

Honeyguide

WILDLIFE HOLIDAYS

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**The Dordogne
10 – 17 May 2012**

Holiday participants

Karin and Brennan Auger
Sue Osborne
Peter Rathbone and Bill Stuart
David and Susan Rowell
Norman Still
Susie Turner
Ivan and Janet West
Mary White

Leader

Chris Durdin

Report and lists by Chris Durdin.

Our hosts at Castang: Cathy, Keith and Olivia Parker www.castang.info

Photos edged green by Chris Durdin, edged blue by Sue Rowell
and edged orange by Brennan and Karin Auger.

Moth photos as indicated on page 11.

Cover: Narrow-bordered bee hawkmoths mating on meadow clary.

Below: The group at Limeuil, by Jean-Claude.



This holiday, as for every Honeyguide holiday, also puts something into conservation in our host country by way of a contribution to the wildlife that we enjoyed. The conservation contribution this year of £40 per person towards the 'Refuges LPO' project was supplemented by gift aid through the Honeyguide Wildlife Charitable Trust, leading to a total of £530.

This year there is also a donation for LPO through our holidays in the French Pyrenees. These will be combined and passed to our LPO friends in the French Pyrenees in September.

This gives a running total for donations to LPO of £17,026 since 1991. The total for all conservation contributions through Honeyguide since 1991 was £80,039 in June 2012.

Daily Diary

Thursday 10 May – Stansted to Castang

Less than an hour and a half after leaving rainy Stansted, we arrived at warm and sunny Bergerac. Arrivals is little more than a big shed, and we were quickly through that to meet Gilles and our transport, a minibus rather than his usual small coach. This smaller vehicle allowed a scenic, country route, including passing the abbaye at Cadouin. Black kite, narrow-leaved helleborine and herons were seen or glimpsed on route, and then two bright golden orioles flew over the Dordogne River as we crossed it in the opposite direction just before Le Coux.



The farmhouse and meadow at Castang, with pyramidal orchid and meadow clary.

Sue, Peter and Bill were already settled in, having arrived on much earlier flights from Southampton and Exeter. Karin and Brennan had arrived an hour or so before the Stansted contingent, dropped off by Honeyguider Peter Douch after a few days in the Bergerac area. Aperitifs were followed by the first of Cathy's legendary five-course meals: home-made tomato soup, omelette, pork with courgettes, a choice of six cheeses and apple pie.

Outside was as warm and balmy as you could possibly imagine for May in France, so much so that most of us stepped outside through the open doors to listen to the dusk sounds under a bright Venus: a loud chorus of field crickets, more distant gentle 'poo ...poo' of midwife toads and the nightjar-like buzz of mole crickets. But this warmth had arrived not long before us: much as the UK, the area had had a dry and often cold winter, followed by much recent rain. The consequence was a green landscape, but with orchids and other flowers lagging a little behind what might be expected mid-way into the second week of May.

Friday 11 May – local walks around Castang

Most of the group gathered at 7:45 for a pre-breakfast bird walk and were immediately rewarded with the sight and lu-lu-lu song of a woodlark overhead. With a little patience from Susie, the hole in the walnut tree from which the blue tits were moving to and fro was pinned down. Leaving Ivan to photograph burnt-tip orchids and other things in the meadow, we moved down the road towards the sound of golden orioles. Suddenly, there they were: two bright orioles flying over the oak and false acacia woodland, then a third. We walked towards where they'd disappeared and heard both the fluty song and the raucous female 'cat-call', catching the odd glimpse in the tree-tops, too. The supporting cast was good, as well: the purr of a turtle dove and a high-pitched firecrest song.

After breakfast we moved off on our local walk, starting by the splendid clumps of rustyback fern on Castang's garden wall. Star-of-Bethlehem and many tassel hyacinths were immediately evident on the verge opposite the cherry tree. A first-year black redstart sang – it had the appearance of a female but the song showed it to be a male. A black kite drifted through and a hobby joined it above us. In a small ox-eye daisy meadow, a pink meadow clary stood out from the usual blue ones. Ascalaphids were emerging and began quartering the area for potential prey. There was then a small

patch where the plants – bracken and sweet chestnut, especially – suggested more acidic soil and where we compared the geraniums herb Robert and little Robin. On the next junction, David found a showy lady orchid, an early species but this year at its perfect best. The weak fluttery flight of a butterfly alerted us to a wood white, and somewhere below us to the right, a nightingale sang as we approached Lagrave. Turning left into the village, we admired buildings, watched pool frogs in the pond alongside last autumn's conkers, and found a blackbird on a nest in the old walk-in village bread oven. Eagle-eyed Bill noticed a wall lizard at great distance and a common redstart appeared and disappeared all too quickly, and we failed to re-find it all week. Some of the group took the short-cut back to base and two more cut across the meadow, with the rest of us completing the circuit by returning to this morning's 'golden oriole alley.' We heard the oriole briefly – morning was, as expected, a better time to hope for views – but did enjoy a close firecrest before we dropped in to the little meadow opposite the turn to Castang, where there were many more fine lady orchids.



Lady orchid detail



Man orchid detail

It was warm and turning hot, so we all enjoyed our salad lunch outside under the shade of the silver birches. The heat encouraged a slow start for the afternoon walk, at least those who came: several pottered around the meadow, finding loose-flowered orchids among various delights. The walkers turned right at the morning's first lady orchid, heading downhill in the shade towards Le Coux. There were many southern speckled woods, black spleenwort fern and a violet birdsnest orchid almost in the middle of the path. In

the final piece of sessile oak wood a Bonelli's warbler trilled, and we managed to see it quite well. More kites came overhead, and a honey buzzard was up there with them.

In Le Coux we stopped to watch a brilliant yellow serin and to look round the new shop selling local delicacies. We also bought cold drinks in the general store and looked briefly at the church before turning where the sign says 'La Plage' – the road to the Dordogne River. There was a lovely patch of ragged robin and four black kites moved through, but otherwise the fertile river valley was predictably dull for wildlife. High water levels in the river meant little edge for wildlife, though there was a puzzle with the ornamental maple under the shade of which we stood: later study gave us the name ash-leaved maple. It was a good cue to phone Castang, and Keith came to give us all a lift back to save the uphill walk in the heat.

