site near Bishopstone were exceptional in both numbers and robustness, including a clump of seven large flowering spikes together.

So, a very mixed bag. I wonder what 2008 will bring us?

MOTHS IN SUSSEX 2007

by **Colin R. Pratt**, F.R.E.S., County Recorder of Butterflies and Moths for East and West Sussex

The migrant species

2006 was the most prolific season for rare migrant moths ever recorded in Sussex, with six new county records - but 2007 was a very disappointing contrast, with just one fresh record. Despite this, there were a number of exciting highlights.

Every year, in widely varying numbers, migrant lepidoptera stream across the Channel and land on the shores of Sussex. Arrivals can be either detected all along the coast or be so localised as to be repeatedly recorded in just a single domestic garden. During 2007 the far east of the county was the most advantageous district. It was the best year ever in Sussex for **Blair's mocha** *Cyclophora pupillaria* (19 specimens) and **Dewick's plusia** *Macdunnoughia confusa* (11 specimens), while a **purple marbled** *Eublemma ostrina* at Pagham Harbour was the first since 1995 and an **alchemist** *Catephia alchymista* at Bexhill since 1963. A **Porter's rustic** *Athetis hospes* at Pagham was the first ever in West Sussex and an **oak processionary** *Thaumetopoea processionea* at Bexhill was the first in the whole county. Other species of particular interest to enthusiasts were an example of the blue under-winged **Clifden nonpareil** *Catocala fraxini* at Peasmarsh and a **dark crimson underwing** *C. sponsa* at Bexhill. On the other hand, numbers were at their lowest for the **gem** *Orthonama obstipata*, **vestal** *Rhodometra sacraria*, **bordered straw** *Heliothis peltigera*, and **scarce bordered straw** *H. armigera*, since the early 1990's.

The Continental colonisers

Of the recent continental colonisers, *Evergestis limbata* now occurs in small numbers all along the Sussex coast, although it is rarely seen inland. The **cypress carpet** *Thera cypressata* remains well established along the coastal strip but does occur as a scarcity inland as far north as Crowborough and Horsham. The **Channel Islands pug** *Eupithecia ultimaria* is a scarcity but is established here as far east as Bexhill.

Less straightforwardly, more European moths, the **dusky peacock** *Semiothisa signaria* and the **olive crescent** *Trisateles emortualis*, have been episodically recorded in the county over recent years. Single examples of the first-mentioned were seen at Beckley in 1996 and 2005, and it reoccurred in the same area this year. It also now seems likely that the **olive crescent** is colonising East Sussex from a headquarters in the same area, it now reaching as far east as Friston Forest. The **southern chestnut** *Agrochola haematidea* also continues to extend its range on Sussex heathlands, from its original establishment at Ambersham Common, while the **marsh mallow moth** *Hydraecia osseola hucherardi* still holds its own in comparatively reduced circumstances at Winchelsea.

But the most exciting event in Sussex during 2007 was the discovery of a colony of the beautiful **scarlet tiger** *Callimorpha dominula* moth at Friston Forest by Michael Blencowe. This is the first known apparently feral settlement in the county since at least 1942.

The native species

The hot April weather seemed to have disrupted the whole of the 2007 mothing season, although, while there were a few record-breaking early emergences and the odd unusual second brood, there were fewer such quirks than might have been expected.

Those enthusiasts with long experience report that this is the third season in a row for unusually low numbers of native species, this sequence now being quite the worst in both halves of the county since nightly counting began during the late 1960s. Given that by the 21st century the volume of moths in flight both locally and nationally had fallen by almost a third, this further bad news is very disturbing and could turn out to be pivotal.

Good news about individual species was also difficult to come by in 2007, although there were a few highlights. The **goat moth** *Cossus cossus* is now a nationally BAP Priority species and is locally graded as 'In Danger of Extinction'. Nonetheless, following up a sighting of a lone caterpillar last year, a new colony was confirmed when a willow tree was found to be riddled with larval mines at Northiam. The **drab looper** *Minoa murinata* - another insect graded as 'In Danger of Extinction' in Sussex - was rediscovered at Duncton. And, meanwhile, the **dotted chestnut** *Conistra rubiginea* continues to colonise East Sussex from the west.

Much of the above information was supplied by members of the Sussex Moth Group. For information on the Group, and its aims, activities, and meetings, contact the Secretary, Clare Jeffers, telephone 01323 423711 or e-mail: clarejeffers@aol.com

For queries and information on the Sussex Lepidoptera contact the County Recorder of Butterflies & Moths for East and West Sussex, Colin R. Pratt, F.R.E.S, at 5, View Road, Peacehaven, East Sussex, BN10 8DE, telephone 01273 586780, or e-mail: colin.pratt@talk21.com

ACULEATE HYMENOPTERA IN SUSSEX, 2007.

by *Mike Edwards*, County Recorder for Aculeate Hymenoptera: Ants, Bees and Wasps.

This brief report concentrates upon the bumblebees of Sussex. There has been a lot of conservation activity concerned with bumblebees over the past ten years, much of it driven by the inclusion of five species (*Bombus distinguendus*; *B. humilis*; *B. ruderatus*; *B. subterraneus* and *B. sylvarum*) in the original Biodiversity Action Plan. The recent review of BAP species added a further three species to this list (*B. monticola*, *B. muscorum* and *B. ruderarius*).

Not all these species were ever likely to have been found in Sussex (*B. distinguendus*, *B. monticola*) and most of the others were probably almost entirely restricted to the downs and coastal plain historically. (*B. humilis*, *B. muscorum*, *B. ruderatus*, *B. subterraneus* and *B. sylvarum*). This is because these species are associated with large-scale open grassland habitats and the intricate network of woodland and clearings which makes up much of inland Sussex is intrinsically poor quality habitat for them. There is, however, a group of bumblebee species which is associated with woodland edges, the very same ones which we see in our gardens, and these are well-represented in much of Sussex.

Bumblebees exist in social colonies and operate at a similar landscape scale to many larger bird species. Populations of the open landscape bumblebees seem to need something like 10 square kilometres of suitable open habitat to survive. The odd field or two, however flower rich, is not going to make a lot of difference to them, although it may provide excellent habitat for many of the solitary species as well as the woodland edge species. This situation is even more marked in Surrey, which doesn't have any significant representation of expansive open habitats and hence has no historic representation of many of our scarcer species.

