



HERTFORDSHIRE AND MIDDLESEX BRANCH NEWSLETTER.

ISSUE 4

NOVEMBER 1995



After the Sun the Rain By Malcolm Newland

As far as branch activities go, 1995 has been a year of keeping to basics whilst we consolidate as a new region of Butterfly Conservation. As detailed in the report on our A.G.M. we can look back on a satisfactory start and forward to more exciting times ahead.

After a memorable summer, September did it's best to replenish the water table in double quick time, although, as usual our area was spared the worst of the rain. In my patch Red Admirals were present in threes and fours together with Commas, Small Tortoiseshells, the

occasional Peacock and my latest ever record for Holly Blue.

Whites have been conspicuous by their absence. When I was on holiday in Dorset in mid-August I saw several Small Whites laying their eggs on cabbages. Nothing unusual in this, except these were cut cabbages on a market stall in Dorchester, so their efforts were doomed to failure. In my garden Small Whites were ovipositing on perennial Candytuft, but I did not see any larvae in later searches.

Two Small Coppers found their way in to the garden, my first ever records of this butterfly in over twenty years. The first specimen was seen on Oxford Ragwort that I had grown in a pot especially to lure one in!

Turning to moths, I have identified 104 species in two years, including recently, Humming Bird and Convolvulus Hawk Moths. Not bad for a garden of 180 square yards.

This year, apart from Oxford Ragwort, I have tried Heliotrope "Cherry Pie" which really does smell of cherries, Aster Amellus and Butterfly Weed as nectar plants and all have been successful.

Roll on 1996 and may I take this opportunity to wish you all the best for Christmas and the New Year.

Can you help: 1? Looking ahead to the weekend of July 21st and 22nd 1996, Surrey Branch are holding their biennial Butterfly Festival at Juniper Hall near Mickleham. If anyone can help out, please call Dennis Newland on 0181 660 1018.

Can You Help: 2? Calling all butterfly gardeners. It is hoped that a plant sales event can be arranged for next year. If anyone is prepared to help by growing some plants from seed and donating them, then please let me know. I have a surplus of certain seeds that can be used for the purpose.

Camberwell Beauty In Hitchin by Stuart Pittman

Following reports of rare migrant dragonflies, such as Yellow-Winged and Vagrant Darters along the South and East coasts of England in early August 1995, an easterly immigration of Camberwell Beauties were also reported, the earliest so far originating from Great Yarmouth.

It was therefore, an extremely exciting encounter that I and a friend, Mike Watson, had when we found a Camberwell Beauty in Hitchin town centre on the morning of 4th August.

This was not just a chance encounter as we were deliberately exploring a "Buddleia forest" on some derelict land behind the main shops. The huge number of bushes were attracting large numbers of Painted Ladies (27) as well as the usual other Nymphalids and Satyridae.

It is interesting to note that in the last great Camberwell Beauty invasion year of 1976, when over 300 were reported (Chalmers Hunt Entomological Record 1977) the first arrivals from the Baltic via Denmark also appeared in Great Yarmouth, although earlier on 27th June.

It remains to be seen if 1995 matches the widespread dispersal of that in 1976 which incorporated the North Midlands, Yorkshire (via Humber Estuary), Essex, Kent and lesser numbers in the north west. There have already been other sightings in 1995 and so the outlook is indeed sanguine.

It later became clear that a large immigration and dispersal did in fact take place with many sightings across the country - Ed.

A Novice's Notes by Sue Benwell

I'm really no expert when it comes to identifying butterflies, although I can recognise some of the more usual visitors to my garden. This year my Buddleia has been covered with Peacocks, Red Admirals, Small Tortoiseshells, Commas and Painted Ladies.

One particularly hot day, however, I spotted a Common Blue fluttering by and then found another dead specimen floating on my garden pond. I was rather puzzled by this, because I had always believed that they only live on Kidney Vetch and to my knowledge there isn't any growing around here.

In fact, I've never seen a blue butterfly in all the nineteen years that I've lived in Weston Turville, so, I watched and waited until I spotted another Common Blue fluttering around our lawn. I went to investigate and noticed that it was settling on a small clover-like plant with tiny yellow flowers. I rushed indoors for my wildflower guide and discovered that it is called Black Medick.

