

## Records from the Scientific Recorder 2019

by Mark Dudley MBNA

I have been doing the records now for 6 years and its always interesting when I am putting my notes together for the AGM to recap on what we have seen at our meetings. These records are collated in a database I keep locally with many of the records particularly the birds and insects sent to the national organisations such as BTO or iRecord. I find it a fascinating way to learn about natural history and using the NBN atlas website I can determine whether a species is local, uncommon, rare, under-recorded or moving north due to climate change. So much information can come from records kept I would encourage everyone to keep a record throughout the year, log it in a book and maybe check some of their new sightings with the NBN atlas. Catherine and I have a tradition on New Year's Day review our previous years sightings, having underlined/highlighted with a marker pen the key sightings of each visit, this provides a quick memory jog to the previous year's records before starting the new listings for the year.

I begin our review of the last year with Wentworth Garden Centre (WGC) a base we use regularly and often where you will find Steve and Pauline, particularly Steve who is very proud of his long grass area (LGA), as so many of the records come from their visits. There was no increase in the number of birds seen this year which still stands at 82, Steve again whilst on duty doing the ice-rink, seeing a skein of Pink footed geese flyover for the 2nd year running obviously a geese flight path.

From moth trapping surveys there were 4 new macro moths – Marbled minor (*Oligia strigili*), Eyed hawk-moth (*Smerinthus ocellata*), Common emerald (*Hemithea aestivaria*), and Varied coronet (*Hadena compta*), all quite common with the latter 3 being more commonly found in the southern half of England.

No new micro moths, mammals including bats, trees, ferns, fungus, mosses, liverworts, or lichens sighted but there were 5 new insects recorded – Meadow plant bug (*Leptopterna dolabrata*), Median wasp (*Dolichovespula media*) and the Holly leaf miner (*Phytomyza*), 2 new hoverflies, Spotted meliscaeva (*Melisceava auricollis*) and the Hornet fly (*Volucella zonaria*) which has moved up north in the last few years from London, potentially due to global warming, with its first records in S.Yorkshire this year. It's the largest British hoverfly at just under 20mm and resembles a hornet with its mahogany brown thorax and black and yellow abdomen a disguise that allows it to lay its eggs in wasp nests where the grub lives off the larvae until it pupates.

There were 18 additions to the flower records as a result of the LGA most being quite common but ones of particular interest due to being new additions to our listings at any site were Beaked hawkbeard (*Crepis vesicaria*), Mouse-ear hawkweed (*Pilosella officinarum*), Heath speedwell (*Veronica officinalis*), Oxford ragwort (*Senecio squalidus*), Square-Stalked Willowherb (*eplioibium tetragonum*).

Two new spiders for our listings the Sputnik spider (*Paidiscura pallens*) and the Candy stripe (*Enoplognatha ovata*) both very visual spiders the former have an egg-case that looks like the Sputnik Russian satellite and the latter with its candy looking appearance of two red stripes along its abdomen.

There were 4 new beetles a Soldier beetle (*Cantharis paludosa*) a typical northern species, Malachite beetle (*Malachius bipustulatus*) a not too uncommon green metallic beetle with a red tip at the base of the abdomen, Hawthorn leaf beetle (*Lochmaea crataegi*) and a Sun beetle (*Amara aenea*). There was one additional grass noted Meadow foxtail (*Alopecurus pratensis*) and a new millipede (*Cylindroiulus caernleocinctus*).

The final 2 additions to the records were 2 new bees the Early mining bee (*Andrena haemorrhoa*) and Willughby's leafcutter bee (*Megachile willughbiella*). In conclusion the number of species noted at the site is 786 species, an increase of 38 species. Please check the BNA website, for the full listings and % occasions noted. <https://yorkshire.dev.bna-naturalists.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/9/2018/06/W.Gdn-Centre-species-lists.pdf>

**Again, we have ventured further afield in our visits through S. Yorkshire, these are the highlights from those visits:**

**Elsecar (Feb) – 35 species** including Wren, Goldcrest, and Goosanders but also a new lichen Crottle (*Parmelia saxitalis*).

**Rivelin Valley (Apr) - 56** species of mosses, liverworts and ferns including 1 new fern addition Polypody (*Polypodium vulgare*), 4 new mosses Lateral Cryphaea, Lyell's bristle moss (*Orthotrichum lyellii*), common Tamarisk-moss (*Thuidium tamariscinum*), and Waved silk-moss (*Plagiothecium undulatum*), and 2 new liverworts Overleaf Pellia (*Pellia epiphylla*) and Ladder flapwort (*Nardia scalaris*).

