

HERTFORDSHIRE AND MIDDLESEX BRANCH NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 26

JUNE 2001



**BUTTERFLY
CONSERVATION** SM

**Foot and Mouth Makes its
Mark...**

by Gavin Vicary

The last time that I came to write these notes, the Foot and Mouth epidemic was just starting. Not being old enough to remember the 1967 outbreak, little did I realise the full extent of what was to follow.

The number of animals killed, scale of carcass disposal, widespread nature of the outbreak and virtual closure of the countryside were both surprising and shocking. It is to be hoped that the outbreak is

Hertfordshire and Middlesex

behind us, and that steps are taken to minimise the possibility of this disease occurring again.

There are of course considerable conservation implications as well. Many wildlife sites are dependant upon grazing, without it habitats change and so too does the wildlife that they support.

A good example, is one of my favourite nature reserves, Patmore Heath, which I am fortunate to live close to. As grazing ceased during the latter part of the last century, then so the reserve changed, turning from an open heath to semi-woodland, with the loss of much of the wildlife that needed heathland conditions to survive. The heath desperately needs grazing, but sadly Foot and Mouth appears to have prevented this for the time being. Unfortunately, this is at a time when the Wildlife Trust were putting a concerted effort into bringing grazing back.

Also, on the conservation front, the conservation sub-committee has been having regular meetings. Senior figures from other conservation bodies in our branch area have regularly attended and supported these meetings and close collaboration of this nature must be to the benefit of the wildlife that we aim to protect.

The conservation sub-committee aim to encourage one or a group of people to focus upon individual species. One of our members, Christine Shepperson has done this for the Grizzled Skipper in recent years with considerable success.


Each year she produces a Grizzled Skipper report, which collates all the sightings for that particular year. She also persuades people to search known sites as well as old historic ones during the relevant time of year to obtain sightings of this butterfly. Having established where colonies exist Christine is now trying to arrange sympathetic management or work parties to ensure that the habitat remains suitable for this rare butterfly.

The result is that we have a good knowledge of the Grizzled Skipper in our branch area and its future is far more secure than it would otherwise have been. If we can build on this and establish a network of people doing the same for a range of butterflies, then this will do much to halt the declines and extinction's that we have suffered over the last few decades. If anyone wishes to be involved in any of these projects we would be pleased to hear from you.



The field trip programme is currently in full swing. Please contact the field trip leader prior to attending as the restrictions from the Foot and Mouth outbreak may still apply.

Cranford Countryside Park, by Ben Wallbridge (Education Ranger)

Cranford Park is a  Countryside historically and ecologically important park within Middlesex, and is the remnants of the Earls of Berkeley's Manor House Estate. I suspect few other areas in Middlesex have seen as little change throughout the past couple of centuries as the park has, for we are bordered by the M4, a major trunk road, and Heathrow airport is only a stones throw away. The park still retains some of it's original features, such as the Stable block, the Ha-Ha (a walled ditch), St Dunstans Church (11th Century) and a Walled Garden, as well as the remnants of an Ice-house. Unfortunately the Manor House itself was demolished in 1945, after falling into disrepair after the Berkeley family left in 1918, but the cellars still remain.

The Park is managed by the Hounslow Cultural and Community Services Countryside Parks Section, it is one of three sites, the others being Hounslow Heath LNR and Bedfont Lakes Country Park.

The different habitats throughout the park are managed very much with the emphasis on good conservation practice. We have just completed a five year development of a large wetland area adjoining the river Crane. These damp marshy areas have encouraged as many Green Veined Whites as Small Whites into the park, and when we carried out Moth trapping, we counted 105 species present in the park as a whole. As these areas are regionally rare, we are hoping that as they develop over time, they start to attract more unusual and rare species. Other proposed projects include recreating an orchard in the Walled Garden, and the entry of parts of the park into the Countryside Stewardship Scheme. Also we have several projects running at the moment, including the creation of a wildlife garden in a private high walled area. This will be developed as a project for our newly formed

Hertfordshire and Middlesex

kids clubs, to help local youngsters develop an interest in wildlife. It will include climbers such as Honeysuckle, bushes such as Buddleia and various other food plants for the specific species that reside in the park. Both this area and the Walled Garden receive sunlight for most of the day and are sheltered from the wind and hence both are already good for Butterflies.

