

Ladybird and Shield Bug Workshop 28/5/2016



19 people attended the superb Ladybird and Shield Bug identification workshop given by Dr Brian Nelson, NPWS Invertebrate Ecologist which was held in conjunction with The National Biodiversity Data Centre. The Education room in Jamestown Nature reserve was the setting for this workshop with habitats in the reserve providing areas for putting our new found knowledge into practice.

Brian started the day by welcoming everyone. The differences between beetles and bugs was explained followed by slides showing the different species of shield bug of which there have been 17 species recorded in Ireland. The life cycle of Shield Bugs was discussed with comments on where to find each species.



Next up for discussion were Ladybirds of which there are 20 species that have been recorded in Ireland, 3 of which are rare.

Brian had some examples of both Shield Bugs and Ladybirds for closer examination.

The sunshine provided lovely warmth in the yard area of the Reserve for us to eat lunch.

After lunch we set out to search for Shield Bugs and Ladybirds with the sharp eyes of Liam Lysaght getting a 14 spot ladybird just as we started. Sweep netting provided a 10 spot ladybird and a Hairy Shield Bug. As we continued our walk towards the river some more species were found, with a 7 Spot (and a 7 Spot larvae) added to the Ladybird list and Green, Hairy and Dock added to the Shield Bug list.

The day was finished up with a round table discussion about the day over a cup of tea and apple pie.

Many thanks to Camilla and Will for their hospitality on the day.

Further information can be got from Shield Bug and Ladybird Identification Guide swatches available from The National Biodiversity Data Centre.



Species List

LADYBIRDS

7-spot, 10-spot, 14-spot.

SHIELDBUGS

Hairy Shieldbug, Green Shieldbug, Dock Bug.

BUTTERFLIES

Orange Tip, Holly Blue.

MOTHS

Clouded-bordered Brindle, Brown Silver-line, Clouded Border.

BUMBLEBEES

Bombus pascuorum, *Bombus pratorum*, *Bombus lapidarius*, *Bombus hortorum*.

HONEYBEES

Wild bees nesting in a tree

DRAGONFLIES and DAMSELFLIES

Azure Damselfly, Large Red Damselfly, Four-spotted Chaser

OTHER INVERTEBRATES recorded included:

Red-headed Cardinal Beetle, Nettle Weevil, Longhorn Beetle, Whirligig Beetle, Snipe Fly, Seed Beetle, Leaf Beetle

AMPHIBIANS

Frog, Common Newt.

BIRDS

Blackcap, Swallow, Wren, Blackbird, Chaffinch, Robin, Great Tit, Chiffchaff, Pheasant, Wood Pigeon, Goldcrest, Willow Warbler, Dunnock, Reed Warbler, Yellowhammer, Little Egret, Hooded Crow, Mallard, Mute Swan.