

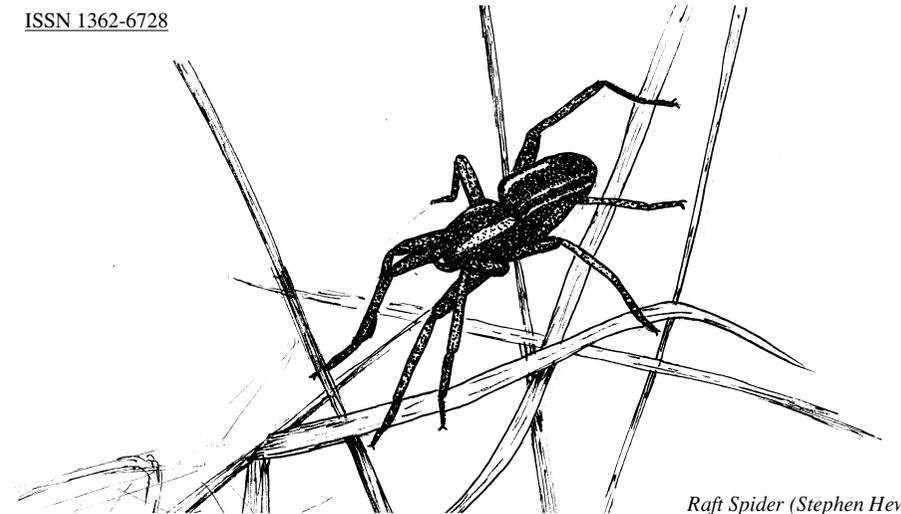
# The CARLISLE NATURALIST

Volume 10 Number 2

Autumn 2002

Published twice-yearly (Spring/Autumn) by Carlisle Natural History Society

ISSN 1362-6728



Raft Spider (Stephen Hewitt)

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### From the Editor

This is my last issue of the *Carlisle Naturalist* as Editor. After ten years editing the publication since its inception, I feel it is time that someone else provides new impetus and develops the journal in new directions. I am very pleased that David Clarke has agreed to take over as Editor beginning with the next issue in the spring. I have thoroughly enjoyed my time as Editor and wish to thank everyone who has contributed to and supported the *Carlisle Naturalist* over the years. In particular I owe a huge debt to Jeremy Roberts whose very professional production has been an essential part of the success of the publication. This issue sees a change in the editorial control of the publication with Sub-editors taking responsibility for particular taxonomic groups under the General Editor in an effort to stimulate more copy across the broad range of natural history studies in Cumbria.

### Membership list

The Council of the Society is keen to make the Society as inclusive as possible and to enable the Society to act as a forum for natural history discussion and information exchange. The meetings and the *Carlisle Naturalist* already provide avenues for exchange of news and views, but it is suggested that a membership list with addresses and contact details could be issued to further dialogue between members. We do not want to publish the names and addresses of anyone who does not wish this information to be made public. If anyone DOES NOT wish their name and address to appear on such a membership list please inform the Secretary.

### Additions to the Library

New member Mr John Chakko is very kindly donating to the Society the copies of the *Journal of the Bombay Natural History Society* that he periodically receives. This journal contains scientific papers as well as miscellaneous notes and records on all aspects of the natural history of the Indian sub-continent. Mr Chakko is also depositing his copies of *The Northwestern Naturalist* (new series), published by the North Western Naturalists' Union, in our Library once he has finished with them. The primary aim of the North West Naturalists' Union is to maintain and stimulate the study of natural history in the north west and *The Northwestern Naturalist* contains articles on wildlife in Lancashire, Greater Manchester and Merseyside.

Peter Wilberforce has donated a short run of the *Botanical Journal of the Linnaean Society*.

### Discounted publications to Society members

The following publications of the Society are available to members at the discounted prices shown:

Cumbrian Wildlife in the 20th Century (1996)	£5.00
Lakeland Ornithology (1954)	£5.00
Lakeland Molluscs (1967)	£3.00

Also:

Lakeland Birdlife 1920-1970, R.H. Brown (1974)	£5.00
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## Field Meetings

**1<sup>st</sup> June 2002, Arnside Knott & Leighton Moss**

**Leader: Geoff Naylor**

Just three members made this trip on a warm sunny day.

Not far from the car part at Arnside Knott we found a group of Dark-red Helleborines (leaves only 2-3 inches high). Geoff had previously seen these flowers and it was good to see they were still there in spite of the grazing sheep.

On the open slopes Latticed Heath and Speckled Yellow moths were present together with Dingy Skipper and a single male Brimstone butterfly. However, the Fly Orchids reported from this area proved elusive.

At the old tower ruins at Middlebarrow, Pellitory-of-the-wall was growing. In the wood here we found Fingered Sedge at the northern limit of its range. Wood-sedge was also noted.

In the open clearings at Middlebarrow, among the cowslips, several specimens of the Duke of Burgundy were flitting about. This attractive small butterfly is sometimes called Duke of Burgundy Fritillary because of the fritillary-like markings on its wings; it is however not a true fritillary, but the only British member of the family Nemeobiidae. There were also several Green Hairstreaks, which were rather more approachable. A few late flowers of the Early Purple Orchid were found and Common Gromwell, Salad Burnet and Dropwort were noted among other common flowers.

A detour was made to see the Lady's-slipper orchid. This plant has been known at the site for some 15 or 50 years, depending on who you talk to. There were several flower-spikes, not all of which bore flowers. However, three spikes still had flowers in good condition. The plant is an introduction at this site: its DNA has been analysed and found to be of Austrian origin!

At Morecambe Bay we had excellent views of the two pairs of Avocets which were breeding there. On to Leighton Moss where we walked along the track to the Public Hide and Low Hide. Yellow Iris was in full bloom and proved attractive to flies and beetles, including the local wetland hoverfly *Anasimia lineata*. A Bittern was heard booming near Low Hide and Gadwall, Shoveler, Shelduck, Red-breasted Merganser and Reed Warbler were among other birds seen. Among the insects, Peacock, Wall and Orange Tip butterflies were noted along with Large Red and Common Blue Damselflies and the larva of a Gold-tail moth.

*Dorothy Iveson*

**15<sup>th</sup> June 2002, Roudsea Wood**

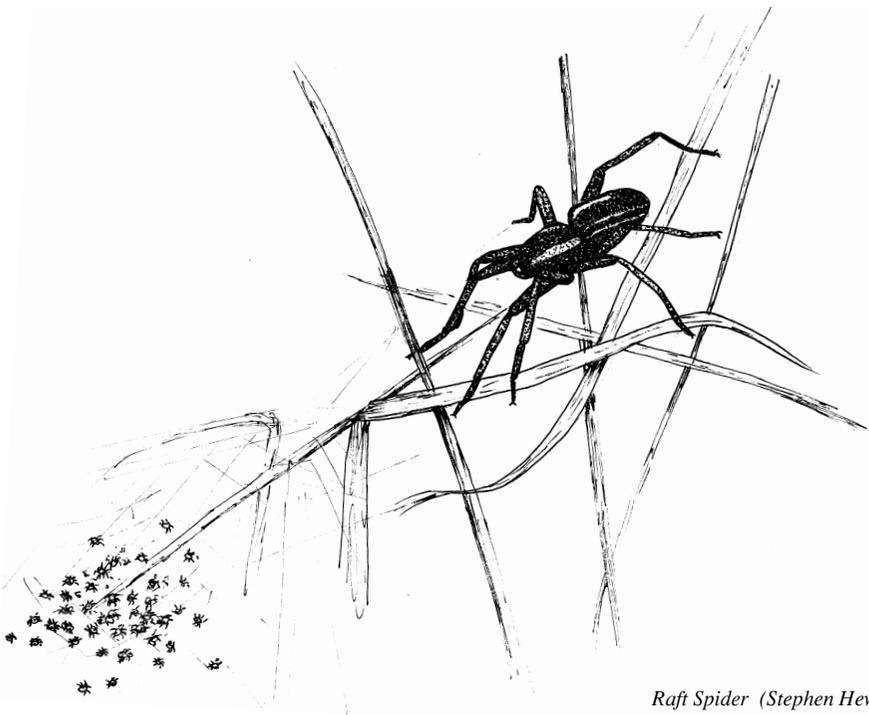
**Leaders: David Clarke and Neil Robinson**

Unseasonably cool, damp and windy weather did not deter the dozen or so who attended this meeting, postponed from 2001 due to Foot and Mouth Disease. For the first part of the morning we were shown around by Neil Robinson.

Roudsea Wood is a mixture of calcareous and acidic woodland with extensive peat bogs on the eastern side. Its flora and fauna are very diverse and also contain some species which are at, or close to their northern limit in Britain.

After examining a small disused limestone quarry where Fingered Sedge (*Carex digitata*) was seen but the Fly Orchid that grows here could not be found, we spent an hour or so on the peat bog of Fish House Moss where the highlight was the finding of the rare (and very large) Raft Spider (*Dolomedes fimbriatus*). We then moved on to a transition zone between the moss and the limestone woodland which is Britain's only site for the Large Yellow Sedge (*Carex flava*). Having first examined a probable hybrid between it and *Carex lepidocarpa* we then saw the real thing which was quite impressive as well as being one of our rarest plants.

A walk round the woodland and back to the car park via the tarn followed. A low bank near the tarn had a good patch of the rather local bright green dog-lichen *Peltigera leucophlebia*, which is restricted to calcareous rocks. En route Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*) was noted and several interesting insects were identified. Two interesting moths encountered were the Gold Swift (*Hepialis hecta*) and the scarce Red-necked Footman (*Atolmis rubricollis*). In a cleared area near the tarn noteworthy hoverflies included *Brachypalpoides lenta*, *Criorhina berberina*, *Chalcosyrphus nemorum* and *Tropidia scita*. The larvae of the first three species live in decaying dead wood, whilst



Raft Spider (Stephen Hewitt)

the latter is a local species whose larvae live in Yellow Iris. The spectacularly patterned *Phasia hemiptera* was also seen. This fly is thought to parasitise planthoppers and other bugs and it is suggested that its shaded wings mimic the wing-pattern of such bugs. A Slow Worm was also seen in this area.

On a pile of birch logs near the Site Office, a few adults of the local flat-bug *Aradus depressus* were found. This distinctive bug is very flattened, allowing it to live beneath the bark of birch trees where it is believed to feed on fungal hyphae. It is rarely seen but the cut ends of recently felled birch logs are a good place to search for adults of this species in June.