During dinner – carrot soup, smoked salmon, lamb with beans and chicory, cheese and almond gâteau – a red squirrel climbed the birches outside the windows.

Saturday 12 May – woodland walk and Limeuil

The pre-breakfast walkers were down to five at 7:30, and were rewarded with views of woodlark and circl bunting towards the chateau at Cazenac. Karin picked up on a hoopoe on a telegraph pole, but the sighting of the morning was a close view of a singing Bonelli's warbler, which Sue O located in an oak tree. Despite sitting still and singing in telescope view, the yellow on the plumage shown in field guides couldn't be seen: the overall impression remained a pale grey leaf warbler.

Bill's friends Jean-Claude and Danielle had met us yesterday evening at Castang, and they joined us today, following in their car to Bigaroque for the three-kilometre walk along a woodland edge. Plants noted in the first stretch included crosswort, Nottingham catchfly, wood bitter-vetch, twayblade and narrow-leaved bittercress. Bush vetch had its characteristic attendant ants and a Bonelli's warbler sang in the oaks. As the vegetation moved from acidic to calcareous, we found globularia and watched three Berger's clouded yellows over the slope.



Map butterfly

Sue and David turned down a small track to investigate a tumbledown building, a small mill (as they suspected) noted on the map as Moulin du Roc. Here on cow parsley, alongside the usual black-and-red shield bugs *Graphosoma italicum*, were three map butterflies – translated as *carte géographique* in French, we learnt. While down a tricky slope looking at the old mill, David kindly checked out some low purple flowers growing by a coppiced alder, which were the parasitic broomrape purple toothwort. There were buzzards, a mallard, and quick but unsustained bursts of melodious warbler, nightingale and golden oriole. Twice we found dead fire salamanders, crushed by traffic. We reached the rendezvous corner with Gilles, and all found shady places to picnic.

Exploring two of the meadows after lunch we added to our orchid list with military orchid, down the road, then woodcock and bee orchids in the lunch meadow, along with tongue orchids and many burnt-tips. But there was no sight nor sound of the black woodpecker seen here on holidays in the last two years.

Gilles dropped us at the top of the pretty village of Limeuil, where the usual public toilets at the top had gone. There were others at the bottom of the village, albeit rather too 'French'. We wandered at our own pace through the village, some visiting the church. Those with me had a good view of a short-toed treecreeper, and everyone had close views of the tree sparrows either in the street or on the wall of the public gardens overlooking the confluence of the Vézères and the Dordogne Rivers. Sand martins were coming to the wall below the garden, facing the rivers, apparently looking for holes in which to nest but, perhaps more extraordinarily, perching on ivy-leaved toadflax. Everyone stopped for a drink before we bade farewell to Danielle and Jean-Claude.

After tea and checklists back at base, Karin, Brennan, Mary and I set off for the bottom of Castang's meadow. After much searching we found our two targets: adderstongue fern and loose-flowered orchid, with the bonus of our first flowering pepper saxifrage. By then it was time for dinner, of broccoli soup, mixed starter with goats' cheese, guinea fowl with Lyonnais potatoes, cheese and strawberries. As Norman headed off for bed, a rhinoceros beetle flew into him, which must have been pretty alarming for both parties.

Sunday 13 May – the 'two views' walk at Berbiguières and Montalieu Haut

Having apparently been 'missing' so far, two melodious warblers were singing before breakfast, one close to Castang and the other towards Lagrave, where the frog chorus in the pond was loud. A woodlark sat for ages on a small shrub in the dilapidated vineyard area. We saw two red squirrels on the return leg.

Two nuthatches showed well from the bridge at Berbiguières, but though an oriole called there was no sign of it. We walked through the pretty village, looking back towards the small chateau and the hanging white wisteria, then up the track through the wood to reach the walk along the crest. In more-or-less the centre of the top of the track was our first man orchid of the week, followed by scores more soon after. Many examples of the delicate red-coloured brown vetch shone from its grass-like leaves. Violet birdsnest orchids (limodors) were numerous and in good colour, and there were burnt-tip and woodcock orchids in good numbers everywhere, especially farther along the first section of the ridge walk where someone had roped off an especially orchid-rich area. Three black kites in the air were joined by a honey buzzard. Ivan found a black-veined white – seen again over lunch – and Berger's clouded yellow and meadow fritillary were two more nice butterflies.

We'd spread out some way along the crest but all convened soon after one o'clock where Gilles and the bus were tucked into the shade. After we'd picnicked, Norman demonstrated his sweep net, which caught any number of tiny creepy crawlies, including miniature Roesel's bush-crickets. The adjacent woodland was rather unproductive, though bitter vetch and pignut were new species.

Montalieu Haut, after a drive, offered the paradoxical mixture of easy-to-access dry, sunny limestone slopes with shade under downy oaks and Montpellier maples. Specialist plants included Mediterranean buckthorn, hairy greenweed, hautbois strawberry and the silvery-leaved pea *argyrolobium*, with many woodcock and several fly orchids. Everyone seemed well able to remember the name of one plant, bastard balm, in a mixture of white and pale pink forms. A white helleborine in the middle of the path was a surprise: there were plenty of narrow-leaved helleborines with which to compare it. Not surprisingly birds were quiet in the middle of the day, though we heard both Bonelli's and melodious warbler. At the bottom of the slope we located Gilles and the bus, along with Susie and Ivan, who'd been watching butterflies of several species, including grizzled skipper and little blue, coming to take salts in the mud. It was odd to see a wood white chasing away a larger green-veined white while an even bigger black-veined white flew past. A melodious warbler sang, a pair of displaying sparrowhawks swooped in the sky and there was a patch of bright blue gromwell tucked under the hedge.

We paused for a view and photos of the riverside village of Beynac, adding crag martin and raven to the holiday bird list, then two common sandpipers on floating debris in the Dordogne. Then home for tea, aperitifs and then dinner of sorrel soup, port and melon, *confit de canard* and cauliflower, cheese and crème caramel.

