

SHERWOOD FOREST

GRASSHOPPERS & CRICKETS OF



Of all the different types of insects found at Sherwood Forest, one of the least recorded are grasshoppers and crickets. This is perhaps rather surprising, because they are easy to find by day, most species quite noisy and they are much larger insects than most beetles, moths and flies. Yet very few people seem interested in recording them, or even actually looking for them. However, this is presently a worthwhile time to be looking for grasshoppers and crickets, as several new species have arrived in the UK and spread north over the past number of years.



Sherwood Forest has most of the common Nottinghamshire grasshoppers, but just two species of cricket. The Oak Bush Cricket and the Speckled Bush Cricket are both large species. Of the two, the Oak Bush Cricket is the most often found, sometimes turning up on the walls of the visitor centre, but usually on the trunks of trees. The Speckled Bush Cricket is a relative newcomer to Sherwood Forest, when it was found along a woodland access track. This is a more difficult cricket to see and best searched for by using a bat detector.

Bat detectors are useful equipment for those searching for grasshoppers and crickets, as they can pick up the high-pitched sounds made by calling males, where the human ear can't.

Groundhoppers are much smaller than grasshoppers or crickets and appear in Spring. Both groundhoppers found at Sherwood Forest are dark brown, but the Slender Groundhopper can show considerable variation in markings. They tend to prefer bare, open ground in warm situations, but their colouration makes them well camouflaged and they are often only noticed when they move.



Species illustrated

- 1 Oak Bush Cricket
- 2 Field Grasshopper
- 3 Common Groundhopper
- 4 Speckled Bush Cricket
- 5 Slender Groundhopper
- 6 Common Green Grasshopper