

Warwickshire Flora Group

Newsletter No. 2 October 2011

LATEST NEWS.

Five new species have been added to the county list since the last Newsletter. Early Meadow Grass (*Poa infirma*), Pickerelweed (*Pontederia cordata*), Western Red-cedar (*Thuja plicata*), Kamchatcka Stonecrop (*Sedum kamtschaticum*) and Garden Lettuce (*Lactuca sativa*). Corn Parsley (*Petroselinum segetum*) previously considered extinct has been refound. Full details of sites and recorders will be published later in the 2011 Report.

Mistletoe Alert!

Soon all of the leaves will have fallen from the trees and it will be much easier to spot Mistletoe (*Viscum album*).

We have very few modern records for the plant. Although probably more common in the south, there is a 1995 record from Baxterley (in the north) and we have seen it on an allotment in the centre of Leicester. Possible hosts are Lime, Apple and Hawthorn.

FIELD MEETINGS

The first set of field meetings for many years gave members a good chance to see some of Warwickshire's rarer plants and to produce up-to-date surveys for some of the more fragile wildlife sites in the county.

A big "thank you" goes to Steven Falk, Phil Parr, Phill Clayton, Ian Trueman, Peter Coxhead, Ron Hill, Bill Pearson and Brian Laney who all gave up their time to help make the visits so enjoyable.

A full plant list from the meetings will soon be available on the Warwickshire web page on the BSBI website www.bsbi.org.uk. You do not have to be a BSBI member to use it, or you can e mail us for a copy.

Plans are underway for 2012. If you have a wildlife site near you, especially without public access and for which you can get permission, we would be interested to hear from you. Our contact details are below in the next section.

WE WANT YOUR RECORDS!

The number of records sent to us since we started the database at the end of last year is an impressive

10,210 records from 84 different recorders.

We would like to thank everybody who contributed from Jon Bowley and Sarah Shuttleworth at the Museum who took time to send us their huge database, to a lady who sent us a photo of an orchid she had seen while attending a car boot sale.

Di Napier has just sent in a list of over 800 from the area around her village and we would like to receive many more from everybody else, please! Guidelines are fairly straightforward.

HOW TO SEND IN RECORDS

- By post, either using WBRC pink slips or lists to 46 Hill Top, Baddesley Ensor, Atherstone, Warwickshire, CV9 2BQ or by e-mail to johnwalton46@tiscali.co.uk. (Tel.no.01827-712455).
 - Include name of site, date seen, name of plant, grid reference, habitat and any comments you feel are important.
 - We would like you to use an Excel Spreadsheet if you are planning to send in a long list. We can send you a template designed by Warwick Museum that may help you.

Records go to the main BSBI database where you can see them printed in blue dots on the up-to-date BSBI Plant Distribution Maps on their website. This database will be used to produce the third Atlas of the British Flora planned for around 2024. Records also go to the Warwickshire Biological Records Centre at Warwick Museum, where they contribute to the knowledge and history of local wildlife sites and are used to inform planning decisions.

BSBI THREATENED PLANTS PROJECT

John and Val Roberts, Maurice Arnold and Michael Senior all helped with the 2011 survey. Four sites where Round-fruited Rush (*Juncus compressus*) was seen twenty years ago were visited but the plant was not seen at any of them. One wet meadow had disappeared under a newly dug fishing lake! Spreading Hedge-Parsley (*Torilis arvensis*) fared a little better. It was discovered growing along a field edge north of Walton Hall, but was not seen in three other places visited.

The species list for 2012 has already been announced:

<i>Aceras anthropophorum</i>	Man Orchid (Ufton Fields NR & Bishop's Hill, 2007)
<i>Anacamptis morio</i>	Green-winged Orchid (Draycote Meadows and 11 other sites)
<i>Persicaria minor</i>	Small Water-pepper (last seen Sutton Park 1959)
<i>Ranunculus arvensis</i>	Corn Buttercup (19 sites all in South Warks)
<i>Vicia parviflora</i>	Slender Tare (3 sites near Walton)

If you would like to help next year, please let us know.

THANK YOU STEVEN

On Thursday 27 October one of the largest gatherings of Warwickshire naturalists met at the Warwickshire Museum to say goodbye to Steven Falk, keeper of natural history. Steven, who admits primarily to being an entomologist, has left the county a rich botanical legacy. He will be remembered not just for his book Warwickshire Wildflowers but for his patient encouragement and enthusiasm when working with the many volunteers and supporters of wildlife in Warwickshire.

Steven Falk's Five Tree Catalogues, the two booklets on Veteran Trees and Warwickshire Black Poplars are now all available to download on-line from the Warwickshire Rings webpage www.warwickshire.gov.uk/rings. For the entomologically minded (guess what?) there is also an article on Warwickshire Bumblebees.

RARE PLANTS REGISTER

During the dark winter nights we are planning to start work on a Rare Plants Register for the county.

A Rare Plant Register lists all "rare plants" seen in the county since 1990. "Rare plants" are those recorded from less than 10 sites. Pam Copson drew up her own Register that was published on-line on her Warwickshire Plants Homepage (it is still active, google it!). Ours will be more detailed.

The BSBI say that "Collecting and deliberate damage are often reasons for keeping locations secret. However, in most cases, there is more risk to rare plants from people not knowing where they are than there might be from vandalism. Please note, readers should not trespass on to private land to see plants....." The full guidelines and examples already published from other counties can be viewed on line at the BSBI website.