

Butterfly Conservation Newsletter

North Wales Branch

Autumn 2002

Dear Members and Non Members,

I hope that you have all had a good year. For me, this has been a year of great branch events. With the opening of Eyarth Rocks, I got to see my first ever Pearl-bordered Fritillary, on National Moth Night I saw my first Lime Hawkmoth and at an event run jointly with Conwy County Borough Council saw one of my favourite moths - Sandhill Rustic. It has not just been about lepidoptera either, at an event at The Spinnies I saw Daubenton's Bats, a species I've almost certainly seen before, but with an expert on hand with a bat detector identifying them by their echo-location and 'feeding buzz' made for a great night.

Thank-you to all those who organised events this year. The ones that I took part in were well attended - so thanks must also go to all those people who turned up and were so enthusiastic. We have quite a few events planned for the autumn, winter and spring (see inside) and I encourage everyone to attend.

As autumn starts I notice that there are still plenty of butterflies and moths on the wing - especially noticeable feeding on Ragwort and Ivy flowers - and whilst the fine weather holds I'm getting out to look at them as much as possible.

Alan W

Alan Wagstaff
Newsletter Editor



CONTENTS

The Millennium Award Project

how a grant and lots of volunteer effort is helping butterflies in North Wales

Escape, Release or Migrant

the search for a mystery butterfly

Approximate flight periods of butterflies in North East Wales

a really useful guide to whats on the wing through the year

Moth recording in Merionethshire

the joy of recording in an under-recorded vice-county

Eureka! ekebladella

an introduction to leaf miner identification

The Small Skipper in North West Wales

some good news about butterflies

Lime Hawk at Penmaenmawr

why you should put out a moth trap

Rare Butterfly puts 'Birdman' Iolo Williams on the rocks

what's been going on at Eyrarth Rocks?

Surrey to be a nuisance...

what Sam Thomas did on his holidays

The 4th International Butterfly Conservation Symposium

a report from this internationally important event

BCNW Branch Winter Events

your essential guide

The Millennium Award Project

A grant from the Millennium Commission has been used this year to help local schools and communities to plant butterfly gardens, plus producing educational materials for giving lectures and running events for the general public. A demonstration butterfly and moth garden has been planted at the RSPB reserve at Conwy - you can find it by taking the left-hand track out of the visitor centre.



Jan Miller

It is rather experimental this year as we are not sure how the plants will survive inundation by brackish water in the winter! But it has been in flower all year with Honesty, Forget-me-nots, Primroses, Red Campion and Wallflowers in the spring and Sweet William, Bugloss, Feverfew, Nasturtiums, Bird's-foot Trefoil, Red Valerian and Evening Primrose in the summer.



Jan Miller

It is never too early to start volunteering, a visitor to RSPB Conwy gets stuck in (above)

BC volunteers Gill Tattershall and Julia Aspden planting the butterfly garden at RSPB Conwy (left)

Currently the Ice Plants, Michelmas Daisies, Hemp Agrimony and Teasels are continuing the show. Intermingled with these more dramatic plants are many larval foodplants, including Lady's Smock for Orange Tips and Green-veined Whites, Alder Buckthorn and Purging Buckthorn for Brimstones, Sheep's Sorrel for the Small Copper, Holly and Ivy for Holly Blues and Lucerne for the Clouded Yellow that sometimes visits this area.

A full planting list is available from the visitor centre, or from Jan Miller, who produced the majority of plants plus the design. The digging and preparation of the flower beds was done by RSPB volunteers, and some plants were donated by them.

BC volunteers Gill Tattershall, Julia Aspden and John Good helped Jan plant the garden at a public event in April. We hope to get funding this winter to put up an interpretation panel next to the garden.

Two more butterfly-friendly areas have been planted in the wildlife gardens of Ysgol Owen Jones, Northop and Southdown school, Buckley, in co-operation with Clare Christian of Deeside Urban Wildlife Group. Children enjoyed helping us and learning about Butterfly Conservation.



Jan Miller

Pupils at Ysgol Owen Jones help plant a butterfly area in their wildlife garden (above)

Feedback from these schools has spawned another planned project; to run workshops for teachers on how to use their wildlife gardens with pupils. Anyone who would like to add some ideas on this, or on education re. butterflies and moths in general, please contact Jan.

Transparencies for lectures to gardening groups on butterfly gardening have also been produced, plus quiz sheets and display materials for local shows. Anyone interested in having a lecture, garden or display for their local group can contact Jan on (01352) 711198 or Jan@7wells.org

Jan Miller

Escape, Release or Extraordinary Migrant ?

Jan Miller phoned me to contact a Mr David Lloyd Griffith who had reported seeing an unusual butterfly - the biggest one he'd ever seen !