After lunch, a decision the move elsewhere was somehow arrived at and so we proceeded to the Rusland Valley in the vain hope of seeing a Honey Buzzard. Buzzards were seen, but too distant to identify.

The rest of the afternoon was at Latterbarrow CWT Reserve where we had hopes of seeing Fly Orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*). This time we were not disappointed – they were numerous but just past their best. We stopped counting spikes at about 35 but were informed by the warden that there had been 70. There was a good supporting cast of orchids too with Greater Butterfly (*Platanthera chlorantha*) surprisingly numerous (20-30 seen), plus Fragrant (*Gymnadenia conopsea*), Twayblade (*Listera ovata*), Common Spotted (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*) and the remains of Early Purple Orchid (*Orchis mascula*). In addition, a few Speckled Wood butterflies (*Pararge aegeria*) were seen; a large spider-hunting wasp, *Priocnemis perturbator*, was searching among the vegetation, and finally two Northern Brown Argus butterflies (*Aricia artaxerxes*) – ending an interesting diversion.

Geoff Naylor

#### 29<sup>th</sup> June: Watendlath area

Leader: Dorothy Iveson

Seven members made the trip to Borrowdale on a day which, although overcast for the most part, did have some sunny spells when it became much warmer.

Walking through Ashness Woods, we came across a violet ground beetle. Common Cow-wheat, Enchanter's Nightshade, Foxglove and Heath Speedwell were all in flower. Several small moths, well camouflaged on the tree trunks, were identified as *Scoparia ambigualis*.

In 2001 the flower-rich marshy grassland at Moss Mire at the edge of the wood was full of flowers and insects. This year however, the site had been recently grazed and much of the wild flower interest was not showing. A few Heath Spotted-orchids had produced flowers and several spikes of Marsh Arrowgrass were found. Lousewort and milkwort were also flowering. The leaves of Round-leaved Sundew, Marsh Pennywort and lots of Bog Asphodel were noted. The small fungus *Mitruha paludosa* was seen in one of the water channels. I had noticed several specimens of this fungus in a very wet

area at the back of the site on a previous visit, but that area had dried out and the fungus was not to be seen there.

The wood ant nests proved very active but the red beetle associated with the ants, *Clytra quadripunctata* was not seen, although I have seen it there on several previous visits.

Walking on to Watendlath we passed some lovely damp flushes with flowering butterwort, eyebright, thyme, Alpine Lady's-mantle, Quaking Grass, Heath Bedstraw and Carnation Sedge.

A cold wind at the tarn kept any dragonflies grounded. Spike-rush was growing at the margins together with Marsh Foxtail, Lady's Bedstraw and Marsh Arrowgrass. Ragged Robin and Marsh Marigold were in a wet area close by.

Typical birds of the open fell and valley woodlands such as Wheatear, Ring Ouzel, Pied Flycatcher, Buzzard and Nuthatch were all seen. During a warm sunny spell Small Heath butterflies, Chimney Sweeper and Silver Ground Carpet moths were tempted to fly. Dor beetles and Garden Chafers were seen and the heathland hoverfly *Chrysotoxum arcuatum* was identified.

Dorothy Iveson

### 13<sup>th</sup> July: Smardale Gill

Leader: Ron Baines

Fourteen members assembled at Smardale in bright sunshine for a tour lead by Ron Baines. Ron has a wealth of knowledge about this CWT reserve that has been gained over many years, part of which time he was voluntary manager of the site. He has done and still continues to do regular butterfly transects on the reserve. We started our journey from the northern end of the reserve and walked along the course of the old Stainmore railway, passing at first through a wooded area. Along the route Ron was able to show us Greater Butterfly-orchid (*Platanthera chlorantha*), the rare Bird's-foot Sedge (*Carex ornithopoda*), Common Wintergreen (*Pyrola minor*) and Herb Paris (*Paris quadrifolia*). Geoff Naylor identified a large fungus growing on the track as Larch Boletus (*Suillus grevillei*). Meadow Brown and Northern Brown Argus butterflies were seen warming themselves and fluttering in the more open areas where felling had taken place. As we reached the famous Smardale Gill Viaduct, the flowering Bloody Crane's-bill (*Geranium sanguineum*) and yellow Common Rock-rose (*Helianthemum nummularium*) made a colourful sight along with some Melancholy Thistle (*Cirsium heterophyllum*). The viaduct across which we walked has been restored in recent years and from here there are excellent views along the valley of the Scandal Beck.

On the far side of the viaduct is an area of limestone grassland alongside the track that is particularly attractive to butterflies. Here we saw Dark Green Fritillary and Common Blue butterflies. The plants included Fragrant Orchid (*Gymnadenia*

*conopsea*), Common Spotted-orchid (*Dactylorhiza fuchsii*), Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*), Lady's Bedstraw (*Galium verum*), Carlina Thistle (*Carlina vulgaris*) and Horseshoe Vetch (*Hippocrepis comosa*). We walked on to the old lime kilns before having lunch over looking the valley. Ron described to us the past history of the site, pointing out the old remains of charcoal burners' pits in open areas opposite showing that the valley had previously been wooded. He has mapped all the charcoal burning sites on the reserve and shown that the burners were at Smardale prior to the coming of the railway. Nowadays this area of open valley is dominated by Blue Moor-grass (*Sesleria caerulea*).

Unfortunately, we were too early in the season to see the Scotch Argus. Ron told us to see this butterfly we would need to be at Smardale during the period of last week in July and throughout August.

On the walk back to our cars Ron took us to see Broad-leaved Helleborine (*Epipactis helleborine*) still in bud. He told us some of the history of the railway. The line was originally built in the 1850's to transport coke from the northeast to the iron industries of south Cumbria, and was eventually closed in 1962. As we walked towards the part where track is crossed by the Carlisle to Settle line we were treated to a sighting of a steam train 'The Princess Elizabeth' pulling many period carriages, giving us the flavour of the railways of old.

Ron suggested to us that it would be interesting to visit the nearby Waitby Greenriggs CWT Reserve and 8 of us decided to do that. This was a good idea as it yielded some very interesting sightings. Ringlet and Large Skipper were amongst the butterflies and Field Gentian (*Gentianella campestris*), Fly Orchid (*Ophrys insectifera*), Bird's-eye Primrose (*Primula farinosa*), Saw-wort (*Serratula tinctoria*), Black Bog-rush (*Schoenus nigricans*) and most impressively large numbers of Marsh Helleborine (*Epipactis palustris*) were also seen.

Ours thanks goes to Ron Baines for leading an interesting and very informative walk at Smardale.

Marie Saag

### 27<sup>th</sup> July: Scaleby Moss

Leader: David Clarke

This was one of the slightly better days, weather-wise, of the generally very poor summer. A large party had assembled (including two guests from Keswick NHS) and we only just about managed to get everyone parked at Silverhill where Mr Hughes had kindly offered space.

This convenient (non-public) access onto the north side of the Moss brought us quickly to the area where the Labrador Tea (*Ledum palustre* ssp. *groenlandicum*) has long been established. We looked around here too in case this was the location of Ernest Blezard's record of Northern Bilberry (*Vaccinium uliginosum*) from the 1950s.

The plant has not been subsequently confirmed, and we did not find it either. Some carpets of Sphagnum nearby had fine coverage of Cranberry.

Moving further towards the Moss centre brought us quickly to the first group of pools excavated by English Nature in 1993 to aid survival of the rare White-faced Darter dragonfly (*Leucorrhinia dubia*). The species was duly seen at pool 27, where work by the leader had shown that it has a small breeding presence. Other dragonflies were here too, including a male Southern Hawker, which is very uncommon compared to the Common Hawker – which lives up to its name. There were still a few Large Heath butterflies around and we caught and released examples, assessing the match of their markings to the ‘subspecies’ expected.

We moved across the Moss, past other pools, and also viewing many former open pools which have grown over with Sphagnum during the past two decades. Adders were hoped-for but not seen on the raised peat area near the largest pool (the leader had seen one on other dates near the Moss edge). Sweeping the heather in this area produced one or two very immature examples of the uncommon heathland crab spider *Philodromus histrio*, but we were unable to confirm the rarer spider *Hyposinga hamata*, last recorded in the 1970s. Steve Hewitt and John Parker had concentrated on Diptera and John captured the Nationally Scarce peatland crane fly *Erioptera neilseni*. The dead-wood hoverflies *Xylota coeruliventris* and *Chalcosyrphus nemorum* were observed settling on the cut brush from tree thinning activities and some individuals of the golden-yellow horsefly *Hybomitra montana*, a *Sphagnum* bog specialist, were noted around the pools. Steve also collected a specimen of the shorebug *Chartoscirta cocksi*, another local peatland insect.

There was some dragonfly activity at the large pool, and species present included Four-spotted Chaser, White-faced Darter and Common Hawker. Marie Saag and Anne Abbs had kindly busied themselves collecting dragonfly exuviae at all the pools we visited: the numbers counted were added into the figures of the survey the leader had been conducting on a weekly basis. White-faced Darter emergence had evidently ceased and the first signs of the much more numerous Black Darter (*Sympetrum danae*) were evident. The route back to the cars produced a nice example of a well-grown larva of the Emperor Moth (*Saturnia pavonia*).

To round off the day, we moved to the river Eden not far away at Park Broom in the hope of seeing signs of the Banded Demoiselle (*Calopteryx splendens*). The riverbank was too heavily vegetated to inspect the area where it has been recorded in some numbers, but a short walk downstream to an old shingle bed with some growth of Reed Canary-grass (*Phalaris arundinacea*) produced a few males and females. They seemed to be using the area as a roost in the increasingly cloudy conditions, and their low numbers suggested the flight period was almost over.

David Clarke

### 9<sup>th</sup> August: Moth evening, Wan Fell Leaders: Mike Clementson & Richard Little

Wan Fell, just north of Penrith, is the largest remaining area of lowland heath on the sandy soils of the Eden Valley. The light-traps were operated just to the east of Brownrigg Fell, where a broad area of rabbit-cropped, sandy, grassland lies adjacent to the heather covered slopes of Wan Fell. The water-logged saddle between Brownrigg Fell and Wan Fell holds the peat bog of Long Moss with *Sphagnum* lawns and encroaching birch scrub.

A small group of stalwarts gathered at dusk on an inauspicious evening of drizzly showers carried on a cold wind. However, tenacity was rewarded when the rain eased off and two or three hours of reasonable moth activity were enjoyed. Some 25 species were identified in all. Most were common and ubiquitous species, generally found in a wide variety of habitats. However a few were rather more local species associated with heathland or grassland on sandy soils as might be expected at this site.