Much of the current emphasis on restoring declining populations of bumblebees has been on restoring suitable flowers in the farmed landscape, through so-called Pollen and Nectar mixes, based on red clovers. These have been shown to increase the numbers of bumblebees present several hundred-fold, including both scarcer and commoner species (but not all species) and just two areas of about 100 square metres per square kilometre of open habitat is all that is needed to make a major difference.

One of our most declined species, *Bombus ruderatus*, is making major expansions of range, based largely upon this additional foraging habitat. Although historically quite widespread along the coastal plain of Sussex it has become restricted to an area between Pevensey and Eastbourne, but this may well change. This, one of the larger species, has a very long tongue and, although normally yellow and black striped with a white tail, does have a number of forms where the insect is completely black. Keep a look out for anything looking like this, especially if it is visiting the flowers of red clover.

It is clear, however that not all the current changes rely upon increased provision of suitable flowers. Two closely related, all ginger, open-landscape species, *B. humilis* and *B. muscorum*, have been present on the coastal plain or downland of Sussex, albeit in small numbers, throughout the major declines of the 1960s on. Recently, one of these species (*B. muscorum*) has almost disappeared, whilst the other (*B. humilis*) has become more widespread. This seems to be related to the increased warmth of recent summers. *B. muscorum*, being a more northerly species, is starting to get too hot, whilst its cousin, *B. humilis*, on the northern edge of its range in Britain, is finding things much more to its liking. Neither species is common and both require an increase in suitable habitat if they are to have any chance of long-term survival within their respective temperature ranges.

BIRDS IN SUSSEX, 2006 AND 2007

by *Christian Melgar*, Sussex Ornithological Society recorder

The continuing trend of an increasing number of submitted records was again recorded in 2006 with 96,595 records being received, up by 9,000 on last year, and is the highest total ever received. The number of species recorded during the year was ten fewer than recorded the previous year with 253 different species being observed. This is the lowest number of species recorded in a year so far this century. The number of observers submitting records was also reduced with records being received from 632 observers (down from 796 last year), this despite the increase in records gathered from "non-traditional" sources such as BirdTrack and Garden Birdwatch. Collated records were again

received from most of the more-popular sites, such as Pagham Harbour, Rye Harbour, Pulborough Brooks RSPB, Weirwood Reservoir, Warnham NR, Beachy Head, Selsey Bill and Chichester Harbour.

The number of official scarce and rare descriptions accepted for 2006 numbered 239 records of 61 different species or sub-species of which 207 were accepted by the SOS Records Committee and just 8 by the BBRC and appeared in the relevant reports.

No new species for the county were recorded in 2006 but again a number of extreme vagrants were observed. Two **laughing gulls** (in April and July) were hot on the heels of the two recorded the previous year and constituted the 5th and 6th county records. A male **little bittern** spent over a month during the spring in suburban gardens in Hove and Southwick but was unfortunately only seen by house owners and the lucky invited few. A **marsh sandpiper** was at Pagham Harbour in late July and early August (12th County record) and a **desert wheatear** spent a few days in early November at Cooden Beach (6th County record).

Other scarce species seen during the year included **cattle egret** which included a flock of 8 at Piddinghoe (which equalled the largest-ever UK flock in Hertfordshire in May 1992), a **great-white egret** at Beachy Head, a long-staying **night heron** at Weirwood Reservoir, **black kite** (1), **spotted crane** (1), **corncrake** (1), **common crane** (2), **buff-breasted sandpiper** (1), **pectoral sandpiper** (1), a much-appreciated **Alpine swift** which lingered at Arlington Reservoir on 1st May, **woodchat shrike** (1) and a **rose-coloured starling** (1). Rare warblers were hard to find in 2006 and only an **icterine warbler** at Beachy Head on 30th August and two **yellow-browed warblers** (in Brighton and Worthing in October and November respectively) were seen.

A small influx of **mealy redpoll** during the first winter period included up to 5 at Burton Pond from January to April and gave many Sussex birders their first chance to see the species in the county. A good total of six **red-backed shrikes** were recorded during the year, including a male at Coldwaltham Brooks in August but it was the **European storm-petrel** influx during the second half of May that many will remember as one of the highlights of the year. Between 19th and 30th May as many as 400 individuals were recorded off the Sussex coast allowing observers multiple sightings of this usually scarce county species. To put the numbers into context only 24 other individuals have been seen since 2000 in the county.

One species was removed from the Sussex list in 2006. **Crested tit** which was reported from a Worthing garden and near Fairlight in May and June 1997 was re-assessed by the SOS Records Committee and on the evidence provided was considered as not adequately documented for a county first and the Committee voted unanimously for its deletion from the County list.

The Sussex County list now currently stands at 388 species.

The pair of **red kites** that nested successfully in West Sussex in 2004 and 2005 again successfully nested in 2006 and a second pair attempted to nest but failed at the embryo stage. Hopefully this will be the long-hoped for spread of the species as a breeding bird in the county. **Honey buzzards** successfully nested at three sites but the suitable available habitat within the county perhaps suggests that more birds are or at least should be present during the nesting period. Breeding by

little egrets continued and was confirmed at 4 sites in 2006 comprising 17 nests (22 nests at six sites in 2005).

Species which cause concern most years such as **turtle dove**, **willow tit** and **grey partridge** continued to ring alarm bells this year. Willow tit records continued to decline and the species must now be on the brink of disappearing altogether from the County's avifauna. Grey partridge seems to remain scarce as a breeding species within the county and is virtually confined to south of The Downs, however work by the Game Conservancy and farmers including captive breeding and release onto Estates has bolstered the numbers in certain areas. The lack of records of large flocks or widespread observations by the general birdwatching fraternity however would indicate that these flocks are either remaining resident near to the release sites or are not surviving for long periods after release. Turtle doves appeared to be quite sparsely distributed and the number of records submitted was nearly a third of that reported in 2005 highlighting the continuing decline of the species. Red-listed species of concern such as **bullfinch** and farmland species such as **corn bunting** and **skylark** seemed to continue much as previous years with few signs of significant upturns in many of the species' fortunes and some species showing further noticeable declines. It is important that all records of species of conservation concern are submitted so that as true a picture as possible is formed for the most vulnerable species in the county.

