

SEDN Report April 2016

Alex Lockton

Summary: some really superb work in the last year or so. Sue Rees Evans has created a splendid web site of dragonflies, and we have got established with a new site for SEDN, which can include pages for any groups that have not got their own sites: www.shropshireecology.co.uk. Recording is going well for many of the species groups, as listed below. Our database on the NBN has 839,477 records of 11,372 species, all available at full resolution to anyone who wants to see them.

Progress 2015-16

Recorder	Species	N. records	Cost	Progress
Alex Lockton	Coordination	0	£4000	Done
Alex Lockton	Vascular plants	10,000	£2000	Done
Caroline Uff	Beetles	750	£1000	Done
Frances Riding	Coleoptera	500	£500	Done
John Morgan	Bats	300	£1550	No news
Lorcan Adrain	Mammals	600	£630	Done
Lorcan Adrain	Mammals	1500	£1500	Done
Nicola Stone	Forum	0	£1000	Done
Nicola Stone	Herptiles	600	£500	Done
Nigel Jones	Hoverflies	800	£1500	Done
Nigel Jones	Flies	200	£600	Done
Nigel Jones	+ others	200	£600	Done
Paul Green	Habitats	1500	£2,500	Done
Pete Boardman	Collembola	400	£400	Done
Sarah Whild/Bot Soc	Vascular plants	5000	£500	Done
Sue Rees Evans	Odonata	800	£2000	Done
Sue Townsend/FSC	Web site		£500	Done (by Alex)
Iain Benady	Web database		£2000	Not started yet
Pete Boardman	More Collembola	400	£400	Done
Ian Cheeseborough	Aculeates	500	£500	No news

Reports

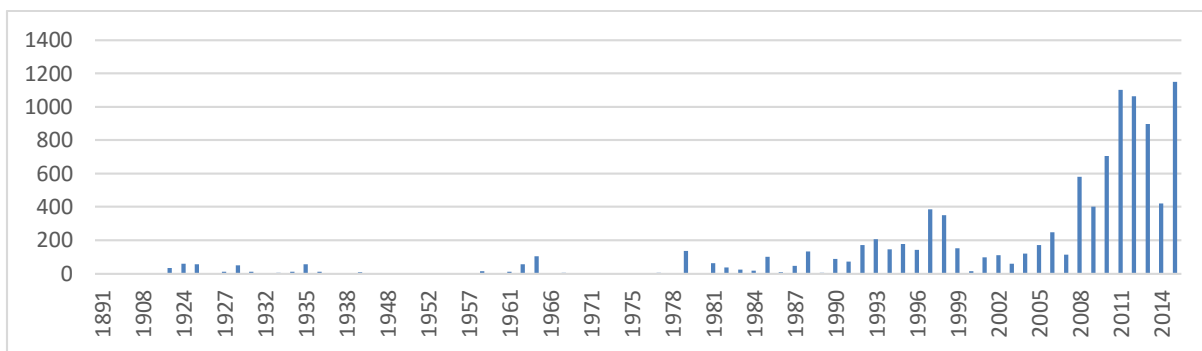
Web site: fully up and running now, and I am pleased to see that it comes out top on a Google search for 'SEDN'.

Botany (Alex): 2015 was an exceptional year for botanical surveys, with over 30,000 records so far and they are still coming in. I am particularly happy with the Wildlife Trust surveys – which are at an all-time high – because they now send scans of the recording sheets rather than digitizing the data themselves, and this has ended the awful errors. There has also been a fair amount of activity on managing sites, particularly in the ten targets, and people are starting to take the idea of monitoring seriously. I have updated the species accounts from the Flora and made them available on the web site.

Sarah: All 2015 records validated/verified and sent to Alex for digitization. A new county record for *Trifolium pannonicum*, Hungarian Clover, occurring in a Lucerne crop. A digital copy of the species accounts from the new Flora is being made available via the Shropshire Botanical Society webpage.

Terrestrial Beetles: Caroline has sent a good number of records for 2015 – over 1,000. The chart below shows progress with the database. Caroline has also set up her own Coleoptera database and is correcting and improving the data – which is good, but makes it very difficult to combine it with SEDN. We could in theory overwrite ours with Caroline’s version, but I found that we would lose some records that way and we also lose some standardisation (e.g. sites names are different). This is an unavoidable problem when you get an active tsar who wants to analyse and use their database, and all databases suffer from it (whether their owners recognise the problem or not). Our aim is simply to have an ever-improving database and to incorporate the new data that we acquire each year. My point in telling you this is that you need to be aware that Caroline might have different data to the SEDN database, and that you might want to contact her , in the same way that most people contact me when they want the most up-to-date botanical information.