When I spoke to him it was clear that he had seen something out of the ordinary at Cefn yr Ogof, Llanddulas on Saturday, 17th August 2002. He was a regular visitor to this site and was knowledgeable about the species regularly occurring there including the Dark Green Fritillary and other commoner large species. The mystery butterfly had been observed fairly closely for a few minutes flying around a small group of Douglas Firs at the seaward end of the top of the hill and nectaring on heather flowers. From the description given I suggested it might have been a Swallowtail (*Papilio machaon*) as I had encountered one of these at Llanarmon-yn-Ial, near Mold in 2001, but Mr Griffith was sure it was much larger and did not have 'tails' on its hindwings.

I decided to visit the site to investigate further and as it was warm and sunny on the Monday morning I put work to one side and set off for Llanddulas. Climbing up to the top of the hill around midday I spotted someone walking around armed with a camera; Mr Griffith had decided to forget about work as well (the advantage of being selfemployed !) We looked around the group of trees where the butterfly had been on Saturday and started looking a bit further afield after a few minutes. Of course it chose then to appear around the trees for just a few seconds before disappearing on the other side. From perhaps 60-70 metres away I could still tell it was larger than anything normally appearing at this site and that it wasn't a large moth. Mr Griffith had to leave soon after but I decided to stay and have a good look round this interesting site.

By the time I had got to the little quarry at the bottom I had seen thirteen different species of butterfly but no sign of the one I was after.

Rather reluctantly I forced my tired legs up the steep paths to the top again at 3 o'clock and looked around for half an hour with no reward. Sitting down for a final drink before going home, what should fly right by me but the mystery butterfly. It settled on some heather about fifty metres away and typically flew off again as soon as I approached with my camera. This time it didn't fly far before settling again and I managed to get a rather distant shot of it . I was able to get a couple more decent sightings of it at rest before it flew off over a low wall never to be seen again.



Rob Whitehead

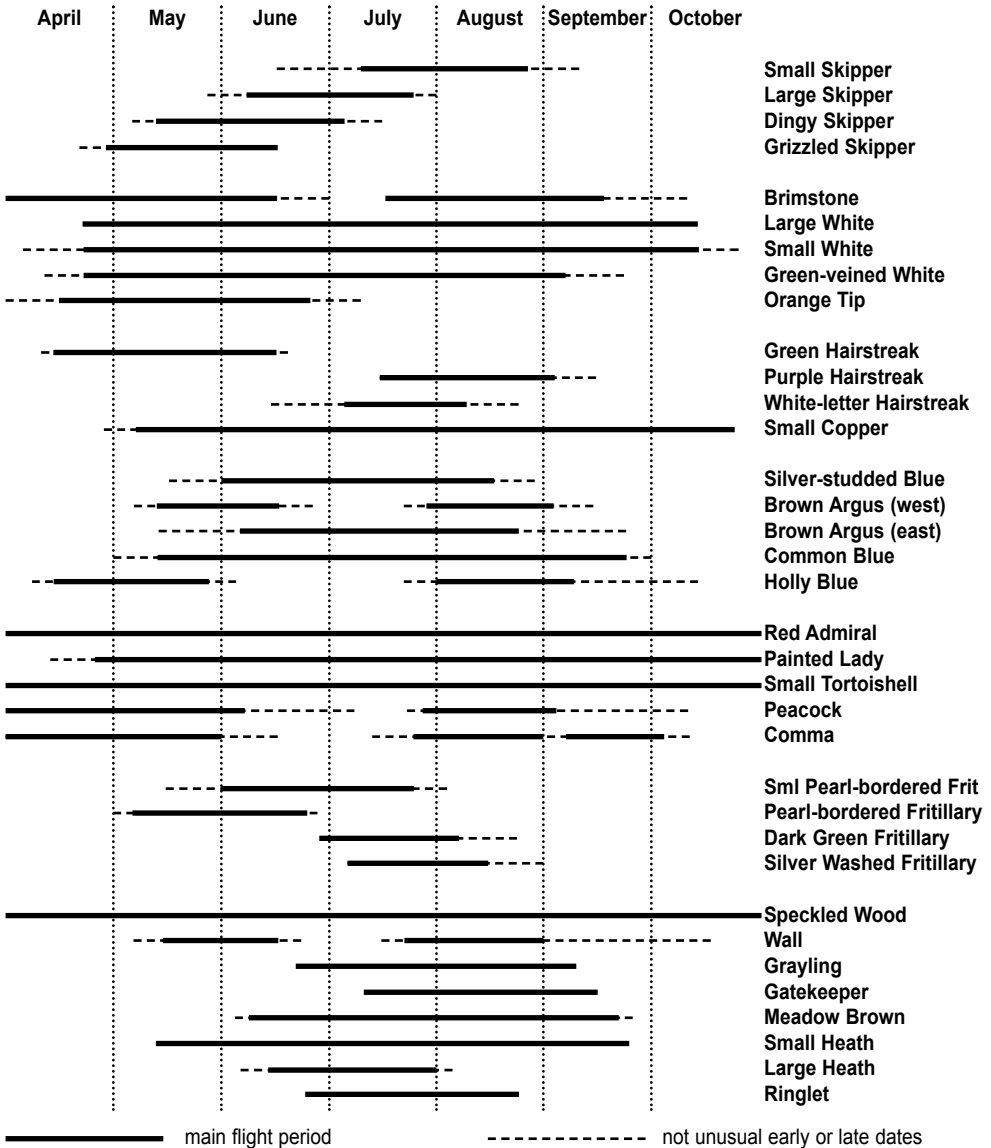
Only having one book with illustrations of world-wide butterflies I was doubtful of identifying it straightaway but out of only twenty species shown that occur in Africa (out of 1500 !) it seemed to be staring me right in the face. The Citrus Swallowtail (*Papilio demodocus*) looked just like what I had seen earlier in the day. Also known as the Christmas Butterfly, it is common all over Africa with the exception of Egypt and has a wingspan of over 10 cm. My slide seemed to confirm the identification but it wasn't until Jan Miller scanned it into her computer and enlarged the image that I could be sure.