Among the first to arrive at the light was a Gold Swift, whose larvae feed on the roots and stems of Bracken. The Purple Bar and Galium Carpet are species of light soils whose larvae feed on various species of bedstraw. The latter species is increasingly coastal in its distribution in northern Britain and is regarded as scarce in Cumbria with only a handful of recent records in the county. The Narrow-winged Pug is a widespread heathland species whose larvae feed on the flowers of heather. Another typical heathland species to occur was the True Lover’s Knot; the larvae of which feed on bell-heathers and Ling. Other species of light soils and heathland were the Dotted Clay and the Flounced Rustic.

The full list of species recorded on the evening is given below:

Gold Swift (*Hepialus hecta*)  
 a pyralid moth (*Agriphila straminella*)  
 a pyralid moth (*Agriphila tristella*)  
 Mother of Pearl (*Pleuroptya ruralis*)  
 Galium Carpet (*Epirrhoe galiata*)  
 Yellow Shell (*Camptogramma bilineata bilineata*)  
 Purple Bar (*Cosmorhoe ocellata*)  
 Twin-spot Carpet (*Perizoma didymata*)  
 Narrow-winged Pug (*Eupithecia nanata*)  
 Poplar Hawk-moth (*Laothoe populi*)  
 Flame Shoulder (*Ochropleura plecta*)  
 Large Yellow Underwing (*Noctua pronuba*)  
 Lesser Broad Bordered Yellow Underwing (*Noctua janthe*)  
 True Lover's Knot (*Lycophotia porphyrea*)  
 Dotted Clay (*Xestia baja*)  
 Six-striped Rustic (*Xestia sexstrigata*)  
 Antler (*Cerapteryx graminis*)

Smoky Wainscot (*Mythimna impura*)  
Common Wainscot (*Mythimna pallens*)  
Dark Arches (*Apamea monoglypha*)  
Middle-barred Minor (*Oligia fasciuncula*)  
Common Rustic (*Mesapamea secalis*)  
Flounced Rustic (*Luperina testacea*)  
Burnished Brass (*Diachrysis chrysitis*)  
Snout (*Hypena proboscidalis*)

Stephen Hewitt

**28<sup>th</sup> September: Fungus Foray, Finglandrigg Wood      Leader: Geoff Naylor**

A group of seven people joined me for the annual fungus foray, at Finglandrigg Wood. Fungi were not easy to come by after a prolonged dry spell and many of those found were rather shrivelled and dry, especially some of the Milk caps (*Lactarius*) which rarely provided any 'milk'. This caused some problems in identification and some of the names given were provisional.

The Blushing Bracket (*Daedaliopsis confragosa*) was much in evidence and there were a few specimens of the uncommon bracket *Phellinus igniarius*. Both these species tend to be host-specific on Willows but several of the former were noted on Birch on this occasion. There was a good selection of common species of *Russula* and *Lactarius* and, in the open areas, several grassland and 'dung' fungi.

After almost 3 hours we had a total of 48 species, which was rather fewer than might have been expected. Probably the most notable were *Lepiota cristata* (Crested Lepiota or Stinking Parasol), *Pleurotus pulmonarius*, *Boletus piperatus* (Peppery Bolete), *Peziza badia*, and *Inocybe asterospora*.

Peter Wilberforce (as last year) was able to show us some of the mysteries of micro-fungi, which are his speciality and his identifications added a further 10 species to the tally.

Other points of interest were large amounts of the scarce and local Dwarf Gorse (*Ulex minor*) which was in full flower.

Birds included a late singing Chiffchaff as well as Bullfinch, Grey Wagtail and Jay.

Geoff Naylor

[Sadly, Peter and Sheila Wilberforce have now moved back to Argyll and have consequently resigned from the Society. Peter has been very supportive of the Society and its activities over the two or three years of his membership and his contribution will be missed. We wish them both well for the future. – Ed.]

## Notes and records

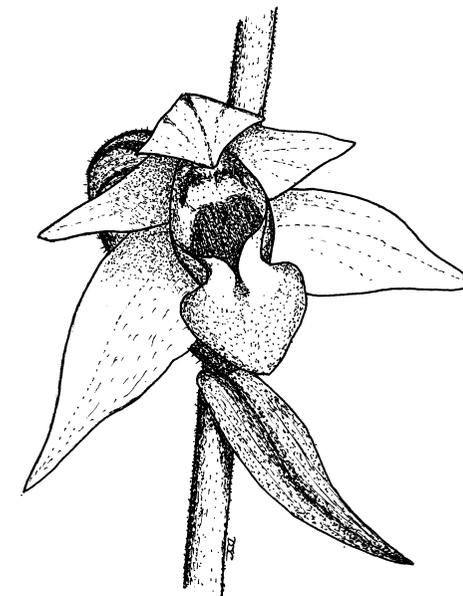
### A new Cumbrian site for the 'Dune Helleborine' *Epipactis leptochila* (Godfrey) Godfrey var. *dunensis* T. & T. A. Stephenson

On 17th July 2002, one of us (DI) discovered a population of an unfamiliar greenish-flowered helleborine at Engine Lonning, in Carlisle. Study of the flower structure and consultation with the BSBI referee for this genus, Prof A. J. Richards, soon confirmed our initial conclusions about the species' identity: the plants key out in Stace (1991) to *Epipactis leptochila* – but see the technical note below for discussion of botanical naming.

This is only the third site for this plant for Cumbria. Of the two existing sites, one is near Alston, under birch (and might have similarities to the Carlisle location); the other is on coastal dunes at Sandscale Haws, near Barrow (Halliday 1997). Richards (in Stewart *et al*, 1994) refers to *E. leptochila* as having 'three very distinct lowland habitats'. Engine Lonning seems to accord with the second of these, which are inland, on metal-polluted ground (and sometimes on derelict industrial sites).

An incomplete survey of the site on 26<sup>th</sup> July by the writers, with Stephen Hewitt, showed that the population was substantial, with over 150 flowering spikes. Many of these were in fairly bare ground in deep shade under tall scrub birch and hawthorn; well-grown spikes were also present in more exposed, tall-herb/grassy vegetation at path edges, though still fairly shaded from direct sunlight. Site photographs and GPS readings were taken. A single spike has been retained in the herbarium of Tullie House Museum, Carlisle, and some flowers have been pickled.

Engine Lonning is on the site of a former railway line and sidings within the urban area of Carlisle. The track was removed some 30 years ago and the area has been allowed to revert to dense scrub and grassland, with well-used public paths. The underlying substrate must still include much calcareous and mineral-rich ballast associated with its former use. The plants were in a relatively limited area, but Jeremy Roberts found a somewhat separate group, so the orchid may well occur more extensively. The area has been well-visited over the years by naturalists, and it is curious that the species has not been noted here before. This suggests that flowering



'Dune Helleborine'

(David Clarke)

may be irregular, as has been noted elsewhere. Of other shade-loving orchid species, Broad-leaved Helleborine (*E. helleborine*) was apparently not present, but the Common Twayblade (*Listera ovata*) was noted in small numbers.

The appearance and flower structure were very typical, with semi-pendent, well-opened blooms. The stronger spikes carried upwards of 25 flowers. The ovary and upper main stem were distinctly pubescent, the perianth segments were a yellowish-green (without a trace of pink coloration) and the crumbling pollinia whitish. The lip was triangular and flat when newly emerged; the shape varied somewhat, from as wide as long, to longer than wide, in different flowers. In older flowers, the lip became more-or-less strongly recurved, and then appearing wider than long.

#### Technical note:

The greenish-flowered members of the genus *Epipactis* exhibit a confusing array of variation, forming 'a problematical complex of self-pollinated plants in which species limits are uncertain and disputed' (Stace, 1991). The shape of the lip of the Engine Lonning plants appears to approach that in those forms of *E. leptochila* referred to as 'dunensis' the so-called Dune Helleborine, currently treated by Stace as a variety of *E. leptochila*. As the name implies, the most typical forms of this rare plant are known on dunes, such as those at Sandscale Haws, and also at Lindisfarne (Northumberland). However, similar plants are known inland in a number of places, including along the River South Tyne. Professor Richards (pers. comm.) has said "This is a fascinating development and ... will be quite a new type of habitat for *dunensis*. Current thinking (based in part on DNA work) is that all the northern England populations which had been compared with *leptochila*, or '*leptochila* ssp. *dunensis*' are in fact best referable to *dunensis*".

#### References

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 Stace, C. (1991) *New Flora of the British Isles*. CUP, Cambridge.  
 Stewart, A., Pearman, D. A., & Preston, C. D. (1994) *Scarce Plants in Britain*. Joint Nature Conservation Committee, Peterborough.

Dorothy Iveson, David Clarke and Jeremy Roberts

#### The Round-winged Muslin (*Thumatha senex* (Hubner)) at Drumburgh Moss

I ran two moth traps on the night of 25/26<sup>th</sup> July 2002 on Drumburgh Moss (NY253592). The Heath Trap was stationed on the track while the Robinson was stationed on the open heath in marshy conditions. On examining the catch in the Robinson there were found be 260 Macro-moths of 31 species, including 112 True lover's Knot (*Lycophotia porphyrea*) and 47 Smoky Wainscot (*Mythimna impura*).

Of some interest were three specimens of Four-dotted Footman (*Cybosia mesomella*). Further interest was generated by the presence of seven specimens which at first I thought were Pyralids as they fluttered in the trap. On initial examination, I identified them as being either specimens of Round-winged Muslin (*Thumatha senex*) or of Muslin Footman (*Nudaria mundana*); my reaction was to assume them to be the latter as they are much more common and widespread. On closer examination however I was certain they were the former even though there is a dearth of records for VC 70 and in Cumbria as a whole. My confidence in my identification was given a boost when Dr Ian Wallace of Liverpool Museum sent me a list of moths, which included Round-winged Muslins, he had captured on the night of 16/17<sup>th</sup> July 2002 in the same location. In conversation he said he was certain of the accuracy of his identification as he was familiar with this species in the Midlands.

The Round-winged Muslin can be distinguished from the very similar Muslin Footman in that the latter moth has less rounded, thinly scaled and almost transparent wings with less conspicuous spots. This distinction was clearly illustrated by specimens of both species in Mike Clementson's moth collection; Mike confirmed their identification.

The Round-winged Muslin is an inhabitant of marshes and fens, unlike the Muslin Footman which frequents more stony habitats.

According to Kydd & Hewitt (2000) The only previous record for Cumbria is an unconfirmed record for 1879 in VC70 although some records are shown on the distribution map in Heath, J. & Emmet, A. M. (1983). The 1999 Cumbria Moth Report (Petley-Jones 2000) records that a Round-winged Muslin was captured at South Walney on the 19<sup>th</sup> July 1999.

