

Acclivity's Activities – June 2021

A Sussex First!

Pride of place this month has to go to this lovely beast, the Bryony Ladybird, with the even more magnificent name of *Henosepilachna argus*.



I had gone to Hope Gap to look for the Bryony Bee, *Andrena florea* (more on that later).



But I also spied this Ladybird which I did not recognise, and it has been confirmed (by the Sussex Official Recorder of Beetles – no less!) as the Bryony Ladybird – AND –

This is the **FIRST EVER** record of this species anywhere in Sussex!

Henosepilachna argus is definitely right up there with my previous Sussex First – this Tachinid Fly which I found near Blackstone Reservoir in September 2019, and again in Autumn 2020



Chrysosomopsis aurata – the **FIRST EVER** record of this species anywhere in Sussex, and only the 4th for the whole of the UK.



Thinking of these records, made me think again about another rare species I had found on Seaford Head back in 2018. Strangely, I had never checked with iRecord to see how rare it was in the UK. Guess what! Only one other sighting anywhere in the UK, and none in Sussex!

Callajoppa exaltatoria – a large Ichneumon Wasp

Three insect FIRSTS for Sussex! – I think I need to go and lie down ...



This is the Bee I had gone to Hope Gap looking for – the Bryony Mining Bee, *Andrena Florea*

This bee is one of the very few bees that, in Britain, visits only a single flower species for pollen. You and I would call it “fussy” – the experts call it “oligolectic”

The Bryony Mining Bee is scarce in the UK, but can be seen each Spring at Hope Gap – when the White Bryony is in flower

I do enjoy insect hunting around Blackstone Reservoir and Five Ways. This bizarre looking moth with its unlikely stripes was found at Blackstone.

Grapholita compositella, the Clover Seed Moth



This brightly coloured spider was found in the Cuckmere Estuary valley. There are actually two species so similar that they cannot be told apart from a photo, but Cucumber Spider suffices for either.

The tiny 16-Spot Ladybird was also found on an SNHS species hunt in the Cuckmere Valley



The Brimstone Moth will often make it into your house to rest on a warm evening. This one was in our hall for some time.



This Four-Spotted Chaser was a welcome visitor to our garden pond.

A first for our garden.



It's always great to see the Pyramidal Orchids reappearing in Last Wood Meadow. These were first spotted on June 17.



Agrimony is a bright cheery sight too



Sadly, no Mason Bees nested in our Bee hotel this year, but we do have Leaf-cutter Bees in residence!

I'll leave you this month with a selection of Butterflies from Last Wood and Hope Gap. I'll let you name them ☺



The Red-eyed Damselfly and Walnut Orb-weaver Spider were found at Glynde on June 6th