Number of records of Coleoptera on the SEDN database (NB includes aquatic beetles as well):



Water Beetles: 420 records received from Fran Riding, which is close enough to the 500 promised. No 1-page report received yet.

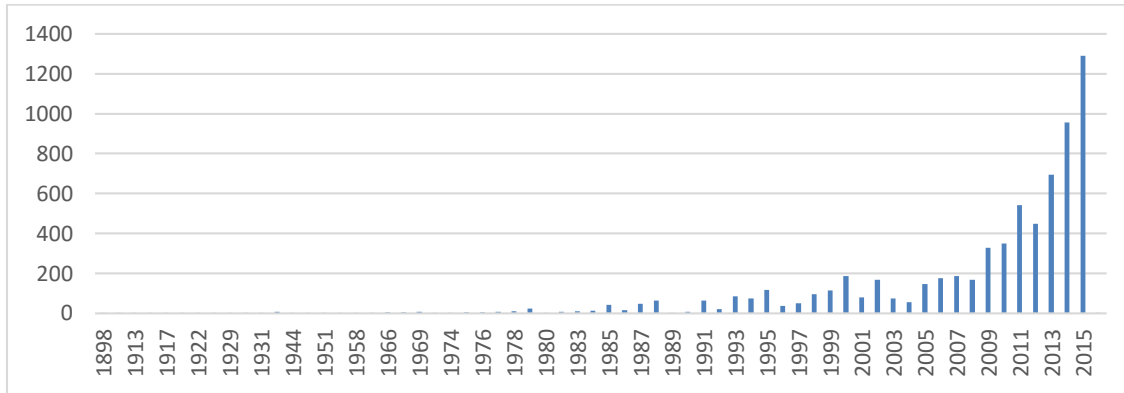
Bats: no news yet.

Herptiles: 402 records sent in by Nicola.

Collembola: we now have 829 records of springtails in Shropshire, all 2014 or 2015. I suspect this might be of largely academic interest, but it falls into our category of encouraging data collection of obscure groups when an opportunity arises, and if they turn out to be vital for something, then it is good that we have the data. Pete has set up an atlas recording scheme with a map on Tom.bio that is updated monthly, and a couple of dozen people are taking part. On the NBN, Shropshire is the only county to have more than a token few records.

Terrestrial Mammals: Lorcan has sent well over 1,000 records for 2015 and even a few for 2016 already. The mammal group of course had its wonderful success with the finding of a pine marten in Clunton Coppice, which can be taken as confirmation of some nearby sightings over the last couple of decades. The Preston Montford pine marten is still not confirmed, but it seems more likely. The mammal group has embarked on an Atlas-type initiative and will be recording common mammals throughout the county. It is not entirely apparent how useful rabbit or fox records will be, but it will at least make the maps look more respectable. I tend to simplify them to 1km squares rather than the 1m GRs that they are often sent in with. Of course the mammal group keep the original details if ever you want them.

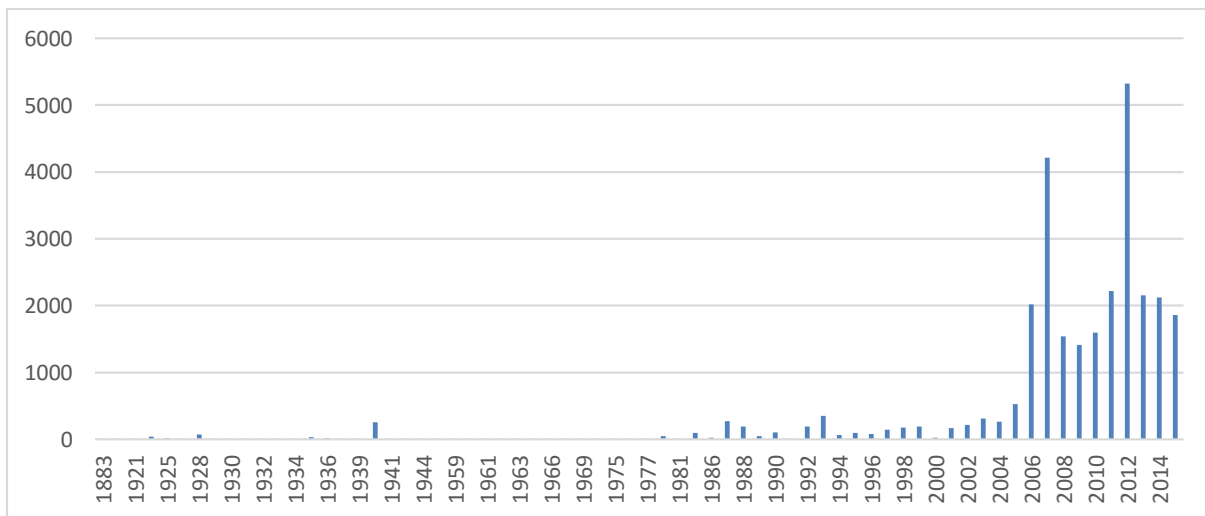
Terrestrial mammal records on the SEDN database:



