

Warwick Natural History Society

Snippets

No. 117

17 October 2024

The Society is now on X (formerly Twitter) Follow us on [@WarwickNatHist](https://twitter.com/WarwickNatHist)

Some of the autumn moths in the moth trap over the last few days.

7th October LD



Merveille du Jour
(medium size)



Black Rustic (medium size)



Mottled Umber
(small to medium size)



Sallow on the left and Barred Sallow
on the right (small to medium size)



Lunar Underwing
(small size)



Large Yellow Underwing
(medium size)



Beaded Chestnut (small size)

*A good crop of Shaggy inkcaps in The
Black Boy car park on the Warwick Road.
LW*



Pine Martens return to Devon

For the first time in 100 years pine martens have returned to South West England in a secret location, reports The Devon Wildlife Trust. Fifteen were released as a project to re-establish them, sourced from healthy Scottish animals. They became extinct in the region 100 years ago, as a result of trapping, hunting and habitat loss. It is hoped that they will bring back the natural balance of Devon woodlands.

(Daily Telegraph Nature Notes 2.10.24)



PS Photo by Frances taken in 2016 at Glenloy Lodge, Scotland, where wild pine martens were fed peanuts and bread and jam daily so that tourists could view and photograph them!

14th October FW

Helping Hedgehogs

Wildlife charities have launched the first national hedgehog conservation strategy to halt the species' decline across the UK.

A report in 2022 found that populations have declined by up to 75% in rural areas since 2000, caused by a decrease in natural invertebrate prey, encounters with cars, garden machinery, ponds and bonfires, exposure to toxins found in plastics and rodenticides and genetic isolation.



We can all help by creating a 'hedgehog highway' via 5" square holes at the bottom of a fence line between gardens which allows hedgehogs to move between spaces in search of food, shelter and mates.

(Daily Telegraph 15th October)



Following inspection of a strange tangled web-like cocoon in the external corner of a dining room window, we were taken by surprise by an insect apparently laying eggs on top of it.

After some research, Sabina told me that it was the Rusty tussock moth (*Orgyia antiqua* – male shown in image), a common resident in the UK. The adult moths do not feed, so only live for a short time.



The female is flightless, spending her brief life attached to her cocoon, and lays several hundred eggs on the outside of the empty cocoon. The species overwinters in the egg stage.

The larvae hatch early in the spring, as soon as foliage begins to appear. In the UK, caterpillars can be found between May and early September. It's a minor forest pest in North America and may become a pest in the UK!



Do I want these in the garden? Answers on a postcard please!

16th October LW



WNHS
70th
Anniversary

Thanking all the Committee Members over the years

For Great WALKS And Interesting TALKS

There must have been many, many committee members over 70 years who gave their time to organise walks and talks and fill other positions such as Treasurer and Membership Secretary.

From us all, thank you for giving so generously of your time and we look forward to welcoming new members to join us in 2025 and share our wonderful Warwick Natural History Society.

15th October SG

Snippets to Linda please at: wesandlinda@btinternet.com

www.wnhs.info