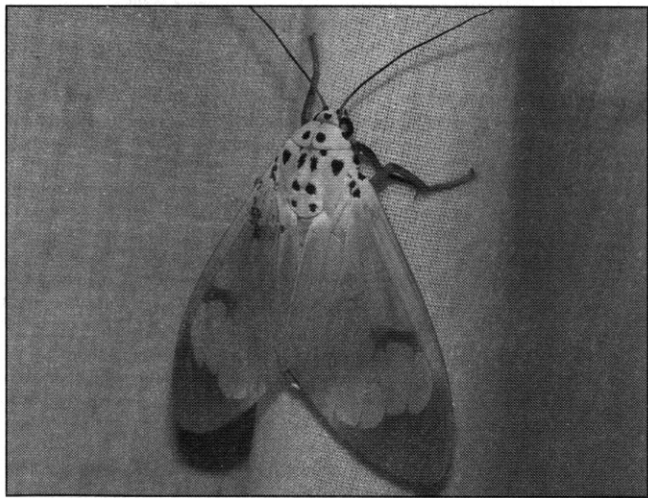


# Invertebrate Conservation News



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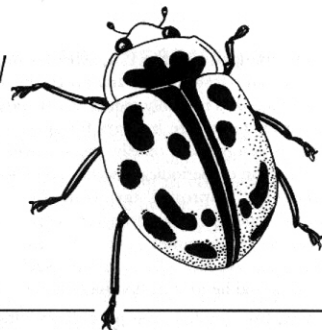
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# INVERTEBRATE CONSERVATION NEWS



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No. 54, October 2007

## EDITORIAL

Severe floods in many countries around the world this year have been very much in the news, with understandable emphasis on the plight of human beings, whose homes and livelihoods have been devastated. Far less has been heard about the impact of the floods on wildlife in general, let alone invertebrates in particular.

The more visible impacts of the floods on habitats here in England are being reported in the magazines of various wildlife trusts. For example, the Gloucestershire Trust has reported severe damage to its Severn Hams reserve and is appealing for donations towards habitat restoration. The initial assessment of flood damage at such sites looks grim and it seems likely that colonies of many invertebrate species have been severely affected, at least in the short term, as was reported by the Surrey Wildlife Trust after flooding of Chertsey Meads near the River Thames in the year 2000 (see *ICN* 35). The longer-term impact on invertebrate species in recently flooded nature reserves will, however, remain uncertain until survey work can be undertaken.

Invertebrates that occur in frequently flooded areas are adapted to wet conditions but not necessarily to the inundation of their habitats at unaccustomed times of year. The same is true of many of the plant species on which a wide range of invertebrates depend. Flooding of riparian areas is quite common but its occurrence in temperate countries is confined mainly to the winter or early spring. The floods that occurred earlier this year in the UK were, however, exceptional both in timing and extent.

Although flooding is caused primarily by wet weather, the probability of its occurrence is increased by human activities that affect the land so as to impair its water-storing capacity. These include intensive farming, deforestation and urbanisation, which lead to increased runoff and involve artificial drainage. Rainfall is thus transferred rapidly into rivers, so that water levels fluctuate to an unnatural extent.



In some parts of the UK, schemes have been established so as to go some way towards restoring natural processes of water retention in river catchments. Such measures not only reduce the frequency of flash flooding downstream but also help to restore habitats for species that depend on natural river banks, shallow margins and marshy areas. There is, however, an economic price to pay in the form of periodically wetter conditions and, in some cases, flooding within previously 'improved' farmland. Also, restoration schemes cannot always provide enough water storage to cope with exceptionally wet weather and are therefore no guarantee against downstream flooding. Recent events in the UK have re-awakened calls to reverse such restoration schemes, even though the result would be to shift flooding on to someone else's land.

Fire, like flooding, can have devastating effects on invertebrate populations, especially if it is intense and extensive. On the other hand, smaller-scale fire is a factor in maintaining the habitats of certain invertebrates, either as a natural occurrence or in conservation management. For example, as mentioned in *ICN* 51, burning has been used successfully in the management of sites for the Heath fritillary butterfly *Melitaea atbalia* in south-west England. Even on a small scale, however, fire can destroy effectively irreplaceable habitats, such as those associated with ancient trees.

