

SUFFOLK BRANCH NEWSLETTER

The **Suffolk Argus**

Volume 74

Spring 2019



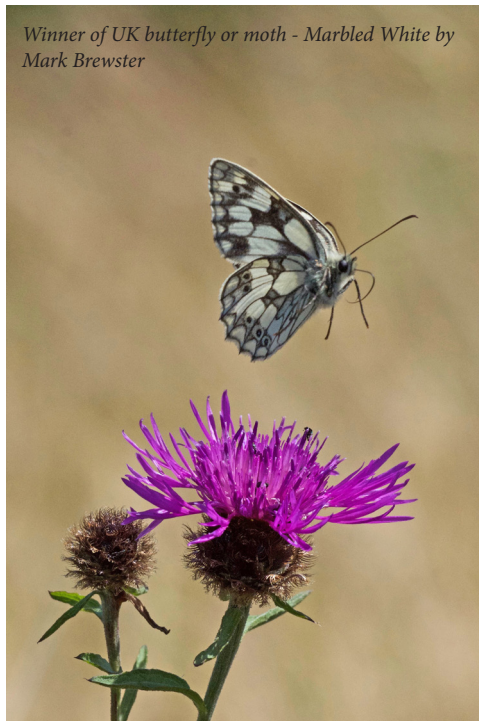
**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment





BC and SBC Anniversary cakes



Winner of UK butterfly or moth - Marbled White by Mark Brewster



Winner of Overseas butterfly or moth - Lang's Short Tailed Blue by David Pitt



Winner of Early stage butterfly or moth - Vapourer Caterpillar by Ann Piper

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Editorial

Trevor Goodfellow

Welcome to your new-look Argus.

I am encouraged by favourable feedback from members about the autumn issue and I will endeavor to keep the Suffolk Argus as interesting and informative as possible although this does rely on members continuing to send in useful content.

I have been reading a copy of volume one of the Suffolk Argus from 1994 (see image below) and in it, editor Steve Goddard mentioned the fact that Suffolk has lost 21 species of butterfly since the beginning of the 19th century! Of course, our glossy coloured brochures and corporate image does nothing to directly affect this continuing decline, but it does help draw attention to this fact and assist in engaging and inspiring people to help in many ways.

In volume one, Steve's praises of the thirty volunteers who braved a cold November to clear scrub at Purdis heath is a sign that we cared then, and although hands-on support is hard to find, the success of Purdis heath is due to the ongoing efforts of Butterfly Conservation and their highly valued volunteers, proving that we all still care.

A great turnout for the AGM last November, as a packed hall was treated to Patrick Barkham's inspirational talk and our Chairman's enlightening potted history of Suffolk branch BC reminding us that we are 25 years old.

Thanks go to Patrick and indeed all presenters, catering and raffle volunteers also Kev Ling, his wife Jo and daughter Emma for organizing the photo competition.

The 2019 AGM is hosting a top speaker: Peter Eeles, (page 7). You might like to support his new book at www.butterflylifecycles.com/become-a-

supporter/ and get your name in print.

Your 2019 events calendar pull-out shows a variety of things to participate in, and for those members with a more flexible availability, Bill Stone will be keen for your support on the weather-reliant dingy skipper surveys.

On behalf of SBC, I would like to thank Gill Perkins for her long-term commitment to butterfly conservation (page 22).

Copy date for the Summer issue is May 26th, 2019

Please email articles or photos etc. for inclusion before this date to me at trevor@greenfarm.org.uk

THE
**SUFFOLK
ARGUS**

The Newsletter of the Suffolk Branch of Butterfly Conservation

Branch Launch

The new Suffolk Branch of Butterfly Conservation was launched on 30 October 1993 at the Suffolk Butterfly Conference held at Ipswich School (see article inside). It was an auspicious occasion, with a large crowd of people attending to hear some of the latest thinking on the conservation of butterflies and moths. Many of the country's top experts were present, as well as the great and good from Suffolk and representatives from all the main Suffolk wildlife organisations.

This last was most important, as one of the main objects of the new Branch (see over) is to cooperate as much as possible with the existing conservation network in the county. Although it is important to have specialist expertise and enthusiasm to tackle particular problems facing certain animals, plants and habitats, the forces destroying them are too powerful to allow any of us the indulgence of 'doing our own thing'.

The aims of the new Branch were set out at the inaugural meeting, held at Ipswich Museum on 21 June this year. They are:

1. To educate, inform and raise awareness of the decline of butterflies in Suffolk.
2. To identify key sites for butterflies & moths, monitor populations and encourage research.
3. To provide advice and assistance to, and to cooperate with, other local conservation groups, land owners and managers
4. To carry out practical conservation work, including input to planning and the creation and management of reserves

Inside...

