



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats

The **Suffolk** *Argus*

*The Newsletter of the **Suffolk** Branch of Butterfly Conservation*

White-letter Hairstreak - photo Peter Maddison



Spring 2015

Volume 62



Geoff Hayes
Checking butterfly identifications
Kerkini, Greece June 2010



Red Admiral seen on 2nd January 2015
near Bawdsey Hall. Flying high then
coming to rest on a line of conifers.
Sunny and 7°C.
Photo and sighting:
Karen and Robert Brown

Larva of Toadflax Brocade
Photo: Derek and Valerie Soper
You Never Know... Page 12



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Editorial

Peter Maddison

David and Margie Carter, and Robert Brown saw Red Admirals during a mild spell on the 2nd of January, but my goodness this winter does seem to be going on. I can't wait for those first true spring days when an over-wintering butterfly emerges to sip nectar at a crocus bloom. The day when a male Brimstone flits through the garden passing by shrubs that are barely in leaf is always uplifting. Then, the butterfly season is underway. How will you attract butterflies to your garden? Bill Stone has some answers, he's just moved house and writes about the plants that he has put in his garden. In another article Derek and Valerie Soper write about the butterfly plants, both wild and cultivated, that they value in their garden. If you have plants that you have found to be particularly attractive

to butterflies or moths please write in and volunteer your suggestions....and spread the word.

Work at Purdis Heath has been carried out by a growing band of volunteers, and we thank them for their hard work and support for the project over the winter months. They are not the only volunteers, other members have put themselves forward to help at some of our 'meet the public' events and we are grateful for their support too. As our membership increases we want to be able to offer more events, but to do this we need to share the workload and help is required. If you feel that you are able to assist at an event or have a particular skill that might be useful to the Branch please make contact with Helen Saunders (Events and Purdis

work parties), or our Chairman, Mike Dean or any member of the Committee. Contact details are on Page 5.

We welcome our new members to the Branch and hope that you will be able to join us in our Events programme. A 'New Members' and Novice Recorders' Day' is being held on the 25th of April. New Members and those of longer standing are welcome to take part in the events that follow in which identification skills may be honed, rarely observed butterflies watched and new acquaintances made. The 2015 Programme is enclosed with this copy of *The Suffolk Argus* and full details may be found on the Branch website, where updates will also be shown. For most of the events it is worth contacting the leader for up-to-the-minute details.

Butterfly recording will soon begin. Recording sheets are available on the website at www.suffolkbutterflies.org.uk where the regularly updated county 'Sightings' page will be found.

Twm Wade co-ordinates the Wider

Countryside Butterfly Survey and looks forward to the new season. At present only one square is available for a new recorder, but it is possible that before the season begins some brand new squares will be added to the county list. If you are interested in recording within this scheme please contact Twm. Twm.wade@yahoo.com
In 2018 a Macro-moth Atlas of Britain and Ireland will be published and help is sought from butterfly recorders with the recording of day-flying moths and moth caterpillars. You might be well-versed in the world of moths, but for me this will be a new challenge, and a welcome one. Zoë Randle and Richard Fox write about this project.

Will you be making plans for the season? Perhaps the Dingy Skipper fascinates you, or the flashy Silver-washed Fritillary. You might wish to see Swallowtails, (see Catfield Fen event) perhaps for the first time or perhaps British Swallowtails in six different locations as Richard Stewart did in 2014 - read his article. Wherever your interest lies have a good season!



Swallowtail
Illustration by
Douglas Hammersley

Editorial copy date

Contributions for the Summer edition of our newsletter are very welcome and should be sent to the Editor, Peter Maddison, no later than **Sunday 17th May, 2015.**

Any piece of writing considered to be of interest

will be published and we also welcome line drawings, prints and photographs.

Contributions (preferably electronic) can be sent to the address on the Contacts page or by email to: prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk

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Butterfly Conservation

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New Members

Susan Sidle, Branch Membership Secretary

We warmly welcome the following new members to the Suffolk Branch.

Mr J Boardman, Worlingham

Mr K H Boulton, Lowestoft

Mr K J Byfield, Knodishall

Mr D Cable-Davey, Ipswich

Mr R Clements, Flowton

Miss R Crocket, Hitcham

Ms H Fisher & Mr R Hall, Halesworth

Mrs H Furlong, Elmsett

Mr D & Mrs J Jowers , Ipswich

Mr M Layt, Newmarket

Mr R S Lord, Ipswich

Mr R & Mrs F Mason, Manningtree

Miss A Newport, Tostock

Mr P Noble, Ipswich

Miss C Phillips, Palgrave

Mrs S & Mr A Pretty & Family, Barsham

Mr D Rodie, Birch

Miss S Sly, Hollesley

Mrs R Titchiner, Ditchingham

Mrs B Willison, Weeting

Mrs A Woodward, Elmswell

Mr A Wren , Lowestoft

In addition to the Welcome Pack from Butterfly Conservation, all new members should have received a Welcome Letter from the branch either by email or by post. If you don't think you have received your branch Welcome Letter, please let me know using my contact details below.

If we welcomed you by email, you will have received a link to the online version of our latest branch newsletter, the Suffolk Argus. By default you will continue to be emailed a link to future online editions, as they become available, unless you request otherwise. Many of our members prefer to receive a hard copy of the Argus and we are very happy to oblige. Likewise, if you currently receive a hard copy, but would be happy to receive your future newsletters electronically, again let me know.

At the time of writing, 457 households have membership with the Suffolk Branch, which means that as a branch we have almost doubled in size over the last five years. This is great news for Suffolk's butterflies and moths, so thank you again for your support! If you would like to encourage friends or family to join too, don't forget to check Butterfly Conservation's website at www.butterfly-conservation.org.uk find out the latest new member initiatives on offer.