Monday 14 May – Roque St-Christophe and Font de Gaume

Going down the road beyond the communal washing structure we had great views of a melodious warbler on a small hedgerow, and golden orioles moved through and over the tree-tops. Then a black woodpecker flashed past, albeit only seen well by David.



Melodious warbler

The route to Roque St-Christophe took us past banks of asphodels, and we paused briefly to overlook the river and the rock from the viewpoint just before the car park. Norman went off to take photographs while the rest of today's group visited the cliff-side site, marvelling at how a complex mediaeval life took place in the part natural, part hewn recesses of the rock. Many swifts, crag martins and house martins flew past at eye level, and Susie saw the local peregrine. In the woodland edge by the car park there were early purple orchids along with many twayblades and the ancient woodland umbellifer sanicle.

Lunch was at some stone picnic tables. Gilles took David and Sue to Les Eyzies to visit the museum of pre-history. The rest of us stayed for some more natural history, starting off with tuberous comfrey by the trees close to the café and loos and a single birdsnest orchid by the woodland path. That path led us to the two excellent meadows tucked into the woodland where we saw rampion bellflower, bloody cranesbill and the military orchids found earlier by Norman. The quicker walkers paid a short visit to a dry slope farther up, finding clove-scented broomrape and more fly orchids. Returning to the meadows, we all enjoyed bright marsh fritillaries. The bus paused briefly below the cliff so we could look for the peregrines that nest here, but we didn't share Susie's earlier good fortune.

The 400 metre walk up the slope to the cave of Font de Gaume had plenty of botanical interest, notably lots of white rock-rose, our first flowering swallow-wort (*Vincetoxicum*), fly and woodcock orchids and wall rue fern. Then, at our appointment of 15:45, the charming English-speaking guide appeared and we were soon enjoying the first-hand privilege of seeing wall paintings of bison and reindeer from 10-12,000 years BP (before the present), all created under the flickering light of candles made from animal fat.

After dinner – pumpkin soup, port terrine and salmon in Hollandaise sauce – as dark fell, a select few walked to Lagrave. The draw was the hope of seeing a midwife toad, which we quickly found, a male with eggs wrapped round its hind legs, though it soon moved under a stone in a wall and remained only partly in sight.

Tuesday 15 May – Le Bugue and the cave walk

Two red squirrels scampered over the roof, part of a continuing pattern of seeing them daily – remarkable for animals usually so shy in spring. That apart, the most striking observation on the pre-breakfast walk was coats and gloves: the weather had turned distinctly cooler. We looked without luck for the probable lesser spotted woodpecker seen yesterday by Bill and Peter and heard this morning by Norman through his bathroom window, though we did see both green and great spotted woodpeckers.

Two stayed with the bus while the rest of us were dropped off on the hill above Le Bugue. Here we found the woody-based Pyrenean (or white) flax, noted orchids of five now familiar species and saw a Bonelli's warbler, all in a fairly brief stay before we walk downhill into town. By the time we were at the main street, with all its many and various market stalls, it was raining heavily. We'd split up by then and were in the bookshop, browsing stalls or having a coffee, the last mostly at the Bar Menhir at the far end of the market. The rain had eased off by the time we walked along the bank of the River Vézères to our 12:30 rendezvous by the aquarium. In a wall here, Janet found a curious-looking little flower: the southern European *Campanula erinus*, a tiny bellflower. For our picnic, Gilles took us a few hundred metres to some benches overlooking the river in a quieter spot.

The weather continued to improve, though mostly was still cool as we started the afternoon's walk. A greater butterfly orchid was new for the week, alongside the woodland track, before a short track into a superb meadow. Here there was yellow rattle, the best developed pyramidal orchids of the week and several loose-flowered orchids in the very wet lower part of the meadow. Berger's clouded yellow and black-veined white butterflies flew around. We stayed there a while, and discovered that it was possible to re-join the woodland edge track by going out of the other end of the meadow. At that far end were military orchids and Ivan found a mating pair of narrow-bordered bee hawkmoths on a meadow clary (photo on front cover).



Bee orchid



Sombre bee orchid



Fly orchid

At the far end of the walk, we emerged from the open wood into a glorious meadow, tinted a gentle yellow with sulphur clover. It took a while to see them, but it became apparent that there were large numbers of the tiny sombre bee orchid, alongside many green-winged and tongue orchids. With a little searching there were three or four of the much bigger long-lipped serapias, and a bee orchid with clean and bright white sepals. Then looking over the fence a few tens of metres on, there must have been a thousand or more sombre bee orchids, perhaps helped by the fact that the horses which graze here were fenced on a lower part of the meadow. Opposite was the odd-looking Mediterranean plant called annual scorpion vetch.

Leaving Norman, Janet and Ivan to take more photos, everyone else went onto the café of the Gouffre de Proumeyssac. Three did the tour of the 'crystal cathedral', an impressive sight despite the corny '*son et lumière*' that goes with the underground visit. Others simply had drinks or ice cream. Then it was home for tea and an evening meal of vegetable soup, pastry parcels with goat's cheese, beef with roast potatoes, cheese and pear tart.

Wednesday 16 May – Keith's walk

A flock of starlings, mostly juveniles, was feeding on the cherry tree by the pre-breakfast birders' gathering point. Just beyond Lingle, there was a concentration of birds that struck me as wonderfully French: a cirl bunting and a melodious warbler on one bush, two black redstarts on a roof and a TV aerial, a serin atop the short belt of cypresses and a nightingale singing. A dunnoek, greenfinches and goldfinches also perched on the cypresses and a wren moved to and fro from a likely nesting spot in a woodpile.

Keith took over as walk leader for this morning, offering insights into the local way of life and, especially, with his surveyor's eye, building construction, both traditional and the increasingly common modern ways. This started by going through butterfly-rich meadows by a friend's house and down to the rather dilapidated but still appealing *pigeonnier*, now in splendid isolation surrounded by ox-eye daisies and meadow clary. Leaving Susie here to sketch, we went into the wood, pausing by an abandoned *abreuvoir*, a stone sluice above a plantation of walnut trees. At a slow amble we did a circular route via Les Valades, with wildlife highlights including our first stonechat, a big patch of slender thistle and two woodlarks on a wire. There was a great surprise on the last leg as we came through Castang's meadow: half a dozen military orchids, a species we'd seen elsewhere but the first time found by Honeyguide here, back at base.



