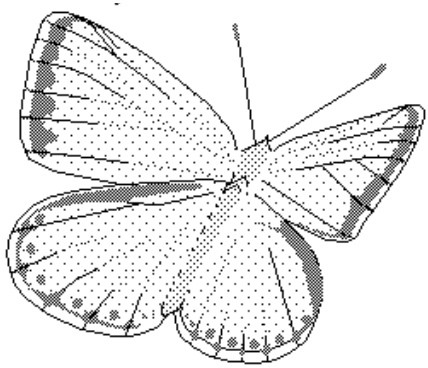


HERTFORDSHIRE AND MIDDLESEX BRANCH NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 18 **JUNE 1999**

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

So Far, So Good....

by Gavin Vicary

There seems to have been a reasonable number of fine days so far this spring and I have seen most butterflies that I would of expected to by now.

I recently led a field trip to Hunsdon Mead and the consensus amongst those attending appeared to be that Orange Tip, Holly Blue and Speckled Wood were all having a good start to the year. In addition I have seen Small Copper earlier than in previous years at Patmore Heath and of the Vanessids, Peacock has been present in

goods numbers.

The only disappointments so far are the low number of nights which have been suitable for running the moth trap and my failure to see Grizzled Skipper. The latter is particularly frustrating, as I have made several visits to a disused gravel pit where they have been recorded before, but without success, although it may still be a little early in the year.

Since the branch formed, the number of members has steadily increased and now exceeds 300. We are trying to take steps to increase numbers further and have decided to advertise in Wildlife Matters, the magazine produced by the Herts and Middlesex Wildlife Trust. If any of our members know of anyone with an interest in butterflies who might like to join the society then please do try and persuade them to do so.

Hopefully, we will continue to have reasonable weather for the rest of the summer to enable you all to see plenty of butterflies. Remember that this is the final year for the Millennium Atlas and John Murray will be grateful for all records.

LAST CHANCE TO RECORD THIS MILLENNIUM by John Murray

Spring campaign update

Thanks to all of you who have returned your butterfly records early. From the records received so far, Hertfordshire has been well covered, with every tetrad having had at least one spring visit during the 5 years 1995-1999.

There are still gaps in Middlesex, but hopefully these will be filled in by records not yet received. If you have been recording this spring and have not yet sent any details to John Murray, please do so now so that these can be entered onto the master maps, and also so that Michael Healy does not get overloaded with data entry into the computer at the end of the season.

June recording

June is now upon us, and there are still a great many tetrads both in Hertfordshire and Middlesex that have not had a visit in June. This

month is important both for common species such as the Large Skipper, which is still under-recorded, and also for rarer species such as the Small Blue.

Use the map in the last Newsletter when choosing sites to visit this month, or contact me at the address below for up-to date information.

Summer observations needed

Maps showing gaps and poorly covered tetrads that need recording visits in July, and also in August/September are shown with this article. The numbers at the borders of the map refer to the numbers on Ordnance Survey maps;

