

HERTFORDSHIRE AND MIDDLESEX BRANCH NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 24

DECEMBER 2000



**BUTTERFLY
CONSERVATION**SM

**Conservation
Revamp,**

by Gavin Vicary

There was a good turnout at the AGM recently and I hope that members who attended enjoyed the evening. Unfortunately, work commitments meant that I was unable to be there and I am grateful to Ian Small for standing in.

An appeal was made at the AGM for people who might like to be involved with the branch sub-committee that deals with conservation issues. It has been felt that new impetus should be put

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into our conservation activities by trying to get some new blood on to the sub-committee, reviewing our current activities and refocusing our attentions accordingly.

I am a great believer that conservation should be at the heart of the branch's activities. It seems to me, that a fundamental aspect of the things we do should be the undertaking of practical action to help prevent the butterflies in our region from declining in both number and diversity.

The sub-committee has been in existence for a number of years and deals with a wide range of issues. Recently work has involved liaison with the owners of one of the few sites in Hertfordshire that still supports Grizzled Skipper to try and arrange work parties during the winter to create the habitat that this butterfly requires. There are always issues relating to the implementation of the management plan at Millhoppers and a grant has just been obtained to dig out the pond which has become very silted up. Re-introductions are another subject that seem to come up at regular intervals and whilst each case has to be judged on its merits we have to be led by national society policy and so far have not found an instance where such action would be justified.

Fortunately we have a good basis for conservation work, in that the branch area has detailed information on the current and historical distributions of the different butterfly species found in Hertfordshire and Middlesex. This is in the form of the Branch Reports prepared by John Murray and Brian Sawford's book "The Butterflies of Hertfordshire".

There are many factors that have led to dramatic changes in our countryside over the last hundred years. Wildflower meadows were lost at an alarming rate, cessation of grazing, changing farming practices, scrubbing over of heaths and non-maintenance of coppices and pollards are some of the reasons behind changing habitats. This coupled with increased urbanisation, road building and industrial activity in the densely populated and busy area that we live have further contributed to the pressures on much of our wildlife.

Of course we have to accept that the countryside has changed. It is however important to maintain what we have left and make the most of the opportunities open to us. Anyone who wishes to have

an in-put can contact me using the number or address on the back cover.

Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to you all



Millhoppers Annual Report, November 2000 by John Noakes

Overview It has been a wet year producing initially luxuriant and later rank growth, particularly in the area of the reserve beyond the stream. The section between the gate and the stream has produced mainly rough grass with invasion of blackthorn scrub from the hedge row. The stream flow has been choked with weed and the surrounding swampy area (previously ponds) is now a solid reed bed ringed with thistles. Immediately beyond the stream in the second compartment there has been a prolific growth of hogweed and greater bindweed. Further on is a vast bank of nettles on the west side. More encouragingly the far end of the second compartment has produced shorter, finer grass with a number of anthills. Lady's bedstraw, knapweed, cowslips and scabious have increased. Yet the threat of blackthorn and nettles predating this area is still present. The far end of the reserve still remains overgrown with the ubiquitous blackthorn, elder and nettles with figwort in the open shady areas. The good news, is the large quantities of butterflies. This probably represents what happened last season, so will next year be as good following the wet summer and rank growth?



Monitoring Margaret Noakes has carried out regular

transects and has reported elsewhere. However in summary, the number of species has remained unchanged at 21. Within that range there have been large numbers of certain species. The number of Meadow Browns and Ringlets were just too many to make counting possible. Others remained at last year's level but Orange Tips, Tortoiseshells and Holly Blues were well down. Worth mentioning at 0.5km, in our garden, a White Admiral cruised around for two days (27/28 July) and Wall also visited us for one day on 7 June. Of special botanical note was the finding of three green helleborines in a patch of bare soil where we had cleared blackthorn. I believe this is a first for the reserve.

Introductions This has always been a contentious issue. In the past we have increased the stock of purging and alder buckthorn, field maple, hawthorn and holly. Those encased in plastic tubing survived but rabbits and deer hoovered off those unprotected. We have no further plans for other introductions. Also in the past we have distributed seeds of garlic mustard and cardamine to boost early nectar and host plants to encourage Orange Tips. We have not introduced plants which are not already on the reserve or in the near vicinity.

