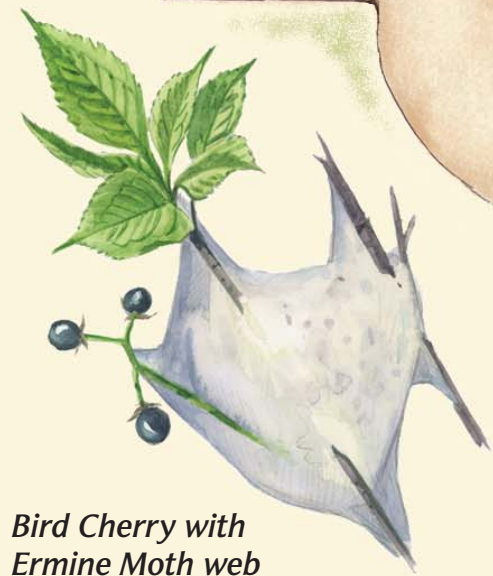


The Juniper Trail - a home for wildlife

Glen Tanar is a special place for wildlife. The Juniper Trail goes through a mix of habitats rich in insect life. Small flowering plants, Juniper scrub and broad-leaved trees all attract moths, butterflies and many other types of insect. Birds are also attracted to the area to nest, to feed in the trees and on other plants, and to eat the insects. Follow the trail to find out more...



It may take between 30-60 minutes to walk around the Juniper Trail which is 550m long. A mix of hard and grass paths, ascend for the first 150 metres, then level to the view-point, before descending back to the start point.



Bird Cherry with Ermine Moth web

Juniper: a native conifer, present since the ice age. It has evergreen needle-like leaves and has distinctive blue seed cones that look like berries. The Juniper fruit is valued as a spice and is best known for flavouring gin. Birds eat the berries and use the bushes to nest in and to hide from predators.



Juniper with inset of fruit

Bracken: a common deciduous fern. Its curled stems unfold into green leaves in the spring, before turning to gold and then to brown, in the autumn as it dies back.

Ants and several kinds of moth feed on the fronds, and humans have used it as manure, mulch, tinder, and fuel. It was burned to obtain potash needed for glass and soap manufacture, and it was regularly used as a bedding for livestock.

Aspen: its leaves flutter in the lightest wind, causing a whispering sound. The Aspen is widespread across Europe and is often used for construction, wood-turning and barrels. Charcoal made from Aspen was valued for making gunpowder.

Its grey bark, with leaves that are coppery in colour at first, before turning to pale green, are a feeding ground for more than 60 kinds of insect and several kinds of moth.

Oak: famous for its long life, is a deciduous tree with grey bark. A wide variety of insects, including many moths and butterflies, depend on Oak trees which also offer food and shelter to squirrels and deer.

In upland oakwoods, the oak grows in harmony with Birch, and common plants such as Dog-violet and Bracken.

Bird Cherry: has almond-scented white flowers and bitter black fruit which attracts a wide range of wildlife, including birds and moths. As a caterpillar, the tiny Ermine Bird Cherry Moth (only 10mm long), works with hundreds of others to spin silk webs to protect themselves from birds. The trees at this time can look like a giant candy floss, or a set for horror film, with cobwebs dripping from every twig.



Oak leaves with acorn