Marsh fritillary

Some did their own thing on the 'free afternoon' and several of us pottered together through several local meadows. It was fairly warm and butterflies were mostly on the move rather quickly, but highlights included exceptional views of swallowtail, a first Oberthur's grizzled skipper and marsh fritillary, photographed by Karin, another first for Honeyguide at Castang.

Our final meal – spinach soup, seafood terrine and chicken in tarragon sauce – included collecting the group's holiday highlights, (noted on next page), and a song from three years ago in Extremadura for Peter and Bill.

Thursday 17 May – Bergerac and home

Sue O, Peter and Bill left for their Flybe flights after breakfast. Bob Gibbons from the following group then arrived for a quick chat and exchange of information. Three pottered gently in the meadows and six of us walked in a new area, via Lagrave to the other side of the main road down to Le Coux. Shortly after passing through a colourful roadside of planted irises, a skylark sang and soared, our first of the week, apart from one seen through the aircraft window at Bergerac. A scarce swallowtail sat still as a statue on a leaf in the shade, above which a firecrest sang in a cypress tree, displaying its fiery crest in response to a recording.



Scarce swallowtail



Firecrest

(A short movie at <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9v1xkOjp5bg&feature=youtu.be> has both the scarce swallowtail and firecrest song.)

A serin sang and goldfinches settled on weed seeds in the adjacent field. Farther on we searched a dry, orchid-rich meadow, finding several familiar species, butterflies included, plus the leaves of red helleborines under adjacent oaks. We then walked more steadily, pausing for yellow vetchling among other things, along a mix of quiet lanes and footpaths with yellow post markers, before turning right into Le Coux. There was a lift from there back to Castang for two, with the rest of us walking up the hill in the now warm midday heat. A search of the arable edge opposite the cemetery revealed large Venus's looking glass, one of the prettiest arable 'weeds', and we brought back a specimen for Janet.

Then after a sandwich lunch it was soon three o'clock and time for Gilles to arrive for the transfer to Bergerac, and safely home.



Serin at French birds' corner



Lesser horseshoe bats

Group members' holiday highlights

Sue O	Three golden orioles on the first morning.
Peter	Marsh fritillary, fly orchid (the colour of which reminds him of Galloway cattle), Patton's tiger moth, the food.
Bill	The food, sand martins, seeing his friends Jean-Claude and Danielle.
Brennan	The three golden orioles, Roque St-Christophe, lesser horseshoe bats.
Karin	The food, the location, the stars, the meadow, orchids especially sombre bee orchids, swallowtails.
David	'You guys' sharing knowledge, Font de Gaume, map butterfly.
Susie	Being out of doors surrounded by lovely things, 'you lot' too, the moths, Chris as leader, her peregrine.
Sue R	Flower-rich meadows, white-sepal'd bee orchid, red-and-black stripy bugs.
Norman	Golden orioles over the river, ascalaphids, patch of orchids near Proumeyssac, everyone sharing knowledge.
Janet	Orchids, the fields, the silence.
Ivan	The weather, stepping out of Gilles's coach into summer.
Chris	Golden orioles, the French birds' corner, Susie's hat, Roque St-Christophe, David's map butterfly, Susie's and Peter's conversations about moth ID.

WILDLIFE LISTS 2012

Birds H = heard only

Cormorant	Grey heron
Mute swan	Mallard
Honey buzzard	Black kite
Marsh harrier (at the airport)	Sparrowhawk
Buzzard	Kestrel
Hobby	Peregrine
Common sandpiper	Feral pigeon
Woodpigeon	Collared dove
Turtle dove H	Cuckoo
Tawny owl H	Swift
Hoopoe	Green woodpecker
Black woodpecker	Great spotted woodpecker
Lesser spotted woodpecker (probable)	Woodlark
Skylark	Sand martin
Crag martin	Swallow
House martin	Grey wagtail
White wagtail	Wren
Dunnock	Robin
Nightingale H	Black redstart
Common redstart	Stonechat
Blackbird	Song thrush H
Mistle thrush	Melodious warbler
Blackcap	Bonelli's warbler
Chiffchaff	Firecrest
Long-tailed tit	Blue tit
Great tit	Nuthatch
Short-toed treecreeper	Golden oriole
Jay	Magpie
Jackdaw	Carrion crow
Raven	Starling
House sparrow	Tree sparrow
Chaffinch	Serin
Greenfinch	Goldfinch
Linnet	Cirl bunting

Mammals

Rabbit	Red squirrel	Wild boar (rootings)	Lesser horseshoe bat
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Reptiles and amphibians

Wall lizard	Fire salamander (road casualties)	Pool frog	Midwife toad
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Butterflies

Swallowtail	Sooty copper	Glanville fritillary
Scarce swallowtail	Small blue	Knapweed fritillary
Black-veined white	Holly blue	Meadow fritillary
Small white	Brown argus	Marsh fritillary
Green-veined white	Adonis blue	Spotted fritillary
Orange-tip	Common blue	Weaver's (violet) fritillary
Clouded yellow	Duke of Burgundy	Small heath
Berger's clouded yellow	Southern white admiral	Speckled wood
Brimstone	Peacock	Wall
Cleopatra	Red admiral	Dingy skipper
Wood white	Painted lady	Grizzled skipper
Small copper	Map	Oberthur's grizzled skipper

Moths

Contributed by Susie Turner and Peter Rathbone.
British checklist numbers given, from Waring & Townsend