Breeding waders remained scarce within the county with one of the worst years on record being recorded for **common snipe**, just ten nesting sites recorded for **common redshank** and just three confirmed breeding attempts for **little-ringed plover**. **Ringed plover** had thirty-six successful nesting attempts, although this was only two more than the previous year which was a 25-year low for the species and no more than 40 pairs of **oystercatchers** bred successfully in the County. **Avocets** continued to do well however and at least 26 pairs bred in the east of the county, more than doubling last year's record high.

On a positive note the number of **Mediterranean gulls** nesting at Rye Harbour was 75 pairs raising 45 young (an increase on 2005) and the highest totals for fledged **Sandwich terns** at the same site was the highest recorded there since the species first bred at the site in 1984. **Common terns** also did well at Rye Harbour with smaller numbers at Chichester Harbour and inland nesting was successful at Warnham NR and Weirwood Reservoir. The small colony of **little terns** at Rye Harbour totalled twenty-one pairs but unfortunately it appears that all the young were eventually predated in mid-July.

COLEOPTERA – THE BEETLES

by *Peter Hodge, Sussex Coleoptera Recorder*

When weather forecasters predicted a summer of record breaking temperatures every entomologist expected another year of exciting discoveries, especially after the unusually hot April. However, this was not to be and we had to contend with less than ideal conditions that did not make searching for beetles easy.

David Hance, as always was actively on the lookout for interesting beetles, reported that he had found the microscopic rove beetle *Biblopectus tenebrosus* (Family: Staphylinidae) by sieving wet moss at Burton Mill Pond. This species is only 1 mm long and furthermore has to be dissected in order to confirm its identity, so David is to be congratulated for discovering this new to Sussex beetle. The genus *Biblopectus* was formerly in the family Pselaphidae which is now regarded as a subfamily of Staphylinidae.

Whilst carrying out an entomological survey of the Ouse Estuary Nature Reserve, east of Newhaven, for East Sussex County Council on 4th August, I swept a tiny but unfamiliar yellowish coloured flea beetle (so named because of their ability to jump) *Ochrosis ventralis*. There are very few recent British records for this species, which is thought to be associated with Woody Nightshade *Solanum dulcamara*. This reserve has 13 ponds and 12 of them were sampled for aquatic insects. In one of the ponds the rare water beetle *Dryops similaris* was discovered several years ago and it was successfully found again during the 2007 survey. The species is otherwise known in Sussex only from the Rye district.

In September 2007 John Paul discovered a dead specimen of the alien vine weevil *Otiorhynchus aurifer* in a cobweb on the trunk of a large potted olive tree in a nursery near Southwater, West Sussex. The earliest British record for this species is from near Romford, Essex in 1978. It has since been reported from several other localities but this is the first from Sussex. It is very similar in appearance to the common vine weevil *Otiorhynchus sulcatus* but is easily separated because it lacks prominent teeth on the underside of the middle and hind femora.

Finally, in the autumn of 2007, it was decided to release a small number of adult wood tiger beetles *Cicindela sylvatica* on an area of the southern part of Iping Common where heather turves had been removed as part of age-structuring management. We await fine weather in the summer of 2008 to see whether any of the released beetles are still present in the area. Evidence of success in breeding will need a couple more year's waiting! Scotty Dodd is running this project as part of Natural England's Species Recovery Programme. I also thank Mike Edwards for supplying the above details.

DRAGONFLIES – SUSSEX 2007

by John Luck, County Odonata Recorder

I hope you will not mind if I refer you from these pages to the SxBRC website, where our Autumn Newsletter will provide details of last year's dragonfly season and also other articles, which may be of interest.

This will allow me sufficient space to discuss the wider issue of records in general, or indeed missing records in particular. One of the problems is of course having the time to enter one's records on to Recording Sheets (automated or manual) and send them off to the relevant County Recorders. Another, perhaps, which we as County Recorders may need to address, is what are our priorities? Which species do we most wish to hear of? We have a sharp-eyed recording community in Sussex

but there is a limit to how much time they have available for form-filling. After all, the pleasure is in the seeing of wildlife: the actual recording is, stated in simple terms, more of a duty in our attempt to prevent developers from concreting over our county.

Many of us prefer to enjoy a variety of wildlife rather than specialising in one field. We, on the Dragonfly front, have attracted an ever-growing interest from members of the Sussex Ornithological Society. Some of these good folk send in their records. Hopefully, as time goes on, more will develop the habit.

Just today, I was in Belle Tout Wood watching a **Hume's leaf warbler**, a brilliant little bird and a considerable rarity. I had seen the bird earlier with half-a-dozen other watchers and then headed towards Beachy Head for some exercise. When I returned, another birdwatcher had arrived. We talked about birds and other matters and then the conversation turned to dragonflies - well it does when you're the County Recorder. My companion said he had seen about 300 **migrant hawkers** flying around woodland in the east of the county a couple of years ago. "A remarkable sight", he said. He had assumed that his two companions on this occasion would send the record in. This is a common dragonfly in the autumn, but these were clearly migrants and an important record. But how are we to ensure that as many important records as possible are sent in. The answer is, I believe, by focusing upon certain priority species or breeding records, each year and spreading the word to the other communities. The priorities may change from time to time, but they will alert wildlife watchers to which are the key records. The SxBRC website may well be the best repository for this data.

So to get the ball rolling, here is my list for 2008:

1. Breeding (mating, egg-laying etc) Rarities :
 - a. Variable Damselfly
 - b. Small Red Damselfly
 - c. Club-tailed Dragonfly
 - d. Downy Emerald
 - e. Brilliant Emerald
 - f. Scarce Chaser
 - g. Keeled Skimmer
 - h. Black Darter
2. Breeding Common Species
3. Rare Migrants
4. Large influxes of common migrants.

With advent of the digital camera, identification of species is now possible to assist those just starting out in a new field, or who are perhaps uncertain of an identity, and indeed may be necessary to authenticate rare species. Feel free to send me your dragonfly photos and I will endeavour to provide identifications. It all helps to get new records on to our database. As always I would emphasise any records you are able to send in will be gratefully received.