The park also has large areas of wildflower meadows, which are proving to be successful with Gatekeepers, Small Skippers, Essex Skippers, Small Heaths, Small Coppers, Common Blues, and especially Meadow Browns. The woodland of Cranford Wood has a mixture of mature Oak, Ash, Hornbeam, Horse Chestnut, Beech, Holly and an area dominated by Elm that, naturally, has a considerable amount of dead standing wood. Logs that are produced through management such as coppicing, are left in piles to benefit wildlife, especially invertebrates. We have particularly high numbers of Peacocks, and suspect that they are using the rotting wood, standing dead wood, nooks and crannies of the mature trees as a mass hibernation site. This coupled with the areas of nettles left as a food source, may explain their numbers. The woodland also has a lot of Ivy and Holly in it and this is reflected in the high numbers of Holly Blues we have.



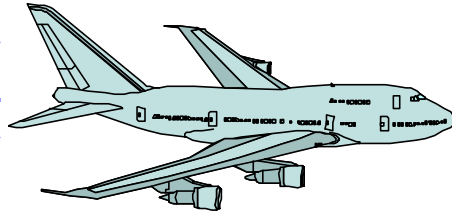
The Park has a large amount of woodland edge, hedgerow and scrub habitat, coupled with areas of rank grasses, which seem to attract good numbers of Large Skippers.



On the 11th August we are running a moth trapping evening (8:30pm – 10:30pm) in conjunction with your organisation and look forward to meeting many of you. Do come and pop your head round the Rangers Office door if you come to visit the park and have any questions for us, or contact us through e-mail (cranford.park@btinternet.com) or ring 0208 573 1443.

The park is open from 7:30 am until 9pm during the summer months, and is situated north east of Heathrow Airport, entrance to the park is from the roundabout at junction 3 of the M4.

Errors &
the Annual
2000 -
Wood &



Omissions in
Report for
Andrew
John Murray

Butterfly
central office

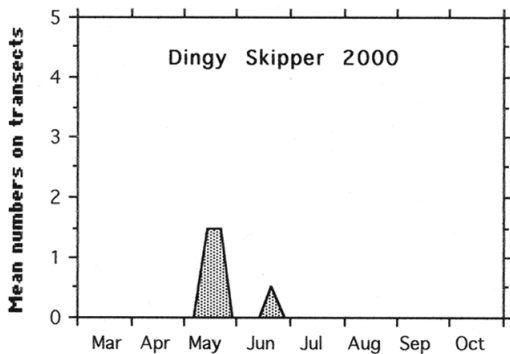
more funding to computerise transect records nationwide, and to meet an urgent deadline, in January Tom Brereton collected all our transect records (which take up 14 box files) for both Hertfordshire and Middlesex going back more than ten years. These are now being fully entered into their database, including separate records for each section of each transect, which we have not done before.

Conservation
has received

These original records were therefore not available when the Annual Report was being prepared, so our own computer records could not be checked against your original transect sheets in the usual way. A number of transect walkers have pointed out mistakes in the transect data published in the 2000 report that have crept in as a result, and one transect (Blackbridge) was not included at all. But as yet corrections will have to await the return of the originals from central office.

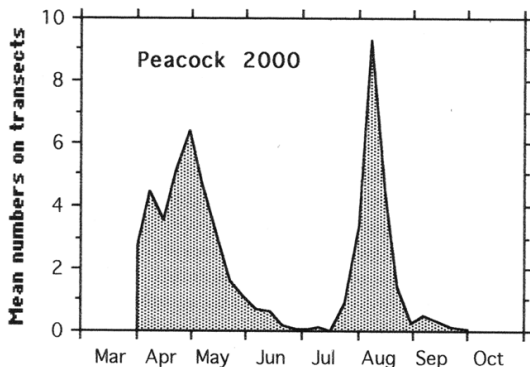
In addition, the following errors have crept in:

Page 16 The Dingy Skipper flight graph below should replace that for the Grizzled Skipper included in the Dingy Skipper section of the report



Page 17 The Grizzled Skipper flight graph on p16 should replace that for the Large Skipper in the Grizzled Skipper section.