Events A moth evening was held by Rob Souter and has already been reported. An open day was held in conjunction with an open visit to Tring Park. The Millhoppers slot was not well attended; five in all but two were new visitors which was pleasing. Brian Jessop's tour of Tring Park was well attended by both members and butterflies.

Management Bad weather hampered our efforts over the year. Some working party days had to be cancelled and attendances were down. On a more positive note two local people have joined us outside the advertised working days on an ad hoc basis. They have done sterling work and want to continue! As always the major issue has been grass cutting and clearance. The original contributors to the reserve fund decided to purchase a motor scythe-£1600. This machine not only cuts large swathes of grass and nettles it also cuts through young invasive blackthorn. However in its wake lies the problem; large quantities of vegetation to be raked off and removed. This has had to be piled in the hedgerow, although even the badgers are not going to shift this lot! Nettles are becoming an increasing problem. Cutting quickly produces new growth and we don't need the quantities we are blessed with. A local farmer has suggested spraying with a selected weedkiller as the new growth forms. An option to consider?

The debate again turns to grazing as an option and I felt I should re-explore it. The Grazing Animal Project(GAP) has little information to offer for a reserve of our size and type. So I arranged a site meeting with a local farmer. His concern was that it would not be prudent to risk his sheep or cattle at such an isolated place. Furthermore the security of the fencing would be questionable. Electric fencing would be flexible and tolerably cheap but prone to vandalism. A wooden fence though secure would be costly if animal grazing proved unsuccessful. So it comes back to continuing with the motor scythe; raking off and burning. This does require a dedicated raking workforce. Storage, maintenance and transportation of the motor scythe-a fairly heavy machine is somewhat irksome but we can cope for the moment.

Future Development Originally there was a large pond at Millhoppers with probably a larger flow of stream water. Now the stream and surrounding area is choked with reed. I have had site meetings with the Environment Agency and Countryside Management Service. Jointly we have drawn up plans to clear the stream and scoop out two ponds alongside to restore roughly to the old configuration. This project which was in our original plan, would diversify the habitat and species. Now this looks to be a reality as Countryside Management Services have offered a grant of £600 which is likely to be matched by the Environmental agency. Following this positive information I have had a site meeting with a contractor recommended by British Waterways and he has quoted a price within the likely grant figure. In addition he will be quoting separately for a new bridge as the old one is becoming dangerous.

Coping with the spoil from the digging is a problem as moving it off site is prohibitive for a number of reasons-cost, land tax etc. So banking around the ponds is inevitable. Work can start early next year.

Vandalism Sorry to have this still on the report but the good news is that it is down on last year. The large metal bar has acted as a deterrent to vehicles. Intermittent professional fly tipping in the roadside stream continues and the cleansing department at Dacorum remains very helpful on clearing when asked. Beer cans, downmarket magazines and other rubbish needs to be collected on a



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monthly basis and this we do, disposing of it locally. A few nesting boxes have been stolen which is rather sad but overall the picture is less depressing.

Conclusions

From a management perspective it really is more of the same. Cutting, raking and burning. Nettles and blackthorn need to be severely contained. The stream clearance and pond construction, although not new, is a sympathetic and exciting development to look forward to. On some days in Millhoppers it is impossible to judge which century one is in, such is the relative peace and unspoilt habitat. It makes the all that cutting and raking worthwhile! Many thanks to all those who have helped throughout the year. We hope the butterfly count will continue to rise and diversify.

The Society is amalgamating its Head Office (Dedham) and UK Conservation Office (East Lulworth). Please can you note that from the 13th December the new address will be:

**Butterfly Conservation
Manor Yard
East Lulworth
Wareham
Dorset BH20 5QP
Tel. 01929 400209 Fax 01929 400210
Email: info@butterfly-conservation.org**

Protecting Orange Tip Larvae, by Richard Francis

The following is the result of an experiment involving Orange Tips:

I'd noticed the previous year that while many of the flowering foodplants had eggs on, the mortality rate of the newly hatched larva was almost total on account of predators climbing the plant stalks and eating them.