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Volume 1

January 1994

The 2018 AGM.

Held on the 17th November at Earl Stonham Village Hall, where 57 people were present.

It has been a year of anniversaries - Butterfly Conservation's 50th and the Suffolk Branch's 25th.

The Suffolk Branch was launched at a meeting in Ipswich on the 30th October 1993. Celebratory cakes decorated with Purple Emperor and Silver-studded Blue were brought along to mark the occasion. (See Photo page 2).

Some points from the meeting

The winter Brimstone and Buckthorn project made available 600 buckthorn whips, primarily for Parish Councils in areas where Brimstones are scarce, and then more widely to the public and members. We hope the plants will have survived the drought of summer!

Some members attended the Conservation Action Day at Blaxhall Heath in March, where scrub was cleared to encourage the flourishing SSB colony, translocated there in 2007.

Work at Purdis Heath continued during the winter months, but in June the heath was put up for sale and at present is 'under offer' to an unknown bidder. Natural England will be in contact with the new owner to ensure the conservation of the SSSI with its Silver-studded Blue colonies.

Three editions of the Suffolk Argus have been produced. Trevor Goodfellow has become the new editor.

23 events were held during the year. Members are encouraged to check the Events page on the website, where new events and up-to-date arrangements are shown.

The Waitrose token scheme in the two Ipswich stores contributed over £800 to Branch funds.

Jillian Macready (Membership Sec.) reported that we have memberships in 557 households, and the good news is that Branch membership is growing.

Bill Stone (County Butterfly Recorder) gave an overview of the 2018 butterfly season. He thanked all those who had submitted butterfly records and presented some interesting coverage maps and data for the 3rd year of the current 5-year Millennium Recording Scheme.

Dom Hill, who resigns from his post as Treasurer, was thanked for his work by the Chair. Jillian Macready newly stood for election, and the Committee was elected for 2018-19.

Rob Parker gained a BC Outstanding Volunteer Award at the National AGM in Nottingham, which was presented today by Mike Dean, Vice Chair of Butterfly Conservation. Mike commented that the award was richly deserved for many years' service, 12 of those as Recorder.

During the tea break members voted for the photographic competition.

Photographic Competition results:

Category 1. Early Stage Butterfly or Moth - Vaporizer by Ann Piper.

Category 2. Overseas Butterfly or Moth - Lang's Short-tailed Blue by Dave Pitt.

Category 3. UK Butterfly or Moth 2018 - Marbled White by Mark Brewster.

(see photos on page 2)

Books, kindly donated by the widow of Ken Buckland, raised £56.

The Guest Speaker was author and journalist Patrick Barkham who gave an interesting talk on his pursuit of butterflies, from his early years, on into adulthood, and his plans for the future.

Saturday 30th November 2019 SUFFOLK BRANCH AGM AND MEMBERS AFTERNOON

Venue: Stowupland Village Hall

Map Ref: TM070600

Post Code: IP14 4BG

The AGM will be followed by member's slides, then light refreshments, the annual photo competition and our guest speaker

Peter Eeles

In 2002 Pete created the acclaimed 'UK Butterflies' website and later 'Dispar', the website where papers are published. Pete has held various positions, including Chair, in the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch and in 2016 created BC's 'Garden Butterfly Survey' website. He is a recipient of the Marsh Award for the 'Promotion of Lepidoptera Conservation'. Pete Eeles is writing the book *Lifecycles of British and Irish Butterflies* which is to be published this year.

Visit the informative UK Butterflies website www.ukbutterflies.co.uk

Further AGM details will be announced on the Branch website

Suffolk Branch Butterfly Conservation Accounts 2017-18

Opening Balance 1 Apr 17 B/Fwd	£ 3548.81
Income	
Subscriptions	3246.00
VAT	21.50
Talks and Donations	207.00
S. Mellor Legacy deposit for equipment	1681.00
Trudie Willis Open Day Event	706.12
AGM Raffle	54.00
BC Interest	174.65
	<hr/>
	£ 6090.27
Expenditure	
Insurance	63.34
Suffolk Argus	1178.40
Stamps & Stationary	635.74
Moth Trap	336.50
Equipment	1241.89
AGM Expenses	82.02
Deposit for AGM Hall	40.00
SSB Recording expenses	88.20
Buckthorn Project	419.66
	<hr/>
	£ 4085.75
Closing Balance 31 Mar 18 C/Fwd	£ 5553.33

The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey

Twm Wade

The Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS) is a scientifically sound method of assessing the abundance and how widespread common species of butterflies are across the UK. Ordnance Survey (OS) 1Km squares are randomly selected across the country and volunteers walk the square taking two separate routes, two or more times in the year. They count the butterflies they identify that are within a 5m x 5m x 5m zone and report their findings on a system called "UKBMS". Every butterfly record matters.