Page 37 The flight graph for the Peacock, below, should be



Regional Development Officers, by John Stevens, Branch Organiser

Butterfly Conservation has been developing proposals for a network of locally based regional staff through the UK. These staff will be known as National Officers in Wales and Scotland and Regional Development Officers elsewhere. Wherever possible, the costs of the appointments will be covered in full or in part by external grants and funding but in some cases it may be necessary to use BC national funds to cover part of the costs.

Appointments for Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland are currently 'in-hand' thanks to offers of funding from the appropriate statutory conservation bodies (and others) and a North of England RDO has been appointed on a part time basis.

As far as our branch is concerned, the matter is complicated by the need to align (for reasons of funding) the RDO area with statutory Regional Development Areas, of which Greater London is one. Accordingly a London Development Officer will be appointed to cover those parts of BC branches (Herts/Middx, Surrey, Kent and Essex/Cambs) which fall within Greater London. In due course other RDO's will be appointed to cover South East England, East Anglia etc and thus our branch will have two officers to cover our two counties. Regular meetings will take place to ensure that local needs are not overlooked by national objectives.

Generally, the objectives of the RDO's will include publicity and raising public awareness of BC as a conservation body as well as assisting with the implementation of existing Regional Action Plans for threatened species. Local branch officers are all volunteers and have limited free time available during the day so it will be very valuable to have someone who can meet conservation and funding bodies during office hours.

Latest Sightings.....

For those of you who do not have access to the internet, or perhaps who have not yet ventured onto our own Branch website, I reproduce below some extracts from the recent sightings page. If, like me, you have limited time to go butterfly watching (and the time you have is always when its cold and wet !) these observations provide a 'virtual' window to what is happening in the countryside.....*editor*.

17th June - News from Stuart Pittman - Got a **Small Blue** at **Ickleford** on 13th June. This is my latest June first brood sighting!

16th June - On the **14th June** I spent 5 hours in **TL32** on a warm and sunny day surveying dragonflies for the Herts Atlas. Although the dragonflies are now beginning to warm up, I only managed to see **1 Red Admiral** at **Nobles Farm** (TL362246), 1 Small White drinking at a pond at **Wakeley Farm** (TL343270) and 1 or 2 distant "whites" - Alan Reynolds

15th June - Saw my first Meadow Brown for the year and a Small White by Sacred Heart School in **Ware** today - Andrew Wood

News from **Tring Park**. Although parts of Tring Park are not open, Brian Jessop reports that he has permission to walk some of his important Tring Park transect. Highlights include 2 Small Tortoiseshell at the beginning of May and on the **24th May** he saw **4 Dingy Skipper**, **3 Grizzled Skipper** and **2 Green Hairstreak**. The Green Hairstreaks, although not mating were a pair and were flying around an anthill covered in rockrose. Although sightings are poor this year, he has seen a few Common Blue, Brown Argus, Small Heath and 4 or 5 Large Skipper. He has just seen his first **Meadow Brown** of the year and was also very surprised to see a male **Orange Tip**. There are however, lots of day flying moths this year, including Burnet Companion, Latticed Heath and Mother Shipton. Sightings in his **Tring** garden have also been poor, although he has seen a Holly Blue and a Green-veined White egg laying on aubretia.

News from **13th** - **Meadow Brown** seen in **Trent Park** by Robert Callf

14th June - In almost perfect weather (contrary to the weather forecast) visited my "**South Herts**" transect and the surrounding area

for a 5 hour "stroll" accompanied by Andrew Middleton - but sightings won't break any records, although some were quite nice. Seen were **7 Large Skipper (including a mating pair)**, 3 Peacock, **2 Red Admiral**, 3 Common Blue, 1 Small Copper, 1 Green-veined White, 1 unknown white and 3 very smart Speckled Woods, also a possible Brown Argus but it wasn't prepared to let us confirm its identity. Moths included Yellow Shell, Cinnabar, Burnet Companion, Small Yellow Underwing, **3 Silver Y** and a day- flying moth yet to be identified - Liz Goodyear

John Hollingdale reports that he saw a **Painted Lady** in his garden in **Harrow** on the **12th**

13th June - **Ramsey Marsh** today pm - 4 male Common Blues, 2 Burnet Companions, 1 Mother Shipton - bit disappointing - Andrew Middleton