I hit upon the idea of placing a blob of grease and vaseline on the stalk below the eggs to serve as a barrier to potential larva munchers. I collected seeds from the foodplant and created an isolated patch in my garden. The result was 12 eggs recorded, 11 larvae to full size (counted the day of the picture).

The larvae managed to wander off despite the barrier of grease to pupate but by crawling around I managed to locate one of these and if anyone would like an Orange Tip pupa they are free to come and collect it. (*Richard lives in Pinner, Middlesex...ed.*)

I am only a casual observer but I conclude that if other individuals protected Orange Tip eggs each Spring in a similar manner then come the following year there would be more than the odd extra butterfly about. Of all the 40 wild eggs I found, only one managed to survive.



One of the Orange Tip larvae on a 'protected' plant

Black Hairstreaks at Glaphorn Cowpasture Reserve, by Mike Hunter

Continuing my quest to see all the British butterflies in one season, I was more than aware of the tricky species that might trip me up along the way or that might take more than one visit. Top of the 'tricky species' list was Mountain Ringlet and Black and White-letter Hairstreaks. Following my disappointing, but probably optimistic visit to Oxfordshire during sub-optimal weather on 11 June 2000 where I failed to see Black Hairstreak, the following weekend promised much more. With the run of exceptional weather during the week of 12 June it seemed likely Black Hairstreak was on the wing in numbers. A quick call to Douglas Goddard, Northamptonshire Branch of Butterfly Conservation provided the answer - more than 20 were seen on 17 June 2000!

By 0930 on 18 June 2000 I had seen around ten different Black Hairstreaks very easily at Glaphorn Cowpasture Reserve. Four were seen nectaring on bramble near the observation tower and allowed close and prolonged views. Two were seen from the tower itself, one from the first glade past the entrance to the wood and several others in blackthorn along the various rides in this well-managed site.

Such numbers represent a welcome relief from the recent run of poor numbers at this site. Preliminary feedback from UK-Leps members suggests a similar pattern at other hairstreak sites across the Midlands.

There is open access to Glaphorn Cowpasture Reserve which is accessed off the minor road between Glaphorn and Upper Benefield, northwest of Oundle. Park sensibly in the lane opposite the wood and please record all butterfly observations in the log located by the observation tower.



*Image reproduced from the CD-ROM
Guide to British Butterflies, drawn by
Richard Lewington*

A visit to Glapthorn Cowpasture can be combined with nearby Brigstock Country Park and Fermyn Wood. Brigstock is one of the best butterfly sites in Northamptonshire and I saw a late (and very worn) Green Hairstreak as well as several Grizzled Skippers. Fermyn Wood is a good site for Purple Emperor in July.



Transects, by Andrew Wood

I am now deep into analysing the data from this year's transects. As always there are many interesting observations and trends emerging. John Murray and I would like to thank everyone who has sent in their records for 2000. If you have walked a transect this year but have yet to send your records to John please try to do so as soon as possible so that they can be incorporated into the annual report.

Unfortunately there are a few transects where the current walkers are unable, for very good reasons, to continue in 2001. If there is anyone who could take over those transects so that we can continue to build up the valuable datasets for these sites we would be happy to hear from you. John and I will be happy to offer you any advice and assistance you may need. The sites are Trent Park in Enfield and Standalone Farm just west of Letchworth.

We have also been asked if anyone can help the Upper Thames Branch with transects at Ivinghoe Beacon just over the border in Buckinghamshire.

Conservation Committee By Andrew Wood

The Branch Committee considered a proposal at its last meeting to set up a Conservation Committee. This committee would look at matters relating to practical conservation, recording and monitoring. The main committee would deal with the actual running of the branch and would remain responsible for approving any major expenditure relating to conservation.

Why do we need another committee?

Following the launch of the Regional Action Plans for various species in our area, together with the likelihood of increasing commitments to reserves there is a large amount of business to be considered by the main committee. This in turn leads to an increasing number of actions to be carried out by committee members. This means that we cannot always devote the amount of time we feel is needed to all the matters that need to be considered.

Our proposal is not to create more meetings for the existing committee members but to allow members of the committee, and most importantly other members from within BC and outside where they have knowledge or interest in our work to participate in guiding and planning our conservation efforts. It is the committee's wish that there will be little duplication in the membership of each committee.

