

Hampshire – A day with Dormice

Naturetrek Tour Report

21 July 2017



Common Lizard



Wood Mouse being released



Yellow-necked Mouse



Puss Moth caterpillar

Report compiled by Jim Andrews
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Day 1, Friday 21st July

It was an overcast morning as we met outside Barton's Mill. We started with a quick introductory talk about the site and species we may encounter during the day. During the talk one of the local Red Kites sauntered overhead, as well as Herring Gull and a few Swifts.

We moved off along the edge of the reserve where we found a very old Dormouse nest in amongst the bushes. Blackcaps tacked along the edge as we moved up the path. Stepping out onto the reserve where the grassland had a mixture of Agrimony, Wild Basil and Red Bartsia in flower, the first of day's butterflies with Meadow Brown, Ringlet and Gatekeeper were all around. We moved along the path with thick brambles on one edge next to the hedge and a very nice Plum tree. We then dropped down into the central part of the reserve which is a scrub grassland mosaic with a mixture of Hawthorn, Bramble and Dogwood. We ventured into an area where a combination of Longworth and Sherman traps had been set, to see what had been caught this morning. The group was shown how the traps were set, and on checking them the first few were empty and one had been triggered, but no-one was at home. The next triggered trap held the first of the day's small mammals in the form of a 28-gram male Wood Mouse. Not long after we found a rather feisty 25-gram male Bank Vole. These gave the opportunity to show how to weigh the mammals and we enjoyed nice close views. On release, we had the chance to take a few photographs as they came out of their bag before disappearing into the undergrowth.

Carrying on, we made our way back onto the track and came across a freshly emerged Small Copper butterfly and one of the most impressive plants on the site in the form of Woolley Thistles. These amazingly large thistles were in good numbers through the central area of the site. We moved on to another trapping area hidden in the scrub grassland. The first few traps came up empty, but then a triggered trap produced a male 32-gram Wood Mouse, closely followed by another at 25-grams and then a third at 23-grams, all of which performed well for the group. The last trap was brought in and produced another mouse but this one rang some alarm bells as being a bit different. It wasn't just that it was a female, but she was a larger looking mouse which, on closer inspection, turned out to be a 34-gram Yellow-necked Mouse which was the first for that area of the reserve. We reset the traps to be checked again later.

We moved on and headed to the higher meadow. En route Tufted Vetch and Marsh Woundwort were noted. On the meadow Yellow Rattle, Meadow Vetchling, Bird's-foot Trefoil and Ladies Bedstraw (which was first discovered here by Naturetrek the year before) were seen, together with a Shaded Broad-bar moth.

We dropped down into the flood plain before moving up to the woodland edge, where we moved along checking for Dormouse nests. We then reached the first of the Dormouse nest boxes to check for this elusive creature. The first few produced Copper Underwing moths. We moved along the woodland edge noting a squirrel drey in a tree before reaching the first main box run. We started to find feeding signs of Squirrel, Wood Mouse, Bank Vole and Dormouse. Checking along the boxes we found signs of a freshly started nest in one of the boxes, teasing us into knowing they were around. We also noted a Red Admiral butterfly.

Eventually it was time to visit the 17th century Old Mill public house for lunch, where Kingfisher was heard. After lunch we headed back to the reserve and to the woodland edge where we started to check the rest of the

boxes. In the first few we found an early year Dormouse nest. Moving along we found an old Tree Bee nest built into one of the boxes, whilst Marsh Tit called from the swamper areas of the wood. A couple of Silver-washed Fritillaries flitted round in a sunny glade. We also spotted the seed heads of Bird's-nest Orchid on the woodland floor. One of the last boxes held a Yellow-necked Mouse nest, but sadly no Dormice, although plenty of evidence of them being around was found.

We then moved out into the grassland where we headed back to the traps to see if we had been lucky enough to catch anything. In the first area nothing had been trapped so we moved on to the next area of traps. Just before reaching there, several of the tree trunks on the floor held Common Lizards that put on a good show with great photographic opportunities. After watching them for a while, we checked the last few traps which turned up another very smart Bank Vole male at 30-grams. We then slowly headed back to the cars and said our farewells.

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Species Lists

Mammals

Bank Vole, *Myodes glareolus*

Yellow-necked Mouse, *Apodemus flavicollis*

Wood Mouse, *Apodemus sylvaticus*

Birds (H = heard only)

Grey Heron, *Ardea cinerea*

Red Kite, *Milvus milvus*

European Herring Gull, *Larus argentatus*

Rock Dove/Feral Pigeon, *Columba livia*

Common Wood Pigeon, *Columba palumbus*

Common Kingfisher, *Alcedo atthis* (H)

European Green Woodpecker, *Picus viridis*

Common House Martin, *Delichon urbica*

Dunnock, *Prunella modularis*

Common Blackbird, *Turdus merula*

Willow Warbler, *Phylloscopus trochilus*

Eurasian Blackcap, *Sylvia atricapilla*

Goldcrest, *Regulus regulus*

Marsh Tit, *Parus palustris*, (H)