I sent a copy to the Conwy Butterfly House, who confirmed the species but couldn't help as to where it might have come from. It is a species they have kept in the past but not this year. They also told me it is not known as particularly migratory and so we will have to put it down as an escape or a release - I don't think global warming can be held responsible!!

Rob Whitehead

Approximate flight periods of butterflies in North East Wales

A useful table of flight periods, based on many years of observation by Rob Whitehead, county butterfly recorder for Denbighshire.



1. Brown Argus in N. Wales is single brooded east of Prestatyn and double brooded to the west of the Vale of Clwyd.

2. Note that flight periods can vary by 2-3 weeks between lowland and upland sites.

Rob Whitehead

Moth recording in Merionethshire

Even after well over a century of moth observations, by a succession of knowledgeable Lepidopterists, the county of Merionethshire remains poorly recorded. It is true that there is a relatively sparse resident human population when compared to Caernarvonshire (which also has the advantage of a University town) but, even so, it seems surprising to me just how few records have ever been accumulated. The downside of this situation is that, as we do not really know what is present, we are scarcely in a position to advise on conservation issues. However, the plus side is that there is still a wonderful opportunity for anyone who has the fancy to make a significant contribution to our collective knowledge. It would be very difficult for a naturalist to find a new plant species even if he/she was expert in bryophytes, for example. On the other hand, set up a moth trap somewhere unusual and you will, as likely as not, come up with a new county record, especially if the trap is operated throughout the season.

To illustrate this point I might mention the example of branch member, Sarah Stille, who started moth trapping (as a novice) last year at her home near Llandrillo. This part of the county has never (to my knowledge) been trapped before and by the end of the season she had added two new county records, Red Underwing and Bird's Wing not to mention numerous new hectad records.

Another example from the 2001 season further demonstrates the rate at which new species are being discovered. David Brown (Moth Recorder for Warwickshire and one of Britain's leading experts) has been

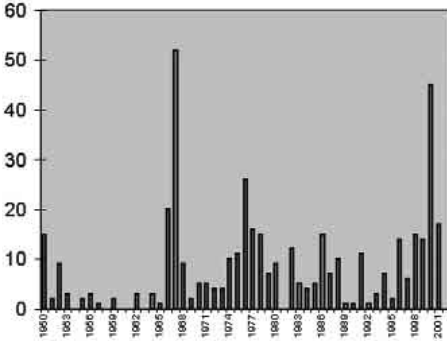
running a moth course (open to anyone interested) at Plas Tan y Bwlch for a number of years and almost always comes up with some very interesting catches. Last year he added Lempke's Gold Spot and Bilberry Pug to the County list as well as achieving further records for Hoary Footman, Weaver's Wave and other rare species.

When we turn our attention to the micro-moths it almost gets too easy! I do not mean that it is easy to identify the moths (though often it is) but that it is easy to come up with something new. The micros have always, inevitably, received less attention and it is undoubtedly the case that there are still many common species that nobody has ever got around to specifically noting.

Even more exciting than new county records are moths 'new for Wales' and amazingly these have turned up in Merioneth in each of the last two seasons. 2000 saw the first Welsh record for *Bactra lacteana* by Tony Davis at the Gwaith Powdr NWWT Reserve. This micro-moth, very similar in appearance to the abundant *B. lancealana*, was only first recognised in Britain in 1996 and may prove to be widely distributed. 2001 saw the discovery of a tiny white moth called *Leucoptera lathyri-foliella* on the coast north of Tywyn. This moth, the larvae of which make leaf mines in Narrow-leaved Everlasting-pea (*Lathyrus sylvestris*), was only previously known from a few sites on the south coast of England and so was quite a surprise in North Wales. Both of these moths are likely to turn up elsewhere in Wales.