- 17 Common swift *Hepialus lupulinus*
- 163 Forester *Adscita* sp.
- 170 Five-spot burnet *Zygaena trifolii*
- 1654 Figure of eighty *Tethea ocularis*
- 1682 Blood-vein *Timandra comae*
- 1687 Lace border *Scopula ornata*
- 1688 Tawny wave *Scopula rubiginata*
- 1689 Mullein wave *Scopula marginepunctata*
- 1690 Small blood-vein *Scopula imitaria*
- 1693 Cream wave *Scopula floslactata*
- 1714 Portland ribbon wave *Idaea degeneraria*
- 1725 Dark-barred twin-spot carpet *Xanthorhoe ferrugata*
- 1728 Garden carpet *Xanthorhoe fluctuata fluctuata*
- 1735 Ruddy carpet *Catarhoe rubidata*
- 1738 Common carpet *Epirrhoe alternata alternata*
- 1740 Gallium carpet *Epirrhoe galiata*
- 1770 Chestnut-coloured carpet *Thera cognata*
- 1776 Green carpet *Colostygia pectinataria*
- 1782 Fern *Horisme tersata*
- 1867 Treble-bar *Aplocera plagiata plagiata*
- 1888a Dorset cream wave *Stegania trimaculata*
- 1894 Latticed heath *Chiasmia clathrata clathrata*
- 1906 Brimstone moth *Opisthograptis luteolata*
- 1909 Speckled yellow *Pseudopanthera macularia*
- 1937 Willow beauty *Peribatodes rhomboidaria*
- 1944 Pale oak beauty *Hypomecis roboraria*
- 1945 Brussels lace *Cleorodes lichenaria*
- 1952 Common heath *Ematurga atomaria atomaria*
- 1968 Yellow belle *Semiaspilates ochrearia*
- 1982 Narrow-bordered bee hawkmoth *Hemaris tityus*
- 1984 Hummingbird hawkmoth *Macroglossum stellatarum*
- 2011 Pale prominent *Pterostoma palpina*
- 2021 Pine processionary *Thaumetopoea pityocampa* (tent)
- 2028 Pale tussock *Calliteara pudibunda*
- 2058a Patton's tiger *Hyphoraia testudinaria*
- 2059 Clouded buff *Diacrisia sannio*
- 2063 Muslin moth *Diaphora mendica* (male)
- 2084 Light feathered rustic *Agrotis cinerea*
- 2147 Shears *Hada plebeja*
- 2166 Champion *Hadena rivularis*
- 2194 White-point *Mythimna albipuncta*
- 2380 Treble lines *Charanyca trigrammica*
- 2381 Uncertain *Hoplodrina alsines*
- 2477 Snout *Hypena proboscidalis*
- 2463 Burnet companion *Euclidia glyphica*



Micro-moths

- 1364 Scarce crimson and gold *Pyrausta sanguinalis*
- White plume moth *Pterophorus pentadactyla*
- Spindle ermine *Yponomeuta cagnagella* (caterpillar/tent)

Photos, from the top: Patton's tiger and Muslin moth, both by Peter Rathbone; hummingbird hawkmoth by Susie Turner.

Other insects, spiders and other invertebrates

Ascalaphid *Libelluloides coccajus*

Hornet

Violet carpenter bee

Glow-worm

Trichodes apiarus, *Trichodes alvearius*, red and black soldier beetles

Rose chafer

Rhinoceros beetle

Oxythyrea funesta a chafer

Firebug

Cercopis vulnerata, a red and black frog hopper

Graphosoma italicum – a black and red shield bug

7-spot ladybird

Field cricket

Roesel's bush-cricket

Mole cricket H

Wood ant sp.

House centipede *Scutigera coleoptrata*

A furrow orb weaving spider, best ID so far *Larinioides cornutus* (photo above)



Plants

nif = seen but not in flower.

Flowers not in northern European floras are in bold and marked as follows:

M: Mediterranean flora **A**: Alpine flora *Inula montana* is in neither!

Family	Scientific name	Common name	
ACERACEAE (Maple)	<i>Acer campestre</i>	Field maple	
	<i>Acer monspessulanus</i>	Montpelier maple	
	<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>	Sycamore	
ARACEAE (Arum)	<i>Arum italicum</i>	Large (or Italian) lords & ladies	
ARALIACEAE (Ivy)	<i>Hedera helix (hibernica)</i>	Ivy	
ASCLEPIADACEAE (Milkweed)	<i>Vincetoxicum hirundinaria</i>	Swallow-wort	
BETULACEAE (Birch)	<i>Alnus glutinosa</i>	Alder	
BORAGINACEAE (Borage)	<i>Anchusa arvensis</i>	Bugloss	
	<i>Buglossoides purpureocaerulea</i>	Blue (or purple) gromwell	
	<i>Echium vulgare</i>	Viper's bugloss	
	<i>Lithospermum officinale</i>	Common gromwell	
	<i>Myosotis discolor</i>	Changing forget-me-not	
	<i>Pulmonaria longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved lungwort	nif
	<i>Symphytum tuberosum</i>	Comfrey	
CAMPANULACEAE (Bellflower)	<i>Symphytum officinale</i>	Tuberous comfrey	
	<i>Campanula erinus</i>	M	
	<i>Campanula glomerata</i>	Clustered bellflower	
	<i>Campanula rapunculoides</i>	Rampion bellflower	
CAPRIFOLIACEAE (Honeysuckle)	<i>Legousia speculum-veneris</i>	Large Venus's looking-glass	
	<i>Lonicera periclymenum</i>	Honeysuckle	
	<i>Lonicera xylosteum</i>	Fly honeysuckle	
	<i>Sambucus ebulus</i>	Dwarf elder	nif
	<i>Sambucus nigra</i>	Elder	
CARYOPHYLLACEAE (Pink)	<i>Viburnum lanata</i>	Wayfaring tree	
	<i>Arenaria serpyllifolia</i>	Thyme-leaved sandwort	
	<i>Cerastium fontanum</i>	Common mouse-ear	