NEW PSOCOPTERA (BOOK LICE & BARK FLIES) FOR SUSSEX.

by *Marcus Oldfield*, Sussex Psocoptera Recorder, Booth Museum of Natural History, Brighton

Being the newly crowned Psocoptera Recorder for Sussex, 2007 (second hottest year on record for UK) proved another highly satisfactory time for Psocid settlers to the SE.

'Psocids' are quite small, delicate insects often highly mobile due to their lightly structured body and full-scale wings – ideal insects for identifying current trends in wind-borne bug travel. Rapid new colonisation of previously rare/local endemic species & naturalisation of new Continental invaders, seems to be the order of the "90's & naughty's". Thanks to global warming, many of these new species have found conditions favourable enough to stay here year round, and the challenge is to record them as they arrive and watch their proliferation nationwide. For that we need more recorders!

A 'large' Psocid (forewing about 4mm, Aphid sized) *Atlantopsocus adustus*, known debatably from a few far west sites and as yet not even given a mention in the newest (New, 2005) Psocoptera identification handbook, was found in Cornwall last year. On 23 June 2007 it turned up in Sussex 1km from my back yard!, just north of Brighton on the South Downs. So, not so rare after all. Where did they come from? Cornwall, France, no one knows. Almost certainly there are many more locations for *Atlantopsocus* awaiting discovery in between these places. When I caught this species (two males in one swipe), I was on a casual dog-walking session with the occasional sweep of some vegetation. They looked like another Psocid I had, but the habitat was wrong, so instead of releasing them curiosity got the better of me and I kept them. A close call.

Patrick Roper and myself are the only Psocid-aware people in Sussex as far as we know, and we are both amazed that this species has 'from nowhere' now graced the Sussex outback.

Other seemingly rare species are just waiting to be recorded as 'firsts' too, in other counties. Before that happens, little Psocids will need a higher profile and recognition as bio-collectibles and good indicator species for pollution and global warming.

Ectopsocus axillaris is also rather a strange mover. Known from Australia & Scotland, hot & cold, in 2005 it made it to Yorkshire. On 10 Mar 2007, it leap-frogged to Sussex. Good old global warming again no doubt. I caught two of them that day, one from a park mid-Hove and the other about 1 km from there in a copse in Brighton's leafy suburbs. I suspect they're probably a lot more around in Sussex, enjoying their anonymity, duly under-recorded. Strange, as this species, like many Psocids (and *Protopsocus* below), are unmistakable in the field and to the naked eye. Its wings are metallic, subtly reflecting a golden red/green sheen. No other Psocid I know has that distinction.

A good example of a plain old vagrant, and as yet still vagrant as far as we know, is the beautifully patterned jet-black *Protopsocus pulchripennis*. First discovered in numbers on a Isles of Scilly beach in 2000, they then disappeared. On 31 Aug 2004, quite a few were found on a Newhaven (Sussex) beach. A true though intermittent, tourist! How can they turn up en masse at one site, like a flight of geese wafted on air vortices, from far distant domains? The only answer is that first generation early migrants, did indeed breed here producing the next (summer) generation, but they couldn't make it through the winter. Maybe.

Psocids are a wonderful little group of only 75 or so species in UK. Everyone's' garden has a variety of them. What makes them rather special is that their numbers are increasing in most unexpected and unmethodical ways. Tracking them over this last year has not only been a privilege and an education, it has also kept me on my toes.

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FUNGI

by *Peter Russell*, County Fungi Recorder

Overall 2007 will be remembered as one of the worst seasons for recording fungi; with the main autumn season shortened by the dry summer and the frosts in November. But as ever there were some memorable finds worth relating.

The year started in promising fashion with abundant displays of the **scarlet elf cap** carpeting wet woodland near Ansty in late February. But the following dry weather brought a dismal display of the larger springtime Ascomycetes. The only reported find for a morel was a **black morel** spotted in a window box in Brighton. This is the third bad year in a row and proves the old adage of having one exceptional year followed by many bad ones.

The wet early summer brought some relief from having to resort to dried up brackets and overturning damp logs to find anything resembling a fungus. The pink gills that are restricted to old unimproved grassland were out in abundance in July in sites such as St. Dunstan's with new records such as *Entoloma caesiocinctum*; and many woods were putting on fine displays of Russulas and an abundance of **hen of the woods** and **wood urchin**.

But having whet the appetite, hopes were dashed by the dry autumn and lack of rain. Some groups of woodland fungi such as the boletes were conspicuous by their absence; and although one or two specimens were found, there wasn't the abundance found in many other years. This dearth continued into winter with poor displays of other old grassland fungi such as the waxcaps and earthtongues.

Yet there were still some good finds. Not many records exist for hypogenous fungi, not entirely surprising as they grow underground. However the beech woods on the chalk downs are a suitable habitat for species such as truffles and the fact that professional hunters have operated in the county indicate they should not be that rare. In August we had the first record for the **black summer truffle** *Tuber aestivum*, growing in a garden in Lewes under beech. And this was followed in the autumn by two records for *Claviceps capitata*, a relative of *Claviceps militaris* that infects moth larvae growing in the soil. Apart from the fact that this is a rarely recorded fungus, it also indicates the presence of the truffle *Elaphomyces granulatus* on which it lives.

LICHENS

by *Simon Davey*, Sussex Lichen Recorder

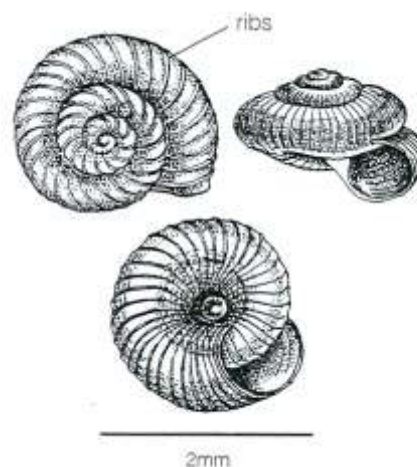
This year, an Annotated Lichen List for Sussex was prepared, and this is now on the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre website. It gives details for all the scarcer species occurring in Sussex. As I wrote last year, in the past there was a lichen, *Aspicilia tuberculosa* that was found for the first time by William Borrer in the early 19th Century for which the sole data with the specimen is "Sussex Downs".