So how many moths have been recorded in Merionethshire? Well, for various reasons it is a bit hard to be quite sure but I now have records for 1088 species (not including butterflies).

Number of new county records per year



Given the rate at which new species are being added (see graph above), and the fact that the total British list is well over twice as large, I would guess that there may be several hundred further species waiting to be found. Somebody or other is going to do this soon so why not get involved and make your contribution? Of course, this is easier for residents of the county but visitors have accounted for many of the existing records and even if you do not come up with anything totally new you are bound to find something of interest whether trapping at light, spotting moths in the daytime or looking for larvae. Good luck!

* I use the spelling 'Merionethshire' as I am referring to the Watsonian Vice County. If I used the modern spelling 'Meirionydd' there would be confusion as to exactly what area was being referred to.

Andrew Graham
(Moth Recorder for Merionethshire)

Eureka! ekebladella!

For those unfortunate enough not to have discovered the delights of micromoths, a tale of discovery on a very small scale from Sam Thomas...

Having recently taken up the study of the leaf-mining micros, Sam is often to be seen plucking horribly blotched and twisted leaves from trees and bushes. From a collecting trip in the rich woodland of Caledffrwd near Mynydd Llandegai, Sam returned with his prized afflicted leaves. There then followed, as usual, a long session with the reference books and microscope poring over the minutiae of features such as the patterns within the leaf formed by 'larval frass' (caterpillar droppings). Having identified quite a few species, Sam then came unstuck over some large pale blotches on the upperside of Sweet Chestnut leaves. He was searching with the microscope for some diagnostic characteristic, when suddenly POP! - a tiny caterpillar stuck its rear end out of a hidden slit in the leaf and neatly deposited its droppings outside. Checking the text, this rude but hygienic behaviour proved to be just the lead Sam needed to narrow the search down to the family Tischeriidae: "The Tischeriidae differ from the majority of lepidopterous leaf miners in that the frass is ejected from their mines through a hole in the epidermis of the leaf" (Emmet, 1988)*. From there it was a simple step to identify the little creature as *Tischeria ekebladella*, a widespread species found on Oaks and Sweet Chestnut.

It is a long way from watching butterflies, but the 'micros' certainly show some interesting behaviour, and they require a wide variety of approaches in their study.

*Emmet, A.M. 1988 A field guide to the smaller British lepidoptera. Published by BENHS

The Small Skipper in North West Wales

Anyone interested in conservation is so totally used to depressing news that it is surprising that we keep cheerful. Personally, whenever I read the 'News of the Earth' section in BBC Wildlife magazine, my shoulders slump and I end up feeling so miserable that I rather wish I hadn't bothered. So, just for a change, here is some positive news!

The Small Skipper was a rare butterfly in North West Wales but this is no longer the case.

Older books leave one in no doubt that the butterfly was a rarity. For example, 'The Snowdonia National Park' by William Condy lists the species as being recorded once or twice only. Dr Paul Whalley in 'The Butterflies of Gwynedd' mentions a 'few small and widely separated colonies' and further suggests that numbers may be going down and that the species should be carefully monitored. Well, that was then but this is now and the current situation in Merionethshire is that the Small Skipper is to be found in considerable numbers wherever there are areas of unmown, flower-rich grassland. Personally, I see far more Small Skippers these days than Large Skippers and interestingly the Small Skippers are now to be found in areas of damp grassland (and even bog) where one might expect only to see Large Skippers. I understand that the butterfly is still considered scarce in Caernarvonshire and Anglesey but I would predict this is a situation that will not last. A study of the maps in the 'Millennium Atlas' shows how the range has spread north westwards leaving only the extreme NW of Wales unoccupied. I can state that the butterfly has now been

recorded, usually in fair numbers, right up to the Caernarvonshire border (which I seldom cross) in every 10Km square in Merionethshire. I suggest that it likely to be found in the south of Caernarvonshire now and, if present trends continue, throughout all of North Wales within (perhaps) a decade. [*Small Skipper is becoming common throughout Caernarvonshire too - Alan Wagstaff, butterfly recorder VC49*].

I remember my own astonishment when I first caught specimens at 1000ft altitude on my own farm in the early 90's. Since then numbers have continued to build up and I now know to expect any scrap of suitable habitat, throughout the county, to be occupied even if well distanced from other colonies.