#### References

- Heath, J. & Emmet, A. M. (1983) *The Moths and Butterflies of Great Britain and Ireland*. Volume 9 p81. Harley Books.  
 Kydd, B. & Hewitt, S. (2000) *A Checklist of the Butterflies and larger Moths of Cumbria*, Tullie House Museum.  
 Petley-Jones, R. (2000) Moths 1999, in *Birds and Wildlife in Cumbria*, Cumbria Naturalists Union, p72.

Richard Little, 'Haresfield', Cumwhinton, Carlisle, CA4 8ER

#### New locations for the RDB3 bee *Osmia parietina* Curtis in Cumbria

Thanks mainly to the sharp eyes of a new observer, the number of known locations for this Red Data Book bee in Cumbria has been more than doubled in 2002.

On 12<sup>th</sup> May Rob Petley-Jones, Site Manager for English Nature's South Cumbria and North Lancashire Reserves, organised a 'Wall Mason Bee Identification Training

Session' at Gait Barrows NNR for some of the keen butterfly transect recorders. I showed slides and specimens and distributed Identification Cards with a photo on one side and details on the reverse. That afternoon Charles and Ann Dale went to their butterfly transect on Hutton Roof Crag, a Cumbria Wildlife Trust Reserve with NNR status, and spotted two individuals of *O. parietina* at sparse *Lotus corniculatus* on damaged limestone pavement at SD5477. I confirmed a male there a few days later and subsequently a female on similar habitat at Clawthorpe Fell NNR about 1.5 km to NW. Later I also found a female foraging *L. corniculatus* on the recently declared Holme Park Quarry LNR which is situated between these two sites. They are on the Farleton Knott – Hutton Roof limestone massif about 5 km due east of the Gait Barrows area.

Meanwhile Charles Dale took a lunchtime stroll from his office at Ulverston, which is on the site of the old ironworks, and spotted females foraging *L. corniculatus* on the slagbank (SD3077-SD3177), which has a similar flora to the open parts of the Carnforth Ironworks site where I first found this bee in 1995. Subsequently he saw it on the coast about 1 km to the south near Conishead Priory and about 1 km to the north near Plumpton Hall where *L. corniculatus* occurs on sandy, stony places. When Mike Edwards and I visited the slagbank with Charles on 6<sup>th</sup> June we saw four females at *L. corniculatus*, including one right on the edge of the staff car park!

It now appears that there are two extended populations: one covering 1.5 km on the Farleton-Hutton Roof complex on limestone, and one stretching 2 km along the coast at Ulverston centred on the slagbank, in addition to the two previously known populations in Cumbria at Meathop Crag and Gowbarrow Park. The National Trust has recently acquired Holme Park Fell which is adjacent to the Holme Park Quarry and Clawthorpe sites, so next year I hope to be able to find whether the population extends onto this site, to confirm the extent of the population at Ulverston and to investigate possible extensions of the Gowbarrow Park population.

*Neil A. Robinson, 3 Abbey Drive, Natland, Kendal LA9 7QN*

### **The Regionally Notable spider, *Agroeca brunnea* (Blackwall) new to VC69 (Westmorland) from Roudsea Wood NNR**

At the Roudsea Wood Field Meeting on 15<sup>th</sup> June, Dorothy Iveson drew my attention to a small white, 'stalked', bell-like cocoon suspended from a pine twig near the edge of Fish House Moss. I did not know what it was, but it triggered vague feelings of *déjà vu*. Back at home a rummage through W. S. Bristowe's '*A World of Spiders*' (one of my favourite '*New Naturalist*' volumes) soon provided the answer. There on page 130 was a nice line drawing showing the little 'Chinese lantern' attached to a grass stem: the distinctive egg sac of a rather undistinctive-looking spider called *Agroeca brunnea*. Normally this species covers its egg sac with mud, completely obscuring it, but for some reason this had not happened. (There is a sister species, *Agroeca proxima*, which is much commoner but has a differently shaped egg sac – also figured by Bristowe).

CNHS member and veteran spider expert John Parker confirmed my identification and kindly sent details from the new Atlas (Harvey, et al 2002). The only recent dot for NW England was for an adjacent 10km square, SD47. Mark Telfer of the Centre for Ecology & Hydrology, Monks Wood, kindly extracted details from the national database and was able to tell me that this refers to two records from the Gait Barrows NNR, Lancashire (VC60), in 1985-6. The Roudsea find thus seems to be the only Cumbrian record in the past 100 years or so (and possibly the first for VC69), of this predominantly south-eastern species, which has just a thin scatter of records for the northern half of the UK. Previous Cumbrian records (see Britten, 1912) are from Eskdale and the Eden valley. These date from the late nineteenth/early 20<sup>th</sup> centuries and were by two important figures in the study of British spiders – A. Randall Jackson and F. O. Pickard-Cambridge.

### **Information sources**

British Arachnological Society website: [www.britishspiders.org.uk](http://www.britishspiders.org.uk)

Bristowe, W.S. (1971) *A World of Spiders*, Collins.

Britten, H. (1912) The Arachnids of Cumberland. *Transactions of the Carlisle Natural History Society* 2: 30-65.

Harvey, P.R., et al. (2002) *A Provisional Atlas of British Spiders (Arachnida, Araneae)*. 2 vols. Biological Records Centre, Peterborough.

*David Clarke*

### **The crane fly *Gonomyia bradleyi* Edwards inland in Cumbria**

I collected a number of specimens of the crane fly *Gonomyia bradleyi* Edwards on a clayey landslip above the River Eden downstream of Little Salkeld (NY561369) on 20<sup>th</sup> July 2002. This Red Data Book species is classified as Vulnerable (Falk 1987) and was until recently known in Britain from only one specimen in the Wyre Forest in 1889. However it has now been discovered at a number of coastal sites in Wales and Yorkshire, where it is associated with seepages on soft cliffs of boulder clay. *G. bradleyi* was found in Cumbria in 1998 at Gutterby Banks (SD1083) by members of the British Dipterists' Forum.

This latest record of a healthy population at an inland site in the north of the county is an interesting development.

### **Reference**

Falk, S. (1987) A review of the scarce and threatened flies of Great Britain (part 1) *Research and survey in nature conservation* 39, Nature Conservancy Council.

*John B. Parker, 16 Brunswick Road, Penrith*

### A few beetles from Claife Heights, including *Donacia aquatica* L

The only beetle to have a Cumbrian Biodiversity Action Plan is the rare water-beetle, *Hydroporus rufifrons* Duft. Its headquarters in the county were west of Windermere, where it was found in three tarns on Claife Heights as late as 1951 and 1980. Accordingly, I set out on 28<sup>th</sup> September with Stephen Hewitt to trawl several tarns in the area. However, a warm day's work yielded not a single water-beetle of any species. The reason for this dearth is unclear; these five tarns may have deteriorated over the last fifty years, and certainly water-levels were low after the September dry spell. A further visit next spring may be more successful.

While I was vainly pond-dipping, Stephen was busy sweeping the vegetation, primarily for Diptera. Near Wraymires Tarn (SD368979) he netted off sedges, three examples of a reed-beetle, which proved to be the rare *Donacia aquatica* L. This is perhaps the most beautiful of a colourful genus: shining gold with the elytra longitudinally striped in blue, green, purple, red, gold and green-blue. Like many reed-beetles, it is nationally declining and at present rated RDB 3 (rare). According to Menzies and Cox (1996) its distribution has decreased 83% since 1970: before 1970 it was found in 30 vice-counties from S. England to Scotland, but since then recorded in only five, these being Sussex, Westmorland and Cumberland (see below), Roxburghshire and east Inverness. There was also one in Fermanagh in 1998.

Previous records for V.C.70 are among Marsh Marigold, Rosthwaite, 30.v.1898, (F.H. Day); numbers swept off *Carex*, swamp at Newton Reigny, 30.v.1905, (H. Britten); rather freely, Newton Reigny Moss 17.ix.1905 and 3.vi.1906 (F.H. Day); only one, Thurstonfield Lough, 1960 (W.F. Davidson); one from low herbage by Newlands Beck, Braithwaite, 8.vi.1991 (J.A. Owen). Previous records for V.C.69 are: one swept in damp meadows by River Brathay, early summer 1864 (T. Blackburn); Rather Heath, 1963 (N.L. Birkett); Tarn Hows, 27.vi.1987 (K.N.A. Alexander).

A second notable find was the tiny black cryptophagid beetle *Telmatophilus typhae* Fallen. One was extracted from a sappy *Typha* stem by the dam on Wise Een Tarn (SD369977). This species is not uncommon, ranging into Southern Scotland, but is restricted to this specific habitat of *Typha* stems, unlike its widespread congener *T. caricis*. This is the first record for Cumbria, where *Typha* is relatively local, especially in Cumberland, V.C.70.

A third species, the hygrophilous staphylinid *Stenus binotatus* Ljungh, swept near Wise Een Tarn, might be the first record for V.C.69; at least it did not appear in Day's list of Westmorland Coleoptera in 1918. There are a dozen records for V.C.70, from 1900 to 2001.

I wish to thank Stephen Hewitt for transport to Claife, for sweeping these beetles, and for details of Tullie House specimens.

### Reference

Menzies, I.S. and Cox, M.L. (1996) Notes on the Natural History, Distribution and Identification of British Reed Beetles, *Br. J. Ent. Nat. Hist.*, **9**.

David Atty, Beckhouse Mill, Embleton

### The Harvestman *Dicranopalpus ramosus* has arrived in Cumbria – from Bournemouth!

While collecting some spiders in my garden at Natland near Kendal SD5298, VC69, on 30<sup>th</sup> September 2002 I shook a specimen of this harvestman out of a *Potentilla* bush. It was not, however, the first record of this species in Cumbria as on 28<sup>th</sup> August Jennifer Newton had taken it at Eskdale Green NY1400, VC 70, from a gorse bush near a well-stocked garden. Harvestmen (or harvest spiders) differ from true spiders in having the body composed of a single unit, not divided into cephalothorax and abdomen. They range from being quite compact, to having tiny bodies with exceedingly long legs which break off easily. *D. ramosus* is one of the more compact species, with a body length of c. 5 mm and leg length of c. 50 mm. Its most notable feature, however, are the palps which each have a side branch, and project forwards like a pair of miniature reindeer antlers. They can readily be seen without a lens and make it easy to identify. It seems to prefer gardens and hedges as habitat. The first British record of this Continental species was at Bournemouth in 1957. By the 1980s it had spread along the south coasts of England and Wales, and around Bath. To have spread northwards to Cumbria in another 20 years is a remarkable feat for an invertebrate which does not impress one as being a long-distance runner. Some foreign species of slugs and insects are known to be spreading via garden centres, but this does not seem to be the likely explanation in this case. It is, however, interesting to note its association with gardens, which have become such important habitats for those forms of wildlife which can take advantage of them.