Other branches have taken this route as they have taken on more and more conservation responsibilities and we feel that this is an appropriate time for us to go down this path.

We would like any member who is interested in being involved in this committee to let us know as soon as possible - an inaugural meeting has been arranged for 17 January 2001.

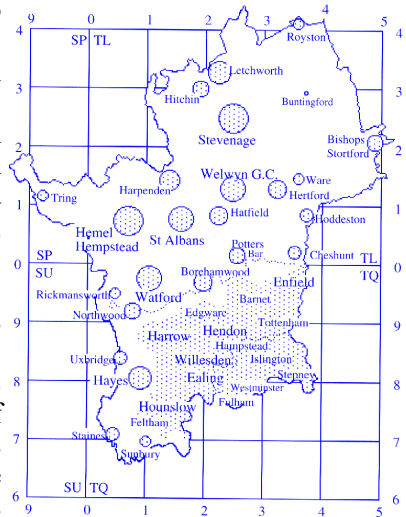
Please contact John Stevens at the address on the back cover to express interest in attending this meeting.

Membership Report November 2000, by Margaret Noakes

Significant changes have taken place over the last year, with the overall effect of increasing our membership from just over 310 in November 1999, to 437 in November 2000, with 21 Life members.

The main reasons for this change is that Head Office now automatically places new members into the local branch appropriate to the area in which they live (unless a particular request is made otherwise) With a small change in fee structure it is now no longer possible to be a member of Butterfly Conservation without being a branch member.

Herts & Middx are now the 6th largest branch in the U.K.(in terms of membership) with the branch geographically stretching from Royston in the north, to Westminster in the south. Approximately 29% of branch members live in the London area, with relatively few (5) from Royston & (5) from Letchworth in the north. The east of the area is particularly well represented, both from Bishops Stortford, Enfield & the east of London. Membership from the west is equally high, both from Tring, Hemel Hempstead & Rickmansworth. The centre of Hertfordshire draws most of its members from St Albans & the areas around, as well as Stevenage.



So what conclusions can we draw from this or what questions do we need to ask? I would like to suggest that we are not giving enough thought as to how we can include our more southerly members in our activities.

a)Should we find a venue, perhaps in London, to provide an indoor winter meeting, perhaps in conjunction with the Surrey Branch? (who include members from just south of the river)

b)How can we discover the needs of our senior citizens? (who unfortunately we can no longer identify with the new membership system)

c)Where is the best place for our A.G.M. in view of the spread of our membership?

d)We only have 4 Junior members.Why so few?

f) Should we break into a North & South branch, so that everybody is better provided for?

Which is where it all began about 10 years ago!

Do let me know what you think.



Correction

In the last issue, Colin Plant's address for moth records was given incorrectly. It is:

Colin W Plant
14 West Road
Bishops Stortford
Herts
CM23 3QP
Tel/Fax 0279 507697
Email Colinwplant@compuserve.com

Regional Action Plan Meeting by Andrew Wood

John Murray and myself attended a two day meeting in Winchester in early September to discuss the implementation of Butterfly Conservation's Regional Action Plans in Southern England. This was the first of three meetings covering the whole of the UK.

What are Regional Action Plans?

Following the Rio Summit a wide range of Biological action plans have been launched by a variety of local authorities and involving a whole range of public and private and voluntary bodies. BC has been part of this process and this has led to the construction of species plans for a number of vulnerable butterflies. This has culminated in detailed plans for all species of butterfly and moths in the various regions of BC. We fall under the Thames Region together with Upper Thames (Berks, Bucks and Oxon), and Bedfordshire and Northants. Each plan identifies by a number of criteria such as number of 10km squares where a species is found or by a species concentrated in a relatively small area. For each species a five year plan setting out targets for monitoring, recording and conservation has been set out.

What is the Herts & Middx's Position?

Compared to many areas such as the west country and Hampshire we are not an area with a large number of the target species. However we do possess a number of species and most importantly habitats which need to be monitored and conserved. The butterfly species in the high priority category and found in our area are: Brown Hairstreak And Purple Emperor. Medium Priority species are Dingy Skipper, Duke of Burgundy, Grizzled Skipper, Small Blue, Wall and White letter Hairstreak



Small Blue

The list of moths is longer and includes the Buttoned Snout and Heart Moth featured in issue 22 of the Branch Newsletter.