Until recently this, and a specimen from the Isle of Wight were the only gatherings of the species. Later on in the 19th Century, a Jersey lichenologist on whom I have been doing considerable research visited Sussex, and met Borrer. Being a rabid collector, he asked Borrer about rarities that he could collect while over here. His name was Charles Dubois Larbalestier. Unlike Borrer, he gave reasonable data with the specimen which was Woulsonbury Hill, known today as Wolstonbury Hill. Towards the end of last year, my wife and I visited Wolstonbury Hill, and found flint mines on the summit which are most likely the habitat for this very rare lichen. We did not find it, probably because the mines are all grassed over. However, there is a great deal of very promising habitat still at Cissbury Ring, and it makes a fine challenge to lichenologists in the County to find the species for the first time since Borrer described it all those years ago.

MOLLUSCS

By *Martin Willing*, Sussex Mollusca Recorder

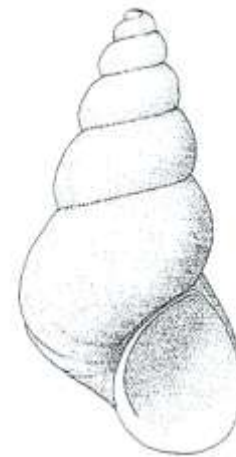
Two significant molluscan finds are described in the 2007 report. Both are new vice county records for West Sussex and one also a new live record for the UK. The first find is of the small (1.8 – 2mm diameter) snail *Paralaoma servilis* (synonyms: *Paralaoma caputspinulae*, *P. micropleuros*, *P. pusilla*, *Toltecia pusilla*, *Punctum pusillum*, *Pleuropunctum micropleurum*). This introduced species, which is native to Australasia, has been widely distributed by man in the Mediterranean region and some Atlantic islands. The first UK record, made in 1985, came from a nursery in Luton. It has since been found at a number of other sites in the Bedfordshire area, near Manchester and most notably in Devon and Cornwall, where it is now widespread and naturalised. The new record to West Sussex was made in September 2007 from sieved reed/sedge debris collected in a reedbed at Mill Pond Marsh, Sidlesham. At first sight the *P. servilis* were mistaken for the superficially similar native species *Punctum pygmaeum*, but their slightly larger size invited examination with a hand lens confirming their true identity. *P. servilis* were found living with other



Paralaoma servilis

typical wetland species including the marsh whorl snail *Vertigo antivertigo*, a species characteristic of old, natural wetlands. When Mill Pond Marsh was surveyed for Mollusca in 2002 as part of a wider survey on the Pagham Harbour reserve, *P. servilis* was not recorded. It seems likely that that this species has colonised the Mill Pond Marsh at some time during the last 6 years. This snail is very easily overlooked and if not already living elsewhere in Sussex it is likely to spread to other sites in the county. Please report any possible sightings.

The second discovery is rather exciting! This is of the brackish water hydrobid snail *Heleobia stagnorum*, which has a shell between 3.5 – 5mm in length. The first UK discoveries of this species were as freshly dead shells (estimated to have died between 1960 – 1970) from the sediments of a brackish pool on Farlington Marshes which lie to the east of Portsmouth (Kerney 1999). Searches by A. Jeram (M. Kerney, personal communication) between 1983 – 1986 failed to re-find any live populations in the Farlington area. The only other UK report for this species are sub-fossil shells from Bath extracted from deposits of possible Roman age. These new finds come from the Chichester Harbour area (precise site details cannot be released at this stage, but a paper on the new find is in preparation and further details will appear in Adastra in due course). The snails are living in low-salinity brackish waters together with one other mollusc, the non-native invasive *Potamopyrgus antipodarum*, a fairly common species in brackish and freshwaters throughout Sussex. The Chichester Harbour *H. stagnorum* were first found in autumn 2005 but only as freshly dead shells. A more detailed survey of the area, undertaken in summer 2006, also found small numbers of live snails, the identification being confirmed by five other UK and European malacologists. Further ecological studies continued in summer 2007. *H. stagnorum* is very local in northern Europe, occurring at a few sites in the Netherlands, eastern Germany and possibly southern France (although this may be a closely related species). In the Netherlands this species is declining and Kerney states that the few remaining populations are threatened by pollution and salinity changes brought about by coastal control schemes. Gittenberger *et al* (1998) show 11 sites for *H. stagnorum* in pre-1970 Netherlands, but only 4 records for the period 1970 – 1997. This newly discovered population of *H. stagnorum* is clearly of major importance, not just regionally but also in European terms.



Heleobia stagnorum

REFERENCES

Gittenberger E., Janssen A. W., Kuijper W. J., Kuiper J. G. J., Meijer T., Van der Velde G., de Vries, J.N & Peeters G. A. (1999). *De Nederlandse zoetwatermollusken. Recente en fossieleweekdieren uit zoet en brak water.* Nederlandse Fauna 2. Nationaal Natuurhistorisch Museum Naturalis, KNNV Uitgeverij & EIS-Nederland, Leiden

Kerney, M.P. (1999). *Atlas of the Land and Freshwater Molluscs of Britain and Ireland.* Colchester: Harley Books.

BUTTERFLIES

By *Bill Taylor*, Butterfly Conservation, Sussex Branch.

In 2007 the poor summer weather dampened our recorders' enthusiasm with the result that we collected 16 thousand records, around one thousand fewer than in 2006. On the other hand a number of potential records were submitted to our Sussex Branch website and with the help of the Record Centre we are currently looking at ways in which such material could be harvested into our database in 2008.

The season itself was full of ups and downs: **Adonis blues** did badly but **dark green fritillaries** did well. **Small blues** seemed to become thinner on the ground but **silver spotted skippers** spread further westwards than ever, ending up at Springhead Hill, above Storrington. Last year we were excited by second brood **white admirals**; this year it was the turn of the **dingy skipper**. **Peacocks** and **small tortoiseshells** had good second broods and there was an influx of **large tortoiseshells** in the middle of the year. All in all it was a season that improved the longer it went on – which it now does well into October.

THE ROTHER WOODS PROJECT, EAST SUSSEX

by *Steve Wheatley*, Rother Woods Project Officer

Butterfly Conservation's Rother Woods Project got under way in November. This exciting and ambitious project, developed with the Forestry Commission and other partners, aims to reinvigorate healthy and sustainable woodland management and will use monitoring of threatened woodland butterflies, moths, birds and mammals as indicators of success.