Suffolk Branch can now communicate with most members by email. Emails from the branch will usually come from news@suffolkbutterflies.org.uk, mostly during the butterfly season, and may include reminders of upcoming events and details of any last minute changes. They may also include the occasional request for help. If you haven't yet provided us with your email address and would like to do so, contact me at my email address below. If you prefer, you can of course keep up to date via the branch website.

Contact details for Susan Sidle: susansidle361@gmail.com or 01379 643665.

Obituary

Geoff Hayes

I am sorry to report the passing of Geoff, who was a long-standing member of the Branch, having joined in 1993. He and Pat were frequent attendees at Branch events. Recording butterflies was an important part of Geoff's hobby and in 1994, for the Suffolk Garden Butterfly Survey, he and Pat observed 16 species in their small garden in Beyton, with 11 species coming to Buddleia and 10 to *Aster frikartii*. Theirs was noted as being one of the best-recorded gardens in the survey. Geoff and Pat were major contributors in the five years leading to the publication of 'The Millennium Atlas of Suffolk Butterflies'. In fact Pat has said that Geoff's diaries were 'nothing but butterflies!'

Geoff and Pat took part in some of our extended butterfly holidays, more recently a long-weekend at Portland Bill, and in 2010 a week-long visit

to the Lake Kerkini district of northern Greece, where Geoff's knowledge of butterflies and enthusiasm in the field were clear to see. Sadly, with eyesight and health deteriorating, Geoff's attendance at field events became less frequent, but he was pleased to be able to once again participate at Trudie Willis' Butterfly Garden Open Day in 2013, where we recalled that five years earlier the buddlejas had strained under the weight of migrant Painted Ladies.

Geoff died at the beginning of the new year whilst staying with his daughter in Devon. We are most grateful to Pat for allowing donations to be made to the Suffolk Branch of Butterfly Conservation and send her and the family our sincere condolences.

Peter Maddison

Butterfly Haiku - Winter into Spring

Richard Stewart

Beneath a blanket
Of soft snow on deep ivy
Yellow brimstones rest.

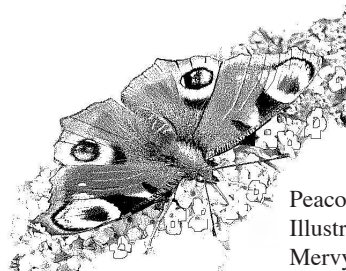
Earth is still waiting
For the last melting of snow
The first butterflies.

Blue sky and sunshine
Clusters of bright ladybirds
The first bumbling bee.

Cold earth is turning
Slip sliding into the spring
As icicles melt.

A single peacock
Out of winter's cold darkness
Basking in sunlight.

A male orange tip
Feeds on purple aubretia
The clash of colours!



Peacock
Illustration by
Mervyn Crawford

WCBS - The Many Volunteers Lead To Success

Twm Wade

Butterfly Conservation organise one of the biggest long-term amateur science projects in the world, known as the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme. The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey is part of it.

The contribution from Suffolk has been greatly increased this year by many fresh volunteers from the adventuring beginner to the well-versed. The WCBS scheme does not suit everyone, yet I hope the information gained is of wider interest.

The 2014 Outcome

The information here includes sightings recorded by surveyors organised by the British Trust for Ornithology (BTO).

Moths - Nine species were recorded in seven squares. The most widespread and abundant was the Cinnabar by some margin over the Silver-Y. The Oak Eggar and Dusky Sallow were both at the bottom of the table as regards occupancy and abundance.

Butterflies - Twenty-eight species were recorded in 26 squares with a total of 4,302 butterflies. The most widespread was the Small White in 25 squares, then: Meadow Brown 24, Red Admiral 23, then Gatekeeper, Large White & Peacock in

22, Ringlet 21 & Speckled Wood 20.

The least widespread were: Clouded Yellow, Silver-studded Blue, Green and White-letter Hairstreak, increasing to Purple Hairstreak 2, Orange Tip & Grayling 3.

The most abundant butterfly was the Gatekeeper with a total of 739 records, even though it was not the most widespread. This was closely followed by the Meadow Brown with the total of 713 and then there is a step down to the Small White at 408 which was the most widespread. In the 300s we have Ringlet (388) Small Tortoiseshell (344) and Large White (302). The least abundant were single recordings for Clouded Yellow, Silver-studded Blue and White-letter Hairstreak. Next we have Purple Hairstreak at 2, Brown Argus at 4 and Green Hairstreak at 7. It is interesting to note that 27 Orange-tip were recorded but only in 3 squares. This statistic is likely to change if more surveys could be fitted in during April and May.

A WCBS outing can be a fun thing to do on a warm sunny day. Everything about the scheme is available on the web: <http://www.ukbms.org/wcbs.aspx> or ask me. The table of available squares varies from time-to-time and is scheduled below.

WIDER COUNTRYSIDE BUTTERFLY SURVEY - IN SUFFOLK Squares Available to New Participants

Grid Ref	Town Parish of Grid	Post Code of Grid
TM5195	Flixton, Lowestoft	NR32 5PB

Hibernating Peacocks

Rob Parker

It is not unusual to see any of the species which hibernate as adult butterflies during the winter months, sometimes when you enter their dry, dark, cool refuge and take a good look around. In that case they will be very still unless you disturb them. If they are seen in flight in the really cold months, generally they have been disturbed from hibernation by a bird, dog, human or just the wind. They will fly only a short distance before finding a new refuge. By March, things are different. When they feel the sun warming them, they will venture out to find nectar and look for a mate, resuming their hibernation when it gets cold again. By April, their chances are better, temperature and sun are more favourable, and nectar is more readily found.