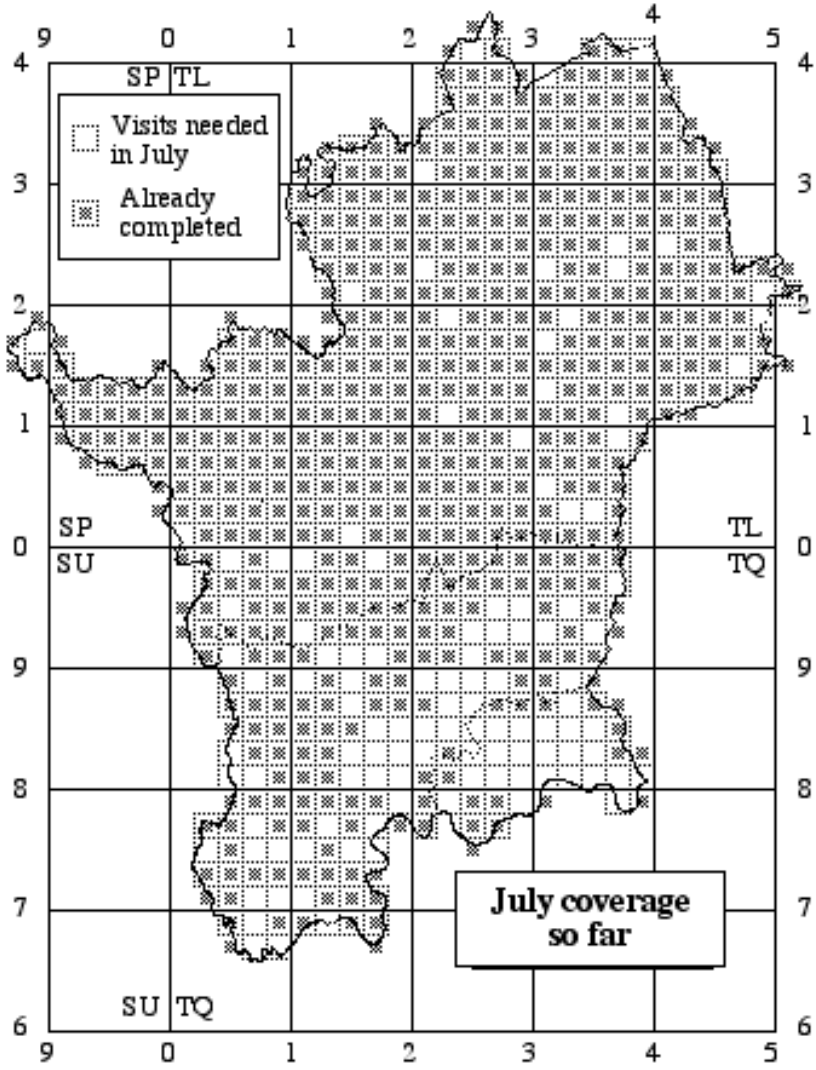
Contact me if you have any difficulties in relating these maps to sites on> the ground. In many of these squares, not even common species such as the Meadow Brown have been seen, so if you can get to them, your records will be particularly valuable.

All records MUST be submitted before 9th November this year, as we have a series of strict publisher's deadlines to meet for the Atlas, which will be appearing in autumn 2000, published by Oxford University Press. If possible, send your records in as you complete each recording sheet, or at any rate at the end of each month, so that there is no unnecessary backlog of data, and so that visited squares can be crossed of the target list.

If you wish to be assigned particular urgently-needed sites to visit, please contact John Murray at:

"Field End"Marshall's Heath,
Wheathampstead,
Herts AL4 8HS

Home telephone: 01582 833544
Work telephone: 01908 652118
Email: j.b.murray@open.ac.uk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Visits needed in July
Already completed
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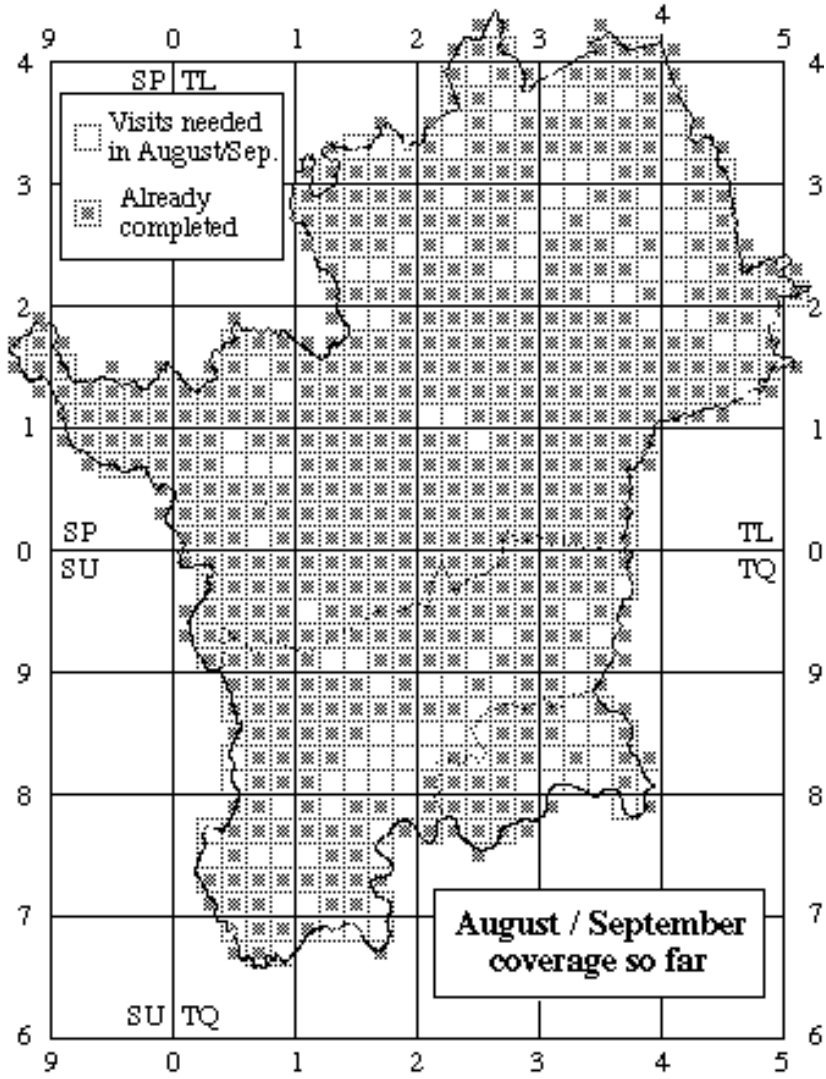
July coverage so far