	<i>Cerastium glomeratum</i>	Sticky mouse-ear	
	<i>Lychnis flos-cuculi</i>	Ragged robin	
	<i>Minuartia hybrida</i>	Fine-leaved sandwort	
	<i>Sagina procumbens</i>	Procumbent pearlwort	
	<i>Silene alba</i>	White campion	
	<i>Silene nutans</i>	Nottingham catchfly	
	<i>Silene vulgaris</i>	Bladder campion	
	<i>Stellaria holostea</i>	Greater stitchwort	
	<i>Stellaria media</i>	Chickweed	
CELASTRACEAE (Spindle)	<i>Euonymus europaeus</i>	Spindle	
CHENOPODIACEAE (Goosefoot)	<i>Chenopodium album</i>	Fat hen	
CISTACEAE (Cistus)	<i>Fumana procumbens</i>	Common fumana	
	<i>Helianthemum appenninum</i>	White rockrose	
	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>	Common rockrose	
COMPOSITAE (Daisy)	<i>Achillea millefolium</i>	Yarrow	
	<i>Arctium minus</i>	Lesser burdock	
	<i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>	Mugwort	
	<i>Artemisia sp</i>	Unidentified wormwood	
	<i>Bellis perennis</i>	Perennial daisy	
	<i>Carduus tenuiflorus</i>	Slender thistle	
	<i>Carlina vulgaris</i>	Carlina thistle	nif
	<i>Centaurea nigra</i>	Black knapweed	
	<i>Chamomilla suaveolens</i>	Pineapple mayweed	
	<i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	Woolly thistle	nif
	<i>Cirsium vulgare</i>	Spear thistle	nif
	<i>Hieracium maculatum</i>	Spotted hawkweed	
	<i>Inula montana</i>		nif
	<i>Lactuca serriola</i>	Prickly lettuce	
	<i>Lapsana communis</i>	Nipplewort	
	<i>Leucanthemum vulgare</i>	Ox-eye daisy	
	<i>Pilosella officinarum</i>	Mouse-ear hawkweed	
	<i>Senecio jacobea</i>	Ragwort	
	<i>Senecio vulgaris</i>	Groundsel	
	<i>Sonchus asper</i>	Prickly sow-thistle	nif
	<i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth sow-thistle	
	<i>Taraxacum (group)</i>	Dandelion	
	<i>Tragopogon pratensis</i>	Goatsbeard=Jack-go-to-bed-at-noon	
CONVOLVULACEAE	<i>Convolvulus arvensis</i>	Field bindweed	
CORIARIACEAE (Coriaria)	<i>Coriaria myrtifolia</i>	Mediterranean coriaria M	
CORNACEAE (Cornus)	<i>Cornus sanguinea</i>	Dogwood	
CORYLACEAE (Hazel)	<i>Corylus avellana</i>	Hazel	
CORYLACEAE (Hornbeam)	<i>Carpinus betulus</i>	Hornbeam	
CRASSULACEAE (Stonecrop)	<i>Sedum acre</i>	Biting stonecrop	
	<i>Umbilicus rupestris</i>	Navelwort/wall pennywort	
CRUCIFERAE (Cress)	<i>Alliaria petiolata</i>	Garlic mustard	
	<i>Arabis turrita</i>	Towercress	
	<i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i>	Shepherd's-purse	
	<i>Cardamine impatiens</i>	Narrow-leaved bittercress	
	<i>Hesperis matronalis</i>	Dame's violet	
	<i>Iberis amara</i>	Wild candytuft	
CUCURBITACEAE (Gourd)	<i>Bryonia cretica</i>	White bryony	
CUPRESSACEAE (Cypress)	<i>Juniperus communis</i>	Juniper	
DIOSCOREACEAE (Yam)	<i>Tamus communis</i>	Black bryony	
DIPSACACEAE (Scabious)	<i>Knautia arvensis</i>	Field scabious	
	<i>Knautia dipsacifolia</i>	Wood scabious	

	<i>Dipsacus fullonum</i>	Teasel	nif
EUPHORBIACEAE (Spurge)	<i>Euphorbia amygdaloides</i>	Wood spurge	
	<i>Euphorbia cyparissias</i>	Cypress spurge	
	<i>Euphorbia helioscopia</i>	Sun spurge	
	<i>Euphorbia hyberna</i>	Irish spurge	
	<i>Euphorbia lathyris</i>	Caper spurge	
	<i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Petty spurge	
	<i>Mercurialis perennis</i>	Dog's mercury	
FAGACEAE	<i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i>	Horse chestnut (planted)	
	<i>Castanea sativa</i>	Sweet chestnut	
	<i>Quercus ilex</i>	Evergreen/holm oak	
	<i>Quercus petraea</i>	Sessile oak	
	<i>Quercus pubescens</i>	Downy oak	
FUMARIACEAE (Fumitory)	<i>Fumaria officinalis</i>	Common fumitory	
GERANIACEAE (Geranium)	<i>Erodium cicutarium</i>	Common storksbill	
	<i>Geranium columbinum</i>	Long-stalked cranesbill	
	<i>Geranium dissectum</i>	Cut-leaved cranesbill	
	<i>Geranium molle</i>	Dovesfoot cranesbill	
	<i>Geranium purpureum</i>	Little Robin	
	<i>Geranium pusillum</i>	Small-flowered cranesbill	
	<i>Geranium robertianum</i>	Herb Robert	
	<i>Geranium rotundifolium</i>	Round-leaved cranesbill	
	<i>Geranium sanguineum</i>	Bloody cranesbill	
GLOBULARIACEAE (Globularia)	<i>Globularia vulgaris</i>	Globularia	
GRAMINEAE	<i>Avena fatua</i>	Wild oat	
Grasses - very incomplete	<i>Briza media</i>	Common quaking-grass	
	<i>Dactylis glomerata</i>	Cocksfoot	
	<i>Holcus lanatus</i>	Yorkshire fog	
	<i>Hordeum murinum</i>	Wall barley	
	<i>Melica uniflora</i>	Wood melick	
	<i>Poa annua</i>	Annual meadow-grass	
HYPERICACEAE (Hypericum)	<i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Perforate St. John's wort	
IRIDACEAE (Iris)	<i>Iris pseudacorus</i>	Yellow flag iris	
JUGLANDACEAE	<i>Juglans regia</i>	Walnut	
LABIATAE (Mint)	<i>Ajuga reptans</i>	Common bugle	
	<i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Ground ivy	
	<i>Lamium album</i>	White dead-nettle	
	<i>Lamium amplexicaule</i>	Henbit dead-nettle	
	<i>Lamium maculatum</i>	Spotted dead-nettle	
	<i>Lamium purpureum</i>	Red dead-nettle	
	<i>Lavandula angustifolia</i>	Lavender M	nif
	<i>Melittis melissophyllum</i>	Bastard balm	
	<i>Mentha aquatica</i>	Water mint	nif
	<i>Mentha suaveolens</i>	Apple (round-leaved) mint	nif
	<i>Origanum vulgare</i>	Marjoram	nif
	<i>Salvia pratensis</i>	Meadow clary	
	<i>Salvia verbenaca</i>	Wild clary	
	<i>Stachys recta</i>	Yellow woundwort	
	<i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Hedge woundwort	
	<i>Teucrium chamaedrys</i>	Wall germander (leaves)	nif
	<i>Thymus serpyllum</i>	Wild thyme	
LEMNACEAE (Duckweed)	<i>Lemna minor</i>	Common/Lesser duckweed	
LILIACEAE (Lily)	<i>Asphodelus albus</i>	Asphodel A, M	
	<i>Muscari atlanticum</i>	Grape hyacinth	nif
	<i>Muscari comosum</i>	Tassel hyacinth	

