

SOMERSET HOVERFLY RECORDS 2009

It was quite a good year for hoverflies in our experience, though no new species were reported. The weather allowed more surveys than usual and 27 sites were visited for recording hoverflies, including SWT nature reserves, although our main work was done not too far from Yeovil. A special study was made in the Long Sutton area, where the back lanes are quiet and habitats varied. The trend of severely cutting the verges later in the year does make surveys less successful, due to the lack of flowers, which affects bees, butterflies and hoverflies alike. Large Umbelliferae (Apiaceae) like Hogweed (*Heracleum sphondylium*) tend to be hacked regularly in some areas, and if left to flower are great attractants for many insects.

Ninety-four species were recorded in 2009, and our thanks go to Barrie Widden and Robert Bond for photographic records. The former had *Didea fasciata* and *Volucella zonaria* in his Yeovil garden. The following are the most interesting records of the year.

Dasysyrphus tricinctus – Pink Wood 29 August.
Didea fasciata – Yeovil 16 October.
Epistrophe diaphana – Marston Wood 19 August.

Eupeodes bucculatus – Pink Wood 15 August, 6th locality record.

Ischyrosyrphus laternarius – Pink Wood 18 July.

Melangyna labiatarum – Marston Wood 19 August.

Melangyna umbellatarum – Long Sutton 5 August; Pink Wood 31 August.

Meligramma cincta – Bickham Wood (SWT) 21 April.

Parasyrphus annulatus – Bickham Wood 3 July.

Platycheirus angustatus – Parson's Steeple 7 August.

Platycheirus splendidus – Pink Wood 29 April.

Platycheirus tarsalis – Bickham Wood (SWT) 21 April.

Sphaerophoria interrupta – Long Sutton 14 July; Pink Wood 18 July; North Perrott 13 October.

Sphaerophoria taeniata – Parson's Steeple 7 August.

Arctophila superbiens – Ringdown NR (SWT) 9 September.

Brachyopa scutellaris – Bickham Wood (SWT) 11 May.

Cheilosia ranunculi – Bickham Wood (SWT) 11 May.

Cheilosia soror – Pink Wood 15 August.

Cheilosia vulpina – Marston Wood 19 August.

Chrysogaster virescens – Bickham Wood (SWT) 11 May.

Criorhina ranunculi – Long Sutton 2 May.

Helophilus hybridus – Catcott Heath 20 September.

Helophilus trivittatus – Long Sutton 14 July; Tintinhull 29 August; Yeovil 31 August.

Myolepta dubia – Long Sutton 20 June, 3rd locality record.

Sphegina verecunda – Bickham Wood (SWT) 11 May.

Volucella zonaria – Chiselborough 23 July; Yeovil 8 August and 12 September (both in gardens).

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