12th June - News from across the border in Essex just (Yates Meadow **Epping Forest**) - saw my first **Meadow Brown** of the year - Andrew Middleton

9 Small Heaths at Rickneys Quarry nr **Chapmore End** on **4th June** - Andrew Wood

Trent Park area - **Large Skipper**, 2 Burnet Companions, 1 Small Yellow Underwing **Thursday 7th** 6 Small Copper and 15 Small Heath, 1 female common blue – various sightings from both Robert Callf and Robin White

News from **5th June Ponders End Lake**- **1 Painted Lady**. - Steve Connor

6th June - Saw my first Small Heath yesterday (5th June) in **Stevenage**, along with 4 Common Blue - Trevor Chapman

5th June - Also a **Dingy Skipper** today! (**Hexton Chalk Pits**) Went to photograph the Green Hairstreaks but did not see any. The famous rubbish dump at HCT was taken away today by contractor and the car park is now fenced and gated. The reserve is still open but Telegraph Hill is still shut although the Icknield Way going through it is open. Pegsdon Hills still closed on the Beds side - Nigel Agar

The usual walk on **Hounslow Heath** produced 1 Common Blue, 6 Small Heath, 1 Small Tortoiseshell, 4 Speckled Wood and 10+ Whites that never seem to give me the chance to ID - Chris Court

Hertfordshire and Middlesex

Things have been fairly quiet on **Horsenden Hill** so far this summer, e.g just low numbers of 7 species in perfect conditions on Sunday (and no Small Heath yet this year after a blank year last summer). I did see a Small White yesterday on **Euston Bus Station** - an odd location for any form of wildlife! - Andy Culshaw

4th June - At least two **Green Hairstreaks** at **Hexton Chalk Pits** this afternoon. Both were flying low over the turf in the way that the females do while egg laying. I had no camera with me but was close enough for photographs. It looks as though we do have a colonisation here. Sightings of them in past years have been very sporadic and I have never seen them here myself before today. Also Common Blue and Brimstone. I checked out Ickleford railway line again for Small Blues but no luck. Kidney Vetch in flower. Holly Blue and Orange Tip present. Orange Tip have laid eggs in my garden at **Hitchin** on Jack by the Hedge - Nigel Agar

One **Painted Lady** seen at **New House Park St.Albans** at 3:30 on 4 June - Charles Smith

Trent Park/Vicarage Farm area - 1 Common Blue, 3 Mother Shipton, 1 Burnet Companion, **Yesterday** west 'new fields', **19 Small Heath, 10 Small Copper**, 1 male Common Blue, 1 Mother Shipton - R Callf, also R White

Good to get my first Wall Brown of the weaker spring brood at Pirton in mid May, Holly blue numbers picking up. Small Tortoiseshell and Comma still elusive - Stuart Pittman

I walked along the old Midland Railway at **Ickleford** this morning to look for Small Blues. No sign but worth another look. The habitat seems right and Kidney Vetch is present. Holly Blue, Speckled Wood and Small White were out. Yesterday at **Hexton Chalk Pits**, Mark Allen of the HMWT thought he saw a **Green Hairstreak** - at that moment a Hornet appeared and caused a distraction. Small Copper on Old Hale Way allotments this morning - Nigel Agar

30th May - **Waterford Heath**; Spent 2 1/2 hours searching both the north and south pits this afternoon and found at least **14 Grizzled Skippers**. They were seen along the Sacombe Road side of both pits, down the "stony slope" and near the railway line, highlight though was a **pair mating** on plantain flower head. Also seen were 1 Small Copper, 4 Common Blue, 3 Brown Argus, 4 Orange Tip, 4

Cinnabar, a Small Yellow Underwing and several Burnet Companion moths. A visit in the morning to the **Hoddesdon Quarry** area was very disappointing (dragonflies excluded from this comment) although 12 Burnet Companion and 4 Latticed Heath moths were seen - Andrew Middleton & Liz Goodyear

29th May - Things still seem a little slow in getting started west of **Stevenage**. I walked for 30 minutes down a country lane lined with traditional hedgerows and woodland, passing through an area of waste ground and onto one of the flower meadows. It was warm, sunny and in some places reasonably sheltered, but on this "perfect" day I only managed to record 2 Small Copper, 2 Peacock and 2 Orange Tip - Alan Reynolds

News from the **Trent Park area** for the last 7 days. Small Copper maximum seen so far 8 on 24th May. **2 Small Heath** on 24th May and 9 (in an hour) on 26th May. **1 Red Admiral** 25th May and 2 on 27th May. 2 Holly Blue together on the Enfield Road. Male Common Blue 26th **Burnet Companion** and a **Silver Y** moth on 25th May, also seen Small Yellow Underwing and Mother Shipton - Robert Callf and Robin

Yesterday 1 Red Admiral passed through my garden in **Hayes**, Middlesex.