Neil Robinson

### Recent Reports

These notes are compiled from a combination of record cards, personal observations and personal communications. They date back to the last publication of this magazine in spring 2002. Some of the records may require further confirmation.

### Birds

The period begins with the arrival of summer visitors. There are not many records as yet, other than my own observations, some of which were:

Chiffchaff – 17<sup>th</sup> March, Hawksdale, Dalston; Sand Martin – 26<sup>th</sup> March, Talkin Tarn;

Blackcap – 4<sup>th</sup> April, Bitts Park; Willow Warbler and Swallow – 5<sup>th</sup> April, Talkin Tarn; Common Sandpiper – 23<sup>rd</sup> April, Talkin Tarn.

Within these dates, as we all know by now, a pair of Ospreys returned to nest.

Early summer produced a Little Egret at Longtown and, not too far away from us, near Durham, a pair of Bee Eaters bred; not to be outdone however, some Bee Eaters showed up in Cumbria, in the Rusland Valley for two days in mid-June. A Spoonbill was seen at Campfield at about the same time. Perhaps the most unusual bird of the summer was a Woodlark ‘in potential breeding habitat’ in Greystoke Forest on 20<sup>th</sup> June (I. Armstrong).

Apparently there was an invasion of Rose-coloured Starlings in the country but Cumbria’s share seems to have been just two – one at Thursby in mid-June and another at Whitbarrow in mid-July.

The Burgh/Campfield area then hosted such ‘desirables’ as Crane and Avocet, with a Hobby reported over Carlisle cathedral in late August.

As autumn passage got under way there was a scattering of Little Stints, Curlew Sandpipers, Spotted Redshanks and Wood Sandpipers, as well as the commoner waders. The highlight however, was potentially the county’s first Terek Sandpiper at Grune Point for a regrettably short time on 29<sup>th</sup> July. Other unusual birds during this period were a Mediterranean Gull at Grune Point on 31<sup>st</sup> August – perhaps the same bird seen by a few people at Silloth in September. A ‘first’ for Talkin Tarn was a Sandwich Tern on 17<sup>th</sup> September.

### Plants

The absence of sheep following last year’s FMD had a remarkable affect on the vegetation of some of the fells and led to Rod Corner’s discovery of *Carex vaginata* (Sheathed Sedge) on Dufton Fell – a species new to England. This in turn led to a minor flurry of botanists visiting the area and consequentially a number of other plant discoveries were made (see the Cross Fell article below). Other botanical observations and discoveries appear elsewhere in this issue.

### Butterflies

It seems to have been quite a good year, with lots of Painted Ladies in the summer and quite a few reports of Comma in the north of the county in early autumn. Highlights to date are Camberwell Beauties – so far, there have been five reported in August, one in Penrith, one in Borrowdale. Finally, three in Gosforth and Cleator Moor were possibly the same individual.

Geoff Naylor

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## After Foot and Mouth, Cross Fell in bloom

Jeremy Roberts, Eden Croft, 2 Wetheral Pasture, Carlisle CA4 8HU

Within proverbial ‘living memory’, the Cross Fell range of the North Pennines has been heavily grazed by sheep. There is indeed evidence that the numbers of sheep have been allowed to increase over recent decades. Whilst the grazing effect has been most noticeable on the tiny areas of ‘richer’ ground, such as the flushed grasslands around and below spring-lines and the short turf over limestone outcrops, even in the less nutritious expanses of the acid grasslands and sedgelands over blanket bog and ill-drained glacial drift the grazing pressure has been marked.

Whilst not particularly favoured by sheep, abundant plants of the acid soils, such as the Stiff Sedge (*Carex bigelowii*), could seldom be found in flower or fruit, and the heavy bulbil-laden heads of the Viviparous Fescue (*Festuca vivipara*) could rarely be seen except on cliffs out of reach of sheep. Perhaps the most striking demonstration of the long-term effect of severe grazing is at the 50-year-old exclosures on the east slope of Little Dun Fell (at NY705331). Here, the summit vegetation in recent years has given way to an open stony ‘community’ with much open ground: a scattering of rarely-flowering plants of Stiff Sedge and Sheep’s Fescue (*F. ovina*), and little else. Meanwhile, within the exclosures, in the absence of sheep-grazing (although populations of voles - presumably *Microtus agrestis* - appear to occur), the build-up of litter has proceeded to a depth of about 15 cm.

The turf on shallow soils over limestone, largely of Sheep’s Fescue, has retained a number of calcicole plants, although the flowering of these is greatly depressed under intense grazing. The much more fragile wet soils associated with springs have shown considerable damage through incessant trampling, and the plants characteristic of such places have suffered accordingly. Species such as the Marsh Saxifrage (*Saxifraga hirculus*) and Alpine Foxtail (*Alopecurus borealis*) have tended to produce relatively few flowers in most localities, such as to receive a reputation of being ‘shy-flowering’.

The effect on the vegetation of a cessation of sheep-grazing could be seen most spectacularly in 2000, when an exclosure above Knock Ore Gill (NY715308; erected in 1999 by English Nature, as part of a study by the late Peter Kelly into the effects of grazing upon the Marsh Saxifrage) had a far great abundance of flowers of the saxifrage, compared with populations outside the exclosure. Even more startling, a substantial and vigorous clump of the Alpine Foxtail also appeared in that year within the exclosure, in an area from which it had never previously been confirmed. Some of the 20-plus flowering stems were up to 80cm tall, considerably taller than allowed in the literature. The only explanation was that the plant had existed vegetatively, undetected, in this very well-botanized spot, presumably for long periods of time, until two seasons of unrestrained productivity had allowed an explosion of growth, culminating in flowering stems developing.

The grazing regime of the range was about to change, in the most dramatic of ways, in 2001. Almost the entire stock of sheep from the Cross Fell range had traditionally been overwintered on lower ground, and it was one of those fateful ironies that the stock which in summer roamed over some of the most remote moorlands in the country had nevertheless

been overwhelmed by the culling necessitated by the devastatingly rapid spread of Foot and Mouth Disease through the wintering flocks packed into the lowlands.

Since the fells had been closed throughout the season in 2001, it was with a great sense of anticipation that in the spring of 2002 local botanists awaited the arrival of the growing season on the range. In May came the first reports that something extraordinary was occurring on the high fells. As early as 16<sup>th</sup> May, Dr Roderick Corner (RC in the lists below) came upon the astonishing sight of an abundance of Alpine Foxtail, with over 400 heads already emerging - this on the cold north-facing slopes of Cross Fell at an altitude of almost 800m. In June, Linda Robinson (LR) of Melmerby found a huge patch of flowering Alpine Foxtail on the western flank of Green Fell above Ousby, with over 600 heads, at a completely new site in previously heavily over-grazed grassland, with more on the northern flank.

Thereafter, a number of naturalists, including RC, LR, Roy Atkins, David Clarke, Geoffrey Halliday, Stephen Hewitt, Mike Porter, and Ron Groom, spent time on parts of the range, and the writer put in ten days on the hills between June and September.

Some of the more significant and interesting finds are detailed below. Undoubtedly, the most important finds were those by RC of the Scottish montane plant, Sheathed Sedge (*Carex vaginata*), new to England, in two sites about ten kilometres apart (see below). Almost as surprising was the finding of the Alpine Foxtail in new stations, and the astonishing frequency of flowering heads in many sites. Amongst other alpine species, the Alpine Forget-me-not (*Myosotis alpestris*) flowered freely in its small colony on the Dun Fells, the first time the writer had seen it in flower here, and the Marsh Saxifrage flowered in unprecedented abundance in many sites. The Chickweed Willowherb (*Epilobium alsinifolium*) responded spectacularly: in some stream-beds, this alpine plant made patches up to a metre long, and 30 centimetres high, with masses of pink flowers. Another pink-flowered species, the Hairy Stonecrop (*Sedum villosum*), also grew in unprecedented profusion, colouring some flush-zones with an abundance of flowers. The Large Bitter-cress (*Cardamine amara*), a plant said by Halliday (1997) to flower rarely in its few upland stations, did so in abundance (LR, pers. comm.)

Plants of the short turf over limestone were also having an excellent season, with spectacular shows of purple Mountain Pansy (*Viola lutea*), pink Wild Thyme (*Thymus polytrichus*), and white Spring Sandwort (*Minuartia verna*). Moonwort, usually tricky to find in the turf, since its single shoots stand above the vegetation in the path of the grazers' teeth, was widespread.

Equally dramatic, in the writer's eyes, was the spectacle of huge areas of moorland vegetation in vigorous untrammelled growth, and in full flower and fruit: a privileged view, perhaps for this year only, and not to be repeated unless sheep-grazing can be much more strictly controlled. Whereas it is obvious that the diversity of species in these upland grasslands and mires is relatively low, and the vistas appear monotonous at first sight, when the vegetation is in full growth as in 2002 there is striking diversity in the subtle variation of the communities of plants, which as one walks over the ground can now be seen to alter constantly over short distances: a dramatic demonstration of the complex interactions of aspect, altitude, base-status, drainage, degree of mineral flushing, and competition. Only when the various dominant grasses, sedges, and rushes were able to

flower could the complex distributions of the communities be appreciated: when few plants can flower due to direct grazing off of flowering heads or to the weakening of plants preventing flowering, the make-up of the communities is so much less obvious.

With the location and identification of species so much more straightforward, a real effort was made to cover the most interesting ground, especially the lines of springs which emerge almost throughout the range, and which influence the communities through flushing for some distance laterally and a greater distance down-slope. Many of Cross Fell's significant plants occur in this habitat. (A number of important alpine species occur on the cliffs out of reach of sheep; these are beyond the scope of this note.)

The following list is a selection of new records from the 2002 season, detailing:

- i) Observations relating to the response of some of the significant upland species to the easing of grazing.
- ii) New tetrads records ('NTR'), i.e. additional to Halliday (1997), references to which are abbreviated to 'FoC' in the list.
- iii) New upper altitude records for Cumbria ('NAR'), where these exceed those given in Halliday (1997) by 20 metres or more.
- iv) An asterisk, i.e. 'NAR\*', signifies records which exceed those given as upper altitudinal limits for Britain and Ireland in the recently-published *New Atlas of the British and Irish Flora* ('NA'), and which therefore represent new altitude records for the British Isles as a whole.