I duly phoned Malcolm Newland who confirmed that they do feed on Black Medick when there are no Bird's Foot Trefoils growing in the vicinity. Unfortunately, my husband has since cut the lawn, but there are still a few Black Medicks left along the edge of the path.

Despite my lack of knowledge, I feel pleased with my little bit of detective work. Although, it's still a mystery to me why Common Blue's should have just suddenly appeared in my garden. Any ideas?

Foodplant of the Common Blue is Bird's Foot Trefoil and members may be able to attract Common Blues to their garden by growing this in a suitable spot. Holly Blue numbers have also increased after a period of cyclic decline and these too are often seen in gardens - Ed.

A.G.M. Report

1. Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Phil MacMurdie.

2. Chairman's Report

Malcolm Newland stated that after the formation of the new branch, 1995 had been a year of consolidation. During this time a comprehensive range of field trips had taken place at a variety of venues and these were generally well attended and few had been spoiled by the weather. Our indoor meetings had also gone well, although, it was hoped that greater numbers would attend in future.

The hot summer meant that butterflies had a better than average year and in some cases flight times had been advanced by up to two weeks. It had also been a good year for migrants with a Camberwell Beauty seen in Hertfordshire and other rare migrants such as Monarchs were seen on numerous occasions in the southwest, apparently arriving here having been blown off course by hurricanes.

Conservation is an important part of the society's activities and events are being arranged for Standalone Farm and Stanmore Country Park to coincide with Butterfly Action Weekend. A series of other dates is also being promoted by the branch (see pages 17 & 18). A sub-committee has been formed to collate butterfly records.

Membership had increased slightly during our first year and currently stands at 264. It was felt that the new branch now had a firm basis from which to operate in future years and the committee were thanked for their efforts during the past year.

3. Treasurer's Report

Branch funds currently stand in excess of £5,000 despite donations to the national society and the Prees Heath and Magdalen Down appeals. The branch has a strong financial footing although expenditure may be required on computer equipment for recording

purposes and should any opportunity arise for reserve acquisition

4. Election of Officers

Two new committee members were elected and welcomed; Terry Rodbard as Sales Officer and Dr John Murray to assist with recording.

After the refreshments interval members slides were shown and it became clear that a high level of photographic skill existed amongst our members.

Finally the meeting was treated to a selection of Brian Sawford's slides showing wildlife he had seen during the year including dolphins and Capercaillie in Scotland as well as Cirl Bunting and Adders in Devon and a selection of Erithric Squirrels from Hertfordshire that included black, albino and red varieties.

Moths By Rob Souter

Although the butterfly season is over for another year you can still find moths on the wing throughout the winter (although in much reduced diversity of course).

The November moth and the December moth, for example, are on the wing from October, laying eggs on a variety of deciduous trees and shrubs such as Oak, Elm and Hawthorn ready for the larvae to hatch and feed in the following spring. The Winter moth emerges in the winter months, also laying eggs on deciduous trees and shrubs including Apple, Oak and Blackthorn that again hatch in the spring.

If you see any of these or other moth species over the winter and you've already returned your moth recording sheet, then note the number, location and date to include in next year's recording sheet.

Jersey Farm Park by Gerry Rirsch

There has been increasing awareness over recent years of the destruction and eventual loss of many habitat types in Hertfordshire. Land-use pressures from agriculture, urbanisation and industry have proved to be detrimental to wildlife, particularly butterflies. Valuable habitats such as Heather, *Calluna vulgaris*, heathland, for example, have decreased by 96% since 1940 and only 30 hectares remain today.

Hope is not lost, however, and trends towards habitat restoration and creation are becoming evident. One such area is the Jersey Farm Woodland Park, on the northern outskirts of St. Albans, which was started in 1992. Once an area of arable land supporting only monoculture crops of wheat, barley and brassicas, it has now changed to a diverse habitat not only supporting agriculture but wildlife too. As part of a community effort, approximately 30% of the land has been planted with mixed deciduous trees and shrubs with areas of rough grassland in-between.