28th May - Silver Street area, **EN7**, **Painted Lady** - Martin Shepherd

If you have access to the internet, then you can keep up to date with these local sightings, or can post your own observations on the Branch website, at: <http://www.hmbutterflyconservation.org.uk/>



Apology...

You will have seen the photograph of Malcolm Newland manning the plant stall in the last newsletter - by oversight Malcolm's name was omitted from the list of growers from whom plants could be obtained. He also often has seeds available. If you are looking for something, then give him a call on (01442) 267200.

FIELD STUDIES COUNCIL COURSES

Two courses of potential interest to Branch members are being provided during July at Juniper Hall, Dorking, Surrey.....

A CLOSER LOOK AT MOTHS

Introduction From **Friday 6th July through to Sunday 8th July** 2001 there will be a course entitled "*A closer look at moths*". The course is being held at **Juniper Hall, Dorking, Surrey**, and the course tutor will be **Ken Willmott FRES**.

This week-end course will concentrate on methodology and identification of the Macro moths of the British Isles.

Course Content This week-end course will concentrate on methodology and identification of the Macro moths of the British Isles. A moth trap will be run in the grounds of Juniper Hall and other sites, so that comparisons can be made between habitats. The morning catches will be sorted and identified, using Bernard

Skinner's "*Moths of the British Isles*" and the Field Centre's moth collections to confirm identification of the more difficult species.

Alternative methods of attracting moths will be used, such as "sugaring" and "wine roping". The sugaring method requires us to make our own sticky, potent recipe to brush onto local tree trunks. Wine-roping is a relatively new practice, which involves soaking a length of rope and hanging it in a suitable habitat to attract moths from the local populations.

Juniper Hall has an excellent garden managed for wildlife, including a special butterfly garden generously funded and maintained by the Surrey (with SW London) branch of Butterfly Conservation. It is surrounded by the Box Hill SSSI (designated European SAC) with 41 recorded butterflies. Of these, 35 occur in the Centre grounds each year, and a very wide range of moths can be found.

The Centre is close to a variety of good sites including chalk grassland, heathland and woodland, all good habitats for a wide variety of moths. Local sites will be visited during the day to search for day-flying moths and to sample the larval stages of moths. The method of collecting moth larvae by the use of a Bignell beating tray or upturned umbrella will be used. This equipment can be placed underneath the branches of a tree or bush, which is then lightly beaten, causing resident larvae to tumble into the upturned umbrella or tray. Jim Porter's book on "*The Caterpillars of the British Isles*" will be used in an attempt to identify the larvae collected in this way

The Course Tutor Ken Willmott FRES

Ken Willmott has been interested in the Lepidoptera, particularly butterflies, for over 35 years. He made a small collection of the common species in his later years at school, but soon purchased his first camera.

He has many hundreds of colour transparencies which he uses to illustrate his lectures and to assemble displays. He has lectured in many venues both in the UK and in the USA.

Many of his images have been published in the Lepidoptera literature and he has recently written and illustrated a booklet on the Holly Blue for Butterfly Conservation

What to bring **Butterfly net** (if you have one) and **good torch** (any other equipment will be provided by the Centre).

- Thermos flask
- Lunchbox
- Small haversack or rucksack
- Warm clothing
- Waterproofs*
- Wellingtons* or stout shoes or boots
(* These can be borrowed from the Centre at no extra cost)
- Pen, pencils and notebook(s)
- Photographic equipment if you wish to take pictures of moths during the course

PHOTOGRAPHING BUTTERFLIES AND MOTHS

From **Friday 20th July through to Sunday 22nd July 2001** there will be a course entitled "*Photographing butterflies and moths*". The course is being held at **Juniper Hall, Dorking, Surrey**, and the course tutor will be **John Bebbington FRPS**.