I usually have a few Peacocks hibernating in my garden or garage, and 2013/14 turned out to be an interesting time to observe them.

Whilst gardening on 29th October 2013, I moved a wheelbarrow into the sun and lifted a spadeful of soil towards the barrow and was surprised to see a Peacock sitting in the well. On closer inspection, I found 2 more in the inside of the hollow plastic legs. The barrow had been outside, pushed out of sight behind a hedge and tipped handles uppermost to rest against the wall behind the hedge. Thus it was subject to outside temperatures, but right out of the sun and completely sheltered from rain or wind. I carefully replaced it in the same position, without disturbing

the butterflies, and decided to keep an eye on them. The first week of December was very mild, and I saw a few Peacocks flying elsewhere, but my 3 wheelbarrow dwellers stayed put for the winter.

On 24th February 2014, I saw my first butterfly of the year - a Peacock in full sun at 8°C in Bury St Edmunds, but my 3 hibernators had not budged. Soon afterwards, I discovered that we had another 3 in the roof of our garage. By 9th March, two of these had found the open window and were basking on our viburnum, but one remained in the garage. By chance, I saw it leaving by the open door into the sun on 17th March. I went promptly to check the wheelbarrow and found 3 still present there. By 25th March 2 had flown, leaving one still hibernating. On 3rd and 9th April it was still present, but a check on 11th found the barrow empty. Clearly the cool dry situation at outdoors temperatures had suited a long hibernation, and whilst some were on the wing by 24th Feb, others outdoors were still resting on 9th April. Whilst that spread of dates is not surprising, it was absorbing to keep such a close watch on their behaviour. My wheelbarrow had served as a good substitute for the hollow trees that Nature provides.

2014 was an unusually good year for Peacocks, and the summer emergences produced large numbers right across Suffolk.

Two days before Christmas 2014, Alex drew my attention to one that had settled on a sheet hanging in bright sunlight, but inside the laundry room. It was in very good condition, and had probably begun its hibernation indoors some weeks earlier when the door was open. I remember seeing one enter through the back door and slipping into the recess behind the washing machine. Quite possibly this was the same insect, stirred into life by the warmth of the room with the sun through the window. This one, I transferred by hand to the garage, where it

remains at the time of writing (10 Jan 2015).

The life cycle of the Peacock makes it one of our longest-lived butterflies. They emerge in July, fly through summer and autumn, hibernate as adults and the same butterflies are flying again the following spring, mating and egg-laying in May. If it is lucky enough to survive predation, an individual butterfly lives for 10 months. Compare this longevity to the commonly held belief that “butterflies only live for a day or two”.

Early Rising Small Tortoiseshell

Originally printed in the Manchester Guardian on 12th January 1915

That at the present time a small tortoiseshell butterfly should fly in through a window as was mentioned by a Knutsford lady in Saturday’s issue, is unusual but not extraordinary, for this species, like the peacock and a few other kinds, exists from year to year by the hibernation of the females of the late summer brood. Clinging with tightly closed wings and stiffened limbs to the rafters of outhouses, the sheltered sides

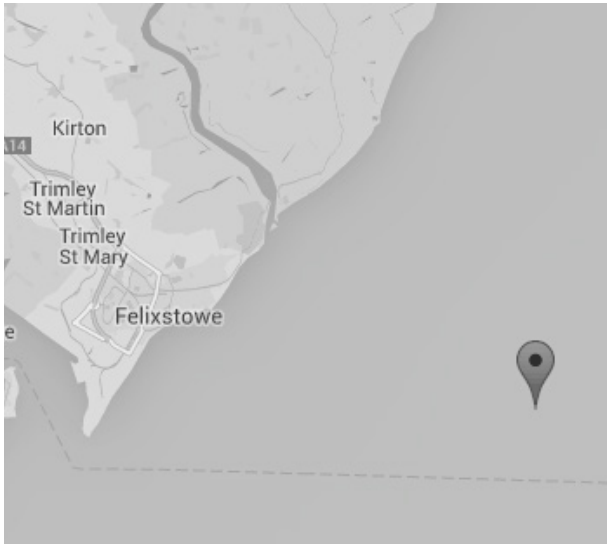
of hollows in rotten trees, or the ceilings of cottage kitchens, these flies slumber from autumn until spring, until vernal currents stir them to activity, and they awaken, seek the young green nettles; lay their eggs, and die. Now and then some elusively mild winter day or accidental disturbance sends them forth to expose their beautiful wings in the wintry sunshine, but they speedily seek shelter or perish.

Observations of Red Admirals

Bill Stone

On 15th October 2014, an interesting sighting of a Red Admiral was reported to me by Cambridgeshire Butterfly Recorder Louise Bacon. Whilst present on board the MV Stena Britannica, Louise observed a Red Admiral which was flying strongly over the water. The sighting was made at

0955hrs and the weather was sunny with a light southerly wind. Louise was able to check the position of the Red Admiral by referring to the online resource www.marinetraffic.com which allows you to track live and historical shipping movements. By inputting the required details Louise was



The position on the wall was sheltered from the wind and with the sun fully on the wall the temperature was likely to be higher than the maximum of 7°C forecast for the day. I watched the butterfly for about twenty minutes during which it was seen to walk along the external power cable and make short flights of no more than about 2-3 feet. Throughout the period of observation it was constantly flexing its wings and repositioning itself, no doubt to make the most of the warmth offered by the sun. Slowly, the

able to determine the MV Stena Britannica's position (and that of the butterfly) as Latitude 51.938580 North, Longitude 1.496067 East which as an Ordnance Survey grid reference equates to TM4040332450. This position put the butterfly approximately 11km east of Felixstowe, well within Suffolk's territorial waters!