	<i>Ornithogalum pyrenaicum</i>	Bath asparagus/spiked star-of-Bethlehem (bud)	
	<i>Ornithogalum umbellatum</i>	Common star-of-Bethlehem	
	<i>Ruscus aculeatus</i>	Butcher's broom	
LINACEAE (Flax)	<i>Linum bienne</i>	Pale flax	
	<i>Linum catharticum</i>	Fairy (=purging) flax	
	<i>Linum perenne</i>	Perennial flax	
	<i>Linum suffruticosum</i>	Pyrenean or white flax	
OLEACEAE (Olive)	<i>Ligustrum vulgare</i>	Wild privet	
ORCHIDACEAE	<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man orchid	
	<i>Anacamptis pyramidalis</i>	Pyramidal orchid	
	<i>Cephalanthera damasonium</i>	White helleborine	
	<i>Cephalanthera longifolia</i>	Narrow-leaved helleborine	
	<i>Cephalanthera rubra</i>	Red helleborine	nif
	<i>Dactylorhiza fuchsii</i>	Common spotted orchid	nif
	<i>Epipactis helleborine</i>	Broad-leaved helleborine (leaves)	nif
	<i>Himantoglossum hircinum</i>	Lizard orchid	nif
	<i>Limodorum abortivum</i>	Violet birdsnest orchid (= limodor)	
	<i>Listera ovata</i>	Common twayblade	
	<i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>	Birdsnest orchid	
	<i>Ophrys apifera</i>	Bee orchid	
	<i>Ophrys fusca</i>	Sombre bee orchid M	
	<i>Ophrys insectifera</i>	Fly orchid	
	<i>Ophrys scolopax</i>	Woodcock orchid M	
	<i>Ophrys sphegodes</i>	Early spider orchid	
	<i>Orchis laxiflora</i>	Loose-flowered orchid	
	<i>Orchis masculata</i>	Early purple orchid	
	<i>Orchis militaris</i>	Military orchid	
	<i>Orchis morio</i>	Green-winged orchid	
	<i>Orchis purpurea</i>	Lady orchid	
	<i>Orchis ustulata</i>	Burnt-tip orchid	
	<i>Platanthera chlorantha</i>	Greater butterfly orchid	
	<i>Serapias lingua</i>	Tongue orchid M	
	<i>Serapias vomeracea</i>	Long-lipped serapias A M	
OROBANCHACEAE (Broomrape)	<i>Lathraea clandestina</i>	Purple toothwort	
	<i>Orobanche caryophyllacea</i> (O. vulgaris)	Clove-scented (bedstraw) broomrape	
	<i>Orobanche minor</i>	Common broomrape	
OXALIDACEAE (wood-sorrels)	<i>Oxalis fontana</i>	Upright yellow oxalis	
PAPAVERACEAE (Poppy)	<i>Chelidonium majus</i>	Greater celandine	
	<i>Papaver rhoeas</i>	Common poppy	
PAPILIONACEAE (Pea)	<i>Anthyllis vulneraria</i>	Kidney vetch	
	<i>Argyrolobium sanonii</i>	Argyrolobium M	
	<i>Cercis siliquastrum</i>	Judas tree (planted) M	
	<i>Coronilla scorpioides</i>	Annual scorpion vetch M	
	<i>Genista pilosa</i>	Hairy greenweed	
	<i>Hippocrepis comosa</i>	Horseshoe vetch	
	<i>Hippocrepis emerus</i>	Scorpion senna	
	<i>Lathyrus aphaca</i>	Yellow vetchling	
	<i>Lathyrus montanus</i> (=L. linifolius)	Bitter vetchling	
	<i>Lathyrus nissolia</i>	Grass vetchling	
	<i>Lathyrus pratensis</i>	Meadow vetchling	
	<i>Lathyrus setifolius</i>	Brown vetch A, M	
	<i>Lotus corniculatus</i>	Birdsfoot trefoil	