**Thorp Perrow (June) - 38** species highlights being a Purple toothwort (*Lathraea clandestine*), a rare big-headed mining bee - (*Andrena bucephala*) only 100 records have been logged across the country. Several nice hoverflies including *Melisceava auricollis* and the Snouted duck fly (*Anasimyia lineata*) look it up its a beauty and a day flying micro moth the Gold-banded longhorn moth (*Nemophora degeerella*).

**Bishop Middleham (Jul) - 75** species unfortunately it rained so we didn't get to see as much as we should have but there were a great number of flowers including Rest harrow (*Ononis repens*), Dark Red Helleborine (*Epipactis atrorubens*), Common twayblade (*Neottia ovata*), Fragrant orchids (*Gymnadenia conopsea*) and Common milkwort (*Polgala vulgaris*) as well as a few nice insects Northern brown argus (*Aricia plagiata*) at one of its most southern sites, 5 spot burnet (*Zygaena lonicerae*) and a common groundhopper (*Tetrix undulata*).

**Carlton Marsh (Aug)-105** species logged but not only did we see the Red-tailed bee (*Bombus lapidaries*) but we saw the Red-tailed cuckoo bee (*Bombus rupestris*). Unfortunately, summer had come a little early so the flower we had seen on the recce a Corn cockle (*Agrostemma githago*) had already seeded, but most people did see over 8 butterflies and the 5 spotted burnet moth as well as glimpse of a Kingfisher and Water rail a wonderful day.

**North Cave (Sept) - 74** species a wetland in the making the highlight of the 50 species of birds seen being the Hobby (*Falco subbuteo*) gleaning dragonflies around the hedgerows of which there were many including Ruddy and Common darters (*Sympetrum sanguinum* & *striolatum*), brown and Migrant hawkers (*Aeshna grandis* & *mixta*) and the three Green sandpipers (*Tringa ochropus*) who were passing through on migration and had stopped for a feed along with a Common sandpiper (*Actitis hypoleucos*).

**Potter Hole (Oct) -** I wasn't at this event but from the article written by Tricia indicated there were **24** species seen including the Amethyst deceiver (*Laccaria emthystina*) and one I haven't seen before Hare's ear (*Otidea onotica*) an additional 15 new species to the records list.

**Wortley Hall (Nov)- 19** species of which we saw a lovely Beefsteak fungus (*Fistulina hepatica*) an ancient Sessile oak tree (*Quercus petraea*) at least 360 years old, a place we will have to visit again sometime.

In total we saw **467** species throughout the year a grand total bringing the total number of species seen by BNA S.Yorkshire to **1653** an increase of 72 species (1581 previous) from last year although there are others to be included from other recorders that have sent their records to me, so this will increase.

Hopefully you will join us on one of the trips this year, if you do please consider making a list of what you have seen and either hand it to me at the end of the session or take it away and look up some of the ones you find interesting and let me know if you find anything a bit rare, or something that is uncommon, or due to global warming maybe expanding its distribution north.

## Class of 2019 Star Species

From Mark Dudley MBNA

**Elsecar** article by Steve Rutherford



Goldcrest & Tree creeper by S. Rutherford & Di Farrar

**Microscopy** article by Catherine Artindale



illustrated talk on the day Photos by P. Rutherford

**Rivelin Valley** article by Trish MacDuff



Common Polypody by K. Hinchcliffe

**Thorp Perrow** article by David Hughes



Purple Toothwort and Gold Banded Long Horn D. Hughes

**Carlton Marsh** article by Steve Rutherford



Kingfisher and Water Rail by S. Rutherford, Migrant Hawker by K. Hinchcliffe and Harvestman by M. Dudley

**North Cave** article by Catherine Artindale



**Potters Hole** article by Tricia Krill



Hares Ear Fungi by P. Rutherford

**Wortley Hall** article by Pauline Rutherford



Beefsteak Fungi by P. Rutherford

**Wentworth Garden Centre**



Conops quadrifasciatus, Machimus atricapillus and Volucella zonaria by S. Rutherford



Paidiscura pallens and 'Sputnik' by S. Rutherford