The Small Skipper can be distinguished in flight by its browner colouration; Large Skippers look orange in comparison. To be really sure, carry a net and catch a specimen for a careful look. Remember also that the Large Skipper emerges a bit earlier and is more confined to damp grassland. Both Skippers need grassland that survives the winter unmown and is at most lightly grazed. Anywhere with flowering Knapweed is likely to provide a suitable habitat. Unfortunately, in sheep-dominated North Wales, such places are hardly thick on the ground but try looking on unmown roadside verges, car parks, churchyards, brownfield sites, forest roads, newly established plantations etc. Sand dunes are also very important and the butterfly is very numerous in the Merioneth dune systems.

In the context of Small Skipper habitat it might be worth mentioning an observation that showed up when I analysed my transect data last year. My own transect passes through two flower-rich areas, both of which look very similar in high summer, and both

of which have Small Skippers. However, one is completely unmanaged whereas the other is grazed right down in the winter but with all stock removed in the spring. It turned out that there was a rapid and large-scale emergence of skippers in the unmanaged area but in the winter-grazed site the skippers only started appearing, in dribs and drabs, a bit later in the summer. My interpretation of this observation is that the latter site was being colonised afresh each year but the butterflies were failing to breed successfully. I assume that this is because no grass culms survived the grazing and thus all the tiny larvae, hiding in leaf sheaths, were destroyed.

In conclusion, I would urge all Anglesey and Caernarvonshire recorders to take great care in examining skipper butterflies in the future and not just to assume that they are necessarily Large Skippers.

Andrew Graham
(Butterfly recorder for Merionethshire)

Lime Hawk at Penmaenmawr

Imagine my excitement when I checked my light trap (a portable 125w mercury vapour) in my garden on 23rd June and found a pristine Lime Hawkmoth nestling among the egg boxes.

I have been interested in moths all my life but have only recently started occasional light trapping again after a 30 year break. This is the first Lime Hawkmoth I have ever seen live, and what a beautiful beast it is.



Of course, moth trapping is not principally about ticking off rarities, rather the painstaking gathering of information by many people to piece together the occurrence and patterns of change of the whole moth fauna, but that does not make the appearance of regional rarities, especially when they are photogenic, less exciting.

John Good

[We realise that people in more southerly parts of Wales see Lime Hawkmoth on a more regular basis, but in North Caernarvonshire and on Anglesey, Lime Hawkmoth is an infrequent and exciting find. 2002 was the first year I'd seen one - Alan Wagstaff]

Rare Butterfly puts 'Birdman' Iolo Williams on the rocks



TV presenter and wildlife expert Iolo Williams opened Butterfly Conservation's new nature reserve at Eyarth Rocks near Ruthin in Denbighshire on 21st. May 2002.

Main volunteers meet Iolo at the opening of Eyarth Rocks. (left to right). Mel Bellingham, David Hinde, Sarah Stille, Rob Whitehead, Iolo Williams, Jan Miller, Brian Bull. (Les Hall not present)

Home to the Pearl-bordered Fritillary, one of the most threatened butterfly species in the British Isles, Eyarth Rocks is a crucial acquisition for Butterfly Conservation. The purchase was possible thanks to appeal donations made to the Society and funding from the Countryside Council for Wales.

The Pearl-bordered Fritillary is a very rare species that has undergone severe declines in its range and abundance in the UK over the last 3 decades due to habitat loss - it was found on only 19 sites in Wales during the UK-wide survey in 1997/98. It primarily occurs in dry open woodlands or mosaics of bracken, grass and scrub where the main caterpillar food plant, Common Dog Violet (*Viola riviniana*) grows abundantly in sunny and sheltered conditions.

As well as supporting one of the few populations of Pearl-bordered Fritillary known to survive in Wales, the extended limestone ridge known as Craig-adwy-wynt, that includes Eyarth Rocks, is a veritable 'hot-spot' for butterflies - 30 of the 32 species occurring in North Wales have been found on the ridge. Grizzled Skipper and White-letter Hairstreak are amongst them, each finding that the foodplants on the limestone pavement, sheltering scrub and Bracken provide the special habitat conditions they need.

Purchased in 2001, the reserve comprises some 20 acres of the Craig-adwy-wynt hill top immediately to the south of the ancient hillfort.



Volunteers stacking and burning cut Hathorn scrub, winter 2002 (left)

Cleared area of Eyarth Rocks, with the Clwydian Hills beyond (below)

Jan Miller

The recommended access point is through a gateway in the northern boundary wall at OS Map Grid Reference SJ 122542. This is best reached via the public foot-paths which lead up from the lane crossing the river from Pwll Glas to Tan y Graig, or those that come through Eyarth House Wood from the cross-roads between Eyarth Bridge and Llanfair DC.

Local BC volunteers have already been in action last winter to clear scrub that has grown unchecked by grazing for years. In these newly opened areas the ground flora - especially Dog Violet for the Fritillaries and Barren Strawberry for the Grizzled Skipper, are already flourishing and with them, we hope, the butterflies.