Visits needed in August/Sep.
Already completed
SP
TL
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August / September coverage so far

Butterflies are Not the Only Insects..., by John Murray

Butterflies are not the only insects undergoing the Millennium Mapping treatment. Ian Wynne and Malcolm Aldridge are in the process of compiling maps of hoverfly distribution for Hertfordshire, and 1999 is also the last year of their project.

They don't expect everyone to be familiar enough with hoverflies to make species identifications, but next time you dust the windowsills or empty your light fittings, don't throw away the flies! They could be some of Hertfordshire's 160 species of hoverfly, so put them in a matchbox or old film canister and send them to

Ian Wynne,
151 Riverside Road,
St Albans,
Herts AL1 1RZ Email: ian.wynne@bbsrc.ac.uk

who will be delighted to receive and identify them.

Copy Deadline for the September Newsletter will be

15 August 1999

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

Clouded Yellow Survive UK Winter, by Nick Bowles

Nick posted the following article on the internet Leplist:

Recently Mike Tucker has shown the Red Admiral *Vanessa atalanta* capable of surviving the entire winter in the UK, both as an adult (as many suspected) and as larvae. Last year 1997/8 Prof. John Wacher was able to provide evidence that a Painted Lady *Cynthia cardui* widely regarded as far to sensitive to frost to survive, could in fact remain alive as an adult from late October until May, given benign conditions in the SW of England.

Now comes evidence that Clouded Yellow *Colias croceus* ova laid in November on England's southern coastal fringe not only grew throughout the winter passing through all their stages until eventually pupating but have now emerged and laid ova of their own. The initial observations were made by Michael Skelton who kept a close eye on the small colony of larvae and as word got around several others were able to confirm the sight of larvae feeding through the milder winter days and more recently of up to 8 individual adults flying about at the site. The almost complete lack of other migrants so far this year helps to make their 'native' status claim more likely. The only other Clouded Yellow record that I know of is from SW England today (6 May), certainly too far away for there to be a likelihood of this singleton being from the same source. Possibly this individual is from another overwintering colony; perhaps not on the UK mainland but one of the milder southern islands like the Channel Isles or the Isles of Scilly; where frosts are almost never felt.

As in England all the migrant species are especially scarce in France and Spain (our presumed source of the great majority of adults recorded here in spring) so far this year.

Any other news of unusual sightings of species normally considered to 'soft' to live through our northern winters would be greatly appreciated.

Canada, July 1998 – by Vincent and Betty Judd

Although we have travelled quite widely in Europe and Asia, we have never crossed the pond, and consequently decided to visit Canada for our summer holiday this year.

The first essential was to try to find out what butterflies we might expect to see, and I managed to locate a rather hefty paperback volume on the butterflies of North America which illustrates and describes all known species. From this I rapidly concluded that identification of species such as fritillaries was an even more arduous business than European ones. Nevertheless, we booked and mid July found us at Heathrow.

In the past, my hand luggage has always been singled out for attention. I had concluded that the reason was my telescopic monopod, so I carried this separately from my bag. In the event, I was singled out for an even more thorough examination than usual. Can it be that I look suspicious, or is it that holding a book on butterflies seems so improbable to officialdom that my trip must have a more sinister purpose?