The plan was compiled from many sources and it is appropriate to acknowledge the work and information provided by Michael Healy, Malcolm Hull, John Murray, Colin Plant, Brian Sawford, Christine

Shepperson, Rob Souter and Gavin Vicary

What should we be doing?

The plan places importance on the role of continued monitoring and recording. We, like many branches, are good at this. What we need to do is make active use of this valuable data to inform landowners of what is on their land and work with them using this good quality data to preserve and enhance habitats which support these threatened species. The branch is proposing to focus on this by establishing a separate conservation committee (see accompanying article on page 10)

Feedback on the plans

At the meeting there was a broad welcome for the plans but a number of points were raised:

We must not just concentrate on the threatened species but also be aware of fluctuations and declines in the “safe” species such as Small Tortoiseshell and Small Copper

There are over 100 actions for our branch as for all the others. We need to prioritise and do what we can. It is better to succeed on well identified key points rather than either despair at the amount of work or try to spread ourselves too thinly.

We need support from the national organisation and co-operation between branches covered by the Regional Plans

Copies of the plan are available from John Murray and the committee would welcome your comments on the plans.



Moth Recording Events in 2000, by Rob Souter.

The last three branch moth events were joint meetings with the Herts Moth Group. These benefited from the assistance of Colin Plant (Herts and London Area recorder for moths) who supplied several MV light traps and his expertise at moth identification. Details of these events follow.

Saturday 29th July 2000 - Bramfield Woods, Bramfield, Herts.

6 MV lights were operated between 2200 and 0200 in this under-recorded Forestry Commission woodland. A number of county notables were recorded including the Tortrix *Piniphila bifasciana*, last recorded in Herts in 1934. Amongst 75 macro-moths county notables were Barred Hook-tip, Barred Rivulet, Rosy Footman, Buff Footman and The Suspected. The complete list is as follows:

Micros:

Yponomeutidae

- 410 *Argyresthia brockeella* (Hb.)
- 411 *Argyresthia goedartella* (L.)
- 420 *Argyresthia pruniella* (Cl.) Cherry Fruit Moth
- 428 *Yponomeuta rorrella* (Hb.) Willow Ermine
- 453 *Ypsolopha dentella* (Fabr.) Honeysuckle Moth
- 464 *Plutella xylostella* (L.) Diamond-backed Moth

Oecophoridae

- 640 *Batia lunaris* (Haw.)
- 642 *Batia unitella* (Hb.)
- 658 *Carcina quercana* (Fabr.)

Gelechiidae

- 762 *Athrips mouffetella* (L.)

Blastobasidae

- 873 *Blastobasis lignea* Wals.
- 874 *Blastobasis decolorella* (Woll.)

Pyalidae

- 1293 *Chrysoteuchia culmella* (L.)
- 1294 *Crambus pascuella* (L.)
- 1302 *Crambus perlella* (Scop.)
- 1304 *Agriphila stramineella* (D. & S.)
- 1331 *Acentria ephemerella* (D. & S.) (= *nivea* auctt.) Water Veneer
- 1334 *Scoparia ambigua* (Tr.)
- 1344 *Eudonia mercurella* (L.)
- 1405 *Pleuroptya ruralis* (Scop.) Mother of Pearl
- 1424 *Endotricha flammealis* (D. & S.)



Barred Rivulet
© Ian Kimber

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- 1433 *Cryptoblabes bistriga* (Haw.)
1436 *Conobathra repandana* (Fabr.) (= *Acrobasis repandana* sensu Goater)
1437 *Acrobasis consociella* (Hb.)
1452 *Phycita roborella* (D.& S.)
1454a? *Dioryctria* sp. ? *schuetzeella* Fuchs. Requires dissection to confirm identity

Tortricidae

- 937 *Agapeta hamana* (L.)
972 *Pandemis heparana* (D.& S.)
977 *Archips podana* (Scop.)
987 *Ptycholomoides aeriferana* (H.ó S.)
1036 *Acleris forsskaleana* (L.)
1063 *Celypha striana* (D.& S.)
1079 *Piniphila bifasciana* (Haw.) last Herts record was in 1934.
1093 *Apotomis betuletana* (Haw.)
1113 *Eudemis profundana* (D.& S.)
1155 *Epinotia brunnichana* (L.)
1175 *Epiblema uddmanniana* (L.) Bramble Shoot-tip Moth
1201 *Eucosma cana* (Haw.)
1205 *Spilonota ocellana* (D.& S.)
1211 *Rhyacionia pinicolana* (Doubl.)
1260 *Cydia splendana* (Hb.)