The outcome of the surveys in Suffolk are nearly predictable. The most abundant was the Meadow Brown with 848 recorded. This was followed by the Small White, 797, and Large White, 727. The least abundant are the Silver-washed Fritillary, 2, and Clouded Yellow, 3. The next was the Green Hairstreak, 11, seen in April, followed by the Painted Lady (12). The most widespread was the Small White recorded in 27 OS squares in Suffolk. It was followed closely by the Large White, 26, and jointly the Meadow Brown and Gatekeeper with 24.

It is good to see that we are getting more early records thereby picking up spring species like the Orange Tip and Green Hairstreak. I can only thank all the volunteers for their contribution to the data. Without them walking, spotting, recording and reporting we just would not know the ups and downs

of the supposedly common species; their numbers and distribution. Well done and thank you.

For those interested in participating in the WCBS scheme please visit the branch website to see if there is an OS square available in your area or contact Twm Wade for more information.

Twm Wade
Transect Co-ordinator
Suffolk Branch Butterfly Conservation
01638 577446
07743 305363

Every butterfly record matters



Chalkhill blue by Trevor Goodfellow

Search for Wall Brown at SWT Carlton Marshes Saturday 11th August 2018

Peter Maddison

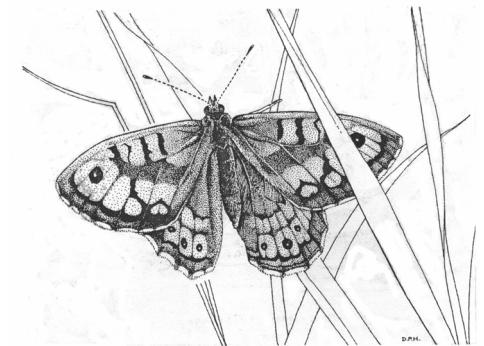
A sunny morning with a light westerly wind made a favourable start for the 11 of us who set off across the reserve. Robert Quadling, our leader, is a voluntary warden at SWT Carlton Marshes and his knowledge of the site, its butterflies and other wildlife was much appreciated. A Common Blue in the car park picnic area was a good omen and it wasn't long before Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers and the whites were recorded. A diversion across a meadow to a dyke filled with Water Soldiers brought us to one of the highlights of the day: The Fen Raft Spider *Dolomedes plantarius* which is thriving on the reserve. Not easy to spot but once our focus was in, female, male and young spiders were all identified. A very nice diversion...and then back to butterflies. Although the bare earth tracks that hold heat are favoured basking sites of the Wall, the sun-drenched river bank, which in parts is sheltered from cooling winds, is also worth surveying. In the last couple of years work to reshape some of the more distant river bank has not yet provided Wall habitat, but a Painted Lady and a couple of Red Admirals were nectaring on thistles on the new bank. A Chinese Water Deer wandered through a meadow to the north, on land that the SWT has newly acquired and where work will be starting soon on the significant Suffolk Broads project.

Towards the pumping station where the vegetation is established, hot spots abound, and 3 Walls were seen. Visitors hoping to see this threatened species, the habitat and number of which are diminishing each year in the county, would do well to peer carefully at the sun-drenched concrete walls of the structure where basking Walls might be found.

Our route took us back across the reserve, along reed-fringed tracks where Meadow Browns, Gatekeepers, Large, Small and Green-veined Whites, Comma, Red Admiral and Small Copper were seen. Dragonflies included Migrant and Brown Hawkers and Blue-tailed Damselflies, and a Grass Snake. During a picnic lunch at the Visitor Centre more Common Blues were spotted, and a Holly Blue was seen near to Ivy on an overhanging Hawthorn. In the afternoon one or two members of the group stayed on for a while to walk the river wall adjacent to White Cast Marsh where a spiralling and chasing pair of Walls was watched for several minutes.

In 2019 search for what has probably become Suffolk's rarest breeding species.

See our 2019 Events Programme for details of a repeat walk at SWT Carlton Marshes, a hot spot in the north east of the county.



Wall brown by Douglas Hammersley

Thank you to Rougham and Bramfield farm recorders.