On 13th January 2015, I was talking with a colleague in our central Ipswich office when I noticed movement on a security light casing outside on the wall. Looking closely revealed a Red Admiral sitting on top of the light flexing its wings in bright sunshine.

butterfly returned to the light casing and was seen to crawl behind eventually being lost to view. After an hour or so the weather changed and it became overcast and much cooler, with heavy rain later in the day. A day or so later I checked a similar security light casing to the one the Red Admiral had been seen on. Looking behind it revealed two narrow cracks, perhaps 3-4 inches deep into the wall where the light fixings were applied. Presumably the Red Admiral observed had found its way into a similar crack.

Sign up for the free e-newsletter

'All Aflutter' is Butterfly Conservation's free newsletter delivered to your inbox once a month. It provides monthly information on which species to look out for, the latest butterfly and moth news, gardening tips and

special offers.

Sign up for the newsletter at:

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/2061/email-newsletter.html>

You Never Know.....

Derek and Valerie Soper

Last year in our vegetable garden towards the end of June we saw some unusual caterpillars.

Perhaps we should explain that we grow our vegetables in a number of oblong or square beds which are surrounded by gravel paths. We have noticed that gravel provided a suitable background for adult butterflies to bask and warm up. We allow weeds and naturalized flowers to flourish, often self-sown, both in the paths and to a limited extent in the beds themselves.

Over several years the ‘weeds’, though they sometimes have to be thinned, have offered a food and nectaring resource for many Lepidoptera. For example mulleins *Verbascum thapsus* for the mullein moth - its caterpillars abound, and one or two brassica plants left for the ‘white’ butterfly larvae of course.

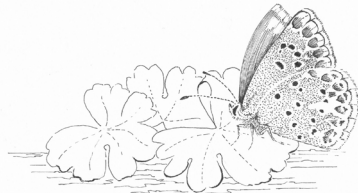
In 2014 the champion plant for nectar was the well-known flower *Verbena bonariensis*. No less than 10 species of butterfly, including Common Blue, used it from mid-Summer at various times, and also the Humming-bird Hawk-moth. The final nectaring species was a Small Tortoiseshell, recorded on the 27th of October at 11.00 am when the temperature rose to 14° Centigrade. This Verbena has a usefully-long flowering period.

Before June White Deadnettle *Lamium album* and Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* flowered in the gravel as did Dovesfoot Cranesbill *Geranium molle* (we think) on which on the 23rd of May a Brown Argus was

nectaring and egg-laying. Three Peacocks used Teasel *Dipsacus fullonum* on the 25th of July which was the day we recorded 62 butterflies in the garden. A Comma enjoyed flowering Feverfew *Tanacetum parthenium* on the 11th of August. Although Meadow Clary *Salvia pratensis* and Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea* were used in July by Small Skippers, disappointingly no Cinnabar caterpillars have fed on the latter plant, but one caterpillar once chose a very small Groundsel *Senecio vulgaris*.

Back to the beginning: the surprise caterpillars were Toadflax Brocade *Calophasia lunula* feeding unsurprisingly on Purple Toadflax *Linaria purpurea*. Three larvae were recorded on the 26th of June. They were extremely active, devouring voraciously and moving restlessly from leaf to leaf. They are yellow/green on a black ‘netted’ background. (Photo page 2) This is a new record for this part of the county - High Suffolk - away from the coast.

Growing cultivated crops the way we do: in beds accessed by semi-weeded gravel paths is very beneficial to Lepidoptera.



Brown Argus
Illustration by
Beryl Johnson

Six Of The Best

Richard Stewart

Normally I try each year to see forty different species of British butterflies but in 2014 changed my focus to try and see two of my favourite species in at least six different locations. The Swallowtail was the first, undoubtedly my number one British species, an insect of great beauty particularly if seen with the light behind it, shining like a stained glass window. Two problems presented themselves - first all sightings needed to be in Norfolk and second I have no car. This meant a train to Norwich then using a bus plus plenty of walking.

However, the first was very comfortable, a trip to Hickling Broad being organised by the Ipswich branch of the Suffolk Wildlife Trust. Our previous visit had been way back in 1986 and I can vividly remember scaling the vertical and long ladder to the observation tower, then seeing Purple Hairstreaks very close at eye level. Now a series of easier upwards slopes lead to the tower. In total we saw five Swallowtails, none that close but one actually flying over the boat 'Swallowtail' which took us on the water trip. My subsequent article in the Local Wildlife News was illustrated with two superb Swallowtail photos, taken on the day by Jill Brook. For at least one person it was their first sighting of our largest British butterfly.

That was on 31st May and two days later I saw two at Wheatfen Broad, which I now visit more frequently after discovering a convenient bus service. On 11th June I visited two sites, walking from Ludham to the nature trail at How Hill, then having to

wait a long time in the first meadow as it was cloudy with only short bursts of sunshine. A man and a woman were also waiting but they both missed a distant Swallowtail as he was busy telling her of some type of small drone he wanted to buy. Then excited activity nearby suggested one was closer and a swallowtail came and landed right in front of us. I then walked a considerable distance along quiet lanes to Catfield Fen, where I walked through a copse and reached an open gate onto the Fen, with no proscriptive notices. The abundance of water soldier in the dykes was indicative of pure water and after seeing a marsh harrier and Chinese water deer just one Swallowtail flew close, actually circling round my head. My intended visit on the next day was to Woodbastwick Broad where the map indicated a path from the road but thankfully my intentions changed after meeting the Bure Marshes NNR warden, who told me the broad was private and directed me to his own reserve, which was a much longer walk than expected but enlivened by seeing a hunting barn owl. I saw no Swallowtails either along the river path or the boardwalk in the reserve but thankfully saw two on my way down to the Ferry and on the walk back, both at places where there was a gate and a path made through the reedbeds. Strumpshaw Fen was last, one of the best and easiest reserves for seeing Swallowtails, partly because Martin George has for many years allowed visitors to walk the length of his long front garden border and see Swallowtails close up, feeding on flowers especially planted for them.