This year, there have been exceptionally severe fires in Mediterranean countries, especially Greece, where the weather has been very hot and dry. Since fire occurs mainly during such weather, its increasing incidence can be attributed to climate change, as in the case of flooding. Invertebrates generally have some capacity to re-colonise sites in which they have died out due to events such as flooding or fire, provided that suitable habitat has persisted or regenerated. Re-colonisation depends, however, on the presence of extant colonies within the dispersal range of the species concerned and on the connectivity of habitats. Single catastrophic events are therefore likely to cause permanent local or regional extinction if much of the landscape is intensively managed and intersected by major barriers such as motorways.

Despite any room for debate that may exist over the role of human activities in climate change, there is no doubt that we are contributing in other ways to the incidence of flooding and fire. Equally, we are clearly responsible for fragmenting and isolating habitats and thus for helping to make local extinctions permanent. This problem is now more widely recognised than it was several years ago but it still deserves to be cited as a key factor in the argument for protecting invertebrate habitats on a landscape scale.



## NEWS, VIEWS AND GENERAL INFORMATION

### Butterfly action plan by Forest Enterprise in England

As mentioned in *ICN* 35, Forest Enterprise developed a 'Species Action Plan for Butterflies', in which 113 British woodlands, most of them over 100 ha (247 acres) in size, were identified for special management in co-operation with Butterfly Conservation. The Plan has been superseded by a new 10-year strategy for butterflies and moths on land managed by Forestry Commission England. The strategy, which was launched in the Wyre Forest in May, now involves 140 sites. As mentioned in *ICN* No. 35, the sites support species that either have priority status under the UK Biodiversity Action Plan or that are in decline.

An aim of the strategy is to achieve Favourable Conservation Status for threatened species such as Pearl-bordered Fritillary *Boloria euphrosyne*, Wood White *Leptidea sinapis*, Drab Looper *Minois murinata* and Argent & Sable *Rheumaptera bastata*. A copy of the Conservation Strategy can be downloaded from the Butterfly Conservation website.

### Brownfield madness?

Disappointingly, the case for brownfield conservation seems to remain unknown territory for most journalists and politicians, at least in the UK, despite much prominence within the wildlife conservation movement. Politicians and would-be pundits thus continue to stand largely unchallenged when they recite the brownfield development mantra in the name of defending the countryside from urban sprawl.

As this issue of *ICN* goes to press, the UK government has announced that it will provide £500 million to local planning authorities that meet increased targets for new housing. There has been a simultaneous announcement that 200 brownfield sites in public sector ownership have been identified for development. These include the grounds of hospitals, educational establishments and military installations, many of which appear to support important invertebrate habitats.

### EC Habitats Directive: new legal restrictions in the UK

The EC Habitats Directive, although mainly concerned with habitat protection, includes a provision for controlling the collection, injuring, sale or possession of certain species that are classed as being "in need of strict protection". These include about 100 invertebrates, which are listed in Annex IV of the Directive. Only three of these, the Large Copper butterfly *Lycena dispar*, the Large Blue *Maculinea arion* and Fisher's Estuarine moth *Gortyna borelii lunata*, are native to



Britain and are already listed on Schedule 5 of the relevant British law; i.e. the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981. The restrictions are intended to benefit wild populations of the species concerned, but there seems little prospect of ever obtaining evidence to show whether or not any significant benefit is occurring.

The UK had not fully implemented Annex IV of the Directive until recently ordered to do so. Full implementation came into effect on 21st August this year, making it illegal in the UK to possess or to offer for sale specimens of the listed species if they were taken from the wild within an EC country after the country's implementation of the Habitats Directive (10th June 1994 in the UK). A holder of a specimen obtained before that date or from a non-EC country would need to prove legality in order to avoid a presumption of guilt. Licences can be obtained, but only subject to rigorous conditions and to an expiry period of 25 years for dead specimens and two years for living ones. A list of the European Protected Species (EPS) can be found on the Internet, by searching for 'Directive 92/43/EEC'.