But what effect has this had on the butterfly population? Ten years ago, prior to these changes, I can remember walking my dog around this area and being met with an amazing sight of Small and Large White butterflies. Thousands filled the sky, catching the warmth of the sunlight as they flew between cabbage plants depositing their eggs along the way. A most productive time for the Whites but not the farmer who in successive years planted wheat instead! Although spectacular at the time, no other butterfly species could be seen. The wildlife reflected the habitat which was monotonous.

In the summer of 1995 changes were seen in both habitat and butterfly diversity. A short survey by two novice butterfly spotters, during July and August, revealed a total of 20 butterfly species and

although no spectacular findings were made, it was pleasing to see such a diverse range of butterflies when compared with that of ten years earlier.

Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers and Small Whites were the most commonly seen species throughout the summer. During early July we began to notice several Skippers. On closer inspection three species were identified; Large and Small Skippers, which were relatively easy to spot but the Essex Skipper had to be caught in a net for positive identification. Throughout July one Small Copper was always found in the same sunny spot on a path and Holly Blues were frequent fliers along the hedgerow. As July moved into August we started to see the Commas, Peacocks and the migratory Red Admirals, together with the emergence of the second batch of Common Blues which coincided with the plethora of thistle flowers. As a finale to the survey and to the delight of those recording, the Wall and Brown Argus made their appearance.

It has been an exciting time discovering, albeit, fairly common butterflies and next year the not so novice spotter will be looking for (or hoping to find) some rarer species. Creating this new habitat has benefited butterfly diversity but more needs to be done. Hopefully, Hertfordshire and Middlesex Branch, as it grows, will become more involved in similar schemes and I would encourage members to actively support these as this is esssential to their success.

As a butterfly enthusiast, I would like to thank all those involved in the Jersey Farm Woodland Park, for their efforts in encouraging wildlife back to this area.

Newsletter Articles

Articles for the February issue should be sent to the editor by 10th January 1996. This deadline is slightly earlier than usual.

Field Trip Reports

GALLEYHILL 2/7/95 - Gavin Vicary

Despite almost constant rain prior to the meeting time, over a dozen members arrived at this site, just over the Essex border. Fortunately the rain did relent just before the start, enabling us to explore the area, although, there didn't seem to be much likelihood of seeing any butterflies.

The leader of the trip; Alan Downie, introduced himself in the car park and gave us details about the site. On the edge of Epping Forest, we were going to walk down a wide ride between arable fields that were lined with elm, the food plant of the target species; the White Letter Hairstreak.

Alan explained that the trip was starting at 4pm, as these butterflies were most likely to be seen at eye level during late afternoon or early evening. He also revealed that many of the trees were affected by Dutch Elm disease. Sufficient young suckers and regrowth survived, however, to support a sizeable colony of this elusive butterfly.

Surprisingly, Alan was fairly optimistic of finding White-Letter Hairstreaks, despite the adverse weather conditions. These, he felt, were unlikely to be in flight but might be found sheltering on undergrowth. So we set off with everyone scouring the Brambles and hedges encountered. The habitat certainly looked as though there would be many butterflies given good weather. There were plenty of nectar plants such as Red Campion, Teasel, Brambles and Thistles, with the lines of Elms providing good shelter from any wind.

Having made our way for half mile or so, we failed to find any butterflies and the rain started once more. We quickly made our way back to the cars and called it a day. I had not visited this site

before, but as I only live a couple of miles away, returned during the week after finishing work. As predicted there were many butterflies on the wing including Comma, Small Tortoiseshell, Large Skipper, Meadow Brown and most importantly about ten White Letter Hairstreaks. These were nectaring on thistles, where they remained for some time, allowing plenty of photographs to be taken, especially as several were still in pristine condition.

The exceptionally hot summer of 1995 meant that few field trips were adversely affected by the weather and it would well be worth a further visit to this site in future years, which given good weather, should allow those attending good views of White-Letter Hairstreaks.

BRICKET WOOD 9/7/95 - C M Everett

Over a dozen members joined me for this meeting, a good turn out although I had hoped for a few more. Our chief quarry was the White Admiral, for which Bricket Wood is one of the premier sites in Hertfordshire and presently holds a burgeoning population. The lack of management of the woodland for much of this century, so damaging to so many other species (this locality once held five species of Fritillary and the Duke of Burgundy, among others), has not harmed the White Admiral which indeed, has probably benefited from it.