Our uneventful seven-hour flight took us to Ottawa, where the first 7 days of our holiday were to be spent. Unusually for a capital city the traffic is modest and the streets well marked, and finding the hotel was no problem. As always, we hired a car and obtained a map of the area so that we might locate suitable looking places, and then set out looking for a place worth exploring.

The first port of call was a footpath alongside a small river. We had been warned that mosquitoes can be a problem in summer, and had covered all exposed skin will a liberal quantity of insect repellent of the sort that deters all known biting insects in the tropics. This attracted every mosquito for miles around, and we were rapidly bitten not only on exposed flesh but through clothing as well. At least they do not carry disease in this country.

Soon after we left the car, we saw what appeared to be a Camberwell Beauty. This landed on the path, but when we went over to it, no butterfly could be seen. The culprit was a very large grasshopper with wing markings just like the butterfly in question.

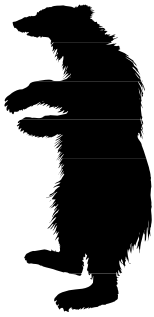
However, a few steps further on we saw a Dark Grey Comma and a Fire Rim Tortoiseshell, both of which proved very nervous although we did eventually manage some shots. Also present was a Spring Azure, one of the very few species of blues found in Canada, and a Common Sulphur, roughly the equivalent to our Clouded Yellow. We also saw numerous large fritillaries flying across the river.

Retreating from the biting hordes, we moved on to another location where we saw and indeed photographed the huge Great Spangled Fritillaries, together with a Columbine Dusky Wing, a species of skipper. At the same spot we also saw a Red Admiral, the same as that found in our own country.

The week progressed far too fast, and we added to our tally an American Black Swallowtail, a Monarch and the very similar Viceroy, which is actually a close relative of the admirals, but mimics the poisonous Monarch to avoid being eaten. The extensive woodlands west of Ottawa provided numerous species of skipper, including our own Small Skipper, known here as the European Skipper. Several species of hairstreak were seen on flowers, along with many fritillaries. In fact fritillaries and skippers of various species are by far the most numerous butterflies we found. Among those seen were Aphrodite and Meadow Fritillaries, Orange and Pearl Crescents (a type of fritillary), Green Comma, Question Mark (a type of Comma), Wood Nymphs and Northern Pearly Eye (Satyridae), and Hickory, Striped and Northern Willow Hairstreaks.

In past years we have missed chances of pictures by trying first to identify each butterfly, whereupon they tended to fly off at the vital moment. Our policy now is to shoot first and ask questions afterwards. While we take more pictures this way and use quite a bit of film, at least we do not miss much.

After Ottawa, we flew on to Vancouver. In many years of air travel this five-hour flight was the most turbulent we had ever known, and it is nothing short of a miracle that my breakfast remained in my stomach, although it was a pretty close run thing. From there, we drove northwards along the coast to Whistler, high in the Rockies, which was to be home for the next 8 days. We were in bear country, and had several close sightings of black bears, some of which Betty photographed.

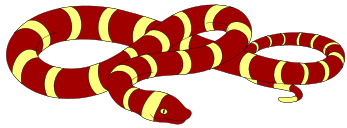


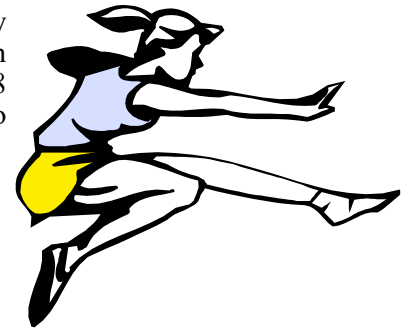
In the forests around Whistler, one of the commonest and indeed most beautiful nymphalids was the Orange Tip Admiral, similar to our own White Admiral but as the name implies with orange wing tips. Also quite numerous but very hard to approach was the Lavender Fritillary. The forest roads were home to huge numbers of Forest Coppers, the female of which, at least on the upperside, is somewhat similar to our own Small Copper. Most of the forest trails are disused logging roads, and the potholes have to be seen to be believed. Indeed my experience of driving over them is not to be recommended for anyone with a weak stomach.