In addition to the new restrictions on possession and sale, the UK has been required to establish new "Offshore Marine Conservation Regulations", which apply to all sea users in the offshore area (200 nautical miles from the coast) and prohibit the deliberate killing or disturbance of European Protected Species. Only a few marine invertebrates; the sea urchin *Centrostephanus longispinus*, and three molluscs (*Lithophaga lithophaga*, *Patella ferruginea* and *Pinna nobilis*) are listed, but other vulnerable invertebrates will probably receive some indirect protection, due to the restriction of activities that could harm listed vertebrates.

#### Proposed increase in fees for UK importation of CITES species

At the time of writing, the UK government is preparing to consult with 'focus groups' over a proposed increase in the fees charged for importing species protected under the Convention in Trade in Endangered Species (CITES). The fees, which currently range from £5 to £10, could be increased to the range of £37 to £261, according to a government policy to recover the full costs of running the system, so as to avoid using taxpayers' money.

Various moral and other arguments can be brought to bear on the rights and wrongs of charging for permits and licences, but the consultation will not deal with such issues. The only issues being addressed concern (i) costs to business, (ii) impacts on conservation and (iii) impacts on compliance and legal trade.

If a very large increase in fees discourages trade, there might be some benefit to conservation, but only if collection for trade is currently unsustainable. Data on the benefits, if any, of discouraging or prohibiting collection are, however, largely lacking. Another possibility is that trade in natural resources could



become so uneconomic that collectors in third world countries will be forced to seek other forms of income, which may involve habitat destruction. Yet another possibility is that illicit trade will be encouraged, thus creating more costs for all the organisations that have a policing role. These include the Amateur Entomologists' Society, which provides facilities for traders.

#### Survey highlights children's lack of insect knowledge

In the run-up to the 2008 National Insect Week in the UK, the Royal Entomological Society recently commissioned a survey of just under 100 British youngsters in the age-group 11 to 18, so as to gain some idea of their knowledge of insects.

Assuming that the sample was representative, the results seem disappointing but sadly familiar. For example, the inability to distinguish between insects and other invertebrates seems to be alive and well, since 53% of young female respondents thought that a spider was an insect. Some respondents placed millipedes, worms, slugs and snails among the insects. Also, a mere 34% of those surveyed appeared to know that an insect has six legs.

With the encouragement of a new generation of conservationists in mind, it was disappointing that one third of the respondents seemed to have no idea of the roles that insects play in supporting other life-forms, human beings included. Also, 77% of them admitted having killed insects for reasons such as being annoyed or scared by them. There is nothing new about such destructive ignorance, except that it nowadays seems to persist alongside the peddling of hypocritical teaching that collecting insects is simply wrong.

Collectively, respondents were able to name 50 different types of insect, which may seem fairly encouraging, even though this figure equates to about one type of insect for every two respondents. Perhaps more encouragingly, 32% of respondents said they thought they would enjoy a job that involved working with insects.

Encouragement of a new generation has become a key aim of the invertebrate societies in the UK, as formulated at the November 2006 conference and embodied by the series of National Insect Weeks (NIW). Information about NIW 2008 (scheduled for 23rd to 29th June 2008) can be found on the website of the Royal Entomological Society: [www.royensoc.co.uk](http://www.royensoc.co.uk)





### Conserving Scotland's Invertebrates - a fresh approach

by Craig Macadam, Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust

No-one can doubt the importance of invertebrates for the environment whether it is for their contributions to ecological services like pollination and waste disposal or for the simple pleasures of seeing butterflies and bumblebees in gardens and countryside alike. Yet many invertebrates in Scotland are threatened and need conserving.

The Initiative for Scottish Invertebrates is at present a non-constituted alliance of individuals and organisations working on Scottish invertebrates. The group is currently consulting with as wide a range of interested parties as possible to gather opinions and data towards developing a conservation strategy for Scottish invertebrates.

The Conserving Scottish Invertebrates project, funded by Scottish Natural Heritage and co-ordinated by Buglife - The Invertebrate Conservation Trust, will seek a broad consensus among entomologists and conservationists around the actions detailed in the strategy. In addition, it aims to raise awareness of Scotland's important and distinctive invertebrate fauna amongst the public, conservation organisations and decision makers.