It seemed as though every sunlit spot held at least one White Admiral. Several members expressed amazement, at encountering a wood just 15 miles from central London, sandwiched between the M1 and M25, where the White Admiral is one of the commonest butterflies. I think most members present experienced excitingly close views and some potentially glorious photographs were taken.

The value of having children attend a field meeting was amply demonstrated when a young girl found a freshly-emerged Purple Hairstreak on the ground. This species often pupates just beneath the soil and hence early examples can sometimes provide the best views one is likely to get all summer! I myself found a male near Aldenham a few days prior to this meeting and another (sadly dead) elsewhere in the Bricket Wood area just after the event.

A flourishing colony of White-Letter Hairstreaks just outside the wood was examined, allowing some opportunity for comparison with their previously recorded cousin. Identification points could clearly be seen, such as the more pronounced W mark on the closed wings of the White Letter Hairstreak and the difference in background colour. Other additional aids to identification are the White-Letter Hairstreak's strong association with elms (at this site there is some encouragingly robust Wych Elm) and the slight difference in flight period. The White-Letter Hairstreak is probably under-recorded in this part of Hertfordshire at least, and I would urge members to examine all Elms, even diseased ones, for its presence.

Many members exploited an ideal opportunity to compare Large, Small and Essex Skippers in the field, as well as the two common Burnet moths, afforded by the grassy embankments near the M1. Gatekeepers were also beginning to emerge to join the numerous Meadow Browns.

Back in the wood, larvae of the Seven-spotted Ladybird, adult Longhorn beetles and a Broad-bodied Chaser dragonfly were appreciated. A Red Admiral and a White Admiral were found sunning themselves in the same patch of nettles!

About 15 species were seen during the two hours and I hope all concerned found this a memorable and rewarding day.

STANMORE COMMON 23/7/95 - John Hollingdale

Stanmore Common, Harrow, is a site that in the 1920's was an open area of acid heath. Since then, as on many similar sites, grazing was

discontinued and birch took the place of the heather. On this common a few open areas remain but since the local authority removed the ranger service about six years ago, these have almost been swamped by birch saplings.

Two years ago the site lost it's SSSI status but at the same time was included in the Watling Chase Community Forest. This has enabled the local authority to obtain funds from the Countryside Commission and together with the help of local volunteers, has started to reverse the tide of birch encroachment.

Seven members gathered in the car park in Warren Lane to see what species of butterflies were present on the site. We saw the first of many Gatekeepers here and then made our way down the main path to the first area cleared by the volunteers. Bracken has swamped this site so only a solitary Meadow Brown and a Small Skipper were seen. The local authority hope to control the bracken with chemicals and I intend to monitor the effect this has on the butterfly population.

At the end of the main path we came across a muddy depression, where three Green-Veined Whites were grouped looking for what little moisture remained. A Purple Hairstreak and a Holly Blue were also seen close by. The path then runs through more open patches where some heather still remains and the following butterflies were seen; Large and Small Whites, Large, Small and Essex Skippers, Speckled Woods, a Comma and another Purple Hairstreak.

We then wandered through the woods to an area called Seven Oak Meadow, which has been cleared of scrub and saw a Small Copper and Common Blue.

Next came the surprise of the day when our Chairman spotted a small brown butterfly flying past. I tried to use my recently purchased net but only succeeded in leaving the butterfly stunned on the grass. I got the suspected Brown Argus into an inspection box but

it would not stop fluttering, so after two or three minutes it was released. Exhausted it flew about five yards and then took a long rest on some grass. What was suspected was confirmed; it was a Brown Argus. This is the second site in Harrow that this butterfly has been found by a Butterfly Conservation field trip. Could it be that there are other places in Middlesex and southern Hertfordshire where this butterfly exists but is incorrectly identified as a female Common Blue?

At the end of the trip I gave a new member, Vicky, a lift back to Stanmore Station and we called in at the Country Park to see how a group of BTCV volunteers were progressing. Here we saw a Red Admiral and a Peacock, making a total of seventeen species in the day; not bad for sites right on the edge of the London sprawl.

HEXTON CHALK PIT 30/7/95 - Brian Jessop

We met opposite the Wendy House, Hexton village hall, at 11am and the weather was rather hot. Things looked good for butterfly spotting as a Peacock flew overhead while we were waiting. Brian Sawford was originally due to lead the trip, but unfortunately had been unable to make it and so the group was led by Nigel Agar who had an intimate knowledge of the area.