Juliet Hawkins

Rob Parker and Trevor Goodfellow kindly responded to my 2018 spring call-up for volunteers to carry out two transect surveys over an area of woodland and mixed farmland for the Rougham Estate Trust www.roughamstatetrust.org within flying distance of Bradfield Woods National Nature Reserve. Both transects took in an area where Suffolk Bat Group has carried out a bat survey, and Suffolk Wildlife Trust (SWT) volunteers, Dorothy Casey and I, have done a woodland plant survey in 2018. An excellent total of 26 butterfly species were recorded, representing 75%+ of Suffolk's 34 butterflies that have regularly occurred in Suffolk during the last five years i.e. 2013-2017. This includes four of Suffolk's priority species, notably Small Heath, White Admiral (page 28), White-Letter Hairstreak and Silver-Washed Fritillary (page 28), together with some elusive treetop species

that most of us casual observers would miss - Purple Hairstreak and Purple Emperor. One notable exception to the expected species was the absence of the Essex Skipper which is a widespread species that has undergone an 88% decline in abundance between 1976-2014.

Rob and Trevor's excellent survey information, which reflected subtle differences in habitat quality, combined with SWT's plant survey, provided very useful pointers for the estate's habitat management and long-term woodland management plan. SWT's final report includes many recommendations but primarily the importance of really wide, sunny, scalloped, shrub-edged woodland rides; woodland management to favour specific larval foodplants - honeysuckle for White Admiral and common dog violet for the Silver-Washed Fritillary; the



Free wood southern edge field margin towards Mellfield wood



White-letter hairstreak by Trevor Goodfellow



Purple emperor by Trevor Goodfellow

need to keep healthy elm habitat going strong with rotational coppicing and possibly planting of disease-resistant elms in some key, sensitive places; and the provision of more nectar-rich margins on arable field edges. We hope to carry out a similar survey for another part of the estate in 2019 but this first survey is most useful in providing baseline information from which

to measure the success of implementing a woodland management plan that aims to improve the ancient and other estate woodland for a variety of wildlife. Whilst hot and wearisome on some survey days, seeing 60 Silver-Washed Fritillary on one summer's day is surely a treat for any surveyor's eyes! Trevor Goodfellow's wonderful photos are an inspiration for all involved - and hopefully gave some reward for the time spent surveying!

Andrew Leng volunteered to take on a transect on a newly purchased small farm in Bramfield where Suffolk

Wildlife Trust is working with a cluster of farmers who wish to ensure their efforts for wildlife are maximised - and success can be measured. The paucity of butterfly records on Andrew's baseline transect in 2018 is equally important to record as long exciting lists. Hopefully, the new owner will be inspired by the return of butterflies, from adjacent sympathetically managed farmland, once wildflower margins have been established, pollen and nectar mixes sown, sympathetic mowing regimes have been implemented and scrub-grass mixes allowed to regenerate where there was previously none.

Thank you so much to these BC volunteers for their time spent this summer. And thank you also for the use of Suffolk BC's information-filled website and especially the online distribution maps which made for so much more meaningful and visual interpretation of the survey data. If any BC member wishes to volunteer for doing survey work, do get in touch with me, Juliet Hawkins, and if there is a farm nearby, we can partner you up with, we will!

Juliet Hawkins
Farm conservation adviser for
Suffolk Wildlife Trust
Hawkins@thehall-milden.co.uk
01473 890089 (SWT)

Do you want to find out more about our local butterflies?

Peter Maddison

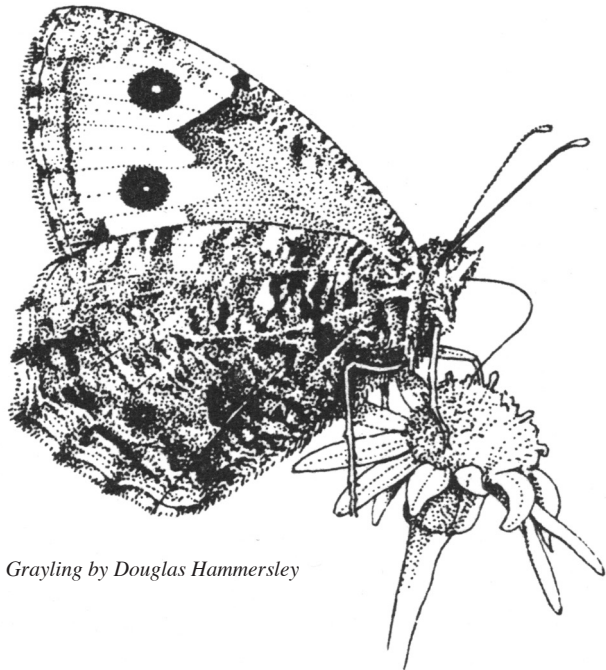
We have a programme of countywide spring and summer outdoor meetings. All our events are suitable for beginners, but a number are highlighted for those wanting to know more about identification and recording.