This is a timely and unique opportunity to make a difference for invertebrates in Scotland. For the project to succeed we need to engage with as many individuals as possible with an interest in Scottish invertebrates.

We hope you will respond positively to this opportunity and contribute to the development of the conservation strategy. In the meantime, if you would like to learn more about the project or join the Scottish Invertebrate discussion forum then please contact Craig Macadam at the address below.

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### Devastating fires in Greece

As reported widely in the news, fires of previously unrecorded extent and severity have swept through many parts of Greece this year, affecting an estimated 2% of the total land area, or 250,000 ha (618,000 acres). Hot dry weather, with temperatures often rising above 40°C (104°F), provided conditions conducive to the spread of fire but many of the fires are suspected to have been started deliberately. The suspects include property speculators, who stand to make money if the justifications for current planning restrictions cease to exist.



Apart from killing scores of people and destroying the homes of thousands, the fires are estimated to have devastated about 10% of all the forested land of Greece, including some of Europe's richest nature reserves. The Head of the Worldwide Fund for Nature in Greece is quoted as saying that very few refuges for wildlife have remained in the affected areas and that rare species of reptiles, mammals and endemic plants have been lost. There appears to be no information about rare invertebrates, but it can be assumed that they have been seriously affected.

The ecological damage has been particularly serious in the Peloponnese peninsula and it could become irretrievable in some areas if the loss of tree cover leads to flooding and landslides. Mount Taygetos, rising to 2,404m (7,887 ft) in the southern Peloponnese, was particularly valued for its plant life, which includes (or included) 21 endemic species. Further east, Mount Parnon was described until recently as a paradise. Kaiafas Forest was one of the last remaining vestiges of a huge forest of stone pines that once covered all of the western Peloponnese. Olive groves and agricultural areas, which are also valuable for wildlife, have also been devastated.

Greek ecologists believe that the forests could regenerate naturally in decades, provided that they are left alone. It is to be hoped also that many of the species that have been wiped out in the burnt areas will have survived elsewhere, so as to be able to re-colonise regenerating habitats. It remains to be seen whether, as feared by Greek conservationists, some rare species have been wiped out altogether. Although there is also a fear that some areas will become scheduled for urban development, this may become a less attractive option if, as predicted, the loss of forest cover adversely affects the micro-climate, making summers hotter in nearby towns and villages.

### Backyard butterfly conservation in the USA

The Autumn 2006 issue of the Lepidopterists' Society Newsletter (Vol. 8, No. 3) included an article about the creation of butterfly habitats in back gardens. The author, Dr. Edward M. Barrows, is based at the Department of Biology in Georgetown University, Washington DC. In his view, many gardens in the Washington DC area are ecological disasters, being excessively well groomed and lacking in butterfly foodplants and other habitat features. He argues that a more arthropod-friendly style of gardening would help to ameliorate the loss of habitat that is occurring in many parts of the world, where urban sprawl is expanding into natural areas or habitat-rich farmland.

Over twelve years, Dr. Barrows has counted 44 butterfly species in a butterfly reserve that he has created in his back garden in Bethesda, Maryland. This is a remarkable figure for a garden of 1,045 m<sup>2</sup>, considering that 104 species



have been recorded in the entire Washington DC area, which covers 4,000,000 km<sup>2</sup> and includes urban, suburban, farmland, and natural areas. There was a preponderance of common species, but 13 of the total were categorised as uncommon in the region. Dr. Barrows compares these findings with those of Jennifer Owen, who recorded 21 species during the 1970s in her garden in Leicester, UK, representing 78% of the species that had been recently recorded in her region.

Since gardens are rich in nectar sources, they can attract a large number of butterfly species in the adult stage, even if they support few species as larvae. In principle, it is highly desirable to manage gardens so as to provide a good range of larval foodplants. Nevertheless, the species that use the available nectar sources within a small area usually outnumber those that form larval colonies on the available foodplants. During the 12-year period, Dr Barrows' garden contained the larval foodplants of more than half of the species known from the Washington area, but only eight of his 44 recorded species occurred in the larval stage.