Also in the area were ski lifts, one of which, up Blackcomb Mountain which still had snow on the summit, was open all summer. I have never before been on an open ski lift, and did so with great trepidation, but once you are securely seated and fastened the view is really great. On the mountain, we found Western and Holoarctic Grass Skippers, the latter very like our Silver Spotted Skipper, Northern Blue, a bit like an miniature Adonis Blue, North West Alpine, a type of Ringlet, and Mormon Fritillaries.

Towards the end of our stay we spent a day on Cypress Mountain, which rises above Vancouver city. The attraction to us was the road line with buddleia bushes which attracted down Tiger- and Pale Tiger Swallowtails, as well as the Pine White, a species which is normally seen flying high round the top of pine trees. It was on this day also that Betty disturbed a snake, which reared up and headed towards her. I marvelled at the ability of an older woman to react rapidly in an emergency as Betty, with a turn of speed that would have surpassed Sally Gunnell, ran up the path and hurdled a nearby wall. We later discovered that the snake, a species of adder, was quite venomous.

Our trip to Canada was over far too soon. Our abiding impression is that although the numbers of butterflies is much lower than we would typically see in mainland Europe, so many of them were clearly close relatives of familiar European species. Out total headcount was 48 species, not too bad for a first visit to an unknown place.





Membership and Data Protection, by Margaret Noakes

We now have 302 members in our Branch, all of whose names, addresses and most telephone numbers are held on computer by the Branch Membership Secretary. This will not be passed on to any individual, Company or Organisation without the permission of the member.

FIELD TRIP REPORTS

Hunsdon Mead Field Trip 9/5/99, by Gavin Vicary

Half a dozen members met me for a walk around this ancient hay meadow. The weather was a mixture of sun and cloud and as we set off we were unsure whether we would see many butterflies, although we knew that if we did not there would still be plenty of other wildlife interest for us to see.

We walked along the River Stort, which with its navigation channel encircle the reserve, until we came to the start of the meadow. I explained that this type of meadow would once have been common in Hertfordshire and this was one of the last remaining remnants.

Being on the border between Hertfordshire and Essex, Hunsdon Mead is managed by both Essex and Herts & Middlesex Wildlife Trusts in the same way that is has been for over 600 years. This involves grazing during the latter part of the year. The livestock are then removed in February and grazing discontinued until July when a hay cut is taken before grazing resumes once again.

As fertilisers or pesticides have never been used on the reserve this type of management has resulted in a very wide diversity of plants being present which in turn support a whole variety of wildlife. At the time of the visit the meadow was yellow with buttercups, Cowslips were just turning over, although plenty of other wildflowers such as yellow rattle, cuckoo flower and marsh marigold were also to be seen.

The weather did turn out fine and plenty of butterflies were seen including Small Copper, Holly Blue, Orange Tip, Comma, Peacock, Small Tortoiseshell and Green-veined White

We were disappointed not to see Kingfishers or water voles but were pleased to find plenty of Banded Demoiselle Damselflies already on the wing, 2 clumps of mistletoe and a Grey Heron.

At lunchtime some members stayed on for a picnic lunch on the meadow whilst the rest of the party dispersed after a very enjoyable morning.

Tring Park Field Trip, 23/5/99, by Brian Jessop

It was warm but cloudy with a bit of a breeze, temperature 18°C. Our party of twelve set off around 13:40 and the target butterfly was the Green Hairstreak.

Our first butterfly seen was the Green-veined White. As we walked along King Charles Ride through the woodland we saw our first and last Speckled Wood in one of the usual areas. It was rather dull so we were rather lucky to see that one.

We turned down on to the escarpment where previously Green Hairstreak had been seen. Nothing was seen in this area, so we went down on the lower escarpment where we were more successful – two Green Hairstreaks were seen, to the delight of the party. Also in this area we saw a Brimstone, 2 Small Heaths, 2 Dingy Skippers and a Grizzled Skipper. The remainder of the field trip produced no more butterfly sightings. A few moths were seen, mainly Latticed Heath, Carpet and Mother Shipton.

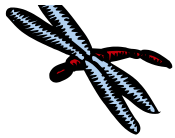
Many thanks to all who came..

Help Wanted !

We need help with the monitoring and identification of insect species, particularly dragonflies, on Millhopper's (no problem with lepidoptera!).

Please contact John / Margaret Noakes

(01296) 660072



The Moth Page, by Rob Souter, Branch Moth Officer

National Moth Night, 17 July 1999.