Jan Miller

Anyone who would like to come and see the site and help us with some of this winter's work, please come to the event on 12th. October 2002, or contact Rob Whitehead (01824) 704507 or Jan Miller (01352) 711198 or e-mail jan@7wells.org - we will be having regular work parties throughout the winter, and any help - even just a couple of hours, will be greatly appreciated.

Jan Miller

Surrey to be a nuisance...

[Sam Thomas describes an eventful trip with some of the UK's leading Lepidopterists]

This July I was lucky enough to spend a week in Surrey looking for invertebrates. On the evening I arrived I had arranged to meet up with Jim Porter and we went dusking on some chalk meadowland near Leatherhead which was thick with Marjoram, Lady's Bedstraw and St. John's Wort. The weather was nice but not that good for moths. I was hoping for Wood Carpet and we found two. They were very worn but obviously different from Common Carpet. Later I swept a small caterpillar which Jim said was a Burnet Companion - he seems to be quite good on caterpillars! We also had Essex Skipper and White-legged Damselfly.

The next day there was a field trip with the Surrey and South West London BC branch on Bookham Common looking for butterflies. It was raining as I walked down and on the way I collected some leafmines of a rare *Phyllonorycter* which I had found vacated mines of the year before. It turned out to be *Phyllonorycter comparella*, for which this is only the second site in Surrey.

When I got to the Common it was pouring with rain and it seemed that we were not going to see anything at all, but as we left the car park some short sunny spells began to break into the rain. Because the butterflies were still fairly cold they were much easier to approach. First we saw Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral and Purple Hairstreak. We also saw an aberrant female Silver-washed Fritillary which had much more black than usual on the upper forewing. After lunch we went to the Purple Emperor 'lek' tree where there were 4 Purple Emperors flying around in the breaks between showers.

The next day I went to Denbey's Hillside at Ranmore. The weather wasn't that good but I had lots of Marbled White and some Narrow-bordered 5-spot Burnets. On the walk back I beat a Scorched Carpet caterpillar from a Spindle tree at Polesden Lacey. Spindle is common there so it was a good chance to see this species.

On Saturday I went on a butterfly walk at Box Hill and saw lots of Dark Green Fritillaries and Silver-washed Fritillaries. I had seen Dark Green Fritillary in North Wales, but Silver-washed Fritillary is almost unheard of there.

That evening I met up with Jim Porter and we set off to Hamstreet Woods in Kent where we saw an adult Blood-vein and lots of micros but we could not find White-banded Carpet. We searched for Poplar Kitten eggs and did not find them but we did find a Puss Moth egg. Then we went on to Dungeness where we set our light traps and did some sugaring. The weather was quite cold but we still got some good stuff; *Coleophora pennella*, *Synaphe punctalis*, *Cynaeda dentalis*, - the latter found on the car dashboard while dusking! Sweeping Nottingham Catchfly produced 4 larvae of the White Spot, whilst searching Sticky Groundsel turned up a Bordered Straw caterpillar. In the moth traps were, amongst other things, Pygmy Footman, Lackey, Tawny Shears and Marbled Coronet, but nothing came to the sugar because it was too cold. The flora at Dungeness is very interesting with, for example, masses of Dodder.

The next day I went to the Butterfly Fair at Juniper Hall (Box Hill) where I met Mark Tunmore (on the Atropos stall) who had put out a pheromone lure for Orange-tailed Clearwing. After about an hour he caught one! They are incredible things - more like wasps than moths. The Orange-tailed Clearwing feeds in the trunk of Guelder Rose and Wayfaring Tree, and is not found in North Wales.

On my last day of 'looking for things' I went to Thursley Common where I saw 2 Silver-studded Blues of the heathland race, and 13 species of dragonfly including Brown Hawker, Downy Emerald, and Small Red Damselfly. I am already planning my next trip to Surrey!

Sam Thomas

The 4th. International Butterfly Conservation Symposium at Lancaster University

5th. to 8th. September 2002

This was an excellent event, and up north for a change! The theme this year was 'Landscape and Lepidoptera Conservation', and as Baroness Young, one of the Keynote speakers said - "Conservation at present is rather like teenage sex - a lot of people are talking about it, a few people are doing it, but those that are, aren't always doing it very well."

But there were speakers from as far away as Japan and Australia, talking about their own particular perspectives on Lepidoptera conservation - it was very heartening to see just how much research and serious effort is going into the subject.

And it was quite a feat for the organisers to make the symposium interesting and accessible for academics and amateurs alike.

There was so much fascinating information that I can only hope to note a few that stuck in my mind here, but if you would like a list of all the abstracts do contact Head Office. It is hoped to put some of them on the website, or on a CD at some stage.