NB: A few records, indicated by two asterisks, i.e. 'NAR\*\*', are of species which have actually been recorded at the higher altitude of around 845m on the summit of Great Dun Fell, and are mentioned as such in the *New Atlas*. The source of these records in NA, all from within the fence of the compound of the CAA station, is a paper by RC & LR (Corner & Robinson (2001)). However, the surprising fact has since emerged that a grass-seed mixture of unknown provenance was apparently used as part of restoration work within the site. Thus it cannot now be established which of those records listed in that paper as upper altitude limits for the British Isles were introduced artificially with grass-seed, and which have established by natural means. RC concurs that records of these species from lower altitudes, from outside the Great Dun Fell compound, are thus worthy of mention here. (See Anderson (2001); Corner & Halliday (2002).)

Species appear in alphabetical order of scientific name. Recorders initials/names in brackets are other recorders present with the writer on the day. (RA = R. Atkins; DC = D. Clarke; GH = G. Halliday; SH = S. Hewitt; MP = M. Porter)

1-kilometre-square grid-references are given; where figures refer instead to a tetrad, this is indicated.

Full details, including full grid-references, have been lodged with the recorder for v.c. 69 and v.c. 70, GH).

#### *Adoxa moschatellina* (Moschatel)

Knock Fell, NY72.30, etc (18/06/02 - RC), in several sites, fully exposed in thin turf on the tops of limestone outcrops, and matching the altitude of 760m in FoC.

**Alopecurus borealis** (Alpine Foxtail)

Flowered profusely. All sites found are mentioned. As a measure of abundance, counts of numbers of flowering shoots (here referred to as 'heads') were made at all sites located.

[Site 1] At **Knock Ore Gill**, NY71.30, it occurs well below the lower limit of 770m given in *FoC*: in the enclosure (as found in 2000 by Peter Kelly and LR - 9 heads in 2002) at 688-690m, and by the stream itself immediately below the enclosure at 675m (a plant with two heads found here on the south side of the gill by RC on 18/06/02 - but perhaps lost in severe erosion in storms in July 2002).

[Site 2] **West slopes of Green Fell** (first located here by LR, 06/06/02. 18/07/02 - RC), **NTR** (for tetrad NY66.36): NY66.36, at 695m. Two sites: 1) in a flushed area of grass/rush, below a low gritstone slope, a large 'sheet' about 10m across, and about 3m deep (about 600 heads); 2) ca. 40m further south-east along the flank (about 5 heads). Total number of heads: 600.

[Site 3] **North slope of Green Fell/Skirwith Fell** (first located here by LR, 16/06/02. 18/07/02 - RC), three sites at 695-700m: i) in flushed grassland with Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*) in NY67.36 (about 160 heads); ii) in NY66.36 (1 head); iii) in a runnel in NY66.36, up to the spring-head (about 120 heads). Total number of heads: 280.

[Site 4] **North slopes of Cross Fell** (11/07/02), several spring-heads at 790-795m, and in flushed grass in and by rivulets down to 770m, above Greg's Hut, in NY69.34 and NY69.35. Total number of heads, at least 350; NB: 410 heads seen by RC on 16/05/02.

[Site 5] **West slopes of Great Dun Fell** (24/07/02 - MP): at 720m, NY70.31, two sites in flushed grassland, with about 20 heads and 30 heads. Total number of heads, 50+.

[Site 6] **North-east flanks of Great Dun Fell** (04/09/02), at 800m, NY71.32, four sites, all in spring-heads, with ca. 50, ca. 75, 5, and ca. 300 heads. Total number of heads, 500+ (at this very late date, some heads still emerging, whilst others were nearly dropping seeds!).

[Site 7] **North-east flanks of Little Dun Fell** (03/09/02; 04/09/02), at 782-800m, in NY70.33, at least five sites, along a rivulet, in flushed wet grass in stream-beds, and along stream-banks, counts of heads: 1,540, about 200, about 180, 16, and 46. Total number of heads at this site, about 2000.

[Site 8] **East flank of Dufton Fell** (18/06/02 - RC; the site had been discovered by RC a few days earlier, on 13/06/02), **NTR** (for NY74.28): at 723m, NY75.29, spring-head and flushed grass below, 26 heads.

[Site 9] **Ardale Head**: site visited by Dr G. Halliday and RC on 23/05/02. At 710m-740m, in NY76.35: three sites in flushes and beside beck, with 6, 8, and 19 heads. This updated a 1962 record of Dr Derek Ratcliffe. Total number of heads, 33.

The total number of heads of *Alopecurus borealis* at all sites located this season was about 3800.

**Alopecurus pratensis** (Meadow Foxtail)

**NAR\*\***, 675m (*FoC* and *NA* give 845m); **NTR** (for NY66.36): Brandy Bottle Spring (located by LR, 16/06/02.)

**Athyrium filix-foemina** (Lady Fern)

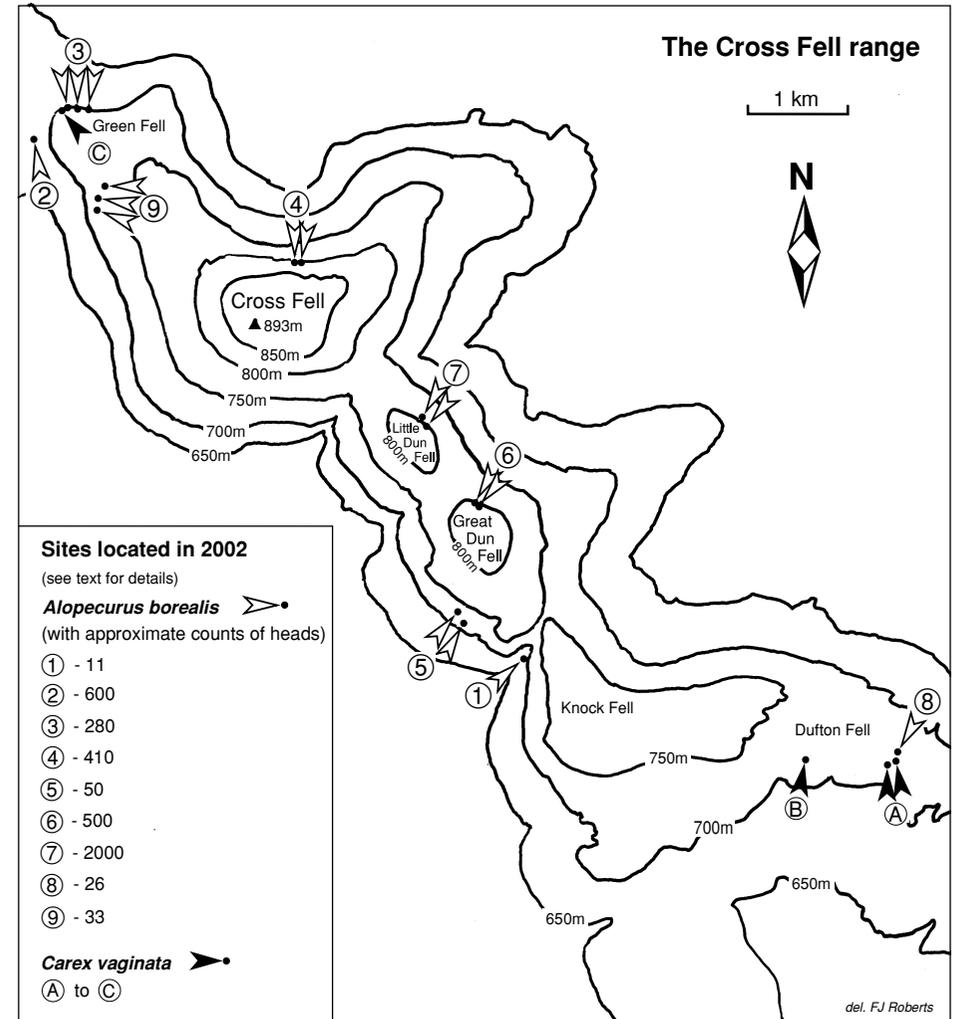
**NTR** (for NY68.34) (11/07/02): 805m, in block scree on north slope of Cross Fell, NY69.34.

**Botrychium lunaria** (Moonwort)

**NTR** for NY72.30 (18/06/02 - RC): about 760m, Knock Fell, spoil-heap. **NTR** (for NY70.32) (03/09/02): east flank of Little Dun Fell.

**Carex binervis** (Green-ribbed Sedge)

**NAR**, 780m (*FoC* gives 760m): east flank of Great Dun Fell, NY71.32 (04/09/02).



**Carex curta** (White Sedge)

**NTR** (for NY66.36): west flank of Green Fell (29/07/02, R. Groom).

**Carex dioica** (Dioiceous Sedge)

**NTR** (for NY66.36): west flank of Green Fell (29/07/02, R. Groom).

**Carex pilulifera** (Pill Sedge)

**NARs**, both about 728m (*FoC* gives 610m): Dufton Fell, NY744.298 and NY 752.298, both sites with *C. vaginata* (18/06/02 - RC).

**Carex pulicaris** (Flea Sedge)

**NAR**, 780m (*FoC* gives 760m): north-east facing slopes between Great and Little Dun Fell, NY70.32 (04/09/02).

**Carex rostrata** (Bottle Sedge)

**NTR** (for NY70.32): east flank of Great Dun Fell, NY71.32, large patches, about 800m (04/09/02).

**Carex vaginata** (Sheathed Sedge)

**NTR** (for 74.28): This was first found, new to England, by RC on 13/06/02 [**Site A**], in a remote spot on the south slopes of Dufton Fell in NY75.29. He collected some puzzling sedge leaves, and it was only the following day when he was able to look afresh at the leaves, that it struck him what they were, and comparison with cultivated material helped to strengthen his original conviction.

The writer had the pleasure of accompanying RC a few days later, on 18/06/02, to confirm the find with flowering material. In the event, RC located the plant, an area of about 7m by 10m, with dense tufts of *Carex vaginata* and with over 50 flowering shoots, in a quite different site, although in an almost identical community, almost one kilometre west, in NY74.29 [**Site B**]. Two further large patches were then found in his original site to the east, although with many fewer flowering shoots in this site.