Flies & Hollies wood invertebrate project: as part of ongoing county wide recording, 1020 general Diptera (true flies) records were added to the database in 2015 by Nigel Jones. These included 33 new species for Shropshire, two of which have IUCN Near Threatened status (the Muscid fly *Phaonia canescens* – reared from dead poplar in Meole Brace and the robber-fly *Dioctria cothurnata* discovered alongside the River Clun at Purslow) and a further eight species which have Nationally Scarce status. Diptera records on the database now number 28,600.

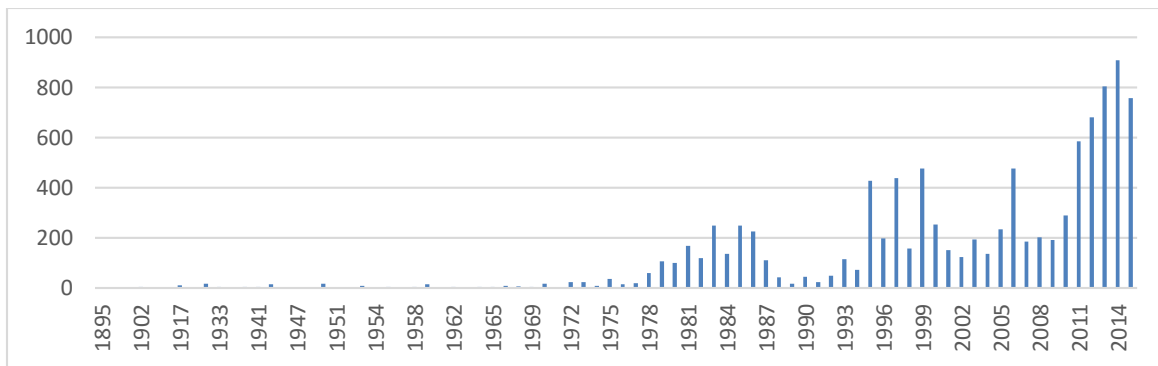
An intensive survey of invertebrates was undertaken by Nigel Jones at The Hollies woodland, Haughmond Hill. This added 798 mainly Diptera records to the invertebrate database, including 27 new species to Shropshire, one IUCN Vulnerable status fly, four IUCN Near Threatened status flies and seven Nationally Scarce species, as well as a range of saproxylic flies associated with dead wood. As part of this survey Don Stenhouse was engaged to survey beetles in The Hollies woodland. This added records of another 74 species for the site, mainly beetles, including eight indicators of high quality woodland. A site report has been produced for the SEDN website's reports section. The report strongly indicates that The Hollies woodland is a high quality site for ancient woodland invertebrates.

Diptera records on the SEDN database:



Odonata: Sue Rees Evans (née McLamb) sent well over 800 records of Odonata and reported on failed surveys for *Cordulea aenea* at Bomere, Shomere and Berrington Pools in 2015. There has been debate about the habitat requirements of the Downy Emerald, with some people suggesting that tree removal around pools might have a negative impact on it. The apparent disappearance of *Cordulea* from these sites (which have all had some tree clearance some years ago) is therefore cause for concern. However, there is no evidence for a causal link at this stage (and on the face of it, it seems unlikely, as there are still plenty of trees around all three sites) and it could just as easily be a consequence of the weather at this point. Sue is planning more surveys next year. Happier news is that it was seen again this year in the new site at Ebury Hill. Sue has also been developing a Shropshire dragonfly website which is now live – and it is very impressive.

Odonata on the database:



Aculeates: no news yet.