This worked well for Marie and myself as we immediately saw one feeding exclusively on white dame's violet but not trying the sweet williams further up the border, which also attract many butterflies. This cottage overlooks the reserve and soon a second Swallowtail was seen plus a close view of a third one, feeding on bankside yellow flag along the river path. So six locations had been successful by 24th June. I did try a seventh at Ranworth Broad but it was a

cloudy and gusty day and none appeared. Of these six successful locations just one, at Bure Marshes NNR, was new to me but I still felt it was a great success and I personally am pleased this spectacular butterfly is now thriving at many Broadland sites, the majority being nature reserves. Thankfully also its larval food plant, milk parsley, is also being safeguarded since, with a few exceptions, the Swallowtail depends on this one plant for its egg laying.

The Wall Brown

The third generation falls into a 'developmental trap'

Peter Maddison

The Wall Brown usually produces two broods and exists throughout the winter in the larval form. In some years larvae from the second brood pupate and emerge in September as a third generation of adults. For the third generation to survive the winter it is necessary for these adults to lay eggs and for the larvae to hatch.

What chance of survival does the third generation have here in the east?

The question has been discussed between members of the BC Branches in the eastern counties and for some years now the possibility has been aired that cool weather often sets in before the September butterflies are able to lay their eggs or for the larvae to develop sufficiently for winter survival. This might be one of the causes of the reduction in the numbers of this species.

Recently, scientists working in Belgium have produced a paper in which they noted

that during the last 30 years a new generation of the Wall Brown butterfly has emerged fully formed later in the year in September or October.

Experiments showed that, when compared to coastal sites, more butterflies of the third generation hatched out at inland sites. Also, inland sites had slightly warmer micro-climates, which encouraged more third generation emergence, than sites at the coast, where the second generation more readily went into hibernation.

As there is little time for the third generation to feed winter losses are severe. The authors have termed this the 'developmental trap'.

Richard Fox gives a clear and detailed explanation of the findings in his article on the BC website. Click 'Latest News', then 'Blog' and scroll down to 'Has Warm Weather Wrong-footed The Wall'

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/3114-7566/has-warming-weather-wrong-footed-the-wall.html>

The Purple Emperor at Theberton

Letter to the Editor from Pete Rowberry

Dear Editor,

I'd like to thank Rob Parker for his informative and measured response to my letter on the release of captive bred Purple Emperor butterflies at Theberton Woods (Suffolk Argus, Autumn 2014). I see no reason for Rob to "tear his hair out" over this site, as, unlike the other examples he quotes, it is well known that the colony was introduced from captive bred stock from the UK and that it has been supported by further releases of stock raised from material gathered on the site and cared for in captivity. I am concerned about whether landowner's permission for the release was obtained, as this would certainly have an impact on its legality. The Forest Enterprise were made aware of the potential of Theberton Woods to support Purple Emperors and the value of sallow as the species' larval food plant. As a result, it reversed its plan to remove the sallow next to the rides on the basis of that advice. I also understand that Forest Enterprise knew of John's intention to breed and release Purple Emperors to the site, although I would agree that no formal written agreement to a release was ever obtained. The local Forest Enterprise representative often visited the site during the Purple Emperor flight period and was aware of the release and seemed supportive of the work being undertaken.

Once such "informal" releases have taken place, the horse already having bolted, we

should be valuing the work done by those responsible and not being unduly critical of their activities. After all, it is not as though these butterflies are alien to the UK and they may even have been present historically at or close to the Theberton Woods site, although as a former recorder, Rob would know more than me on that issue. It also seems that, other than the formal approval and recording of the release plan, and the input of the "experts", the advice on best practice on reintroductions was being followed. I am now very concerned that expenditure cuts means that there are no plans for the future management of the Theberton site for the benefit, not just of the Purple Emperors, but for all of the wildlife, including the other uncommon butterflies and orchids present. The site is in desperate need of individuals or a group to take custody and continue the work on the site.

Rob's comment that "a harsher, negative view is simply that meddling with nature is wrong" must surely be tongue in cheek. We live in a country where there is hardly a square yard which has not been affected by the actions of man. Positive management for wildlife is essential to provide nature with a home, in spite of the increasing pressure on our land for building and food production. I would not wish to encourage reintroductions or translocations of any species, but there is the question of impact. I am much more concerned to oppose other, more critical, releases and

translocations. I condemn the disastrous, but legal, release of between 10 and 40 million non-native species into our natural environment each year, the pheasants and red-legged partridges which are competing with our rapidly declining hedgerow birds, such as the Yellowhammer or Little Owl. I am concerned that building a nuclear power station may result in the loss of a maternal roost of endangered Barbastelle bats and the breeding territory for many water voles and otters and that the creation of wetland may be seen as sufficient mitigation for the loss of an important SSSI and its scarce habitat. I worry about the effect that 2½ million feral

cats are having on mammal and bird life. I am concerned about the decline in bees and pollinating insects and the implication that seed dressings may be responsible. As a result, I don't have enough time to criticise the well-intentioned.

In spite of the fact that they may not be “truly wild”, there is no doubt as to the pleasure that many observers get from seeing Purple Emperors. In the scheme of things, the pleasure of travelling a few short miles to see my favourite butterflies is a blessing not a curse.