Dr. Barrows suggests that it would be useful to monitor butterflies in many backyards worldwide to investigate their butterfly diversities and value for butterfly conservation.

#### Bumblebee Conservation Trust activities

The Bumblebee Conservation Trust is involved in a number of activities that encourage interest in British bumblebees. These include Beewatch 2007, a joint project with the British Trust for Ornithology, whose Garden BirdWatch initiative has been extended to encompass bumblebees. Trials of bumblebee nest boxes are also under way. Information can be obtained from the following web page: <http://www.bumblebeeconservationtrust.co.uk/surveys.htm>



## SITES AND SPECIES OF INTEREST

#### Pipershill and Dodderhill Common Reserve, Worcestershire

The Worcestershire Wildlife Trust in the West Midlands of England was one of the first county trusts in the UK to embrace the conservation of ancient trees. In the January 2007 edition of the Trust's magazine, Harry Green reports on management work at one of the county's key sites for ancient trees; Pipershill and Dodderhill Common.



Nowadays the reserve is woodland but there are 19th Century descriptions of an open scrubby area with large ancient oaks *Quercus* sp. and Sweet chestnut *Castanea sativa*. The uncommon insects that have been recorded at the site include several rare saproxylic beetles, such as the false click beetle *Eucnemis capucina*, which is a nationally rare, category 1 Red Data Book species only known from seven sites in Britain, including several in SE Worcestershire.

As shown by Dr. Keith Alexander, many of the rare saproxylic invertebrates associated with ancient trees in the UK are favoured by warm, sunny conditions. If open-grown ancient trees become surrounded by a dense stand of young trees, the habitat will become less favourable. Eventually, the ancient trees can die due to excessive shading. For this reason, a few of the ancient trees at this site had died and many others were being suppressed before the Trust acquired the land.

The Trust initiated invertebrate surveys and then began a programme of felling some of the young trees (mainly beech *Fagus sylvatica*, ash *Fraxinus excelsior* and sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*) that were shading the ancient trees. This has been done with care, so as to avoid re-exposing the ancient trees to wind and strong sunlight too abruptly. Harry Green reports that many of the ancient trees have responded with new growth and now show signs of being able to survive for many more years. There are plans to enlarge the cleared areas through tree felling, so as to move further towards restoring warm sunny conditions. The work is being supported with funding from the SITA Trust, which distributes funding through the Landfill Tax Credit Scheme. (Funding is available for community and environmental improvement projects within ten miles of an active SITA UK landfill site.)

Apart from improving the micro-climate for warmth-loving invertebrates, the reduction in shading is favouring the growth of flowering plants, which are essential sources of food for the adults of many saproxylic insects, which feed on nectar or pollen. Hawthorn *Crataegus* spp, one of the most important flowering plants, especially for insects whose adults emerge in the spring, is still in short supply at the reserve but there are plans to encourage the spread of existing hawthorns and perhaps to plant some.

Although the large ancient trees are especially important for saproxylic invertebrates, some of the younger trees are already providing a valuable source of decaying wood and could thus provide continuity of saproxylic habitats in the long term. The Trust is well aware of this, not least because the false click beetle *E. capucina* was found in one of the relatively young beech trees, which was affected by decay. Trees of this type are therefore being retained. Also, the wood from the felled trees is being left on the ground so as to add to the habitat. The Trust is equally aware that deadwood in ancient standing trees is of



key importance and that it provides habitats that are not necessarily present in fallen deadwood. There is therefore a programme to identify any ancient trees that are liable to fall over or break up without intervention. Such trees will be assessed for possible arboricultural work so as to relieve excessive loading.

### Southern damselfly project in Hampshire

The Southern damselfly *Coenagrion mercuriale* is a conservation priority species in the UK, with strongholds in the county of Pembrokeshire in south-west Wales and in the New Forest in Hampshire in southern England (see ICN 18). It also occurs elsewhere in Hampshire, along the valleys of chalk streams. Some time ago, the Hampshire Wildlife Trust set up a project with the aim of learning more about the status of the damselfly in the Rivers Test and Itchen and their tributaries. As reported in the Trust's last Annual Review, the project was stepped up recently, so as to involve partner organisations and to seek landowners' permission for survey work of the various streams involved.

