

WILDLIFE SURVEYS AND MONITORING

Dane Valley Woodland Bird Survey 2012 and 2013

The survey was designed to provide a repeatable baseline against which to monitor change in response to woodland management as well as external factors. It was based on records collected along specific transects through the majority of woods in the valley and collected records of birds from more open habitats where these were found along the transect but didn't necessarily provide a complete list of woodland birds. (For example we know that **Woodcock** are present.)

Garden warbler, Lesser redpoll, Pied flycatcher, Redstart, Spotted flycatcher, Tree pipit, Willow tit and Willow warbler were all recorded. These are recognized as threatened woodland birds owing to their scarcity on a national scale and recent declines in population numbers.



Dunnock



With thanks to the volunteers who contributed to this survey and to Mark Eddowes for co-ordinating it. Also thanks to Mark and Hugh Pulsford for leading the Dawn Bird Walk.

Lesser redpoll

Butterflies

The oak-tree specialist the Purple hairstreak was recorded on oak trees above and on the edge of Cartledge Wood. The caterpillars feed exclusively on oak leaves but the butterflies are hard to see as they flit about high in the canopy. In the dane valley this is an advantage as in many locations you should be able to observe them from the slopes above the woods. They are a fairly new arrival in the Peak District with the first record being in 1995.

Additional species recorded on Bosley Minn include Meadow brown, Gatekeeper, Small heath, Large white, Small tortoiseshell, Large skipper, Green-veined white and Small white.



Purple hairstreak butterfly

With thanks to Dave Mallon and Butterfly Conservation for carrying out the survey work.

Bat Surveys

Bat recording was carried out using an ANABAT, a recording device with a battery that allows monitoring over a two week period. The machine is hidden inside a box (like a bird box) which can be fixed to a tree or post.

The woodlands in the Swallowdale valley proved to support the biggest variety of bats with **Common pipistrelle, Soprano pipistrelle, Whiskered (or Brandts), Brown long-eared bat, Noctule** and **Natterers**. These are the woodlands with the highest percentage of older trees which include cavities and cracks favoured by roosting bats.

All bats are protected by law.



Brown long-eared bat

With thanks to Ged Ryan and the Cheshire Bat Group for the loan of the equipment, for analysing the results and for leading two successful bat walks.

Grassland Fungi Survey

Grasslands on Bosley and Wincle Minn were surveyed for their grassland fungi and proved to be of regional importance supporting a range of wax-cap and club fungi. Such grasslands are increasingly uncommon across England and are concentrated in upland areas where agriculture is less intensive.

Of particular note was the presence of *Hygrocybe calyptriformis*, **Pink waxcap** which is included in the British Red List as of conservation concern.



Pink waxcap

With thanks to Jeanette Maddy and Cheshire Wildlife Trust for carrying out the survey and to Jeanette and the North-West Fungi Group for leading a fungi walk as part of UK Fungi Day in 2013.



Scarlet waxcap