The main aims of the course will be to appreciate the exquisite beauty of butterfly and moth when seen through the camera lens and to give course members the confidence in both their fieldcraft and techniques to enjoy their photography.

Course content The course will begin on the Friday evening with an illustrated introductory lecture in which both the delights and problems of butterfly and moth photography are pointed out and solutions and approaches discussed. Points will include equipment, degree of magnification, selection of viewpoint and lighting. These will be discussed in a straightforward manner which beginners should have no problem in understanding.

The next two days will be devoted mainly to work on moths taken in the Robinson moth-trap and in the field (weather permitting) with the aim of providing practical experience in butterfly and moth photography. It is hoped that participants will bring their own slides, and/or prints for constructive criticism and interest.

The main aims of the course will be to appreciate the exquisite beauty of butterfly and moth when seen through the camera lens and to give course members the confidence in both their fieldcraft and techniques to enjoy their photography.

The Course Tutor John Bebbington FRPS

John Bebbington specialises in close-up photography of flowers and insects and has been leading photography courses at the Centre and abroad since 1979. He also leads photographic days at the RHS Wisley Garden and lectures to photographic and natural history societies and branches of the Alpine Garden Society.

In 1991 he was awarded Fellowship of the Royal Photographic Society for a panel of slides on protective colouration in Butterflies and Moths, and is a member of the RPS Associateship and Fellowship Panel in the Nature category.

Equipment to bring

Camera. SLR 35mm preferred, with facilities for manual exposure, use of cable release and off-camera flash, with a macro lens and close-focusing wide-angle lens if you have them; if not, normal lenses with accessories, i.e. close-up accessory lenses, extension tubes, a good teleconverter. A small manual flashgun and extension leads (2 or 3 metres long).

Tripod. You will need a sturdy tripod with legs which will splay out more or less flat (e.g. Benbo Trekker, Uni-Loc 1600 or Major 1600). A good bean-bag (around 9" x 7" [25cx18cm]) - filled with lentils is useful for low level work and much easier to handle than a tripod!

Other Accessories A long sturdy cable release, 2 brightly-coloured plastic clothes pegs, brightly coloured insulating tape, 2 long knitting-needles (these can be used for stabilising flowers - you will be shown how). Members should bring their own film.

It is best to use the type (negative or transparency) which you already know and like

Course times for both courses:

Residents Course registration will take place between 3.30pm and 6.00pm on the Friday of the course. Afternoon tea will be available at 5.30pm.

Non-residents Non-residents should arrive in time for an informal welcome over sherry (or soft drinks) at 6.30pm and the evening meal at 7.00pm.

After dinner An introduction to Centre routine, with important

Hertfordshire and Middlesex

health and safety information, will be given before the start of the course.

At the end of the course The course finishes with afternoon tea at around 5.00pm on Sunday, with departure as soon as possible after this. For anyone who has travelled long distances we may be able to offer bed and breakfast for Sunday evening.

Costs (both courses are the same)

Course Fees

Residents £119.00.
Non-residents £93.00.
Members of the Field Studies Council may deduct £3.00.
Single room supplement (subject to availability) £7.50 per night.

Resident fees include tuition, full board accommodation, use of centre facilities, centre-organised transport and most entry fees (where applicable).

Non-resident fees include all the above except breakfast and accommodation.

Don't forget that if you have attended a course at Juniper Hall during the last five years and bring with you a friend who is a new customer to Juniper Hall you will qualify for a 10% discount on the course fee in addition to any FSC member discount. Please remember to ask for your discount(s) on your booking form

How to book

Please telephone, fax or email Juniper Hall to make a provisional booking. Your place will be held for 7 days. If the course is already full you may wish to be put on a waiting list – we will then inform you if a vacancy becomes available.