A national moth recording event has been organised by InsectLine and Brian Goodey of the Essex Moth Group:

The aims of the event are:

- To encourage widespread moth recording and to gather useful data.
- To stimulate wider interest in moths and raise their profile amongst the public.
- To raise funds for moth conservation projects.

It is hoped as many people as possible will run light-traps in as many different areas as possible on the night of Saturday 17 July 1999 (i.e. the period between dusk on Saturday night and dawn on Sunday morning). Participants may choose to record the moths in their garden or their local patch, but it is hoped people will visit new areas.

Records can be sent to me and I will pass them on to Brian Goodey who will be collating national records. He needs the results by 17 August 1999 so it would be useful if I received them by the end of July.

Details required are:

⇒ Recorder's name(s)

⇒ Site name and six-figure grid reference

⇒ Local weather conditions

⇒ Brief habitat description

⇒ Number and type of MV traps used (and details of any other recording techniques employed)

⇒ How long the traps were operated

⇒ A full list of species identified, the ten most abundant macro-moth species listed in chronological order (i.e. the most common first, least common last).

⇒ Numbers of common, scarce and rare migrants encountered.

In particular we would like totals of Diamond-back Moth, Rusty-dot Pearl, Rush Veneer, Dark Sword-grass, Pearly Underwing and Silver Y.

Three prizes will be awarded in the following categories:

Record of greatest conservation value

(Macrolepidoptera). This may be a species not recorded locally for some time, or a scarce species at a new site. The winner will receive a professionally made Skinner MV trap complete with electrics donated by Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies (worth £80)

Rarest migrant species recorded

InsectLine will award the winner a £50 book token that can be used to purchase titles from the Atropos Bookshop

Most unusual location trapped at

A two year subscription to Atropos (worth £30), the UK's premier journal for active Lepidoptera and Odonata enthusiasts

Regular updates on the event will be broadcast on the National Moth Night Information Line (0891 446862) calls cost 60p / minute. The proceeds will be donated to moth conservation projects.

Local groups are encouraged to organise events on this date to encourage an interest in moths amongst the general public.

The Herts and Middlesex Branch has therefore added an extra moth evening to coincide with this event. All are welcome to attend a moth evening at Bayfordbury, near Hertford (the University of Hertfordshire's Field Station). We will be starting around 20:30 and will run two traps through the night (weather permitting). Meet at the college car park TL 315 104.

Advertisement.

For anyone interested in obtaining a light-trap I have come across the following advertisement which may be worth pursuing:

Anglian Lepidopterist Supplies. Skinner traps from £45, Control

boxes from £39, Heath traps, nets, bulbs, tubes etc.

For full details send an SAE to PO Box 370, Cambridge, CB4 1ZJ, or phone 01263 862068.

Moth Note, by Rob Souter

At the end of a season of regular recording of moths at Mardley Heath, Welwyn in 1998, I took a number of 'micros' collected at the time to a local expert (Raymond Uffen) for help with identification. He quickly pointed out the specimen of Least Black Arches *Nola confusalis* (a macromoth), amongst the similar sized micros. Immediate reference to Foster's list of 1937 revealed it was unrecorded in Hertfordshire at that time. The county recorder, Colin Plant, later confirmed that it was indeed the first record for Hertfordshire. He commented that the nearest records are from Epping Forest in Essex, where a strong colony consisting largely of the dark form Ab. columbina occurs. There is also a very recent record from Ruislip Woods in Middlesex.

On 11 May 1999, I recorded this species again in the same place at Mardley Heath. It was netted at around 22:30 as it flew out of oak woodland towards MV light set up at the wood edge.

Regarded as widely distributed, but rather local throughout the British Isles by Skinner, I can believe this species will also be under -recorded, being missed by those recorders who concentrate on macromoths only.

Mardley Heath consists of oak-hornbeam woodland (some of which is regarded as ancient), and large areas of birch woodland which has grown over shallow chalk extraction pits. Other noteworthy species recorded at this site in 1998 include Poplar Lutestring, Birch Mocha, Brindled White-spot, Scarce Prominent and Buff Footman.

Why do Butterflies Have to Sit in the Sun to Warm Up, but Moths Can Fly Without Sunshine?