	<i>Medicago arabica</i>	Spotted medick	
	<i>Medicago lupulina</i>	Black medick	
	<i>Medicago sativa</i>	Lucerne (= alfalfa)	nif
	<i>Onobrychis vicifolia</i>	Sainfoin	
	<i>Robinia pseudacacia</i>	False acacia or Locust tree	
	- ditto - (planted)	False acacia - 'Purple Robe'	
	<i>Spartium junceum</i>	Spanish broom (introduced)	
	<i>Sarothamnus (=Cytisus) scoparius</i>	Broom	
	<i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Hop trefoil	
	<i>Trifolium dubium</i>	Lesser trefoil	
	<i>Trifolium incarnatum</i>	Crimson clover (crop)	
	<i>Trifolium pratense</i>	Red clover	
	<i>Trifolium repens</i>	White clover	
	<i>Trifolium ochroleum</i>	Sulphur clover	
	<i>Ulex europaeus</i>	Gorse	
	<i>Vicia bithynica</i>	Bithynian vetch	
	<i>Vicia orobus</i>	Upright vetch or wood bitter-vetch	
	<i>Vicia hirsuta</i>	Hairy tare	
	<i>Vicia sativa</i>	Common vetch	
	<i>Vicia sepium</i>	Bush vetch	
PLANTAGINACEAE (Plantain)	<i>Plantago lanceolata</i>	Ribwort plantain	
	<i>Plantago media</i>	Hoary plantain	nif
PLATANACEAE (plane tree)	<i>Platanus hybrida</i>	London plane	
POLYGALACEAE (Milkwort)	<i>Polygala calcarea</i>	Chalk milkwort	
	<i>Polygala vulgaris</i>	Common milkwort	
POLYGONACEAE (Dock)	<i>Rumex acetosa</i>	Common sorrel	
	<i>Rumex acetosella</i>	Sheep's sorrel	
	<i>Rumex obtusifolius</i>	Broad-leaved dock	
	<i>Polygonum aviculare</i>	Knotgrass	
PRIMULACEAE (Primrose)	<i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Scarlet pimpernel	
	<i>Primula veris</i>	Cowslip	
PTERIDOPHYTA (Fern)	<i>Adiantum capillus-veneris</i>	Maidenhair fern	
	<i>Asplenium adiantum-nigrum</i>	Black spleenwort	
	<i>Asplenium ruta-muraria</i>	Wall rue	
	<i>Asplenium trichomanes</i>	Maidenhair spleenwort	
	<i>Ceterach officinarum</i>	Rusty-back fern	
	<i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i>	Male fern	
	<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>	Adderstongue	
	<i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Hart's-tongue fern	
	<i>Pteridium aquilinum</i>	Bracken	
	<i>Polystichum setiferum</i>	Soft shield fern	
	<i>Polypodium vulgare</i>	Common polypody	
RANUNCULACEAE (Buttercup)	<i>Aquilegia vulgaris</i>	Common columbine	
	<i>Clematis vitalba</i>	Traveller's joy	nif
	<i>Helleborus foetidus</i>	Stinking hellebore	
	<i>Ranunculus acris</i>	Meadow buttercup	
	<i>Ranunculus bulbosus</i>	Bulbous buttercup	
	<i>Ranunculus penicillatus</i>	Stream water-crowfoot	
	<i>Ranunculus repens</i>	Creeping buttercup	
RESEDAEAE (Mignonette)	<i>Reseda lutea</i>	Mignonette	
RHAMNACEAE (Buckthorn)	<i>Rhamnus alaternus</i>	Mediterranean buckthorn	M
ROSACEAE (Rose)	<i>Aphanes arvensis</i>	Parsley piert	
	<i>Crataegus monogyna</i>	Hawthorn	
	<i>Fragaria moschata</i>	Hautbois strawberry	

	<i>Fragaria vesca</i>	Wild strawberry	
	<i>Geum urbanum</i>	Herb bennet	
	<i>Mespilus germanica</i>	Medlar (planted)	
	<i>Potentilla reptans</i>	Creeping cinquefoil	
	<i>Prunus mahaleb</i>	St Lucie's cherry	
	<i>Prunus spinosa</i>	Blackthorn	nif
	<i>Rosa canina</i>	Dog rose	
	<i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg.	Bramble	
	<i>Sanguisorbia minor</i>	Salad burnet	
	<i>Sorbus domestica</i>	True service tree (planted)	
	<i>Sorbus torminalis</i>	Wild service tree	
RUBIACEAE (Bedstraw)	<i>Cruciata laevipes</i>	Crosswort	
	<i>Galium aparine</i>	Cleavers	
	<i>G. mollugo</i> subsp. <i>erectum</i> (= <i>G. album</i>)	Hedge bedstraw	
	<i>Galium pumilum</i>	Slender bedstraw	
	<i>Galium verum</i>	Lady's bedstraw	
	<i>Sherardia arvensis</i>	Field madder	
	<i>Rubia peregrina</i>	Wild madder	
SALICACEAE (Willow)	<i>Populus alba</i>	White poplar	
	<i>Populus tremula</i>	Aspen	
SAXIFRAGACEA (Saxifrage)	<i>Saxifraga granulata</i>	Meadow saxifrage	
	<i>Saxifraga tridactylites</i>	Rue-leaved saxifrage	
SCROPHULARIACEAE (Figwort)	<i>Cymbalaria muralis</i>	Ivy-leaved toadflax	
	<i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Yellow rattle	
	<i>Scrophularia canina</i>	French (Alpine) figwort	
	<i>Veronica arvensis</i>	Wall speedwell	
	<i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Germander speedwell	nif
	<i>Veronica persica</i>	Common field speedwell	
SOLANACEAE (Nightshade)	<i>Solanum dulcamara</i>	Woody nightshade (Bittersweet)	
TILIACEAE (Lime)	<i>Tilia cordata</i>	Small-leaved lime	
	<i>Tilia platyphyllos</i>	Large-leaved lime	
ULMACEAE (Elm)	<i>Ulmus minor</i>	Small-leaved elm	
UMBELLIFERAE (Carrot) (= Apiaceae)	<i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>	Cow parsley	
	<i>Conopodium majus</i>	Pignut	
	<i>Eryngium campestre</i>	Field eryngo	nif
	<i>Foeniculum vulgare</i>	Fennel	nif
	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i>	Hogweed	
	<i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> var. <i>sibiricum</i>	Hogweed (greenish flowered)	
	<i>Oenanthe pimpinelloides</i>	Corky-fruited water dropwort	
	<i>Sanicula europaea</i>	Sanicle	
	<i>Silaum silaus</i>	Pepper saxifrage	
URTICACEAE (Nettle)	<i>Parietaria judaica</i>	Pellitory-of-the-wall	
	<i>Urtica dioica</i>	Stinging nettle	
VALERIANACEAE (Valerian)	<i>Centranthus ruber</i>	Red valerian	
	<i>Valerianella locusta</i>	Cornsalad	
VIOLACEAE (Violet)	<i>Viola arvensis</i>	Field pansy/heartsease	
	<i>Viola reichenbachiana</i>	Early dog violet	