All these three sites were at 725-728m altitude, and all were in slightly damp narrow strips of 'grassland' situated on peaty soil below long limestone escarpments. Although classifiable as 'grasslands', the communities were in fact patchily dominated by sedges, with no less than eight species recorded: besides *C. vaginata*, also *CC. bigelowii*, *dioica*, *binervis*, *pilulifera*, *panicea*, *pulicaris*, and *viridula* ssp. *oedocarpa*. The effect of calcareous flushing was obvious from the presence in at least one of the communities, of plants such as (non-flowering) Globeflower (*Trollius europaeus*) and Alpine Bistort (*Persicaria vivipara*). There were many other associates in the same communities, such as Wood Anemone (*Anemone nemorosa*), White Clover (*Trifolium repens*), Sneezewort (*Achillea ptarmica*), and Marsh Violet (*Viola palustris*).

(Alarmingly, one of the colonies had narrowly escaped destruction in recent years by the driving of a 'grip' - a deep trench through the peat - a few metres lower down the slope. It was unclear how the presence of this ditch through pristine habitat might affect the communities, perhaps by accelerating the drainage of calcareous ground-water away from the site. The perpetrators of such destruction would have to account for their actions: it seemed to us that to drain mineral-rich water away from a flushed grassland would only hasten its reversion to less nutritious acid heath.)

These particular types of flushed grasslands do occur in other places at similar altitudes along the Cross Fell range, although as previously noted, the communities vary greatly from place to place - and the search was on for more colonies through the rest of the season. However, it was noted on a later visit (17/07/02) that by that stage in the season the leaves of the Sheathed Sedge were becoming weather-worn, and fruiting shoots had become very difficult to locate. (There was no sign, on any of the spikelets examined closely, of ripening utricles. In the absence of ripe utricles, sedge stems tend to shrivel more rapidly.)

In the event, it was left to RC to find the plant in a new site, on 18/07/02, ten kilometres north-west on the north side of Green Fell, in NY66.36 (**NTR** for NY66.36) [**Site C**]. The site was similar to the previous areas, although at about 700m, and with a northerly aspect. The colony extended for about 10m upslope and 4m across. Only a single fruiting shoot could be located. (No ripe fruit could in fact be found on any of the shoots from any colony.) The site was steeper, and somewhat damper than the Dufton Fell sites, with Common Sedge (*Carex nigra*), and scattered Soft Rush (*Juncus effusus*), as well as several associates in common, but strong mineral flushing suggested by the presence of Lesser Clubmoss (*Selaginella selaginoides*) and

Alpine Scurvy-grass (*Cochlearia pyrenaica*).

Thus the Sheathed Sedge has been added to the plant lists of both vice-counties 69 and 70.

**Carex viridula** ssp. *brachyrrhyncha* (Yellow Sedge)

**NTR** (for NY66.36): west slope of Green Fell, NY66.36 (18/07/02 - RC).

**NTR** (for NY70.32) (and equals *FoC* altitude of 700m): east slopes of Little Dun Fell, NY71.33 (03/09/02).

**NAR\***, 785m (*FoC* gives 700m; *NA* gives 775m, for Scotland): east flank of Great Dun Fell, NY71.32 (04/09/02).

**Conopodium majus** (Pignut)

**NAR\*\***, 710m (*FoC* gives 600m; *NA* gives 845m); **NTR** (for NY66.36): Green Fell (located by LR, 06/06/02).

**Crepis paludosa** (Marsh Hawk's-beard)

**NAR**, 790m (*FoC* gives 640m [in Lake District]); **NTR** (for NY68.34): north slope of Cross Fell, NY69.34 (11/07/02).

**NTR** (for NY66.36): west slope of Green Fell, NY66.36 (located by LR, 06/06/02).

**NTR** (for NY70.32) (750m, also higher than *FoC* altitude of 640m; see above): east flank of Little Dun Fell, NY70.33, 03/09/02.

**Cynosurus cristatus** (Crested Dog's-tail)

**NAR\*\***, 780m (*FoC* gives 660+m; *NA* gives 845m): north-east facing slopes between Great and Little Dun Fell, NY70.32 (04/09/02). (Three other records above *FoC* limit are: 675m: east slopes of Green Fell, NY6760.3686 (18/07/02 -RC); 700m: east slopes of Green Fell, NY67.36 (18/07/02 - RC); 760m: grassland on south-east flank of Great Dun Fell, NY71.31 (03/09/02).)

**Dryopteris expansa** (Northern Buckler-fern)

**NTR** (for NY68.34): single large patch in lower edge of block scree on north slope of Cross Fell, NY69.34, 830m (11/07/02).

**Epilobium ciliatum** (American Willowherb)

**NAR\***, 790m (*FoC* and *NA* give 450m); **NTR** (for NY68.34): in bare soil/stone patch at a spring-head, on north slope of Cross Fell, NY69.34, two plants of this alien, at a much higher altitude than previously recorded, and looking gross in the extreme, in comparison with its associate, a patch of the Alpine Willowherb (*E. anagallidifolium*)! (11/07/02).

**Epilobium montanum** (Broad-leaved Willowherb)

**NAR**, 710m (*FoC* and *NA* both give 845m, for Great Dun Fell, but 790m for Snowdon; 710m is thus far an upper limit for the county, excluding Great Dun Fell); **NTR** (for NY66.36): Green Fell, NY66.36 (located by LR, 06/06/02).

**Epilobium obscurum** (Short-fruited Willowherb)

**NAR\*\***, 785m (*FoC* and *NA* give 500m); **NTR** (for NY70.34): by rivulet, east flank of Cross Fell, NY70.34 (04/09/02).

**Epilobium palustre** (Marsh Willowherb)

**NAR\*\***, 800m (*FoC* and *NA* give 700m): north slope of Cross Fell, NY69.34 (11/07/02).

**Equisetum arvense** (Field Horsetail)

**NAR**, 790m (*FoC* gives 660m): east flank of Great Dun Fell, NY71.32 (04/09/02).

***Equisetum fluviatile*** (Water Horsetail)

**NAR**, 790m (*FoC* gives 750m): north slope of Cross Fell, NY69.34 (11/07/02).

***Equisetum palustre*** (Marsh Horsetail)

**NAR**, 800m (*FoC* gives 750m): north slope of Cross Fell, NY69.34 (11/07/02).

***Festuca vivipara*** (Viviparous Fescue)

**NTR** (for NY72.28): south flank of Knock Fell, NY 72.29 (08/08/02 - RA).

*FoC* remarks 'Although often considered an important constituent of the higher *Festuca-Agrostis* grasslands, it is probably scarce in that community'. With the freedom from grazing, this species became very conspicuous wherever it occurred; it is in fact very abundant in many places along the eastern flanks of the range, such as above 700m on the Dun Fells. It occurs in especial abundance in the thinner mineral soils on steeper slopes such on the sides of the abandoned 'hushes', but it also appears in many other situations, from acid sedge-beds on sloping peat to flushed grass beside rivulets.

***Galium mollugo*** (Hedge Bedstraw)

**NAR\*\***, 724m (*FoC* gives 570m; *NA* gives 845m); **NTR** (for NY66.34): one large well-established plant, top of grassy spoil-heap above Ardale Head mine (08/06/02 - RC).

***Gentianella amarella*** (Felwort)

**NTR** (for NY66.36): at 720m on top of limestone scarp, Green Fell (R. Groom, 29/07/02). (*FoC* gives only 650m, 'west of Cross Fell', but *NA* gives 750m, 'Knock Fell'.)

***Glyceria declinata*** (Small Sweet-grass)

**NAR**, 705m (*FoC* gives 360m); **NTR** (for NY66.36): flushes on north side of Green Fell 18.7.02 - RC).

***Hypochaeris radicata*** (Cat's-ear)

**NAR**, 710m (*FoC* gives 530m); **NTR** (for NY66.36): west side of Green Fell (08/06/02 - RC)

***Holcus mollis*** (Creeping Soft-grass)

**NAR\***, 730m (*FoC* gives 550m; *NA* gives 580m for W Lancashire), **NTR** (for NY70.34): small non-flowering patches in damp flushed grassland below steep slope, east flank of Cross Fell, NY70.34 (04/09/02).

***Holcus lanatus*** (Yorkshire-fog)

**NAR\*\***, 730-740m: several large flowering plants in damp flushed grassland below steep slope, east flank of Cross Fell, NY70.34 (04/09/02).

***Leontodon hispidus*** (Rough Hawkbit)

**NAR\*\***, 720m (*FoC* gives 550m): one rosette, flushed grasslands on west slope of Great Dun Fell, NY70.31 (24/07/02 - MP).

***Lolium perenne*** (Perennial Rye-grass)

**NAR\***, 700m (*FoC* and *NA* give 570m); **NTR** (for NY70.28): one head, grassland on west slope of Knock Fell, NY71.29 (08/08/02 - RA).

***Lotus corniculatus*** (Common Bird's-foot-trefoil)

**NAR**, 745m (*FoC* gives 730m): short turf over sloping limestone outcrop, west slope of Knock Fell, NY71.29 (08/08/02 - RA).

***Luzula multiflora*** (Heath Wood-rush)

**NTR** (for NY66.36): (found by LR, 06/06/02)

***Lychnis flos-cuculi*** (Ragged-robin)

**NTR** (for NY66.36): west slope of Green Fell, NY66.36 (18/07/02 - RC). (Several sites improve on *FoC*'s 550m, but *NA* gives 750m, Cross Fell.)

***Lysimachia nemorum*** (Yellow Pimpernel)

**NAR**, 695m; **NTR** (for NY66.36): west slopes of Green Fell, NY66.36 (18/07/02 - RC).

***Myosotis alpestris*** (Alpine Forget-me-not)

Above Knock Ore Gill, a few plants in flower in two sites, a cliff top and a steep consolidated slope of limestone on the broken hummock (17/07/02 - DC, SH; 24/07/02 - MP).

***Narthecium ossifragum*** (Bog Asphodel)

**NTR** (for NY66.36): west flank of Green Fell (29/07/02, Ron Groom).

***Ophioglossum vulgatum*** (Adder's-tongue)

**NAR**, 685m (*FoC* gives 660m); **NTR** (for NY68.32): MP found 4 fronds on the steep grass below the cliffs on the north side of Crowdundle Beck, NY69.33 (24/07/02 - MP).

**NTR** (for NY70.32): about 15 fronds on damp grassed-over fine gravel below mine tips, east flank of Little Dun Fell, NY71.33, 680m (so slightly below the Crowdundle Beck site above) (03/09/02).