The overall message I got from the majority of the speakers was 'metapopulations'. That is - more and more recording of butterfly and moth breeding sites is showing that a colony can't survive for long in just one location. The instinctive drive these insects have to spread means they need to keep moving - if only a few miles, or even less, to new areas of suitable habitat, every few years. So managed areas for rarer

species have to include large sections of countryside with more than 2 or 3 possible habitats within them.

Other interesting snippets - Cuckoos are the only bird that can eat poisonous or hairy caterpillars, like Garden Tiger which is scarcer in areas populated by this bird. Where some moths or butterflies are spreading north and west, probably due to global warming - they are at the same time becoming scarcer in the areas they used to frequent. Australia is still in the pioneering process of classifying what they've actually got - and are hampered by misguided Queensland laws that don't allow capture or transport of their species over the state border. In Portugal and Eastern Europe it is still thought 'strange' for men to study butterflies - but they often do have very old records because collecting has been a hobby of the rich for 100's of years. The Duke of Burgundy's Fritillary lives as far north as Finland and the Marsh Fritillary is doing very nicely in the sphagnum-lined craters left by military shelling on Salisbury Plain.

It was wonderful being able to talk to so many people who share my enthusiasm for butterflies; the food was excellent; the sun shone on a wonderful field-trip to Arnside Knott, and the organisation was flawless. The next Symposium is planned for 3 years' time - if you have a particular interest to suggest as a theme, or an idea for a good venue, tell Head Office about it. And don't feel that it may be too specialised for you - I've only been involved with BC for 3 years, and I found the Symposium a rich and varied source of information, as well as a great inspiration to do more voluntary work that really can save lepidoptera. So do think about coming next time.

Jan Miller

BCNW Branch Winter Events

Moth ID workshop

Thursday 10th October 7.30pm. A beginners guide to moth identification, led by Doug Murray.
Pensychnant Nature Conservation Centre SH 752771
Booking advised, for more information contact
Doug Murray (01248) 750089

Moth-ers Union meeting

Monday 14th October 7.30pm. Our monthly get-together, to talk about moths, butterflies and other wildlife. All welcome. Pensychnant Nature Conservation Centre. SH752771 For more information contact Julian Thompson (01492) 592595

Work party at Eyarth Rocks Reserve, nr. Ruthin.

Saturday 12th October
Meet at Eyarth Bridge SJ 127 553 at 10.30 am.
Come and help clear some bracken (for as long or as little as you like!) at this premier rare butterflies site, and find out how we plan habitat management. Join us for a meal or drink in the White Horse afterwards.
Bring strong clothing and footwear, gloves, water-proofs, drinking water.
Booking advised, for more information contact
Jan Miller (01352) 711198 or Rob Whitehead (01824) 704507

There will be regular work-days at Eyarth throughout the winter on Saturdays and Wednesdays, but please phone Jan Miller (01352) 711198 or Rob Whitehead (01824) 704507 first if you are planning to come.

Pebble Hook-tip

Autumn Colours Forest Festival at Cae Llan Fields, Betws y Coed. Saturday 19th October 10am to 5pm. & Sunday 20th October 10am to 5pm.
We will be running a BC stand again at this popular Forest Enterprise festival, volunteers needed for just two hours each to help us promote BC.
Please let Jan Miller know on (01352) 711198 if you can help.

Moth-ers Union meeting

Monday 4th November 7.30pm Our monthly get-together, to talk about moths, butterflies and other wildlife. All welcome. Pensychnant Nature Conservation Centre. SH752771 For more information contact Julian Thompson (01492) 592595

Wildlife Cinematography for Television

Joint event BCNW & Friends of Pensychnant
Wednesday 13th November 7.30pm
A talk by Mike Potts (BBC). £2 entry. All welcome.
Pensychnant Nature Conservation Centre. SH752771
Booking advised, for more information contact Julian Thompson (01492) 592595

Moth-ers Union meeting

Monday 2nd December 7.30pm Our monthly get-together, to talk about moths, butterflies and other wildlife. All welcome. Pensychnant Nature Conservation Centre. SH752771 For more information contact Julian Thompson (01492) 592595

BCNW Christmas Get-together

Sunday 8th December 2.00pm
An opportunity to meet other branch members for an afternoon of chat, video and slides. Accompanied non-members and children welcome so come and sample our punch and snacks (non-alcoholic drinks available for children and drivers). All welcome.
Pensychnant Nature Conservation Centre SH752771
Booking advised, for more information contact
Julian Thompson (01492) 592595

Moth-ers Union meeting

Monday 13th January 7.30pm Our monthly get-together, to talk about moths, butterflies and other wildlife. All welcome. Pensychnant Nature Conservation Centre. SH752771 For more information contact Julian Thompson (01492) 592595

Gardening for Butterflies

Joint event BCNW & Retired Teacher's Assoc
Thursday January 30th 2003 at 2.30pm.
Lecture with slides plus butterfly plants and book sale, meeting at Berthem Schoolroom, Gledlon Rd, Lixm.
Booking essential; contact Jan Miller (01352) 711198

