

Report on June 2016 Field Trip

Ten members turned out for the field trip at the Raven Nature Reserve on Saturday 11th June. The purpose of the trip was to look for, and record, butterflies along the route of the Irish Butterfly Monitoring Scheme transect which commenced at this site in 2007.



We couldn't have asked for better weather and, with Jim Hurley having already recorded two Painted Lady butterflies before the event started, it wasn't long before Small Heath, Common Blue and Wood White were added to the list. The route took us close to an area where Adder's Tongue grows. This is a plant which is extremely difficult to spot however Roy Watson soon located it and pointed it out to the group.

Once we reached the dune area members spread out and looked for Small Blue, which was the particular target species of the day, but unfortunately none were located. A couple of lizards were spotted but disappeared very quickly beneath the grass. An Emperor Dragonfly patrolled the area and was seen snatching a Common Blue butterfly in flight. Four-spotted Chasers were also recorded.

We continued the walk through the woods, stopping to admire the Round-leaved Wintergreen subsp. *maritima*, a protected species, before returning to the car park.

Species recorded:

Butterflies

Wood White, Large White, Common Blue, Painted Lady, Speckled Wood, Small Heath.

Moths

Cinnabar Moth

Birds

Black-headed Gull, Wood Pigeon, Cuckoo, House Martin, Wren, Dunnock, Robin, Blackbird, Whitethroat, Chiffchaff, Willow Warbler, Goldcrest, Treecreeper, Chaffinch, Greenfinch, Goldfinch.

Plants

Pyramidal Orchid, Bulbous Buttercup, Round-leaved Wintergreen subsp. maritima, Adder's Tongue.

Damselflies and Dragonflies

Emperor Dragonfly, Hairy Dragonfly, Four-spotted Chaser, Azure Damselfly.

Bumblebees

Bombus terrestris, *Bombus pascuorum*, *Bombus lapidarius*.

Other

Hairy Shieldbug, Leaf Beetle, Lizard.

Report - Mary Foley

Photo - Carol Collins