

Cors Goch, Anglesey, 6/6/19

Organisers: Jane Hudson, Fran Holland, Lizzie Beare

The forecast for 6th June varied in the few days prior to our outing from rain all day with thunderstorms to sunshine so it was with great relief that by the time the coach had collected all 25 members from pick up points on our route north to Anglesey the weather looked promisingly bright. Chris Wynne, Senior Reserve Manager of North Wales Wildlife Trust, met us at the entrance to their reserve. Cors Goch is a National Nature Reserve and Ramsar site managed by the NWWT and because of its unusual geology is home to both alkaline and acid loving plants. Chris led us to a sunny spot above the extensive fen basin and explained how the layers of sandstone and limestone had been sculpted, folded, crumpled and mixed over millions of years and how using a fault line an Ice Age glacier had gouged out the basin which has been filling with peat ever since and now supports fens where the predominant plants are Common Reed, Black Bog-rush and the rare Great Fen Sedge also known as Saw Sedge due to its razor sharp serrated edges to the leaves.

The boardwalk winding through the fen offered sights of Bogbean some still showing their delicate constellation-like flowers, the red stars of Marsh Cinquefoil, Star Sedge, sturdy clumps of Marsh Lousewort; in open water the rare Stoneworts and in fire breaks cleared of reeds masses of Sundew. Exciting plants everywhere!. On the margins grew Ragged Robin, Yellow Rattle, Watercress, Quillwort and the lime-green flat stars of insectivorous Butterwort some sporting their gorgeous blue flowers on long stalks. The drier areas had Rock-rose, Salad Burnet, Common and Carnation Sedge, Quaking Grass and Burnet Rose, to name but a few. The limestone pavement hosted Yellow sedge, Mountain Everlasting and Eyebright.

The stars of the day were the orchids, those we are familiar with Heath Spotted, Common Spotted and Early Purple, but many more, the Early Marsh orchid of several colours, Green-veined, the Northern Marsh and perhaps the highlight of all, the Fragrant Orchid which we found just beginning to flower and already very fragrant on a sloping bank above one of the fields. There we also searched about and finally spotted an Adderstongue, which we could never have found without the marker of a flowerpot on a stick which Chris Wynne explained to us.

All too soon we had to reunite to board our coach which took us to the Panton Arms for tea with an excellent Victoria Sponge cake and plenty of Bara Brith and butter. As a last note to a thoroughly enjoyable day Ruth spotted masses of Rusty-back growing on the roof of a building next to the pub. Many thanks go to Jane Hudson and Fran Holland for organising such a splendid day on their debut as leaders.

Some of the plants

Common reed	<i>Phragmites australis</i>
Black Bog-rush	<i>Schoenus nigricans</i>
Great Fen Sedge	<i>Cladium mariscus</i>
Common Rock-rose	<i>Helianthemum nummularium</i>
Marsh Lousewort	<i>Pedicularis palustris</i>
Salad Burnet	<i>Sanguisorba minor</i>
Butterwort	<i>Pinguicula vulgaris</i>
Quaking Grass	<i>Briza media</i>
Watercress	<i>Nasturtium officinale</i>
Ragged Robin	<i>Silene flos-cuculi</i>
Marsh Cinquefoil	<i>Potentilla palustris</i>
Burnet Rose	<i>Rosa pimpinellifolia</i>
Eyebright	<i>Euphrasia tetraquetra</i>
Adders tongue	<i>Ophioglossum vulgatum</i>
Quillwort	<i>Isoetes lacustris</i>

all the birds seen

Pheasant	<i>Phasianus colchicus</i>
Heron	<i>Ardea cinerea</i>
Buzzard	<i>Buteo buteo</i>
Herring gull	<i>Larus argentatus</i>
Lesser black-backed gull	<i>Larus fuscus</i>
Magpie	<i>Pica pica</i>
Jackdaw	<i>Coloeus monedula</i>
Crow	<i>Corvus corone</i>
Blue tit	<i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i>
Skylark	<i>Alauda arvensis</i>
Swallow	<i>Hirundo rustica</i>
Willow warbler	<i>Phylloscopus trochilus</i>
Chiffchaff	<i>Phylloscopus collybita</i>
Blackcap	<i>Sylvia atricapilla</i>
Garden warbler	<i>Sylvia borin</i>

Yellow Sedge *Carex demisa*
Carnation Sedge *Carex panicea*
Mountain Everlasting *Antennaria dioica*
Common Sedge *Carex nigra*
Early Purple Orchid *Orchis mascula*
Heath Spotted *Dactylorhiza maculata*
Common Spotted *Dactylorhiza fuschsii*
Green-veined *Anacamptis morio*
Early Marsh Orchid *Dactylorhiza incarnata*
Fragrant Orchid *Gymnadenia conopsea*
Rusty-back *Asplenium ceterach*
Chris Wynne, Ruth Dawes & MFS members

Whitethroat
Wren
Blackbird
Song thrush
Robin
Dunnock
Meadow pipit
Tree pipit
Chaffinch
Reed bunting

Sylvia communis
Troglodytes troglodytes
Turdus merula
Turdus philomelos
Erithacus rubecula
Prunella modularis
Anthus pratensis
Anthus trivialis
Fringilla coelebs
Emberiza schoeniclus

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