I am keen to hear from anyone who can help to carry out surveys and monitoring in the Rother Woods project area between Robertsbridge and Rye. In preparation, I have been working hard to encourage local landowners to allow access for surveys. The response from the landowners in the area has been wonderfully positive and access has been granted to a wide variety of properties many of which have never before been surveyed.

I would like to hear from anyone who would like to be involved, from seasoned species recorders and enthusiastic beginners. The project is able to provide training and resources to build and support a network of skilled volunteers who are willing to monitor, record and champion biodiversity. Results will be fed back to the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre and also to individual landowners in order to support and guide conservation action. By linking results across ownership boundaries the project can co-ordinate woodland and species management, ultimately at a landscape scale, with priority Forestry Commission Woodland Improvement Grants targeted to deliver real benefits on the ground.

The Rother Woods project is one third of Butterfly Conservation's biggest conservation project so far, with sister projects at Denge Woods in Kent, and Tytherley Woods on the Hampshire/Wiltshire

border. Woodland butterflies and moths are among the most threatened groups of insects in the UK, and for many species their declines have been fastest in the South East, despite this being one of the most heavily wooded areas with the highest proportion of Ancient Woodland in the country. Sadly changing management practices, priorities and economics have led to many woods being neglected or under-managed.

If successful, the project will help to reinvigorate woodland management, targeting work where it is most effective for the conservation of some of our rarest species. The successes and lessons learned can then be applied across the region to further improve South East woodlands for wildlife.

The Project is supported by The Heritage Lottery Fund, The Tubney Charitable Trust and other funders and I am based at the High Weald AONB Unit and can be contacted via email swheatley@butterfly-conservation.org or on 01580 879958.

I am arranging access to many woodlands in the Rother Woods Project area, some of which have not been surveyed in many years (if ever!). It would be great if any local naturalists wanted to get involved. If you are interested in gaining access to these sites please contact me (or pass my details to any naturalists not on this group that you may think are interested).

[http://sxbrc.org.uk/file_download/18/Rother Woods Project Summary.pdf](http://sxbrc.org.uk/file_download/18/Rother%20Woods%20Project%20Summary.pdf) (300KB PDF) is a small document about the project.

*Steve Wheatley, Rother Woods Project Officer
Butterfly Conservation*

Tel: 01580 879958, Mobile: 07747 780605, E-mail: swheatley@butterfly-conservation.org

THE SUSSEX GRAYLING FESTIVAL: SURVEYING *HIPPARCHIA SEMELE* ACROSS SUSSEX

by *Michael Blencowe*, Grayling Project Coordinator

The 'Sussex Grayling Festival' was established in 2007 as an annual survey to locate, monitor and conserve the **grayling** butterfly *Hipparchia semele* in the county. The grayling is one of ten Sussex species of conservation concern chosen for the Butterfly Species Champion scheme set up by Sussex Butterfly Conservation.

To start my research I accessed information on the history of the grayling in Sussex from available literature, the Sussex Biodiversity Records Centre and previous Butterfly Conservation reports. It revealed the tale of a once widely distributed species now almost exclusively limited to a small downland valley in East Sussex

Crucially, responses from a request posted on the Adastra Discussion Group shifted my attention to a far-flung corner of Sussex right on the border with Hampshire. Here, at Weavers Down, the species was seen 'in good numbers' in the late nineties and a single sighting was reported from nearby Chapel Common in 2006.

A team was recruited via the Adastra Discussion Group to help me in my search for this notoriously elusive species and we convened on one of those rare hot days in 2007. After an introductory lecture

on our target we headed to Weavers Down: a fantastic sandy heath. It wasn't too long before the first grayling was found, and other sightings followed including one seen egg laying. There were smiles all 'round!

But the festival isn't just about the grayling. The event provided plenty of records for the Biodiversity Records Centre and was an enjoyable day of fieldwork in a beautiful part of the county. I hope future events will encourage people to hunt for grayling in other areas of Sussex which do not receive attention from naturalists.

In 2007 the East Sussex downland colony continues to be the Sussex stronghold for the species but the event confirmed that this butterfly is still holding on in West Sussex. The Sussex Grayling Festival returns in 2008 with four events throughout the year: a study of habitat preference for the nocturnal grayling larvae on May 17th will help us identify possible conservation measures at this site. Two recording days will be held in August; the first a return to Weavers Down to monitor this population followed by a search of another West Sussex site on August 3rd. On August 9th a population survey of the East Sussex colony will be followed by a co-ordinated search by four teams at other potential sites in East Sussex. And for those who just want to learn more about this intriguing insect and enjoy watching it in action I will be leading a walk at its East Sussex stronghold on Aug 17th.

For more information on these events or to report any graylings sightings please contact me on sussexgrayling@aol.com or on 01323 423711.

More information on the Sussex BC Species Champion Scheme and other 2008 events are available from <http://www.sussex-butterflies.org.uk/index.html>

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank all Adastra members who supported this project in 2007. See you in the summer.

WEALDEN ANCIENT TREE PROJECT

By *Ali Wright*, Project Manager

An ancient tree is one that makes you say 'wow!' Like this massive beech on Ashdown Forest. It measures over eight metres girth and is one of the largest beech trees in Sussex.

Ancient trees are living relics of incredible age that inspire feelings of awe and mystery. Over the centuries, they have inspired artists, writers, poets and scientists and feature in many place names.

As the Sussex Wildlife Trust's Ancient Tree Project officer, I am looking for volunteers to help record and photograph fascinating old trees in the Wealden area well as other parts of Sussex.



as

Ancient trees are full of holes and dead and rotting wood. As the years go by they provide the perfect homes for thousands of species of plants, animals and fungi, including many rare and threatened species, such as the **violet click beetle**.

Many ancient trees are vulnerable and suffer from neglect or lack of awareness of their great importance to our heritage and wildlife. The Wealden project will try to find the majority of the ancient trees in the area and provide advice on their management.

The Wealden project is in partnership with the Woodland Trust's national Ancient Tree Hunt. Anyone can view recorded trees or add records to the interactive map at: www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/, but please contact me to register that you are helping with the project and to receive special Sussex recording forms (also available at www.sxbrc.org.uk/projects/ancient-tree-project/). The Ancient Tree Hunt will share all the Sussex records with the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre.