Great Tit, *Parus major*

Eurasian Nuthatch, *Sitta europaea*

Common Chaffinch, *Fringilla coelebs*

Eurasian Goldfinch, *Carduelis carduelis*

Eurasian Bullfinch, *Pyrrhula pyrrhula*

Common Starling, *Sturnus vulgaris*

Eurasian Magpie, *Pica pica*

Rook, *Corvus frugilegus*

Mallard, *Anas platyrhynchos*

Common Moorhen, *Gallinula chloropus*

Lesser Back-backed Gull, *Larus fuscus*

Stock Dove, *Columba oenas*

Common Swift, *Apus apus*

Great Spotted Woodpecker, *Picoides major*

Barn Swallow, *Hirundo rustica*

Eurasian Wren, *Troglodytes troglodytes*

European Robin, *Erithacus rubecula*

Song Thrush, *Turdus philomelos*

Common Chiffchaff, *Phylloscopus collybitus*

Common Whitethroat, *Sylvia communis*

Long-tailed Tit, *Aegithalos caudatus*

Coal Tit, *Parus ater*

Eurasian Blue Tit, *Parus caeruleus*

Common Treecreeper, *Certhia familiaris*

European Greenfinch, *Chloris chloris*

Common Linnet, *Linaria cannabina*

House Sparrow, *Passer domesticus*

Eurasian Jay, *Garrulus glandarius*

Western Jackdaw, *Corvus monedula*

Carrion Crow, *Corvus corone*

Flora

Crab Apple, *Malus sylvestris*

Geldar Rose, *Viburnum lantana*

Crack Willow, *Salix fragillicus*

Holly, *Ilex aquifolium*

Quince, *Cydonia oblonga*

Beach, *Fagus sylvatica*

Wild Plum, *Prunus domestica ssp domestica*

Wild Cherry, *Prunus avium*

Hawthorn, *Crataegus monogyna*

Field Maple, *Acer campestria*

Spindle, *Euonymus europaeus*

Hazel, *Corylus avellana*

Elder, *Sambucus Nigra*

Wild Privet, *Ligustrum vulgare*

Snowberry, *Symphoricarpos albus*

Apple, *Malus pumila*

Osier sp., *Salix* sp.