Many of you may have wondered about the answer to this - the following answer was recently posted on the internet by Doug Dawn....Editor.

Nothing too surprising when you think about it - moths are not optimised in an evolutionary sense for the temperatures butterflies are if we try to generalise.

Generally, I could think heat is regulated as follows in the insect:

1.- Free source - Solar power. The sun and warm rocks, etc. where wings act as solar collectors Recall butterflies can't fold their wings if they want to, though moths typically do due to their niche optimisation.

2.- Internal source is the friction created in the contraction of flight muscles (just like in humans, we shiver to keep warm and the molecular and macro resulting friction in our muscles converts fuel into heat). This has been called "shivering thermogenisis".

3.- Another internal source of heat, especially for smaller insects are the organs which increase "blood" temperature and "heart" which sends it to the thorax where the flight muscles are.

4.- In butterflies, a lot more heat is lost in the abdomen than moths since the moths typically have a better abdominal heat exchanging system to deliver heat to their "blood". In this case many moths have a more efficient heat exchanger in the abdomen which actually flows counter current and provides heat to the thorax. The thorax temperature is what determines if the Lep flies since that is where the flight muscles are. See NOTE for further information on efficient abdominal heat exchange.

5.- As any air conditioning engineer might point out, "insulation" is important. "Regional endothermy" is the so called trait giving the ability to maintain the little area of flight muscles warm. Perhaps the "Thermos effect" might be an alternate term. Moths can be better insulated than butterflies, but also see NOTE.

NOTE: For more information on the benefits of counter current flow, look up the Lorenz cycle (vs. Carnot) and check out my US patent #4,926,650 if you want to understand better the efficiency for counter current heat exchangers, where a practical method is described for achieving this for industrial application. But it basically says, when you don't use pure fluids, the efficiency can be higher when the fluid to be heated and the fluid to be cooled are

closer in temperature. Being closer in temperature requires counter current flow of fluid mixtures: i.e. Heated fluid from the abdominal matrix flows into the warmest part of the heat exchanger between itself and the zone in it preparing the "blood" for thorax. As the transfer occurs within the abdomen, the temperature difference is minimised and matched. This minimises heat escape, but a discussion like entropy are off topic and has already happened once. As this relates to the insect, the exit end of the abdominal heat exchanger has maximised the heating ability of the "blood" now destined to supply the thorax.

I am guessing that butterflies do not have the counter-current heat exchange option, at least during warm days, because at that point heat is a problem to be dissipated any way it can including by the most inefficient heat transfer. I am practically sure someone knows experimentally this but if not it would be a good subject for a research paper.

Keep in mind there are butterflies that do not even fly in the Sun (crepuliscars like from the Smyrna genus). And moths - like Sphinx moths, which specifically have evolved to fly in the warm season do not have the heat exchanger setup described above. They effectively have efficient cooling exchangers to quickly dissipate the heat buildup expected. The "aorta" is much like a set of cooling coils to dissipate heat So as you can see they are all in their individual niches and generalising could cause problems. I suspect that day flying moths like Urania have also evolved the generalised butterfly system. Finally note, that moths can't just get up and fly when it is cold and dark. They have a revving up period which can be as much as a half hour while the system described above heats them. Not a whole lot unlike butterflies basking in the morning sun which accomplish the same means...And that same moth which does such a good job at on cool season nights probably isn't around in warm seasons since it would "burn out". That brings up another interesting question: What Lep has the broadest range of temperature operation and what is its system like? That's a good one for an expert.

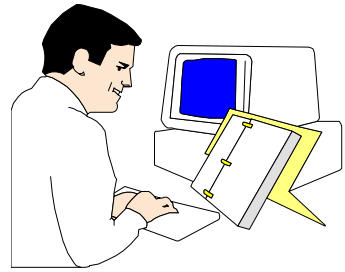
Editor's Notes, by Ian Small

You will have seen that this edition of your newsletter includes a couple of articles which I have obtained via the internet, rather than from Branch members.

Please give me some feedback as to whether you like to have this sort of article included, or whether you would prefer the Branch newsletter to be 'home grown'.

I desperately need more of you to send me material for inclusion - perhaps it has been the predominantly dull spring which has failed to inspire you, but lack of contributions has resulted in a smaller edition of your newsletter this time. Remember, the more of you who contribute things - anything from simple observations to major articles - the more interesting the newsletter will be for everyone.

