

Herts Invertebrate Project Report 2025

Our recording season got off to a great start with a visit to Moor Mill/Park Street south east of St Albans in April. Notable species recorded included; Glow-worm *Lampyris noctiluca* found by David Knaggs a new location for this charismatic species, close by Stuart Warrington found *Gerris lateralis* a pond skater at only its fourth location in the county. Stuart also found *Syntomus truncatellus* a Herts Species of Conservation Concern (HSCC) ground beetle whilst grubbing in a mossy hollow. Rory Dimond recorded *Colletes cunicularius* a Red Data Book mining bee, from a patch of sandy grassland on site. He also found a cuckoo bee *Nomada lathburiana* another RDB bee and a kleptoparasite of the Ashy Mining Bee *Andrena cineria*. Gail Ashton found *Platystomos albinus* a nationally notable fungus weevil on a dead Ash. David Carr recorded *Cercidia prominens* a nationally scarce orb web spider – only its 3rd county record. Thanks to Alex Waechter for suggesting the site and guiding us round.



Cercidia prominens © David Carr

We visited Danemead HMWT Nature Reserve in May. Danemead is part of Wormley-Hoddesdonpark Woods SAC and surprisingly for such an important site it was the first time the group had visited. It's fair to say Danemead did not disappoint! David Carr found *Trematocephalus cristatus* a nationally scarce money spider and a new species for the county. Gail Ashton recorded *Hypulus quercinus* a HSCC beetle associated with dead wood, often oaks in wood pasture, *Platypus cylindrus* Pinhole Borer a nationally notable beetle also associated with deadwood. This beetle seems to be being recorded more frequently now as is *Platyrhinus resinosus* a nationally notable fungus weevil associated with King Alfred's Cakes fungus which is found on Ash. Gail also recorded the Leaf-rolling Weevil *Byctiscus populi*. Danemead is a well-known site for this RDB, Section 41 and HSCC weevil associated with Aspen. Also associated with Aspen is Small Poplar Borer *Saperda populnea* another HSCC, found by Ian Carle. Ian also recorded *Ischnomera sanguinicollis* a HSCC of beetle and *Conops vesicularis*, a nationally notable Conopid fly.



Small Poplar Borer *Saperda populnea* © Ian Carle



Leaf-rolling Weevil *Byctiscus populi*
© Ian Carle



Conops vesicularis © Ian Carle



Ischnomera sanguinicollis
© Ian Carle

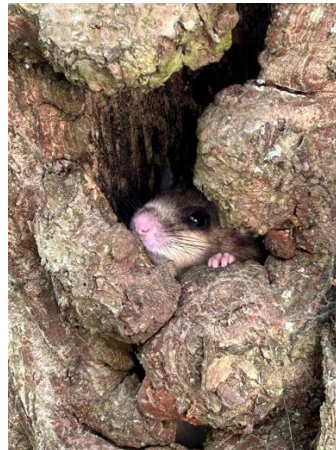


Platyrhinus resinosus
© Ian Carle

June saw us start early and brave the summer heat at Frogmore Meadows SSSI HMWT Nature Reserve where Gail Ashton found *Larinus carlinae* a nationally notable weevil that feeds on flower buds of thistles. David Carr recorded another nationally notable weevil on Watercress on the edge of the River Chess - *Drupenatus nasturtii*. David Knaggs found the HSCC longhorn beetle *Leptura quadrifasciata* and perhaps the biggest surprise of the day Edible Dormouse *Glis glis*.



Leptura quadrifasciata © Ian Carle



Edible Dormouse *Glis glis* © David Knaggs

The inclement weather in July resulted in a postponement of our trip to the Hexton Estate. Thankfully we were able to rearrange for the following weekend as it was well worth a visit! David Carr found a nationally notable weevil *Squamapion flavimanum* in addition to the crab spider *Xysticus erraticus* – only it's fourth county record. Rory Dimond recorded the nationally notable *Asiraca clavicornis* a species of planthopper that used to be restricted to the Thames estuary area, but seems to be in the process of expanding its range. Stuart Warrington found lots of the nationally notable Adonis' Ladybird *Hippodamia variegata* and also plenty of galls on Wild Carrot caused by the fly *Kiefferia pericarpicola*. This species seems to be cropping up quite frequently now, with 8 post 2021 records on iRecord. Ian Carle found *Macrosteles sardus* a leafhopper associated with Hairy Willowherb – a new species for the county. *M. sardus* was only recently added to the British list so it's presence in the county is not too surprising, it was just a matter of time before it was recorded. Ian also found *Aphanus rolandri* a nationally notable ground bug associated with Common Fumitory which was frequent in the arable field. Ian also found the ground beetle *Ophonus ardosiacus* in the arable field - formally a scarce species and still not common in Herts. Thanks to Natural England for allowing us to visit.



Asiraca clavicornis
© Ian Carle



Aphanus rolandri © Ian Carle



Macrosteles sardus
© Ian Carle



Kiefferia pericarpicola © Stuart Warrington



Ophonus ardosiacus © Ian Carle

August's visit to Astonbury Wood HMWT Nature Reserve produced a reasonable list of species the most notable of which was found by Ian Carle; *Eupteryx filicum* a species of leafhopper associated with ferns – a new species for the county. This species is definitely under recorded – it has been found it at six other sites in the county since this record was made.



Eupteryx filicum © Ian Carle

September saw a few of us brave the horrendous weather forecast and spend the morning at Hilfield Park Reservoir. Despite the ropery weather and the feeling that the invertebrate recording season had drawn to an early close we found a few interesting species. *Nalassus laevioctostriatus* a Herts Rare tenebrionid beetle under dry Oak bark and *Berosus affinis* a water beetle and HSCC in one of the recently dug ponds were both found by Stuart Warrington. David Carr recorded the nationally scarce orb web spider *Larinioides patagiatus* a second county

record and a couple of Herts scarce spiders *Tetragnatha nigrita* and *Megalephyphantes collinus*. He also swept *Notaris scirpi* off common reed, a nationally notable weevil and HSCC associated with wetland vegetation. Thanks to Affinity Water for allowing us to visit the site



Notaris scirpi © David Carr

Our final meeting of the season was held at the start of October at Bricket Wood Common. It was a chilly but sunny day with a keen breeze and invertebrate recording was hard going. The highlight was a larva of *Cladius grandis* found by Rory Dimond. This sawfly is associated with Aspen and Bricket Wood Common is currently the only known site for the species in Hertfordshire. Also of note was Stuart Warrington's record of 2 *Diaperis boleti* from an old bracket fungus. This species of tenebrionid beetle was nationally scarce when it was last assessed, but has since expanded its range.



Cladius grandis © Ian Carle



Diaperis boleti © Stuart Warrington

Over the season 15 different people attend our field meetings including two that had never been before. We made around 740 records from the 7 sites we visited. The records have been entered in to iRecord under the Herts Invertebrate Project activity, special thanks to all those that have contributed. Thank you to everyone that attended, Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trust for allowing us to visit their sites and to Gail Ashton for helping to organise the meetings.

Ian Carle 26/01/2026