We want to know what butterflies we have in the county - help us to put that right by visiting 'Black Holes', the 2 x 2 km squares that have no or few records. They are a feature of this year's programme.

Admirals, Fritillaries and Emperors might be your thing - we have a number of walks in woodlands where such grandees might be spotted.

And there are heath and forest walks for the threatened and special Dingy Skipper, Grayling and Wall.

Check the website for up to date information.



Grayling by Douglas Hammersley

2019 Events Calendar

The Suffolk Argus



Marbled white by Mark Brewster



Butterfly Conservation

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment

Saturday 9th March - Suffolk Moth Group Annual Indoor Meeting

Illustrated talks, discussions and workshops. This year with guest speaker from Norfolk Moth Group

Refreshments (tea, coffee) will be provided (contribution to cost requested) but not lunch (pub nearby)

Where: Bucklesham Village Hall

Grid Ref: TM242417

Time: 9.30 am for 10.00 am, finish 4.30 pm

Contact: Neil Sherman

Email: neilshermanmothman@hotmail.com

Friday 19th - Tuesday 23rd April - Butterfly Conservation nectar plant display.

A coordinated Suffolk Butterfly Conservation and Marlow's garden centre display featuring a collection of their available pollen and nectar rich plants.

Where: Marlows Garden Centre Ltd. Hollow Rd. Bury St Edmunds, IP32 7AP

Grid ref: TL865652

Time: 8.30 - 17.30

Contact: Trevor Goodfellow,

Email: trevor@greenfarm.org.uk

Thursday 2nd May - Butterflies at Martlesham Creek Butterfly identification and recording at Martlesham Creek and farmland nearby. Beginners very welcome.

Meet: Martlesham Church car park

Grid Ref: TM260469 Post Code: IP12 4PQ

Time: 10.30am - 12.30pm

Contact: Peter Maddison

Email: prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk 01473 736607

Monday 6th May (Public Holiday) FREE FAMILY EVENT*

Spring Wood Celebration Day

Join Suffolk Branch of Butterfly Conservation and lots of other conservation groups at Kiln Meadow. Butterfly and other guided walks, wood crafts, children's activities, music and storytelling. Park at Bourne Park off Stoke Park Drive and take free minibus to the event on Kiln Meadow.

Where: Kiln Meadow, off Marbled White Drive, Ipswich

Map Ref: TM143416

Time: 11.00 am to 4.00 pm

Contact: Helen Saunders

Email: helens919@gmail.com

Saturday 11th May - Two Black Holes - Butterfly Walk A circular walk through two unrecorded tetrads not far from Haverhill

The aim is to see as many Spring species as we can.

Meet: The PROVISIONAL meeting point is the car park of the White Horse at Withersfield (CB9 7SH)

Grid reference of the meeting place: TL648478

Time - 10am start until about 2pm

Contact - Phone Rob Parker 3 days before for final instructions (01284 705476 or

Email: robparker@waitrose.com)

Monday 13th -Sunday 26th May - Dinky Skipper Fortnight-

A series of surveys and walks to ascertain the population and locations of Dinky Skipper in Suffolk.

Location: Various events will be run but will include key sites within Kings Forest and other locations in Breckland Suffolk. Events will, as always, be weather-dependant, to coincide with the peak flight period in 2019.

Time: Actual survey dates and times will be advised via Suffolk BC website events page

Contact: Bill Stone, Suffolk Butterfly Recorder 07906

888603 or

Email: billbutterfly68@yahoo.com

Friday 17th May - Butterflies of North Suffolk Butterflies of the wildflower meadows (40 acres) and SSSI woodland (80 acres) of West Hall Farm, Rickinghall.

Meet: West Hall Farm, Rickinghall

Map Ref: TM 026734 Post Code: IP22 1LZ

Time: 10.30am Bring Lunch

Contact: Peter Maddison 01473 736607

Saturday 18th May - Butterflies Along the Sailors' Path

Butterfly identification and recording along the Aldeburgh to Snape Sailors' Path. Beginners very welcome.

Meet: Small car park on Marsh Lane, near Aldeburgh.

(near SWT Hazelwood Marshes)

Grid Ref: TM442581 Post Code: IP17 1PG

Time: 10.30am - 2.00pm (with optional afternoon visit to SWT Hazelwood Marshes) Linear morning walk, lift back to start point will be available.

Contact: Peter Maddison

Email: prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk 01473 736607

Sunday 26th May GARDENING FOR BUTTERFLIES*

Plant Heritage Spring Plant Fair at Helmingham Hall
Come and find Suffolk Branch in the Conservation Zone at Plant Heritage (Suffolk Group's) Spring Fair at Helmingham Hall Gardens.