The minimum information that is needed for each tree is its location grid reference, location description, species and girth measured at 1.5m above the ground. Additional information on the tree's condition and related wildlife is very valuable. A booklet giving guidelines on measuring ancient trees can be found on the Ancient Tree Hunt website along with other useful advice at: www.ancient-tree-hunt.org.uk/morestuff/downloadableinfo/

A tree should be recorded if it is over the size given below for its species or if it has at least three separate features associated with ancient trees: bark loss, major deadwood, rot, cavities, decay holes, trunk hollows and fungi.

Tree species	Girth at 1.5 m	Hugs
hawthorn, rowan, birch, field maple,	150 cm	1
cherry, holly, hazel, hornbeam	230 cm	1½
ash, beech, Scot's pine, alder, willow, yew	300 cm	2
oak, sycamore, lime, horse chestnut, sweet chestnut, elm, poplar, other pines and exotics	450 cm	3

If you are interested in being a volunteer recorder, or have information about an ancient tree, or would like a survey carried out on your land, please contact me: Ali Wright, Sussex Wildlife Trust, Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex, BN5 9SD. Email: alisonwright@sussexwt.org.uk

The Wealden Ancient Tree Project is funded by Heritage Lottery Awards for All, Wealden District Council Community Grants Programme, Sussex Wildlife Trust and Sussex Biodiversity Partnership.

SUSSEX COUNTY RECORDERS 2007/8

If you are not already sending your records to a particular local recording scheme or Society, records of any plant or animal species can be sent to the Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre who will pass them on to the relevant groups listed below.

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC)

Woods Mill, Henfield,
West Sussex BN5 9SD
Tel: 01273 497553
info@sxbrc.org.uk

Sussex Wildlife Trust

Woods Mill, Henfield,
West Sussex BN5 9SD
Tel: 01273 497630
enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk

Higher Plants

ALAN KNAPP
(Sussex Botanical Recording Society
West Sussex)
7, Trinity Close, Pound Hill, Crawley RH10 3TM
Tel: 01293 883695
aknapp2000@btinternet.com

PAUL HARMES
(Sussex Botanical Recording Society
East Sussex)
10 Hillcroft, Mile Oak Road,
Portslade BN4 2QD
p.harmes01@ntlworld.com
Tel. 01273 880258

Sussex Botanical Recording Society

web site: www.sussexflora.org.uk

Orchids

DAVID LANG
1 Oaktree, Barcombe, Lewes,
East Sussex BN8 5DP.
Tel: (01273) 400446
dclangbarcombe@yahoo.co.uk

Bryophytes

HOWARD MATCHAM
21 Temple Bar, Strettington,
near Chichester, West Sussex PO18 0LB
Tel: 01243 781238
hwlgmatch@yahoo.co.uk

Lichens

SIMON DAVEY
10 Cottage Homes, Common Lane,
Ditchling, Hassocks
West Sussex BN6 8UR
Tel: 01273 843375
srdavey@globalnet.co.uk

Charophytes (Stoneworts)

FRANCES ABRAHAM
Old School House, Ebernoe, nr Petworth,
West Sussex GU28 9LD
frances.a@solutions-inc.co.uk

Marine algae (seaweeds)

IAN TITTLE
Department of Botany
Natural History Museum
Cromwell Road, London SW7 5BD
Work: it@nhm.ac.uk
Home: mmit@waitrose.com

Fungi

PETER RUSSELL
15 Graham Avenue, Patcham,
Brighton BN1 8HD
pjrthe1st@yahoo.com

Amphibians & Reptiles

Records should be sent to
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (SxBRC)
Woods Mill, Henfield,
West Sussex BN5 9SD
Tel: 01273 497553/554
info@sxbrc.org.uk

River Fish

DAMON BLOCK
Environment Agency, Sussex Area Office.
Saxon House, Little High Street, Worthing,
West Sussex BN11 1DH
Tel: 01903 703812
damon.block@environment-agency.gov.uk

Birds

CHRISTIAN MELGAR
Recorder: Sussex Ornithological Society
36 Victoria Road, Worthing,
West Sussex BN11 1XB
Tel: 01903 200064
recorder@sos.org.uk

Bird conservation enquiries:

conservation@sos.org.uk

All other enquiries:

RICHARD COWSER
Tel: 01903 770259
secretary@sos.org.uk or 01903 770259

Mammals (see below for bats, badgers & cetaceans)

Records should be sent to the
Sussex Mammal Group
C/O Penny Green, Woods Mill, Henfield,
West Sussex BN5 9SD
Tel: 01273 497553/554
sxbrc@sussexwt.org.uk

Bats

Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre (See above).

Badgers

Badger Trust (Sussex)
Tel: 07910 198720
Badger Trust website: www.badger.org.uk

Cetaceans and Seals

STEPHEN SAVAGE (Seawatch)
45 North Road, Portslade,
East Sussex BN41 2HD
Tel. 01273 424339
stevep.savage@ntlworld.com
www.seawatchfoundation.org.uk

Moths and butterflies

TONY DAVIES
Sussex Moth Group Secretary
tdavies@butterfly-conservation.org

Moths and butterflies (cont.)

COLIN PRATT
Sussex Moth Group Recorder
Oleander, 5 View Road,
Peacehaven, East Sussex.
colin.pratt@talk21.com
Tel. 01273 586780

BILL TAYLOR

British Butterfly Conservation Society –
Sussex Branch, Recorder
Tel: 01903 774551
Email: william.pendrich@tesco.net
Web: <http://www.sussex-butterflies.org.uk/>

Glow-worms

Please send records to SxBRC

Spiders

ANDY PHILLIPS
Flat 5, 21 West Hill Road
St. Leonards on Sea
East Sussex
TN38 0NA
Tel: 01424 716919
threecubes@gmail.com

Orthoptera & related orders

JOHN PAUL
Downsflint, High Street, Upper Beeding,
West Sussex BN44 3WN
tetrix@pavilion.co.uk

Dragonflies

JOHN LUCK
British Dragonfly Society – Sussex branch
4 Mill View, Ringmer, East Sussex BN8 5EP
Email: johnluck@gotadsl.co.uk
Web: www.dragonflysoc.org.uk

Coleoptera (beetles) & Heteroptera (plant bugs)

PETER HODGE
8 Harvard Road, Ringmer,
East Sussex BN8 5HJ
Tel. 01273 812047
Peter.J.Hodge@tesco.net

