

SUMMER IS TOO SHORT IS WINTER RECORDING WORTHWHILE?

Two visits were made to 10 sites in 2014, the first in winter in January or February and the second in summer in June or July. Each visit lasted 30-60 minutes and the sites were approximately 500 metres across, walked using a standard route.

The locations were shore (2), woodland (3), quarry (2), graveyard (1), riverbank (1) and road verge (1).

All were in lowland parts of East Ross (VC106).

RECORDS:

Winter: 339 records: 95 of these species were not recorded again in summer at that particular site (involving 69 different species in all).

Summer: 529 records were made in summer including 315 species not seen in winter at the particular site.

COMMENT:

Species may have been overlooked in summer, sometimes because of dense vegetation. A few may possibly no longer be present.

A longer visit in summer would be likely to have yielded more.

Many plants are wintergreen or leave dead heads (and some may flower in winter) .The Vegetative Key helps.

Many of the VC106 *Pyrola media* and all the *Linnaea borealis* sites have been found outwith the flowering season.

CONCLUSION:

Winter recording may be worthwhile, especially if time is limited in summer, but can usually only be a supplement to summer recording.

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