Map Ref: TM186576; Post Code: IP14 6EF

Time: 10.00 am - 16.00 pm

For more information click here to visit the Helmingham Hall events page

£7 entrance fee per person. All children under 16 years

free.

Saturday 8th June - Black Hole Walk - Clare Country Park

Suitable for beginners - Walk around Clare Country Park and surrounding paths.

Meet: Main Car Park

Grid reference: TL770453 Time: 10am start (up to 3 hours in length)

Contact - Kevin Ling (Tel: 07443623987) - Call day before for weather check

Saturday 15th June Two more Black Holes - near Kedington

A search along the Stour Valley path for summer species.

Meet: The PROVISIONAL meeting place is the Barnardiston Arms at Kedington (CB9 7NA)

Grid ref: TL7046

Time: 10am start until about 2pm.

Contact - Phone Rob Parker 3 days before for final instructions (01284 705476 or

Email: robparker@waitrose.com)

Thursday 20th June - 'Black Holes' in NE Suffolk Help complete Black Holes and under-recorded areas to the SW of Halesworth.

Meet: Provisional meeting point is Walpole green in village centre but contact Peter Maddison to confirm details.

Grid ref: TM364745

Time: 10.00am - 2.30pm

Contact: Peter Maddison

Email: prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk 01473 736607

Saturday 29th June - Landseer Park Summer Butterfly walk.

Come and see the vast array of butterflies among the flower rich meadows.

Meet: Landseer Park car park.

Grid ref: TM176425

Start; 10.00 am Finish; 12.00 mid-day

Contact: David Dowding & Adrian Richards

07963197221

Saturday 29th June - Moth Trapping at Pipers Vale LNR

Identifying and recording 'macro-moths' with Sam Chamberlin and David Dowding.

Location: Pipers Vale AONB

Meet: Pipers Vale car park, Gainsborough Lane, Ipswich IP3 0LG

Grid ref: TM178419

Start: 21:30 Finish: Midnight

Contact: Sam 07712 281307

Email: schamberlin@hotmail.com

Friday 5th July - Cavenham Heath Moths and Butterflies

Opening moth traps set the night before followed by a walk on the heath looking for Forester in particular.

Where; Cavenham Heath NNR near Tuddenham Meet; at the first car parking area towards the end of the road starting at the Green in Tuddenham village. The track is very bumpy after this point.

Grid Ref: TL744721

Time: 10am - 1pm

Contact Sharon Hearle

Email: shearle@butterfly-conservation.org

Sunday 14th July - Woodland Wonders

Woodland walk through Bonny Wood nature reserve in search of summer butterflies.

Location: Bonny Wood

Meet: Barking Village Hall, Barking Hill, IP6 8HW

Grid ref: TM067526

Start: 10.00 am Finish: 1.00 pm

Contact: Adrian, 07518 908436

Email q18xcv@yahoo.co.uk

Fri 19th July to Sun 11th August

BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT

Big Butterfly Count (BBC).

For more details visit www.butterfly-conservation.org

Friday 19th July - Kick off the Big Butterfly Count Join Rob Parker and Jillian Macready at Wyken. The estate comprises 5 woods some of which are SSSI with recently seen White Admirals and Silver washed Fritillary. Start off your butterfly count in style. Meet at Wyken Vineyard a short walk south of The Leaping Hare (IP31 2DW) we will walk through one or two of the woods on this private estate.

Grid ref: TL 96347 70984

Time: 10.30am to 2pm, have lunch in the Leaping Hare or a picnic afterwards in the vineyard (booking in restaurant necessary, not in the café)

Contact: Jillian Macready

Email: jmacready@outlook.com or 07980 208442

Thursday 25th July - Devils Dyke in Newmarket Looking for Chalkhill Blues.

Although not in the West Suffolk vice-county for recording this is the closest you can get to see the Chalkhill Blue.

Location: Southern end of Devil's Dyke

Meet: July Racecourse entrance near A1303/A1304 roundabout with horse statue.

Grid Ref:- TL617614

Start:- 11.00 am, Finish:- 1.00 pm

Contact: Sharon Hearle

Email: shearle@butterfly-conservation.org Tel 07920131526 It is very helpful to know if you are planning to attend before. (Sharon is Butterfly Conservation Senior Regional Officer, East of England)

Saturday 27 July - Red Lodge Heath Butterfly Walk
With over 20 species recorded on this SSSI, it is a good place to see butterflies even on a damp day.

Suitable for families and novices, the range of species and their numbers will make it a good walk for those of experience. It is somewhere different.

Where - Off the A11 north-east of Newmarket.

Place to meet - Millennium Centre car park, Magnolia

Close Post Code - IP28 8TT Grid Ref - TL699703

Start time - 13.00 hrs. (1.00 pm); 3 hours max.