Hymenoptera Aculeata: Ants, Bees & Wasps

MIKE EDWARDS
Lea-side, Carron Lane, Midhurst,
West Sussex GU29 9LB
Tel. 01730 810482
ammophila@macace.net

Diptera (two-winged flies)

PATRICK ROPER
South View, Churchland Lane,
Sedlescombe, East Sussex TN33 0PF
Tel. 01424 870208

patrick@prassociates.co.uk

Hoverflies

ROGER MORRIS & STUART BALL
National Hoverfly Recording Scheme
7 Vine Street, Stamford
Lincolnshire PE9 1QE
roger.morris@dsl.pipex.com
Web: www.hoverfly.org.uk

Hemiptera/Homoptera

(Auchenorrhyncha: Leafhoppers & planthoppers)

ALAN STEWART
31 Houndean Rise, Lewes,
East Sussex BN7 1EQ
a.j.a.stewart@sussex.ac.uk
Tel: 01273 476243

Molluscs

MARTIN WILLING
14 Goodwood Close, Midhurst,
West Sussex GU29 9JG
Martin Willing martinwilling@godalming.ac.uk
Tel.: 01730 814790

Isopoda (woodlice) and related groups

STEVE PROSSER
43 Marchant's Drive
Camber, East Sussex TN31 2RF
mail@camber43.freerve.co.uk
Tel: 01797 229334

SOME VACANT GROUPS : VOLUNTEER COUNTY RECORDERS NEEDED

Ephemoptera (Mayflies), Neuroptera, Mecoptera and Megaloptera, (Lacewings, Scorpion-flies, Alderflies and Snake-flies), Coelenterata, Nemertea (Nematode worms), Oligochaeta (Oligochaete worms), Bryozoa, Annelida (Flatworms), Myriapoda (Millipedes), Crustacea.

OTHER USEFUL ADDRESSES

Ashdown Forest

The Conservators of Ashdown Forest
The Ashdown Forest Centre
Wych Cross, Forest Row
East Sussex RH18 5JP
Tel. 01342 823583;
conservators@ashdownforest.fsnet.co.uk

Badgers – see above.

Pseudo-scorpions

GERALD LEGG (National Recorder).
Booth Museum of Natural History, 194 Dyke
Road, Brighton,
East Sussex BN15AA
gerald.legg@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel: 01273 292777

Psocoptera (Bark lice and book lice)

MARCUS OLDFIELD
Booth Museum of Natural History, 194 Dyke
Road, Brighton,
East Sussex BN15AA
gerald.legg@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel: 01273 552586

Geology

JOHN COOPER
Booth Museum of Natural History, 194 Dyke
Road, Brighton,
East Sussex BN15AA
john.cooper@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel: 01273 552586

Marine Records - (see also Cetaceans)

GERALD LEGG
Booth Museum of Natural History, 194 Dyke
Road, Brighton,
East Sussex BN15AA
gerald.legg@brighton-hove.gov.uk
Tel: 01273 292777

East Sussex County Council

Alex Tait, County Ecologist,
Transport & Environment,
County Hall, St. Anne's Crescent,
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 1UE
Tel: 01273 481621
E-mail: alex.tait@eastsussexcc.gov.uk

Natural England (formerly English Nature)

Sussex and Surrey Team,
Phoenix House, 33 North Street,
Lewes, East Sussex BN7 2PH
Tel: 01273 476595

Email: sussex.surrey@english-nature.org.uk

Environment Agency

Sussex Area Office
Saxon House, Little High Street,
Worthing, West Sussex BN11 1DH
Tel: 01903 703831
cherry.weeks@environment-agency.gov.uk

Forestry Commission

South East England Forest District,
Bucks Horn Oak, Farnham,
Surrey GU10 4LS
Tel: 01420 23666
enquiries.seefd@forestry.gsi.gov.uk

High Weald AONB Unit

Woodland Enterprise Centre,
Hastings Road, Flimwell,
East Sussex TN5 7PR
Tel: 01580 879500
info@highweald.org

National Trust

South East Region, Polesden Lacey,
Dorking, Surrey RH5 6BD Tel: 01372 453401

Otters and Rivers Partnership

Fran Southgate
c/o the Sussex Wildlife Trust, Woods Mill
Henfield, West Sussex BN5 9SD
Tel: 01273 497555
fransouthgate@sussexwt.org.uk

RSPB

South East England Regional Office
2nd Floor, 42 Frederick Place,
Brighton BN1 4EA
Tel: 01273 775333

South Downs Joint Committee

Victorian Barn
Victorian Business Centre
Ford Lane, Ford Nr Arundel
West Sussex BN18 0EF
Tel: 01243 558700 Fax: 01243 558701

South Eastern Water

3 Church Road, Haywards Heath
West Sussex RH16 3NY
Tel: 0845 301 0845
Email: contactcentre@southeastwater.co.uk

Southern Water

Environment & Product Quality
Southern House, Lewes Road
Falmer, Brighton BN1 9PY
Tel: 01273 663150
customerservices@southernwater.co.uk

Sussex Amphibian & Reptile Group

Henri Brocklebank, Chair
Sussex Biodiversity Record Centre
(See above)

Sussex Bat Group

Web: <http://www.sussexbatgroup.org.uk/>
E-mail: sheila@batbox.com

Sussex Botany magazine

Enquiries to the SxBRC

Sussex Botanical Recording Society

<http://www.sussexflora.org.uk/>

Sussex Lichen Recording Group

Details from SxBRC

Sussex Wildlife Trust

Woods Mill, Henfield, West Sussex BN5 9SD
Tel: 01273 492630
enquiries@sussexwt.org.uk

Weald Meadows Initiative

At High Weald AONB Unit (see above).
meadows@highweald.org

West Sussex County Council

Environmental and Economic Policy Services
The Grange, Tower Street, Chichester,
West Sussex PO19 1RH
Tel: 01243 777273
E-mail: env.dev@westsussex.gov.uk

Woodland Trust

The Woodland Trust, Autumn Park
Dysart Road, Grantham, Lincs. NG31 6LL
Tel: 01476 581111
conservation@woodland-trust.org.uk



Fish at Newhaven Harbour Arm. *Gerald Legg*. (See pages 8-9)

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