

Report on the RSPB Conwy BioBlitz: 9–10 July 2011

Fieldwork preparations for RSPB Conwy's first BioBlitz began on a rainy Friday afternoon, with the placement of small mammal traps around the site. Each trap was lined with soft dry bedding and baited with food, but not primed for trapping, in order to familiarise Conwy's rodent population with their presence!



Improving weather on the Friday evening saw Nigel Brown deploy his moth traps, which were checked the following morning.

The BioBlitz opened to the public on the Saturday evening with Cathy Wüster's highly interesting bat talk, where she gave the audience a detailed overview of bat biology. Nigel was again on hand to demonstrate his moth traps and we were treated to encounters with some fantastic species, including the brightly coloured Garden Tiger Moth and curiously-shaped Drinker Moth. Cathy then led a guided bat walk and attendees were shown how to use

bat detectors to discriminate between the three species encountered: Noctule; Common Pipistrelle; Soprano Pipistrelle. The evening concluded gathered round Nigel's moth traps.

Sunday morning began early at 07:00 with Rhian Hughes and Martin Bailey emptying the small mammal traps. Attendees were treated to close encounters with both Wood Mice and Bank Voles. Some of the braver visitors were given the opportunity to hold some of the less feisty mammals!

Throughout the rest of the day groups of attendees were taken on guided walks covering a range of different species groups: Birds (Julian Hughes); Freshwater Invertebrates (John Bratton etc.); Plants (Sarah Stille & Geoff Battershall); Butterflies, Dragonflies, Damselflies & other Insects (John Harold & Allan Brandon); Fungi (Charles Aron); Spiders (Richard Gallon).



Some highlights from the day include Six-belted Clearwing Moth, Speckled Bush-cricket, Common Spotted-Orchid and Rustyback Fern – all new to the reserve. The spider *Enoplognatha latimana* was also new to the reserve, a species that was only described as new to science back in 1982! *Bisporrella scolochloae*, a tiny bright yellow cup fungus, found on the day may even represent a new Welsh record! Although records are still being collated and checked at Cofnod, the current statistics are impressive: 795 individual records; 484 species; ~120 species new to the reserve!

The success of the RSPB Conwy BioBlitz is not only illustrated by the impressive species statistics, but also by the 129 participants whose enthusiasm and interest made for such an enjoyable event.



Adroddiad ar BioBlitz yr RSPB yng Nghonwy: 9–10 Gorffennaf 2011



Dechreuodd y paratoadau gwaith maes ar gyfer BioBlitz cyntaf yr RSPB yng Nghonwy ar brynhawn Gwener glawog drwy osod trapiau dal mamaliaid bychain o amgylch y safle. Ym mhob trap roedd gwely sych a meddal a bwyd i ddenu'r mamaliaid, ond heb eu paratoi i'w caethiwo fel bod poblogaeth cnofilod Conwy'n dod yn gyfarwydd â'u presenoldeb!



Wedi i'r tywydd wella gyda'r nos ar y nos Wener, aeth Nigel Brown ati i ddefnyddio ei drapiau gwyfynnod, a bu'n edrych ynddynt y bore canlynol.

Agorodd y BioBlitz i'r cyhoedd ar y nos Sadwrn gyda sgwrs hynod ddiddorol Cathy Wüster am ystumod. Cyflwynodd grynodedb manwl i'r gynulleidfa o fioleg ystumod. Roedd Nigel wrth law eto i ddangos ei drapiau gwyfynnod a chawsom gyfarfod â rhai rhywogaethau ffantastig, yn cynnwys y gwyfyn lliwgar, Teigr yr Ardd, a'r Yfwr gyda'i siâp rhyfedd. Yna, arweiniodd Cathy daith dywys i chwilio am ystumod a chafodd pawb a oedd yn bresennol gyfle i weld

sut i ddefnyddio canfyddwyr ystumod er mwyn gwahaniaethu rhwng y tair rhywogaeth y daethpwyd ar eu traws: yr Ystum Eurfrown Mawr; y Corystlum Cyffredin; y Corystlum Soprano. Daeth y noson i ben gyda phawb o amgylch trapiau gwyfynnod Nigel.

Cafwyd cychwyn cynnar ar y bore Sul am 07:00 gyda Rhian Hughes a Martin Bailey yn gwagio'r trapiau i famaliaid bychain. Cafodd y rhai a oedd yn bresennol gyfle arbennig iawn i weld Llygod Maes a Llygod Coch yn agos iawn. Cafodd rhai o'r ymwelwyr dewraf gyfle i gydio yn rhai o'r mamaliaid llai heriol!

Yn ystod gweddill y dydd, aeth grwpiau amrywiol ar deithiau tywys yn rhoi sylw i wahanol grwpiau o rywogaethau: Adar (Julian Hughes); Infertebrata Dŵr Croyw (John Bratton ac ati); Planhigion (Sarah Stille a Geoff Battershall); Glöynnod Byw, Gweision y Neidr, Mursennod a Thrychfilod Eraill (John Harold ac Allan Brandon); Ffwng (Charles Aron); Pryfed Cop (Richard Gallon).



Ymhlith rhai o uchafbwyntiau'r dydd roedd Gwyfyn Cliradain Amlwregysog, Criciedyn Hirgorn Brith, Tegeirian Brych Cyffredin a Rhedyn Cefngoch – pob un yn newydd i'r warchodfa. Roedd y pryf cop, Enoplognatha latimana, yn newydd i'r warchodfa hefyd, rhywogaeth a ddisgrifiwyd yn newydd i fyd gwyddoniaeth nôl yn 1982! Efallai fod y Bisporella scolochloae, ffwng cwpan bychan iawn o liw melyn llachar a ganfuwyd ar y diwrnod, yn gofnod newydd sbon yng Nghymru! Er bod y cofnodion yn dal i gael eu casglu a'u gwirio gan Cofnod, mae'r ystadegau presennol yn drawiadol iawn: 795 o gofnodion unigol; 484 o rywogaethau; ~120 rhywogaeth newydd i'r warchodfa!

Dangosir llwyddiant BioBlitz yr RSPB yng Nghonwy nid yn unig o ran yr ystadegau trawiadol am y rhywogaethau ond hefyd gan fod 129 o bobl wedi cymryd rhan ac, oherwydd eu brwdfrydedd a'u diddordeb, cafwyd achlysur hynod lwyddiannus.

