Warwick Natural History Society

Snippets

No. 162 **14th October 2026**

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Avon Wood Insects

Starting at the top left, a male and female Common Darter bask in the the warm sunshine on September 21st at Avon Wood. The bright orange of a very small picture wing fly caught my eye along with the intense colours of a Small Copper.

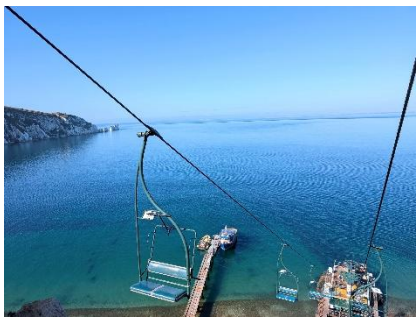
A Common Field Grasshopper proved harder to spot as it blended perfectly with the dried grasses.

The Slender-horned Leatherbug is an exciting find since there are few records of this bug in Warwickshire. The sun highlighted the delicate filigree pattern on the wing venation of the Green Lacewing.

A Nysius species of seed bug and a Plant hopper next and one of the many tiny flea beetle jumping rapidly out of sight. Finding a Root-maggot fly a sad reminder of the noticeable lack of flies after a summer of prolonged droughts.

30th September *SG*

Isle of Wight



Exploring the dramatic western side of the Ise of Wight on holiday in September, I was bowled over by vistas of chalk cliffs seen on the Tennyson Downs walk from Alum Bay to Freshwater Bay. The famous view of the Needles can be seen here - three 30m high jagged chalk stacks that broke off from the mainland in a storm in 1764. The view of them from the chairlift to Alum Bay is spectacular.

There are similar jagged pointed chalk stacks in Freshwater Bay.

Alum Bay has picturesque multi-coloured sand cliffs with many sharp edges, where once the public could gather up multi coloured sand to fill glass objects.

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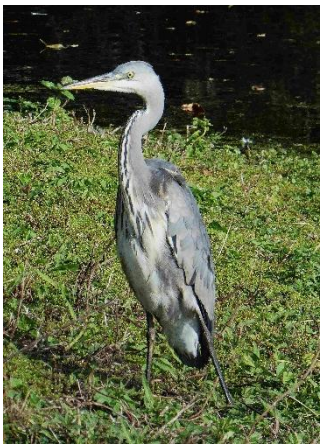
On these cliffs there were many golden yellow butterflies flying past at high speed ... Clouded Yellows are long distance migrants with golden wings edged with black borders, liking chalk grasslands where the caterpillars feed on Birds Foot Trefoil. They often arrive en masse in warmer years but are unable to survive our winters.

Nestling in grass by a hedge we saw a magnificent Parasol Mushroom, standing tall and solitary. They are regarded as an edible delicacy - if you are sure that's what it is!
4th October FW

I was wondering whether this is the caterpillar of an Agrius Convulvuli Hawk Moth. It was on a path on the RSPB Titchwell Reserve yesterday. It was about 7-8 cm long and quite chubby at 1.5-2cm. Distinctive white markings down each side. I'm sure David will know!
13th October *ID*

On a recent visit to Brandon Marsh we saw Great and Little Egrets and several Herons but it was a shock to see how many lakes and pools have shrunk after the summer heatwave.

Teal Pool hide has no water at all,
nor Teal or any other ducks!
13th October FW



Autumn's on its way!

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