As a result of the enhanced project, a consultant surveyor has discovered a previously unknown and highly significant population of the damselfly on the River Test, while also adding considerably to knowledge of its distribution on the River Itchen. The new information is being used in a management project designed to improve connectivity of habitats between the existing colonies. This will involve the grant-aided co-operation of landowners in modifying grazing regimes. Such projects form part of the Trust's programme of landscape-scale conservation.

### Emerald ash borer: an invasive insect in North America

There has long been considerable concern about the impact of exotic invasive species on commercial agriculture, forestry and fisheries. Concern is now growing about the impact of such species on the populations of indigenous invertebrates. In North America, many invasive species have become established, including insects and fungal pathogens that have attacked important tree species. The latter have wiped out vast populations of the American elm *Ulmus americana* and the American chestnut *Castanea dentata*, along with their specialist invertebrate faunas.

A currently growing problem in North America involves a buprestid beetle *Agrilus planipennis*. It feeds in native American ash trees (*Fraxinus* spp.) and is therefore known there as the Emerald Ash Borer. A review of the potential impact of this insect on North American Lepidoptera dependent on ash trees was published in the Spring 2007 issue of the *News of the Lepidopterists' Society* (Vol. 49, No. 1).



In the review, David L. Wagner reports that the beetle, a native of Southeast Asia, was first reported in the United States in July 2002 in the vicinity of Detroit, Michigan. It is thought to have been introduced to the area (perhaps as much as ten years earlier) with goods landed at ports on Lake Huron. Despite a slow rate of natural spread, the beetle has been widely distributed with nursery stock and firewood and, according to a website cited by David Wagner, has colonised an area of 40,000 square miles (103,600 km<sup>2</sup>) in Illinois, Indiana, Maryland, Michigan, Ohio and southern Ontario.

As with other buprestid beetles, the larvae of *A. planipennis* tunnel between the bark and the wood, disrupting translocation of sap in the phloem. Mortality is high amongst heavily colonised trees; the author quotes an estimate that 20 million ash trees have been killed in the Midwest since 2002. Very small saplings or root suckers are susceptible and thus tend to be killed before they can replace parent trees that have died. As a result, other plant species colonise the gaps created by ash mortality.

The author states that the susceptible species may include all the eastern North American species of *Fraxinus*, which are important in a wide range of sites, including wetlands and upland forests. According to the review, there is particular cause for concern about the habitat of the Canadian Sphinx moth, *Sphinx canadensis*, which exists mainly in the Black ash (*F. nigra*) swamps of south-eastern Michigan, where the trees are reported to have suffered devastating mortality. The resulting gaps are often colonised by the exotic Glossy buckthorn *Frangula alnus*, a Eurasian shrub. There is also great concern about ash-hickory (*Fraxinus-Carya*) glades, which form a unique type of plant community in Connecticut.

The review includes a list of 21 moth species, which are specialist feeders on species of *Fraxinus* in North America and which could become extinct if *A. planipennis* eventually spreads throughout the entire range of these tree species. David Wagner notes that there are other invertebrates that depend entirely or largely on ash trees, perhaps including other Lepidoptera whose habitat requirements are still not fully known. The species on his list include two *Sphinx* species in addition to *S. canadensis*; these are *S. chersis* and *S. franckii*. Others include the noctuids *Homocnemis fortis*, *Copivalera undulosa* and the sesiid *Podosesia aureocincta*.

David Wagner notes that some of the specialist ash feeders may be able to survive on other plant species, including exotic members of the ash and olive family (Oleaceae), such as privet (*Ligustrum*) and lilac (*Syringa*), but he doubts whether the largely urban and suburban populations of such foodplants would sustain these invertebrates in the long term. He urges members of the Lepidopterists' Society to provide information on the North American insect faunas of ash and of other members of the Oleaceae, so as to obtain baseline data.



