

# WANTED!

## SIGHTINGS OF THE FOLLOWING

These animals and plants are all very rare in Shetland and some may now be extinct. You can help establish whether they are still part of Shetland's biodiversity and increase our knowledge of their distribution here. Please send any records to SBRC, along with a detailed grid reference, and if possible a photograph.



**COMMON BLUE DAMSELFLY**

Our only resident dragonfly is best looked for on moorland pools on calm, sunny days from mid-June to early-August. It is currently known only from the north Mainland and Yell.



**GREAT YELLOW BUMBLEBEE**

Although not recorded in Shetland for 80 years, an unconfirmed record from Nesting in 2003 suggests it could still occur here. No other Shetland bee shows a brownish-yellow body colour broken only by a marked black band between its wings. It is likely to be found in flower-rich areas.



**BROAD-BORDERED WHITE UNDERWING**

This small Red Data Book moth measures about 2.5 cm across. It flies by day when its white underwing bordered by a broad dark bar, are distinctive. Relatively frequent in Shetland in the 19th century it has only been seen twice in the last 20 years. It favours high ground, notably Ronas Hill, and is best looked for on fine days in June.

**COMMON BLUE BUTTERFLY**



This small butterfly, measuring about 2 cm across, used to be found in the south Mainland where it favoured natural, herb-rich grassland. It could still linger here, or possibly colonise again from the south.

**FANSHELL**

This large two-shelled mollusc feeds on tiny marine organisms in the plankton and can grow up to 30 cm long. It occurs in water depths of 10 to 400 metres and is usually firmly dug into the sediment, often occurring in the same habitat as scallops. Only the top third of the shell is usually visible above the sediment.



**FRESH WATER PEARL MUSSEL**

This freshwater animal is dependent on brown trout for part of its life cycle. It is now so rare in Britain, due to pearl fishing, that it is illegal to remove it from the stream-bed without a licence. It favours running freshwater with a fine stone or shingle substrate, and occasionally occurs in peaty substrates.



**CORN MARIGOLD**

This flower is restricted to arable ground in southernmost south Mainland and the north of Unst, and there have been just two records since 1987. However, seeds remain viable in the soil for a number of years, germinating when the ground is ploughed. Best looked for along field edges, but please be careful not to enter crops!



**HEATH CUDWEED**

Another plant which once widespread in Shetland has not been recorded here since 1986. Its reddish flowers and narrow, pointed, grey-backed leaves are quite distinctive and should be looked for in July and August. It occurred on dry heathy or turfy ground, along roadsides and sometimes near arable ground.



**STAG'S-HORN CLUBMOSS**

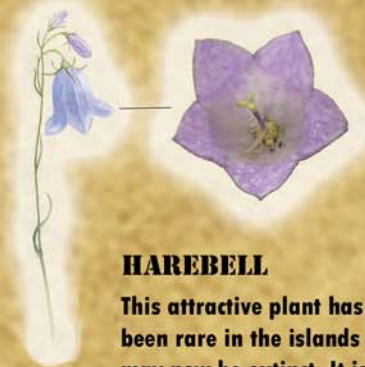


Although reasonably widespread across Shetland until the 1970s this plant was never common. Then after the last confirmed sighting in 1990, it was feared extinct until two records in 2004. It favours dry, often stony, shallow heathland, and is most likely to be found where sheep grazing is either very light, or absent.



**REED BUNTING**

Having colonised Shetland in the mid 20th century the population of this sparrow-sized bird peaked at around 40 pairs in the 1980s. It has since declined and the last confirmed breeding record was in 1995. Reed buntings favour damp areas with longer vegetation and will often perch up high to sing their rather dull and repetitive song.



**HAREBELL**

This attractive plant has always been rare in the islands but may now be extinct. It is, however, very hard to locate when not in flower, so could conceivably still persist in some heathy pasture or rocky grassland somewhere in Shetland. It flowers in August.