- **Telephone:** 0845 458 3507 between 9.00am and 5.30pm
There is an answerphone service at other times
- **Fax:** 0845 458 9219

Email: fsc.juniper@ukonline.co.uk

Moth of the Month - Green Arches

Anaplectoides prasina

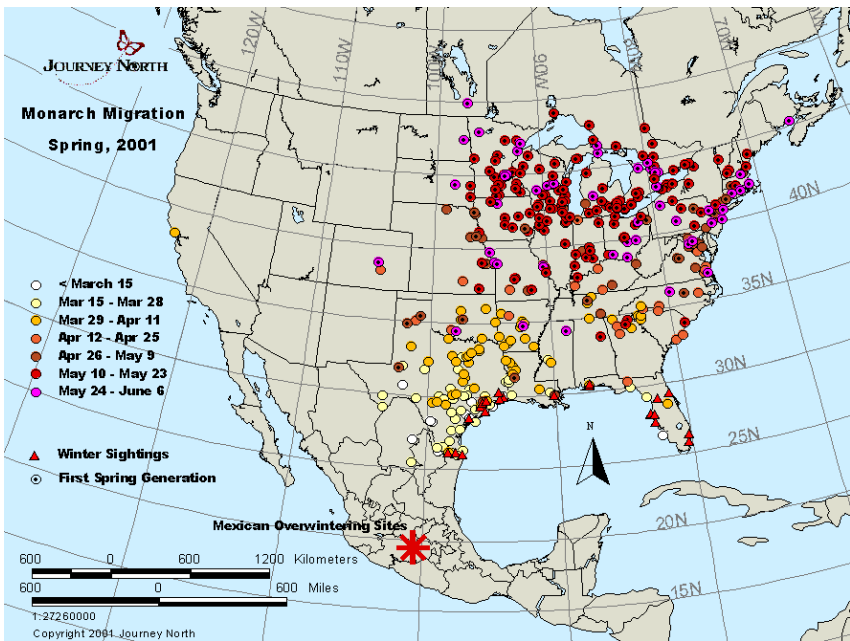
The specific name of this moth, *prasina*, refers to the green colour of the forewing. This green colour tends to fade with time assuming an ochreous hue. The adult moth is nocturnal and flies from mid-June to mid-July. It comes to light and to sugar solution.

A species of deciduous woodland, the larva feeds on a variety of plants, including honeysuckle and bilberry. Widely distributed, but local over much of the British Isles



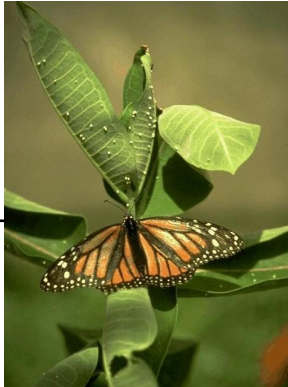
Update on the Mexican Monarchs, by Ian Small

I am sure that many of you will have been shocked by the article I included in the last newsletter, describing the catastrophe which had resulted in the deaths of an estimated 22 million Monarch butterflies at their overwintering site in Mexico. It is with a great sense of relief that I am able to report in this issue that significant numbers (probably still in the many millions) did survive the intense cold, and were able to commence their northward migration very shortly afterwards, at the end of March. I provide below a map charting the migration this year, and you can see that these incredible butterflies have now reached throughout the USA and into Canada.





Adult nectaring



Adult with eggs on milkweed

larva



EXTRA FIELD MEETING

Bunkers Park & Long Deans NR, Hemel Hempstead.

Butterfly Walk on Sunday, 22 July 2001

Michael Pearson will lead a butterfly walk round Bunkers Park and, hopefully, Long Deans nature reserve (subject to the lifting of the present foot-and-mouth restrictions) in conjunction with the Hemel Hempstead Open Spaces Society. Anyone who is interested is cordially invited to come along.

Time/Date: 2pm Sunday 22 July 2001

Meet at: Bunkers Park car park (TL 086060), off Bedmond Road ca 200m beyond Leverstock Green village boundary.

Contact: Michael Pearson, tel.01582 840772



CHANGE OF DATE

NOTE that the moth evening at Fryent Country Park, previously scheduled for Saturday 8th September, will now take place on Sunday 9th September instead.



Where to Find Information on the Internet, by John Stevens.

I thought that our technologically connected members may be interested in joining newsgroups which exist for information on:



UK botany, UK lepidoptera, UK orthoptera, UK wildlife, Norfolk wildlife, Cornish wildlife and UK dragonflies.