Contact - Twm Wade, (01638 577446, 07743 305363)

Saturday 27th July - Butterfly Pipers
Walking the vale through a variety of habitats for late summer butterflies.

Location: Pipers Vale AONB

Meet: Pipers Vale car park, Gainsborough Lane, Ipswich IP3 0LG

Grid ref: TM178419

Start: 10.00 am Finish: 12.30 pm

Contact: Julian, 07910 170609

Email: julian.dowding@ntlworld.com

Sunday 28th July GARDEN OPEN DAY*
Wildlife Garden Open Day.

An invitation from BC member Mrs Trudie Willis, to visit her 10 acre garden, including a Buddleia and Honeysuckle collection.

Meet: Park at Prior's Oak, Leiston Road, Aldeburgh (B1122 Leiston to Aldeburgh Road)

Map Ref: TM452591 Post Code: IP15 5QE

Time: 10.30 am start

Contact: Peter Maddison

Email: prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk 01473 736607

Saturday 3rd August - Butterflies of East Suffolk
Recording butterflies in Kenton Hills, Sizewell Belts and Broom Covert.

'Dogs not allowed on most of the permissive paths of this walk'

Meet: Kenton Hills car park

Grid Ref: TM453638 Post code: IP16 4UP

Time: 10.00am - 1.00pm

Contact: Peter Maddison

Email: prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk 01473 736607

Saturday 10th August - The Wall and other butterflies at SWT Carlton Marshes

The Wall has had a massive decline in population in the UK and has nearly disappeared from Suffolk. Carlton Marshes is the last place where you can hope to see the butterfly.

Meet: SWT Carlton Marshes car park

Grid Ref: TM508920 Post Code: NR33 8HU

Time: 10.30am Leaders: Peter Maddison and Robert

Quadling

Contact: Peter Maddison

Email: prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk 01473 736607

Saturday 16th November
Butterfly Conservation National Annual General Meeting

Saturday 30th November
Suffolk Branch A.G.M & Members Event

Peter Eeles will be the guest speaker. Peter runs the UK Butterflies website (www.ukbutterflies.co.uk). In 2016 he was presented with the Marsh Award for the Promotion of Lepidoptera Conservation at Butterfly Conservation's AGM.

He is writing "Lifecycles of British and Irish Butterflies" to be published in October 2019.



Venue: Stowupland Village Hall

Grid Ref: TM 070600, Post Code: IP14 4BG

Time: 2.30 pm.

Please note the change in location and the afternoon start.

The AGM will be followed by the guest speaker, members' slides, light refreshments and the annual photo competition. Further details will be announced in The Suffolk Argus and on the Branch website.

Important information

As with any other activity, there are hazards in the countryside and everyone taking part in an event has a responsibility (duty of care) for their own safety and that of others. We try hard to ensure that our events present no greater hazard than any other walk in the countryside, but we would encourage anyone planning to attend an event to read and act on the following advice:

- Wear appropriate footwear. If there are unusual requirements these will be noted in the event programme, but stout shoes are a minimum requirement for any walk.

- The leader will brief you on the trip before setting off, with details of any known hazards and advice on what to do in an emergency – please listen carefully.

- By their nature, butterflies are not always to be found next to the path and will offer many opportunities (temptations) to wander off the track. It's easy to be distracted and to miss potential hazards such as rabbit holes, fallen or hanging branches, barbed wire etc. Beware of wet grass or moss, particularly on sloping ground. Children are welcome at branch events but, if under 16, they must be accompanied by a responsible adult (maximum of two children per adult). If you are

bringing children with you, please ensure that the event is within their capability.

- Dogs may be allowed at some of the events. Please contact the leader in advance to find out if the event is suitable.

- If you are uncertain about any aspect of an event or activity, please contact the leader in advance.

Contact details can be found with each event entry. Do let the leader know if you need, or can offer, a lift. If you decide to leave early, please tell the event leader. Please note that persons who take part in these events do so entirely at their own risk and The Suffolk Branch of Butterfly Conservation cannot accept liability for any injuries or losses during the course of an event.

Binoculars, cameras, field guides and notebooks are always useful. For moth nights bring a torch and eye protection (i.e. polarised sunglasses or wide-brimmed hat). Remember, most nature reserves do not permit dogs. Map references are based on the Ordnance Survey 1:50,000 Landranger series and are approximate. They refer to the rendezvous, not the site. Anyone is welcome to come along, Branch members or not.

Ask Iris

Vanessa asked: 'Why are moths attracted to light if they are nocturnal?'