We set off along a small lane and turned left through some woods. A short trek brought us to the opening of the chalk pit area. The first species to be seen was a Green Veined White, quickly followed by Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers flitting about the brambles. The next species seen was a lovely Holly Blue and then Common Blues before the species we all went to see, the Chalkhill Blue. These were present in good numbers, but all were males! I don't know if the females hatch later than the males, lets hope so, or there won't be much around next year! A Small White was seen next followed by a Comma, feeding on knapweed and then a lone Red

Admiral and a couple of Peacocks. A Wall Brown was spotted next which caused a lot of interest and finally a male Brimstone.

Towards the end of the walk a butterfly was seen which at first sight was thought to be a Brown Argus. Upon closer examination however, it turned out to be a female Common Blue! Not so good for our species count, but good news for the male Common Blues! An excellent total of twelve different species were seen on the day, although there were a few more species we didn't see that might have been expected, such as Speckled Wood, Small Tortoiseshell and Small Skipper.

We made our way back to the village hall, from where the next trip to Peggdon Hills was due to start. A decision was then taken to abandon this due to it being too hot, although I think the sight of the local pub had a bearing on this!!

A good enjoyable walk and our thanks to Nigel Agar

THE HILLINGDON TRAIL 6/8/95 - John Hollingdale

This field trip was included in the programme to visit an area that had previously been unexplored by our branch. The walk included a visit to, both Ickenham Marsh and Gutteridge Wood in the London Borough of Hillingdon.

The walk commenced at the southern end of Glebe Ave, not far from the London Underground Station. At first we walked along a tree lined track where many Speckled Woods were flying. After a few hundred yards the path opened out onto a meadow where we saw Small and Green-Veined Whites, Gatekeepers, Meadow Browns and a Magpie Moth. The track then led across a bridge over the Yeading Brook into an area known as Ickenham Marsh. There hadn't been much rain during the previous three months and it was hard to imagine this as being a wetland area. In clearings between trees,

several Common Blues, a Large White and a couple of Small Skippers were seen.

We then retraced our steps to the bridge and wended our way to the tunnel under the A40 to visit Gutteridge Wood. At this point I unfortunately missed the way and subjected the party to a half mile walk alongside the A40. We eventually entered the wood across a rather rickety wooden bridge and saw many Gatekeepers plus a Small Copper. We had lunch and decided to return to the start of the walk along the correct and shorter route where a Small Tortoiseshell and a Comma were observed. On the final track several Holly Blues were flying around the Hawthorn bushes. A total of thirteen species were recorded and perhaps a pair of Partridge too. I was disappointed not to find the Purple Hairstreak in Gutteridge Wood as there were many oaks of various ages. Perhaps more systematic recording would reveal it's presence. Despite this however, the party was glad to have visited an area previously unknown to most of us.

WATLING HILL 20/8/95 - John Hollingdale

This was the last field trip of the year. Already the numbers of Meadow Browns and Gatekeepers in my part of the world, were diminishing rapidly, although the weather, was still settled and hot. On the way to the site, as we turned off the motorway, my daughter spotted a large bird gliding across an adjacent field. It turned away and showed it's forked tail; a Red Kite. These birds have been introduced into this area a few years ago and appear to be surviving well.

A party of about ten people had made the trip and met in the National Trust car park at the top of Watlington Hill, where we saw the first of many Small Whites. I had not visited this site before and was therefore pleased, to find that somebody else in the group had. We started off, along the wooded southern side of the hill.

We then spread out along the several open grassy areas below the path and found the following butterflies: many Common Blues, Brown Argus, Meadow Browns, several Chalk Hill Blues, a few Small Coppers, Small Heaths and single specimens of Large White, Comma, Gatekeeper, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and a worn Green-Veined White. We also saw several specimens of the butterfly that we had come to see; the Silver Spotted Skipper. This butterfly is not easy to spot because of it's habit of flying at speeds that my eyes have difficulty in following. During our progress down this path, a vixen started calling nearby. She kept this up for long enough for me to wonder if the animal was in trouble and I was contemplating whether to go and investigate when the yelping stopped.

