

# Report: Species Symposium 10th September 2016, Plas Tan y Bwlch

Snowdonia National Park and Cofnod held a joint *Species Symposium* at Plas Tan y Bwlch on the 10th September 2016.

The 22 attendees had ample opportunity to mingle and share their recording interests, with several table displays providing a focus for discussion (fungi, Buglife, OPAL, Sea Watch, BSBI, British Arachnological Society).

With a slight change to the itinerary, Ian Spence opened the Symposium with his presentation: *Using BirdTrack*. Ian showed that by pooling bird records from across Europe you can easily visualise annual migrations.

Clare Dinham then gave a talk on her role with Buglife and useful local contacts were made with the entomologists present.

Following lunch, Bob Griffiths gave a short presentation on OPAL in North Wales, highlighting the various surveys they provide.

David Thorpe from NRW then led a riparian mammal survey demonstration on the Afon Dwyryd, where we were shown Otter spraint, mink rafts and water shrew survey tubes.

The final talk of the day was given by Tony Hunter from the World Museum, Liverpool. Tony described the work the museum is undertaking on the rare Snowdon Rainbow Beetle, noting just how difficult it is to find, despite its psychedelic coloration.

Two further sampling demonstrations were run in parallel: Invertebrate Sampling Techniques (Richard Gallon) and a Fungal Foray (Charles Aron).

With its blend of field work, talks and displays the *Species Symposium* was a great success, helped in no small part by the good weather and excellent facilities at the Plas.

