

**Sunday 1st.Sept. (Warm, Breezy WNW.)
Brendon Bridge to Vealand.**



Southern Hawker



Swallow



Purple Loosestrife

Birds.

Very few seen except for two **Wrens** amongst the seeding **Hog Weed** in the Filter Beds. One **Song Thrush** flew low from **Brambles** into a thicket of **Blackthorn** and **Sallow**. A few **Swallows** flew overhead, short tailed, so probably young birds.

Flowers.

Hemp Agrimony near Brendon Bridge. **Loosestrife** - a few purple spikes there too. The last flowers of **Tufted Vetch** with the white "stars" of **Lesser Stitchwort**. Three good plants of **Broad Leaved Helleborines** on the canal bank, under the **Beech** near Vealand Farm, now with fat seed pods. **Blackberries** were abundant in many place. **Beech Mast** thick under foot, some showing kernels inside. **Hazel** nuts eaten in the characteristic **Squirrel** way, top of the nut chiselled open to reveal the nut. We searched for nuts that might have been opened by **Dormice**, but no luck this time.

Insects.

Speckled Wood butterflies, second generation, flew ahead of us in twos and threes, for most of the walk. Over the Filter Beds they flew with one **Red Admiral**. **Greater Bindweed's** white trumpet-shaped flowers covered much of the Filter Beds offering food for many insects. These included several sorts of **Hover Fly**, **Green Bottles**, **Bumble Bees** and **Carder Bees**. One yellow and black, fast moving insect, could have been a **Digger Wasp**. There were several of these, usually moving over the surface of leaves, hunting for tiny prey perhaps. Along the canal bed near Vealand Farm we watched a male **Southern Hawker** dragonfly, zooming past us until it finally settled on a bramble, giving us a chance to identify it. There were several **Common Darter** dragonfly sightings, smaller creatures than the Hawker, but adept at flying and sometimes basking with wings held down in a tell-tale position