***Pilosella officinarum*** (Mouse-ear-hawkweed)

**NAR**, 720m (*FoC* gives 640m); **NTR** (for NY66.36): west side of Green Fell (08/06/02 - RC).

***Plantago major*** (Greater Plantain)

**NAR\*\***, 700m (*FoC* and *NA* give 845m, Great Dun Fell; *NA* also gives 625m for Knock Fell); Raehow End, NY67.36 (found by LR, 16/06/02).

***Poa humilis*** (Spreading Meadow-grass)

**NTR** (for NY68.34): large quantities in flushed grass and spring-zones, north slope of Cross Fell, NY69.34; at 790-800m, better altitude in *FoC* (see below) (11/07/02).

**NAR\***, 805m (*FoC* gives 600-plus metres; *NA* gives 670m for Knock Fell): flush zone in spring, north flanks of Great Dun Fell, NY71.32 (04/09/02).

***Potentilla crantzii*** (Alpine Cinquefoil)

The few known plants on two bare ledges of the Crowdundle Beck cliffs (NY69.33) were as expected, but a 'new' plant had arisen in the turf below the colony, at the base of the cliffs (where it will be accessible to sheep) (24/07/02 - MP).

***Potentilla palustris*** (Marsh Cinquefoil)

**NTR** (for NY66.36): (found by LR, 06/06/02)

**NTR** (for NY70.30): west slope of Knock Fell, NY 71.30 (08/08/02).

**NAR**, 785m (*FoC* gives 760m): east flank of Great Dun Fell, NY71.32 (04/09/02).

***Ranunculus ficaria* ssp. *ficaria*** (Lesser Celandine)

**NAR**, 700m (*FoC* gives 630m [for Lake District]); **NTR** (for NY66.34): flushes above Kirkland track (found by GH & RC, 23/05/02). **NTR** (for NY66.36): west slopes of Green Fell, NY66.36 (found by LR, 06/06/02).

***Rumex obtusifolius*** (Broad-leaved Dock)

**NAR\*\*** 700m (*FoC* and *NA* give 845m); **NTR** (for NY66.36): Raehow End, NY67.36 (found by LR, 16/06/02).

***Salix cinerea*** (Grey Willow)

**NTR** (for NY70.30): a tiny patch of low shoots, apparently this species, west side of Knock Fell, NY71.30 (08/08/02 - RA).

***Saxifraga hirculus*** (Marsh Saxifrage)

No new sites were located for this species, but the abundance of flowers was very striking indeed - and much appreciated. Plants were in all stages of development from early to late bud, and with some already showing colour, as early as 08/07/02 at Knock Ore Gill.

***Senecio jacobaea*** (Common Ragwort)

**NAR\***, 710m (*FoC* gives 560m; *NA* gives 670m for Scotland and Ireland); **NTR** (for NY66.36): west side of Green Fell, NY66.36 (found by LR, 06/06/02); also 700m, Raehow End, NY67.36 (16/06/02 - also LR).

***Stellaria gramineum*** (Lesser Stitchwort)

**NAR**, 760m (*FoC* gives 600m): large patch in flower in heathy grassland, about 3m from bridleway, Great Dun Fell, NY71.31 (03/09/02).

***Succisa pratensis*** (Devil's-bit Scabious)

**NTR** (for NY66.36): east slope of Green Fell, NY67.36 (18/07/02 - RC).

***Triglochin palustre*** (Marsh Arrowgrass)

**NAR**, 800m (*FoC* gives 760m): north flank of Great Dun Fell, NY71.32 (04/09/02).

***Trollius europaeus*** (Globe-flower)

**NTR** (for NY66.36): west slopes of Green Fell, NY66.36 (found by LR, 06/06/02).

**NTR** (for NY70.32): two non-flowering plants, east slopes of Little Dun Fell, NY71.33, about 700m (03/09/02).

***Tussilago farfara*** (Colt's-foot)

**NAR**, 700m (*FoC* gives 650m); **NTR** (for NY70.32): east flank of Little Dun Fell, NY71.33 (03/09/02).

***Valeriana dioica*** (Marsh Valerian)

**NTR** (for NY66.36): west slopes of Green Fell, NY66.36 (06/06/02 - LR).

***Veronica chamaedrys*** (Germander Speedwell)

**NAR**, 750m (*FoC* gives 720m): Knock Fell, NY72.30 (18/06/02 - RC).

***Vicia sepium*** (Bush Vetch)

**NAR**, 695m (*FoC* gives 650m): one patch in grass between low cliffs on the south side of Crowdundle Beck, NY69.33 (24/07/02 - MP).

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## Acknowledgements

I am extremely grateful to Rod Corner and Linda Robinson for many corrections and additions to the list above.

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## William Francis Davidson 1907-2002

W.F. Davidson of Penrith died on 20<sup>th</sup> October, aged 95. Bill, as he was called by all that knew him, was a very well known amateur naturalist, mineral collector/dealer and a very fine landscape photographer.

Bill Davidson was born in Carlisle and whilst attending Carlisle Grammar school developed an interest in natural history and mineral collecting in the local woods and hills. He joined Carlisle Natural History Society in 1929 and remained a member for the next 30 years or more. Here he met F.H. Day and developed an interest in beetles and other insects through him. F.H. Day junior was also a member of the Society at this time, studying the minerals of the Cumbrian fells and no doubt further fired Bill Davidson's interest. On leaving school Bill originally planned to become a teacher, but illness cost him time. In 1933 he married in Penrith, where his bride was living with her parents, and the young couple set up in business selling second-hand clothes.

During the next 30 years Bill Davidson continued to study insects particularly beetles and moths. He published several notes and articles in the *North Western Naturalist* and was a regular contributor to local natural history reports such as the *Bulletin of the Penrith Natural History Society*, the *Changing Scene* and *The Field Naturalist*. He bought F.H. Day's cabinet collection of butterflies and moths from him. (The rest of F.H. Day's insect collection was contained in store boxes and bequeathed to Tullie House Museum in 1963.)

Mike Clementson learned his entomology from Bill Davidson in the 1950s and 60s and recalls many evenings with the moth trap up and down the Eden Valley and beyond, where Bill's ability to identify 'micro' as well as 'macro' Lepidoptera was most impressive.

From the 1940s Bill Davidson became increasingly active as a collector and dealer of Cumbrian mineral specimens, which he sold to collectors and museums around the world, becoming an acknowledged expert. Many prize specimens passed through his hands and the collections of Tullie House Museum benefited enormously from his activities. Many specimens in the Tullie House mineral collection were acquired from Bill and the Museum's prize specimen a group of beautiful turquoise Fluorite crystals on a dolomite matrix – was acquired via W.F. Davidson from the Ulcoats Mine at Egremont in 1947. He also collected fossils and travelled the country in search of minerals and fossils.

Norman Thompson of Scotby adds the following recollections:

“My first meeting with Bill Davidson took place during the War. I was home on leave and called in at the Museum to see Ernest Blezard, the Assistant Curator. He knew of my interest in minerals and asked me to help Bill with information regarding mineral

localities. At the time Bill had a second-hand clothing shop in Penrith and wanted to find alternative sources of income.

We became friends and spent many days collecting together. At this time many mines in the Lake District and Pennines were working and Bill was able to buy many specimens from the local miners. He also became friendly with one of the Silverband miners, George Hullock, and employed him on a part-time basis to open up old mines.

The mineral dealing continued up to the late 1960s. By this time specimens became less plentiful as many of the local mines had shut. During his long association with minerals, Bill became quite adept at visual identification of specimens, although he also received much help from the staff of the Natural History Museum in London.

He now looked around for another source of income and revived an earlier interest in photography. This rapidly developed into a major undertaking, mainly for book illustrations and record sleeves. He was regarded as one of the best photographers in the country.”

Bill Davidson was in his fifties when he took up photography and this hobby quickly developed and eventually he turned professional. His pictures were seen all over the world on record sleeves, book covers, postcards and calendars. This new enthusiasm left little time for mineral and insect collecting and he largely gave up these hobbies although he maintained his interest in natural history throughout his life. Indeed in 1978 he was the first to recognise the Hoof Fungus (*Fomes fomentarius*) in Cumbria, a species previously only known from the Highlands of Scotland. He took many photographs of fungi and these were used to illustrate books such as *The wonderful world of Mushrooms and other Fungi* by Helen L. Pursey. In 1963 Bill Davidson gave his insect collection of 470 Hymenoptera (195 species), 370 Hemiptera (165 species) and 120 specimens of other orders (ca. 50 species) to Liverpool Museum to help them recover from the losses that institution incurred to its collections during the bombing in World War II (S. Judd, Liverpool Museum, pers. comm.).

*Stephen Hewitt, Norman Thompson, Mike & Betty Clementson*

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## **The Carlisle Naturalist**

Editor: Stephen Hewitt

Sub-editors: Roy Atkins (birds); Stephen Hewitt (insects); Jeremy Roberts (plants)

Layout & DTP: Jeremy Roberts

Editorial Panel: Roy Atkins, David Clarke, Stephen Hewitt, Geoff Naylor, Jeremy Roberts

Word processing: Stephen Hewitt

Artwork: David Clarke and Stephen Hewitt

All material for publication should be sent to Stephen Hewitt, Tullie House Museum, Castle St., Carlisle CA3 8TP. Copy deadline for the next issue is:

**14<sup>th</sup> February 2003**

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Meetings begin 7.15 p.m. at Tullie House Museum. Doors open at 6.50 p.m.

**9th October “Working with birds and wind farms”** – an illustrated talk by  
Dave Walker

**23rd October Members’ Night** – contributions from the membership

**6th November “The Woodland Trust”** – an illustrated talk by Peter and  
Rosemary Dodd

**20th November “Nature conservation & the National Trust”** – an illustrated talk  
by John Hooson, Ecologist with the National Trust

**4th December “Management for wildlife at Bassenthwaite NNR”** – an illustrated  
talk by Peter Barron, LDNPA

**8th January “A museum collection of bird nests. Why?”** – an illustrated talk by Dr.  
Mike Hansel, Glasgow University (A joint meeting with Cumbria Bird Club)

**22nd January “Roadside Verges Project”** – an illustrated talk by Judy Palmer,  
Ecologist with Cumbria County Council

**1st February (Saturday): Field Meeting Loch Ken, Galloway (wild goose chase)**  
Leader: Geoff Horne. Depart 9.00 am.

**5th February “Dorothy goes wild in Spain”** – an illustrated talk by Dorothy Iveson

**19th February “Mating strategies in Alpine Accentors”** – an illustrated talk by  
Dr. Ian Hartley, Lancaster University

**5th March AGM & Members’ Night** – Annual General Meeting followed by  
contributions from the membership