Macros:

COSSIDAE

161 Leopard Moth

DREPANIDAE

1645 Scalloped Hook-tip

1646 Oak Hook-tip

1647 Barred Hook-tip

1648 Pebble Hook-tip

THYATIRIDAE

1652 Peach Blossom

1653 Buff Arches

GEOMETRIDAE

1666 Large Emerald

1667 Blotched Emerald

1669 Common Emerald

1673 Small Emerald

1680 Maiden's Blush

1702 Small Fan-footed Wave

1708 Single-dotted Wave

1713 Riband Wave

1724 Red Twin-spot Carpet

1726 Large Twin-spot Carpet

1732 Shaded Broad-Bar

1738 Common Carpet

1759 Small Phoenix

1769 Spruce Carpet

1777 July Highflyer



Oak Hook-tip
© David Painter

- 1803 Small Rivulet
- 1804 Barred Rivulet
- 1825 Lime-speck Pug
- 1858 V-Pug
- 1887 Clouded Border
- 1893 Tawny-barred Angle
- 1906 Brimstone Moth
- 1917 Early Thorn
- 1919 Purple Thorn
- 1921 Scalloped Oak
- 1922 Swallow-tailed Moth
- 1931 Peppered Moth
- 1937 Willow Beauty
- 1941 Mottled Beauty
- 1947 Engrailed
- 1948 Small Engrailed
- 1955 Common White Wave
- 1961 Light Emerald
- 1962 Barred Red



Small Phoenix
© David Painter

SPHINGIDAE

- 1978 Pine Hawk-moth

NOTODONTIDAE

- 1994 Buff Tip
- 2000 Iron Prominent
- 2003 Pebble Prominent
- 2008 Coxcomb Prominent

LYMANTRIIDAE

- 2030 Yellowtail
- 2033 Black Arches

ARCTIIDAE

- 2037 Rosy Footman
- 2047 Scarce Footman
- 2049 Buff Footman
- 2050 Common Footman
- 2064 Ruby Tiger

NOCTUIDAE

- 2102 Flame Shoulder
- 2107 Large Yellow Underwing
- 2110 Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing
- 2111 Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing
- 2128 Double Square-spot
- 2193 Clay
- 2198 Smoky Wainscot
- 2225 Minor Shoulder-knot
- 2268 Suspected
- 2283/4 Dark/Grey Dagger
- 2305 Small Angle Shades
- 2318 Dun-bar



Willow Beauty
© Ian Kimber

Hertfordshire and Middlesex

2321 Dark Arches
2335 Slender Brindle
2339 Tawny Marbled Minor
2343/a Common Rustic sp.
2381 Uncertain
2425 Nut-tree Tussock
2434 Burnished Brass
2443 Plain Golden Y
2477 Snout
2489 Fan-foot
2492 Small Fan-foot

Saturday 23rd September 2000 - Amwell GP Nature Reserve, Amwell., Herts.

For this ~~National Moth Night~~ event 5 MV lights were operated between 1900 and 1130 amongst reeds and tallows dominating the area. There were slightly more moths than people, but both were outnumbered by Hornets which caused a few problems, although

luckily no one was stung! Highlights were a few Bulrush Wainscot *Nonagria typhae*, Black Rustic *Aporophyla nigra* and a single Deep-brown Dart *Aporophyla lutulenta*. The only migrant species was a single Dark Sword-grass *Agrosit ipsilon*. The complete list is as follows:

OECOPHORIDAE

Agonopterix arenella (D&S)

GELECHIIDAE

Hypatima rhomboidella (L.)

TORTRICIDAE

Acleris emargana (Fabr.)

PYRALIDAE

Nomophila noctuella (D&S.)