Butterfly Identification Workshop

Joint event BCNW & Dyserth Field Club
Saturday 15th March, 2pm to 4pm
Beginners workshop with Rob Whitehead and Jan Miller. Paterson Hall, Dyserth near Prestatyn.
Free to BC members.
Booking essential, Contact Jan Miller (01352) 711198

Gardening for Butterflies

Joint event BCNW & Llanfairfechan Gardening Club
27th. March 7pm. illustrated talk by Jan Miller, plus
plant sales. Llanfairfechan Gardening Club,
Llanfairfechan Community Centre.
Booking essential, Contact Jan Miller (01352) 711198

Butterflies, moths & their food plants

Joint event BCNW and Conwy CBC
Saturday 7th June 2pm to 4pm.
Join the Warden of Mynydd Marian Local Nature
reserve to find out about the butterflies, moths and
their food plants on this beautiful limestone grassland
hillside. We might even see the elusive Silver-studded
Blue. Meet at 2pm. opposite the Semaphore Lodge
on Ffordd y Llan, Llysfaen near Colwyn Bay. Grid Ref.
SH 892776 Strong footwear, waterproofs, no dogs,
children must be supervised by an adult due to steep
cliff. Booking essential, Contact Jan Miller (01352) 711198

Notification of events

If you wish to automatically receive information about forthcoming events via e-mail, please request the service by contacting naturaldtp@aol.com with “**e-mail hotline request**” as the subject.

If you have a butterfly or moth related event planned in North Wales and wish to publicise it on the e-mail hotline please contact Alan Wagstaff

The one thing a newsletter needs... NEWS

If you have an idea for an article you want to place in the next newsletter, contact Alan Wagstaff on (01248) 354739 or e-mail your article to naturaldtp@aol.com

County Moth Recorders**Anglesey - VC52**

Doug Murray
 Ty Moireach, Lon Tudur
 Llangefni
 Anglesy
 LL77 7HP
 (01248) 750089

Caernarfonshire - VC49

Debbie Evans
 Rowen, Y Felinheli
 Bangor
 Gwynedd
 LL56 4RX
 (01248) 671150

Denbigshire - VC50

Bryan Formstone
 15 Beech Avenue
 Gresford
 Wrexham
 LL12 8EL
 (01978) 855174

Flintshire - VC51

Geoff Neale
 36 Ridgeway
 Hawarden
 Deeside
 CH5 3ER
 (01244) 533622

Merionethshire - VC48

Andrew Graham
 Trawscoed
 Llanuwchllyn, Bala
 Gwynedd
 LL23 7TD
 (01678) 540370

Montgomeryshire - VC47

Simon Spencer
 Rhoslan, Brithdir
 Llanfyllin
 Powys
 SY22 5HB
 (01691) 648339

County Butterfly Recorders**Anglesey - VC52**

Doug Murray
 Ty Moireach, Lon Tudur
 Llangefni
 Anglesy
 LL77 7HP
 (01248) 750089

Caernarfonshire - VC49

Alan Wagstaff
 3 Hen Gapel
 Pentir, Bangor
 Gwynedd
 LL55 4UU
 (01248) 354739

Denbigshire - VC50

Rob Whitehead
 Haulfryn, Graigfechan
 Ruthin
 Denbigshire
 LL15 2HA
 (01824) 704507

Flintshire - VC51

Lawrence Rawsthorne
 Bryn Garth, Main Road
 Sychdyn
 Flintshire
 CH7 6EA
 (01352) 756955

Merionethshire - VC48

Andrew Graham
 Trawscoed
 Llanuwchllyn, Bala
 Gwynedd
 LL23 7TD
 (01678) 540370

Montgomeryshire - VC47

Simon Spencer
 Rhoslan, Brithdir
 Llanfyllin
 Powys
 SY22 5HB
 (01691) 648339

Useful Addresses**Branch Volunteer
Co-ordinator**

Jan Miller
 Saith Ffynon Farm
 Whitford
 Holywell
 CH8 9EQ
 (01352) 711198
 jan@7wells.org

Newsletter editor

Alan Wagstaff
 3 Hen Gapel
 Pentir, Bangor
 Gwynedd
 LL55 4UU
 (01248) 354739
 naturaldtp@aol.com

**Butterfly Conservation
Wales**

10 Calvert Terrace
 Swansea
 SA1 5AR
 (01792) 642972

**Butterfly Conservation
Head Office**

Manor Yard
 East Lulworth, Wareham
 Dorset
 BH20 5QP
 (01929) 400209

**Pensychnant
Conservation Centre**

c/o Julian Thompson
 Sychnant Pass
 Conwy
 LL32 8BJ
 (01492) 592595