A Lost Opportunity, Connectivity and Hope

Peter Maddison

I've just witnessed habitat destruction. No, I haven't been on holiday to a tropical rainforest where oil palm or coffee plantations have become king. This has happened in my village. Ownership of a large house at the end of a track has changed, a tracked digger has been brought in and copse and scrub land – 12 yds wide on either side of the 150 yds long track - has been ‘developed’. A handful of the larger trees remain, but holly, birch, thorn and hedgerow cherries have all gone. This was a wonderful habit, blackcaps and chiffchaffs nested here and in the light-filled glades Speckled Wood patrolled, Peacocks, Red Admirals and Commas basked on the bramble flowers and Holly Blues flitted around the ivy and hollies. Perhaps the few patches of bluebells that used to appear each

spring will not have been turned over and soon will force their way upwards to flower – a sad reminder of what there was before, before the ride-on mower appears.

Why has this habitat gone? What was the need for its destruction? Perhaps ignorance of the importance of a wild place in this farmed landscape, probably indifference to the existence of the tiny Holly Blue or the Comma in the shaft of sunlight on the bramble, almost certainly the need for CONTROL and tidiness. Perhaps they feel that they would be poor owners if they hadn't stamped their authority on nature, as if tidiness is more important than the flora and fauna that has been destroyed or displaced. Displaced to where? There's so much tidying up of wild corners in the wider countryside and gardens that

displaced species are finding suitable habitat increasingly difficult to find, especially if the habitats are widely dispersed in the landscape.

Connectivity - the linking of wildlife habitats - is a buzz word in conservation terminology. The track to the house was a natural connection between at one end a farm ditch and hedgerow leading to riverside woodland and at the other end an abandoned crag pit, rich in brambles and birch, oak, grasses and wild flowers. The protection afforded by the undergrowth, now removed, no longer exists and for smaller animal life the connectivity has been removed, the crag pit has become an island in the farmed landscape, the river side woodland half a mile away is another world.

The Silver-studded Blue benefits from connectivity. The butterfly is a fairly sedentary species, colonies exist in certain areas of a heathland and not in others, but it's ability to fly in short hops between these areas is a huge advantage if disaster in the form of fire or bad weather causes the rapid diminution of a colony. In a small isolated colony inbreeding will weaken the strain, new butterflies entering a colony can boost

the genetics of the population. Larger heathland areas within the Sandlings will hold several Silver-studded Blue colonies many of which will interconnect, fuelling their success. Connectivity has been in mind in the Ipswich Heaths Project and it is hoped that in time flourishing colonies at Purdis Heath, Ransomes and Piper's Vale, for example, will be able to connect.

Connectivity happens in our more urban areas too. I'm reminded that Purple Hairstreaks connected through the oak trees along Westerfield Road on the outskirts of Ipswich to eventually reach the oaks on the town side of Colchester Road.

Butterflies benefit from connectivity in gardens too. Buckthorn planted in a garden might bring in an egg-laying Brimstone or two, but buckthorn also planted in neighbouring gardens will encourage squadrons of the butterfly.

Plant hollies and if there are interconnections in your area the first generation of Holly Blue might appear, but do ensure that ivy grows nearby so that egg-laying for the second generation will follow.

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New Beginnings

Bill Stone

In late November last year my wife and I moved from our central Ipswich house to a new home on the Grange Farm estate in Kesgrave. Our location within the Grange Farm development puts us within 100 yards of the bridleway known as the “Long Strops”, which is part of the Sandlings Walk and which runs for about 1 mile along the southern edge of the estate. A key element of The Long Strops for wildlife is the hedge, which was planted in 2000 with native species such as Hawthorn, Field Maple and Hazel and which is now maturing well. We are also close to nearby woods and patches of heathland including Martlesham Heath.

The garden we took on was incredibly dull and comprised a patch of moss-ridden grass, 35 feet by 30 feet with absolutely no plants, shrubs or trees. However, all was not lost. A few minutes of digging around in the grass revealed a reasonable soil made up of sand, lumps of clay and building rubble and which contained plenty of earthworms! And, the garden is south facing!

So, having left a mature butterfly garden behind in central Ipswich with a 20+ butterfly species list I have decided to try, with minimal cost and effort to turn this new plot into something that will be butterfly friendly by early summer.

Having set a plant budget of £50, I began thinking about my top 10 butterfly plants with the following making it onto the list:

1. **“Butterfly Bush”** (*Buddleja davidii*, *globosa* and *weyeriana*)

2. **Red Valerian** (*Centranthus ruber*)
3. **Verbena** (*Verbena bonariensis*)
4. **Hemp Agrimony** (*Eupatorium cannabinum*)
5. **Marjoram** (*Origanum vulgare*)
6. **Lavender** (*Lavandula* spp. incl. *angustifolia*, Hidcote)
7. **Ivy** (*Hedera helix*)
8. **Wallflower** (*Cheiranthus* Bowles Mauve)
9. **Phlox** (*Phlox paniculata*)
10. **Alder Buckthorn** (*Frangula alnus*) and **Purging Buckthorn** (*Rhamnus cathartica*)

However, I then thought some more and realised that the following would also be really good for the garden!

11. **Honesty** (*Lunaria annua*)
12. **Knappweed** (*Centaurea* sp)
13. **Purple Loosestrife** (*Lythrum salicaria*)
14. **Garlic Mustard** (*Alliaria petiolata*)
15. **Scabious** (Field Scabious, Small Scabious and Devil’s bit Scabious and the cultivar “Butterfly Blue”)

I had brought a few plants from the last garden including *Buddleja weyeriana* and lavender but the list gave me plenty of plants to try and find. Being January it was quite apparent that very few garden centres or nurseries would have them. However, by carefully rummaging through the damaged plant sections of the large DIY stores and the 70% off (yes!) section in Notcutts I have managed to buy some *Buddleja davidii*, marjoram, phlox and valerian. I also bought

some Wild Primrose (*Primula vulgaris*) and Sweet Violet (*Viola odorata*) which, despite not being on this list, would clearly provide some early nectar sources to the garden. I also took advantage of a wild flower seed promotion and now have several packets of scabious, verberna and knapweed varieties which I can try and grow on for the summer. All these purchases have led to a grand total, so far of £40!