Goat Willow, *Salix caprica*

Silver Birch, *Betula pendula*

Wych Elm, *Ulmus glabra*

Blackthorn, *Prunus spinosa*

Cherry Plum, *Prunus cerasifera*

Swedish Whitebeam, *Sorbus intermedia*

Horse Chestnut, *Aesculus hippocastanum*

Dogwood, *Cornus sanguinea*

Pendunculate Oak, *Quercus robur*

Dog Rose, *Rosa Canina agg*

Ash, *Fraxinus excelsior*

Wayfaring Tree, *Viburnum lantana*

Common Bramble, *Rubus fruticosus*

Dewberry , <i>Rubus caesius</i>	Ivy, <i>Hedra helix</i> ssp. <i>Hedra</i>
White Bryony, <i>Bryonia dioica</i>	Woody Nightshade, <i>Solanum dulcamara</i>
Hedge Bindweed, <i>Calstegia sepium</i>	Field Bindweed, <i>Convolvulus Arvensis</i>
Cleavers, <i>Galium aparine</i>	Reed Canary-grass, <i>Phalaris arundinacea</i>
Common Reed, <i>Phragmites australis</i>	Bulrush, <i>Typha latifolia</i>
Lesser Pond Sedge, <i>Carex acutiformis</i>	False Fox Sedge, <i>Carex otrubae</i>
Jointed Rush, <i>Juncus articulatus</i>	Soft Rush, <i>Juncus effusus</i>
Hard Rush, <i>Juncus inflexus</i>	Buckler Fern, <i>Dryopteris dilatata</i>
Hart's-tongue Fern, <i>Phyllitis scolopendrium</i>	Bird's-nest Orchid, <i>Neottia nidus-avis</i>
Lords-and-Ladies, <i>Arum maculatum</i>	Hairy Tare, <i>Vicia hirsuta</i>
Meadow Vetchling, <i>Lathyrus Pratensis</i>	Smooth Tare, <i>Vicia tetrasperma</i>
Tufted Vetch, <i>Vicia cracca</i>	Common Bird's-foot-trefoil, <i>Lotus Corniculatus</i>
Hop Trefoil, <i>Trifolium campestre</i>	Common Field Speedwell, <i>Veronica Persica</i>
Germander Speedwell, <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i>	Creeping Buttercup, <i>Ranunculus repens</i>
Meadow Buttercup, <i>Ranunculus Acris</i>	Celery-leaved Buttercup, <i>Ranunculus sceleratus</i>
Buttercup, <i>Rhodocollybia butyracea</i>	Lesser Celandine, <i>Ficaria verna</i> ssp. <i>fertilis</i>
Early Forget-me-not, <i>Myosotis ramosissima</i>	Field Forget-me-not, <i>Myosotis arvensis</i>
Wood Forget-me-not, <i>Myosotis sylvatica</i>	Brooklime, <i>Veronica beccabunga</i>
Smooth sow-thistle, <i>Sonchus oleraceus</i>	Smooth Hawk's-Beard, <i>Crepis capillaris</i>
Prickly Sow-thistle, <i>Sonchus asper</i>	Common Dandelion, <i>Taraxacum officinale</i>
Great Willowherb, <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i>	Broad leaved Willowherb, <i>Epilobium montanum</i>
Hoary Willowherb, <i>Epilobium parviflorum</i>	Yellow Flag, <i>Iris pseudacorus</i>
Stinking Iris, <i>Iris foetidissima</i>	Cow Parsley, <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i>
Hogweed, <i>Heracleum Sphonylium</i>	Wild Carrot, <i>Daucus carota</i>
Woolly Thistle, <i>Cirsium eriophorum</i>	Spear Thistle, <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>
Marsh Thistle, <i>Cirsium palustre</i>	Creeping Thistle, <i>Cirsium Arvense</i>
Teasel, <i>Dipsacus sp.</i>	Herb Robert, <i>Geraniom robertianum</i>
White Dead Nettle, <i>Lamium album</i>	Stinging Nettle, <i>Urtica dioica</i>
Perforate St.John's-wort, <i>Hypericum perforatum</i>	Hairy St John's-wort, <i>Hypericum hirsutum</i>
Hoary Ragwort, <i>Senecio erucifolius</i>	Common Ragwort, <i>Senecio jacobaea</i>
Hedge Woundwort, <i>Stachys sylvatica</i>	Marsh Woundwort, <i>Stachys palustris</i>
Daisy, <i>Bellis perennis</i>	Common Poppy, <i>Papaver Rhoeas</i>
Scarlet Pimpernel, <i>Anagallis arvensis</i>	Red Bartsia, <i>Odontites verna</i>
Pineappleweed, <i>Matricaria matricarioides</i>	Scentless Mayweed, <i>Tripleurospermum Maritimum</i>
Ground Ivy, <i>Glechoma hederacea</i>	Lesser Chickweed, <i>Stellaria pallida</i>
Red Clover, <i>Trifolium Pratense</i>	White Clover, <i>Trifolium Repens</i>
Enchanter's-nightshade, <i>Ciraea lutetiana</i>	Common Fleabane, <i>Pulicaria dysenterica</i>
Herb Bennet (Wood Avens), <i>Geum urbanum</i>	Ploughman's Spikenard, <i>Inula conyza</i>
Petty Spurge, <i>Euphorbia peplus</i>	Black Knapweed, <i>Centaurea nigra</i>
Lesser Knapweed, <i>Centaurea nemoralis</i>	Common Mallow, <i>Malva sylvestris</i>
Purple Loosestrife, <i>Lythrum salicaria</i>	Mugwort, <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i>
Nipplewort, <i>Lapsana communis</i>	Meadowsweet, <i>Filipendula ulmaria</i>
Marjoram, <i>Origanum Vulgare</i>	Corn Mint, <i>Mentha arvensis</i>
Yellow Rattle , <i>Rhinanthus minor</i>	Dogs Mercury, <i>Mercurialis perennis</i>
Agrimony, <i>Agrimonia Eupatoria</i>	Water Figwort , <i>Scrophularia auriculata</i>
Wild Basil , <i>Clinopodium vulgare</i>	Water-cress, <i>Rorippa Nasturtium-aquaticum</i>
Fool's Water-cress , <i>Apium nodiflorum</i>	Oil-seed Rape, <i>Brassica napus</i> ssp. <i>Oleifera</i>

Lesser Burdock, *Arctium minus*
Broadleaved Dock, *Rumex obtusifolius*
Curled Dock, *Rumex crispus*
Ribwort Plantain, *Plantago lanceolata*
Common Sorrel, *Rumex Acetosa*
Common Horsetail, *Equisetum arvense*

Greater Burdock, *Arctium lappa*
Clustered Dock, *Rumex Conglomeratus*
Wood Dock, *Rumex sanguineus*
Greater Plantain, *Plantago major*
Common Cleavers, *Galium Aparine*
Giant Horsetail, *Equisetum telmateia*

Butterflies

Silver-washed Fritillary, *Argynnis paphia*
Gatekeeper, *Pyronia tithonus*
Small Tortoiseshell, *Aglais urticae*
Speckled Wood, *Pararage aegeria*

Meadow Brown, *Maniola jurtina*
Red Admiral, *Vanessa atalanta*
Comma, *Polygonia c-album*
Small Copper, *Lycaena phlaeas*

Others

Copper Underwing, *Amphipyra pyramidea*
Common Lizard, *Zootoca vivipara*

Shaded Broad-bar, *Scotopteryx chenopodiata*