Phycita roborella (D. & S.)

GEOMETRIDAE

Garden Carpet

Common Marbled Carpet

Willow Beauty

NOCTUIDAE

Dark Sword-grass



Dun-bar
© Ian Kimber

the

Large Yellow Underwing
Lesser Yellow Underwing
Lesser Broad-bordered Yellow Underwing
Setaceous Hebrew Character
Square-spot Rustic
Common Wainscot
Deep-brown Dart
Black Rustic
Lunar Underwing
Pink-barred Sallow
Sallow
Copper Underwing
Angle Shades
Rosy Rustic
Bulrush Wainscot
Vines Rustic
Snout



Phycita roborella
© David Painter

Sunday 8th October 2000 - Leaf-miner workshop, Broxbourne Woods, Herts.

About a dozen people, young and old alike, attended this event led by Colin Plant and Ray Uffen in Hertfordshire's only NNR at Broxbourne Woods. An initial introduction to the types of leaf-mines to look for was followed by searching trees and shrubs along a path near the car park for potential species. A number were identified on the spot by the experts. After lunch Colin set up a microscope in his campervan to enable attendees to examine the finer points of leaf-mines such as frass patterns, eggs and cocoons. A number of species were collected and were identified by Colin as follows:



Pink-barred Sallow
© Ian Kimber

by
by
the

Broxbourne Wood (morning session) TL3207.

- 0034 Ectoedemia occultella (L.) (= argentipedella (Zell.))
- 0035 Ectoedemia minimella (Zett.) (mediofasciella (Haw.))
- 0039 Ectoedemia heringi (Toll) (= quercifoliae (Toll.))
- 0050 Stigmella aurella (Fabr.)
- 0053 Stigmella splendidissimella (H.- S.)

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- 0064 *Stigmella continuella* (Stt.)
0067 *Stigmella plagicolella* (Stt.)
0073 *Stigmella trimaculella* (Haw.)
0075 *Stigmella floslactella* (Haw.)
0077 *Stigmella tityrella* (Stt.)
0079 *Stigmella perpygmaecella* (Doubl.)
0084 *Stigmella ruficapitella* (Haw.)
0089 *Stigmella basiguttella* (Hein.)
0092 *Stigmella anomalella* (Goeze)
0093 *Stigmella centifoliella* (Zell.)
0100 *Stigmella oxyacanthella* (Stt.)
0108 *Stigmella crataegella* (Klim.) [old mine]
0111 *Stigmella microtheriella* (Stt.)
0186 *Psyche casta* (Pallas)
0263 *Lyonetia clerkella* (L.)
0288 *Caloptilia stigmatella* (Fabr.)
0293 *Caloptilia syringella* (Fabr.)
Caloptilia alchimiella/robustella
0301 *Parornix betulae* (Stt.)
0303 *Parornix anglicella* (Stt.)
0315 *Phyllonorycter harrisella* (L.)
0318 *Phyllonorycter tenerella* (Joannis)
0320 *Phyllonorycter quercifoliella* (Zell.)
0323 *Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae* (Frey)
0332 *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella* (Hb.)
0335 *Phyllonorycter salicicolella* (Sirc.)
0341 *Phyllonorycter maestingella* (Mull.)
0342 *Phyllonorycter coryli* (Nic.)
0343 *Phyllonorycter quinnata* (Geoff.)
0353 *Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella* (Hb.)
0361 *Phyllonorycter trifasciella* (Haw.)
0362 *Phyllonorycter acerifoliella* (Zell.) = *sylvella* (Haw.)
0368 *Phyllocnistis unipunctella* (Steph.)
0437 *Swammerdamia caesiella* (Hb.) larvae on birch
0496 *Coleophora milvipennis* Zell. case on birch
0537 *Coleophora palliatella* (Zincken) case on oak
Coleophora alticolella/glaucicolella cases on soft rush
- 1236 *Pammene fasciana* (L.) - brown aborted acorns
1994 *Phalera bucephala* (L.)

Buff-tip larvae on sallow.

Danemead Wood (afternoon session) TL3407.