With the above all now planted I am hoping that they will survive the frosts and grow

on. I have £10 left in the budget and will be trying to grab a bargain in the next month or so as well as seeing what I can “borrow” from gardens belonging to family and friends!

I will write again in a few months, hopefully, with news of my first garden butterflies, fingers crossed!

Bill Stone, Suffolk Butterfly Recorder

New address: 26 Thomas Crescent,
Kesgrave, Suffolk IP5 2HN

Attracting Butterflies to your Gardens

Peter Maddison

Summer wouldn't be summer without the restful buzz of insects and the passage of butterflies through our gardens. It is heartening to know that in a recent gardening magazine survey 95% of the respondents saw themselves as 'stewards of the environment'. I'm sure the readers of The Argus will consider themselves to be amongst the 95% and, in particular, will be keen to encourage butterflies and moths to our gardens by growing plants that are attractive as nectar and larval food sources.

The time will soon be here when, with fine Spring weather, garden centres will beckon and we'll be tempted to buy the gaudy, hybridised, double blooms of 'Page 3' flowers. Beware! Butterflies and moths will never home in on these inappropriate blossoms. Nectar-bearing flowers – usually single flowers – and those that are closely related to their wild cousins are usually the best, and butterflies and moths will soon let

you know what works for them.

Choosing plants to suit the varying aspects of our gardens is important. What follows are groupings of plants that favour particular growing conditions.

The focus here is on food plants for adult butterflies. Host plants for egg laying and larval food will have to be another article.

Hot, dry sites

Thymus

Sedum spectabile ~ 'Autumn Joy'

Caryopteris

Echium vulgare Viper's Bugloss

Eryngium Sea Holly ~ 'Miss Wilmott's Ghost' and several other garden forms

Helianthemum Rock Rose ~ several garden forms

Lavender

Origanum Marjoram

Verbena bonariensis

Erysimum Wallflower and Perennial
Wallflower ‘Bowles Mauve’
Oenothera Evening Primrose ~ moths

Plants in Pots

Crocus
Sweet Violets
Sweet Williams
Chives
Thyme
Origanum
Heathers
Mint

Climbers

Cotoneaster
Pyracantha
Lonicera Honeysuckle
Hedera Ivy ~ grow where plants can mature, when they will flower and provide nectar into November and December. Grown on an old fence ivy will strengthen the fence, eventually become the fence and, unlike on a house wall, won’t need to be clipped back every year.

Border Plants

Sweet William *Dianthus barbatus*
Dame’s Violet *Hesperis matronalis*
Honesty *Lunaria annua*
Aster Michaelmas Daisy
Achillea
Solidago Golden Rod

Cirsium rivale ‘Atropurpureum’
Echinops Globe Thistle
Eupatorium cannabinum Hemp Agrimony
~ plants from wild sources seem to be more attractive than garden centre forms. Do you agree?
Knautia
Malva moschata
Nicotiana sylvestris
Sedum spectabile Ice Plant
Scabious caucasica
Buddleja davidii ~ ‘Dartmoor’, with its huge flower heads is an attractive form. *Buddleja globosa* ~ June flowering.
Buddleja weyeriana ~ orange/yellow flowers.
Hebes ~ the less gaudy flower from spring to autumn

A Wild Corner

Water Mint ~ does best in a damp site
Fleabane
Knapweed
Bird’s-foot Trefoil
Primrose
Garlic Mustard

There are, of course, many more nectar bearing plants that will attract butterflies and moths. Please write in with the names of plants that you have found particularly successful in your garden. Lists, photos, anecdotes, observations – all welcome!



Orange-tips on Garlic Mustard
Illustration by
Beryl Johnson

Gleanings from the internet

Purple Emperors

The report of the ongoing survey by Liz Goodyear and Andrew Middleton ‘**Eastern Region Purple Emperor *Apatura iris* report for 2014**’ may be read online at: <http://www.dispar.org/reference.php?id=91>

Videos worth watching

A series of short, high quality videos filmed by ‘Filming VarWild’, mostly in the south of France, of European butterflies is available on YouTube.

The White-letter Hairstreak at: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vdDNGF2HDr0>

is extremely informative and, with this butterfly’s larval season almost upon us is a good video to watch now.

Some of the other videos cover the Purple Hairstreak and Brown Hairstreak

Monarch Butterflies

The Monarch migration in North America might be threatened but the good news this winter is that the number of Monarchs overwintering in Mexico has increased slightly on last year’s number.

Bilateral Gynandromorph

These butterflies display the outward appearance of a female on one side of their body, and the appearance of a male on the other. It can occur when the sex chromosomes fail to separate correctly during cell division in early development, a process known as nondisjunction. This condition is extremely rare, but scientists don’t know how rare it is because it is usually overlooked in most species where the two sexes look similar to one another.

Very recently a Nymphalid, *Lexias pardalis*, a tropical butterfly of South-east Asia, emerged from a pupa at Drexel University in Philadelphia, USA and showed bilateral gynandromorphism. Photo and details at <http://www.anspblog.org/extremely-rare-find/>

In June 2011 a Mormon butterfly showing bilateral gynandromorphism hatched at the London Natural History Museum’s ‘Sensational Butterflies Exhibition’.