I look forward to a heavy postbag for the next edition...



Herts & Middx Branch Field Trips 1999

Date: Saturday June 12th Time: 21.30
Location: Millhoppers Pasture (BC reserve), Herts.
Grid Ref: SP 903142 (Wilstone village hall – 15 minute walk to reserve). Special Conditions: None
Target Species: Moth trapping event.
Contact: Rob Souter 01438.214663

Date: Sunday June 13th Time: 11.00
Location: Millhoppers Pasture (BC reserve), Herts.
Grid Ref: SP 903142 (Wilstone village hall – 15 minute walk to reserve) Special Conditions: None.
Target Species: Grassland species. Also Black Poplar and dragonflies/damselflies.
Contact: Margaret Noakes 01296.660072

Date: Sunday July 4th Time: 11.00
Location: Westbrook Hay, Hemel Hempstead, Herts.
Grid Ref: TL 028054. (at road junction by school).
Special Conditions: None.
Target Species: Marbled White & grassland species.
Contact: Norma Dean 01442.252435

Date: Saturday July 10th Time: 21.30
Location: Symondshyde Woods, Welwyn, Herts.
Grid Ref: TL 199106 (car park). Special Conditions: None.
Target Species: Moth trapping event.
Contact: Rob Souter 01438.214663

Date: Saturday July 17th Time: 10.00
Location: Cheshunt Marsh, Lea Valley Park, Herts.
Grid Ref: TL 374007 (Northern end of Highbridge Street car park).
Special Conditions: Note: National Dragonfly Sanctuary adjacent.
Target Species: Small & Essex Skippers, grassland butterflies.
Contact: Alan Downie 01992.650829
****see p15 for moth evening details ****

Date: Sunday July 18th Time: 10.30

Location: Stanmore Country Park, Middx.
Grid Ref: TQ 172927 (car park in Dennis Lane, opposite recreation ground) Special Conditions: None.
Target Species: Summer butterflies.
Contact: John Hollingdale 0181.863.2077

Date: Wednesday July 21st Time: 14.00
Location: Therfield Heath, north Herts.
Grid Ref: TL 348405 (in car park, adjacent to sports pavilion).
Special Conditions: None.
Target Species: Chalkhill Blue and other chalk grassland species.
Contact: Brian Sawford 01462.672287

Date: Sunday July 25th Time: 11.00
Location: Broxbourne Woods, Herts.
Grid Ref: TL 325071 (car park). Special Conditions: None.
Target Species: Woodland butterflies. (Purple Emperor possible).
Contact: Gavin Vicary 01279.771933

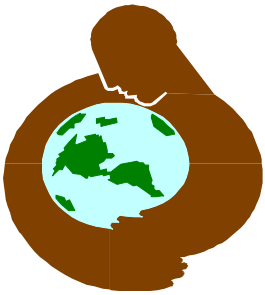
Date: Sunday August 8th Time: 08.00
Location: Three Valleys Water Environmental Centre, Clay Lane, Bushey, Herts.
Grid Ref: TQ 153942
Special Conditions: To view results of overnight moth trapping followed by visit to specially created butterfly garden and tour of large area of mixed habitat. This is a high security area – contact Alan Downie for details of access.
Target Species: Purple Hairstreak and many other species. Also dragon/damselflies.
Contact: Alan Downie 01992.650829

Date: Sunday August 15th Time: 10.30
Location: Old Park Wood, Harefield, Middx.
Grid Ref: TQ 049913 (parking area in SW corner of grounds of Harefield Hospital). Special Conditions: None.
Target Species: Purple Hairstreak and woodland butterflies.
Contact: John Hollingdale 0181.863.2077

Date: Saturday August 21st Time: 20.30
Location: Stanmore Common, Middlesex.
Grid Ref: TQ 159935 (car park off Warren Lane).
Special Conditions: None.
Target Species: Moth trapping event.
Contact: John Hollingdale 0181.863.2077

Date: Saturday 21st August Time: 21.00
Location: Broxbourne Woods, Herts.
Grid Ref: TL 325071 (car park). Special Conditions: None.
Target Species: Moth trapping event.
Contact: Rob Souter 01438.214663.

AGM
Wednesday, October 27
8pm
Cross Street Centre,
Dagnall Street
St. Albans.



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.

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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