- 0067 *Stigmella plagicolella* (Stt.)
0075 *Stigmella floslactella* (Haw.)
0079 *Stigmella perpygmaecella* (Doubl.)
0089 *Stigmella basiguttella* (Hein.)
-

- 0111 *Stigmella microtheriella* (Stt.)
- 0123 *Tischeria ekebladella* (Bjerk.)
- 0288 *Caloptilia stigmatella* (Fabr.)
- 0301 *Parornix betulae* (Stt.)
- 0303 *Parornix anglicella* (Stt.)
- 0315 *Phyllonorycter harrisella* (L.)
- 0320 *Phyllonorycter quercifoliella* (Zell.)
- 0323 *Phyllonorycter oxyacanthae* (Frey)
- 0332 *Phyllonorycter corylifoliella* (Hb.)
- 0333 *Phyllonorycter salictella* (Zell.) ssp.viminiella (Sirc.)
- 0342 *Phyllonorycter coryli* (Nic.)
- 0343 *Phyllonorycter quinnata* (Geoff.)
- 0345 *Phyllonorycter rajella* (L.)
- 0353 *Phyllonorycter ulmifoliella* (Hb.)
- 0359 *Phyllonorycter nicellii* (Stt.)
- 0362 *Phyllonorycter acerifoliella* (Zell.) = *sylvella* (Haw.)
- 1236 *Pammene fasciana* (L.) - affected acorns, identified by Ray Uffen

Amendments to previous articles.

In the June newsletter I wrote an article about recording the Heart Moth and Buttoned Snout in the branch area. I should have made it clear that it is Colin Plant's theory that the Heart Moth may undergo natural cycles in which they alternate between abundance and rarity, and that we may be entering a period in which it may become abundant once again.

Also, in the September issue of the branch newsletter an article written by Andrew Wood and myself included an address to send moth records to. This should have read 14 not 22 West Road. Therefore, to reiterate, please send all records of moths for Herts and Middlesex to:

Colin Plant, 14 West Road, Bishops Stortford, Herts. CM23 3QP.
(Tel/Fax 01279 507697) Email Colinwplant@compuserve.com

Winter Indoor Meetings.

The first of the Winter indoor meetings will take place on **Saturday January 27th, 2001 at 2.30** pm in the Welwyn Civic Centre, Old Welwyn, Herts.

The speaker will be Ray Uffin, who will talk on “Managing Grassland for Moths”.

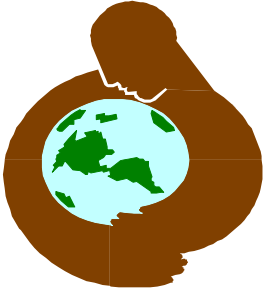
The second meeting, for those who have booked, is on **February 21st**, and is a meeting to look behind the scenes at the Natural History Museum. If you are interested, please contact Liz Goodyear to see if space is still available.



Copy Deadline for the March Newsletter will be

20 February 2001

NB it helps the editor if you can submit an electronic copy of your article (but don't worry if you can't). Files can be on disk or sent by e-mail to ian.small@lineone.net or send an article by post - address on back cover



Conservation Dates

Conservation work is one of the most important activities of the Society, as loss or neglect of suitable habitats is one of the major reasons for the decline in many of our butterflies as well as other wildlife.

Below are a series of dates across Herts. and Middlesex where you can help with essential management that aims to maintain the correct conditions on these sites for the wildlife that inhabits them. Several of the dates are run by the HMWT on their nature reserves.

Millhopper's Pasture SP 900149. Fourth Sunday of the month. Meet at 10.30 am. John and Margaret Noakes need your help. (01296) 660072.

Therfield Heath, TL 335400 First Sunday of each month from 10.00 a.m. - 1 p.m. Details from Vincent Thomson (01763) 341443.

Duchies Piece (Aldbury Nowers) SP 952131. Third Sunday of each month. Meet 10.00 a.m. in the lay-by, near Tring station. For details ring Alan Strawn (new reserve warden) on (01442) 232946

Hertford Heath TL 354111. For details ring Anthony Oliver on (01992) 583404.

Fryent Country Park - details from Leslie Williams at the Brent Ecology Unit on (0181) 206 0492

Patmore Heath TL 443257. Meet at 10.00 a.m. on the last Sunday of each month. Further details from Gavin Vicary (01279) 771933

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