Butterfly quiz answers

Photos on back page

3rd row: Speckled Wood, Comma, Red Admiral
4th row: Common Blue, Dingy Skipper, Small Tortoiseshell

Top row: Brimstone, White-letter Hairstreak
2nd row: Gatekeeper, Green Hairstreak, Large White, Orange-tip

Day-flying Moths and Caterpillar Recording

Zoë Randle and Richard Fox

Butterfly Conservation would love butterfly recorders to record day-flying moths and moth caterpillars when they are out and about. In 2018, in collaboration with MothsIreland, we will be publishing a Macro-moth Atlas for Britain and Ireland. The majority of moth recorders use light-traps and, as a result, the many species of day-flying moths may be relatively under-recorded compared to nocturnal ones. Butterfly recorders can make a huge contribution to the forthcoming atlas by submitting records of day-flying moths such as Speckled Yellow (figure 1) and indeed distinctive caterpillars (e.g. Cinnabar) that they encounter while out looking at butterflies.

The National Moth Recording Scheme run by Butterfly Conservation will provide the UK moth data for the forthcoming atlas. The scheme already holds over 17.3 million moth records and geographical coverage of the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man at 10km resolution is very good (97% have at least one moth species recorded). There are only 113 10km squares for which we do not have any records from the year 2000 onwards (see figure 2). However, in addition to these, there are 613 10km squares which we consider to be under-recorded - they possess 50 or fewer records of 25 or fewer species. You could really help by targeting these unrecorded or under-recorded squares for moth sightings during your butterfly recording. To find out what 10km squares, or tetrads, are under-recorded in your area please contact Tony Prichard your County Moth Recorder via (tony@suffolkmoths.org.uk) or 01473 270047. If you wish to

venture further a-field, the list of County Moth Recorders can be found on the Moths Count website (www.mothscount.org).

Many butterfly recorders already record the moths they see along their transects. In 2013, the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (BMS) team extracted moth records entered into Transect Walker software. The data extraction exercise revealed data for 109,485 individuals of 123 moth species, with 13,622 records from 403 sites. The five most frequently recorded species (in descending rank order) were Silver Y, Six-spot Burnet, Cinnabar, Burnet Companion and Speckled Yellow. These records will be re-patriated to County Moth Recorders in due course.

Participants in the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey are also encouraged to record day-flying moths in their squares. In 2014 a record of Blood-vein in Gloucestershire was only the second for SP10 and the first since 1974.

In the run up to the forthcoming *Macro-moth Atlas for Britain and Ireland* all butterfly recorders can help boost coverage by recording moths, whether on butterfly/WCBS transects, during 'casual' butterfly recording or by specifically targeting areas that are under-recorded for moths. Your help will be very gratefully received. Records are best submitted to your local County Moth recorder on an annual basis by the end of the year to enable incorporation into local datasets and ultimately the National Moth Recording Scheme.

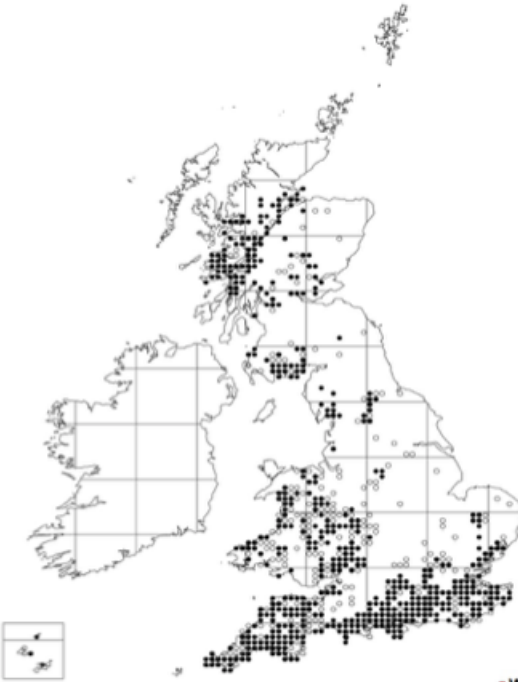
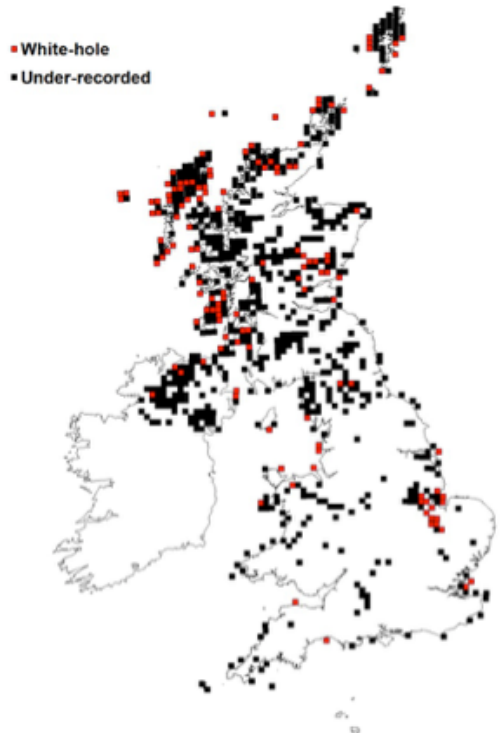


Figure 1: NMRS Provisional distribution map of Speckled Yellow at 10km resolution. Open circles pre 2000 records and solid dots 2000 onwards.

Figure 2: Map of National Moth Recording Scheme 'white-holes' and under-recorded 10km squares from 2000 onwards.



Speckled Yellow Moth
Photo by Pam Parsons

Names these Butterflies emerging before July

Answers page 21