### Native and exotic praying mantis species in New Zealand

The island fauna of New Zealand has been severely affected by the introduction of many exotic plants and animals. According to an organisation called Landcare Research, more than 2000 species of invasive invertebrates have become established. One of the exotic species is the South African Springbok mantid, *Miomantis caffra*, first recorded in New Zealand in 1978 in the Auckland suburb of New Lynn. Landcare Research has been investigating the spread of this species (now found also in Christchurch), so as to assess whether it is displacing the only native New Zealand mantid, *Orthodera novaezealandiae*. The findings so far show that the exotic species appears to be the early stages of range expansion and is not yet occupying its potential range in New Zealand, as predicted from the climate.

### Broad-bodied Chaser survey in the UK

Following the success of a survey last year of the Banded Demoiselle *Calopteryx splendens*, the British Dragonfly Society is encouraging people to submit records of the Broad-bodied Chaser *Libellula depressa*. Information can be obtained via the following website: [http://www.brc.ac.uk/schemes/broad\\_bodied\\_chaser\\_survey/homepage.htm](http://www.brc.ac.uk/schemes/broad_bodied_chaser_survey/homepage.htm)

### UK Ladybird Survey

The UK Ladybird Survey encourages recording both of native ladybird beetles (Coccinellidae) and of the rapidly spreading invasive Harlequin ladybird *Harmonia axyridis*. The July 2007 edition of *BBC Wildlife Magazine* featured an article on ladybirds and an illustrated guide to the 25 most conspicuous species. Information about the survey can be obtained via <http://www.ladybird-survey.org/default.htm>

### Barkfly Recording Scheme website launched in UK

The development of a website for UK recorders of outdoor Psocoptera (barkflies) has been announced in the Summer 2007 newsletter of the National Biological Network (NBN) News. This follows the launch of the barkfly recording scheme last year. The site was still being developed at the time of the announcement but is intended ultimately to create links from the NBN Gateway so that the species distribution map can be viewed directly from the species accounts. The web address is: [www.brc.ac.uk/schemes/barkfly/homepage.htm](http://www.brc.ac.uk/schemes/barkfly/homepage.htm)



## FUTURE UK MEETINGS

### British Wildlife and Climate Change

There is an autumn lecture series at Birkbeck, University of London, WC1 in conjunction with the Ecology and Conservation Studies Society. The lectures will explore the implications of climate change for conservation management. Lectures are weekly from 12th October; those scheduled after the publication date of *ICN* are as follows:

**26th October:** "The British Flora: effects of habitat modification and climate change" Dr Chris Preston, Centre for Ecology and Hydrology.

**2nd November:** "Can Birds Fly from Climate Change?" Dr Humphrey Crick, British Trust for Ornithology.

**9th November:** "Adaptation for High Biodiversity under Climate Change" Dr John Hopkins, Natural England.

**16th November:** "Case Studies of Adaptation and Mitigation Measures on Specific Sites": - *Burnham Beeches* Andy Barnard, City of London Corporation; *River Restoration - London*. Dave Webb, Environment Agency; *Landscape Scale Projects and Ecological Networks*. Dr Tony Whitbread, Sussex Wildlife Trust.

Queries on lecture content can be answered via e-mail: [jeremy.wright@walkern.org.uk](mailto:jeremy.wright@walkern.org.uk) or by telephone: 0207 485 7903. Each lecture starts at 18.30; admission by free ticket, obtainable by telephoning 0207 679 1069, or e-mailing: [environment@fce.bbk.ac.uk](mailto:environment@fce.bbk.ac.uk)

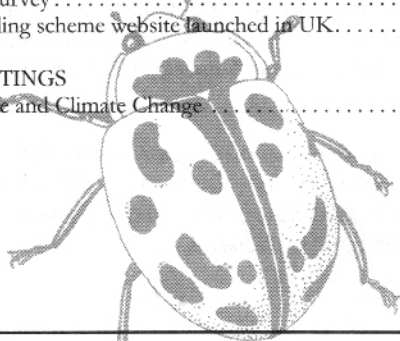




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### NOTICE

It is to be distinctly understood that all views, opinions, or theories, expressed in the pages of this Journal are solely those of the author(s) concerned. All announcements of meetings, financial grants offered or sought, requests for help or information, are accepted as *bona fide*. Neither the Editor, the Officers and Council of the Society, nor its Trustees, can be held responsible for any loss, embarrassment or injury that might be sustained by reliance thereon.

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