On reaching the bottom of this path we turned and explored the more open part of the hill. This had obviously suffered through the lack of rain and the vegetation here was brown and withered. A few Silver Spotted Skippers and Common Blues were seen but not in the same numbers as before. We had lunch and the party broke up to either make their way home or continue exploring. On our way back we spotted a few Chiltern Gentians. We paused in the car park to eat a welcome ice-cream and were informed that a member of our party had seen a male and female Brimstone. This brought the total number of species seen to sixteen. We had enjoyed a very hot and interesting visit.

Butterfly Line 0891 884505

Regular updates. Latest News.

Profits are used for the conservation of butterflies and their habitats. Calls cost 49p/minute peak rate and 39p/minute at other times.

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 maintains 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

- Butterfly Action Weekend November 1995
 - 25/11/95 Meet at Standalone Farm TL 210336 off Wilbury Road, Letchworth at 10.00 a.m. for maintenance of the hedge and meadow created by the branch in previous years.
 - 26/11/95 Meet in the Dennis Lane Car Park Grid Ref TL 172297, Stanmore, for conservation work at Stanmore Country Park
- Therfield Heath TL335400. First Sunday of each month from 10.00 a.m. - 1 p.m. Details from Vincent Thompson 01763 241443
- Duchies Piece (Aldbury Nowers) SP952131. Third Sunday of each month. Meet 10.00a.m. in the lay-by, near Tring Station
- 4. Hertford Heath TL 354111. Details ring Anthony Oliver 01992 583404.
- 5. Fir and Pond Wood TL276011 Third Sunday each month from 10.00a.m. 1 p.m. Meet in the lay-by opposite the Oshwal Centre in Coopers Lane Road, east of Potters Bar.
- 6. Stanmore Country Park. Times from John Hollingdale on

0181 863 2077.

- 7. Hillingdon Area Several local sites require volunteers.
 Details from Dr Taylor on 0181 868 0207
- 8. Old Park Wood, Harefield TQ049913. Details ring Steve Place on 01895 634510
- Sherrardspark Wood Welwyn Garden City. Details ring Grebe House on 01727 858901
- Kingsmead Ware. Second Sunday of each month 10.00 a.m. 12 p.m. Meet at Windsor Industrial Estate car park, Ware Road, Hertford or phone Ian Clark on 01920 487220.
- Lemsford Springs TL222123. First Sunday of each month 9.30 a.m. - 12.30 p.m. Details ring Barry Trevis on 01707 335517

Chelsea Flower Show By Dennis Newland

A belated word of thanks to Gavin and Maggie Vicary, Margaret Noakes and Malcolm Newland for attending the above show, which strictly speaking is located just across the border in the Hertfordshire and Middlesex branch area! Malcolm is an old hand at this event, having attended in the Old London Branch days.

London branch (now split into Herts & Middx and Surrey & South West London branches) has always created and manned the stand for Butterfly Conservation and in recent years we have invited members of adjacent branches to help out. For many members it is an inexpensive way of seeing Chelsea, in return for a "stint" on the stall.

The show is a good place to "sell" the conservation message to gardeners and we always obtain a reasonable number of new members.

Diary

14/11/95 A joint meeting with the Letchworth Naturalists at the Letchworth Settlement, Nevells Road at 7.30 for a talk on "the Re-introduction of the Heath

Fritillary" by Ken Ulrich

25&26/11/95 Butterfly Action Weekend - see pages 17 and 18 for details

21/2/96

"The Butterfly year" a joint talk with the Cheshunt Natural History Society by Gavin Vicary. Starting at 7.45pm at Goffs Oak methodist Church Hall, Newgatestreet Road, Goffs Oak, Herts.

Membership

Membership currently stands at 264. If you know of anyone who would like to join Butterfly Conservation please write to the Head Office of the national society at PO Box 222, Dedham, Colchester, Essex, CO7 6EY. Membership fees are as follows;

Ordinary Membership £14.00 plus £5 for each branch joined.

Concessionary rate £9.00.

Joining Fee £6.00 (waived when paying by direct debit)

Holiday

We have received details of accommodation in Mallorca, run by wildlife enthusiasts. Anyone interested can obtain details from the editor.

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