To join each of these groups send a blank email to:

ukbotany-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
uk-leps-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
uk-grasshoppers-crickets-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
ukwildlife-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Norfolk-wildlife-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Cornishwildlife-subscribe@yahoogroups.com
Dragonflies-uk-subscribe@yahoogroups.com

and some interesting websites.....

Butterflies in Hampshire <http://fp.litjens.plus.com/>
<http://fp.litjens.plus.com/HantsPhotoGallery.htm>

Hordle Cliffs <http://fp.litjens.plus.com/Hordle.htm>

Butterfly Sites in Hampshire <http://fp.litjens.plus.com/sites.htm>

Dragonflies in Ireland <http://www.dragonflyireland.fsnet.co.uk/>

Local Wildlife & Geological Links (SE England)
<http://cbr.nc.us.mensa.org/homepages/BMLSS/ADUR2001.htm#Links>

There are also some excellent websites providing information and superb illustrations of butterflies and moths.....

Moths and Butterflies of Europe:

<http://digilander.iol.it/leps> provides a large sample of European moths and butterflies and, for each species, information about foodplants, breeding, life cycle

<http://www.butterfly-guide.co.uk> - Captains Butterfly guide contains possible destinations within Europe for seeing butterflies; checklists for **all** European countries. Detailed UK specific information, including flight times and 192 places to see wild butterflies. Identification: Life-Cycle: Detailing the remarkable change from egg through to adult. Photography: Some ideas on equipment and technique for capturing butterflies on film. Survival: Butterfly predators, how butterflies elude capture and habitat preferences. General Information: What makes a butterfly, classification, numbers of species, a glossary, species checklists and other areas of interest. Bibliography: A selection of field guides and other books on Butterfly related topics.

<http://www.geocities.com/europeanbutterflies//indexUS.htm> is a very comprehensive site providing photos of a large proportion of European species.



Copy Deadline for the September Newsletter will be
5 September 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

ARTICLES WANTED !



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 (020) 8206 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

Committee Members

Chairman: Gavin Vicary

Hillside Cottage, Patmore Heath, Albury, Herts. SG11 2LS.....(01279) 771933

Branch Organiser: John Stevens

3 Scarborough Road, Edmonton, Middlesex, N9 8AT..... (020) 8804 6918
anax@breathermail.net

Secretary: Liz Goodyear

7 Chestnut Avenue, Ware, Herts., SG12 7JE (01920) 487066
elizabethgoodyear@talk21.com

Treasurer: John Hollingdale

36 Southfield Park, North Harrow, Middx. HA2 6HE.....(020) 8863 2077
hollhu@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter Editor: Ian Small

59 Penn Way, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 2SH (01462) 677654
ian.small@lineone.net

Conservation Advisor: Brian Sawford

38 Northfields, Letchworth, Herts. SG6 4QX.....(01462) 631735

Records Collator: John Murray

Field End, Marshalls Heath, Wheathampstead, Herts. AL4 8HS..... (01582) 833544
J.B.Murray@open.ac.uk

Membership Secretary: Margaret Noakes

Millhoppers Reserve Manager: John Noakes
Old Church Cottage, Chapel Lane, Long Marston, Herts HP23 4QT (01296) 660072

Moth Recorder: Andrew Wood

93 Bengoe Street, Hertford, Herts. SG14 3EL (01992) 503571
andrew@comma.freeserve.co.uk

Sales Officer: Malcolm Hull

11 Abbey View Road, St. Albans, Herts. AL3 4QL (01727) 857893
malcolmhull@djonas.co.uk

Alan Downie

11 Fowley Mead Park, Longcroft Drive, Holdbrook,
Waltham Cross, Herts. EN8 7SX..... (01992) 650829

Ian Wynne

151 Riverside Road, St. Albans. Herts. AL1 1RZ (01727) 854076
ian.wynne@btinternet.com

David Chandler

24 Henley Close, Houghton Regis, Beds. LU5 5SA (01582) 862361

Please direct your correspondence to the relevant committee member. The magazine is produced by the Hertfordshire and Middlesex branch of Butterfly Conservation (The British Butterfly Conservation Society Ltd.) a registered company in England No. 2206468, which is a registered charity (No. 254937) with limited liability status. Registered Office:Manor Yard, East Lulworth, near Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP. The views expressed in the magazine are not necessarily those of the committee or the national society. Copyright 2001.