Iris replied: Moths' attraction to light (positive phototaxis) could be related to certain light wavelengths giving confusing pheromone signals. However, that would infer that only male moths would be attracted to light, as this is not the case, maybe females don't like the competition for mating?

Of course, moths are caught outside of their mating period meaning that this theory is, on its own, could be unfounded.

Moths circling a light source such as a moth trap can often be seen flying erratically and bumbling frantically as if blinded by the light. This behavior could be some in-built reaction to their belief that 'it is night, so

what's that light' or, as some believe, it is related to celestial navigation. Not sure that moths navigate far though, take the vapourer moth for example: flightless females and you won't find a male in your trap as the vapourer is known to be attracted by pheromones rather than light.

So, Vanessa I am sorry, there is no positive explanation.

Camilla asked: 'How can I save on expensive postage?'

Iris replied: Instead of wasting your hard-earned cash on first class postage, send your letters second class a day earlier.

If you have a question for Iris, serious or humorous, please email 'ask Iris' c/o the editor: trevor@greenfarm.org.uk

All a flutter.

(Broadleaf magazine south east issue), by Rohan Amick (edited by Trevor Goodfellow)

Twenty years as a radio officer in the merchant navy couldn't dampen my passion for butterflies, I have loved them since I was a boy.

My favourite haunt is Worms Wood near Bangor. There are plenty of nectar-bearing plants there, so it is ideal for butterflies.

It attracts a lot of the brown species like ringlet and the brown argus, peacock and common blue.

I started doing surveys about four years ago,

making charts listing the 21 species I found there. This year I saw 30 – 40 marbled whites in one survey! And October sightings of red admiral and speckled wood.

People ask me how I can be sure I don't count the same one twice, and the truth is, I can't, but at the same time you can't hope to count them all, so it evens out. You must know your species and have a quick keen eye, walk slowly to count them all, patience is the key; you can't rush it.

Butterfly of The Year?

Richard Stewart

Although the Holly blue was abundant, particularly in the first half of the year, my own vote goes to the Brown Argus, also the favourite of Patrick Barkham, as revealed in his AGM talk. In past years I have sometimes had to wait some time to find one-in 2015 it was 17th July. However, in 2018 I had records from sixteen different locations, thirteen being in Suffolk from the King's Forest in the west, to Orford and Thorpeness on the eastern coast. One turned up in our Ipswich garden- only the second record- and I found a single Brown Argus in the meadow at The Dales, also in Ipswich. This was a new site record. A colony of eight was found on a visit to Rainham Marshes but probably the greatest number was on Denbies, North Downs, near Dorking. I was there with my wife Marie and Stella and Roger Wolfe, but we didn't count every Brown Argus, concentrating more on finding

rarer Adonis Blue and Silver-spotted Skipper. Besides the overall patterning and colour this species has a particularly silver effect in flight. However, I also like to check against the possibility of it being a female Common Blue by making sure there are no spot markings on the forewing nearer than halfway into the body. Formerly this often necessitated getting down on my knees but that is seldom necessary now, thanks to close focus binoculars.



Small Tortoiseshell
by Deborah Vass

An Invitation to Watch Butterflies.

Rob Parker

A comfortable stay on Suffolk's coast is an opportunity to watch butterflies, some special, some numerous, and all guaranteed to enhance the timeless quality of your outdoor life. The Sandlings has heaths that host rarities like the Silver-studded Blue, forests that feature the graceful flight of the White Admiral, and coastal walks with wildflowers that sparkle with butterflies enjoying the sun. You can just relax and let them cross your path from time to time, but if you want to be sure to find something interesting, here are a few ideas.

If you choose to tackle the "Sailors' Path" from Snape towards Aldeburgh you will cross a variety of different habitats, and a summer walk along its sandy paths will let you see Graylings, Small Coppers, Meadow Browns, Common Blues, and possibly even a Wall Brown or two – a once familiar butterfly in sad decline across much of England. The familiar Peacocks, Small Tortoiseshells and Commas will be there too of course – most of your way along the path. If you have time for a detour, why not step into the Suffolk Wildlife Trust reserve at Hazlewood Marshes? You will find parts of it sheltered, with a more open aspect as you approach the bird hide and the marshland along the Alde estuary. The Sailors path is just under 3 miles between the small car park at the RSPB's Snape Warren and the little car park off the A1094 about a mile before the edge of Aldeburgh. That car park is the assembly point for a field meeting on Saturday 18th May – See the events

programme. You can plan the out and back walk for a whole day, with a lunch break at Aldeburgh, but if that is too strenuous, why not take a shorter stretch from either end?

If you want to find one of Suffolk's rarities – the Silver-studded Blue, a UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UKBAP) species, it can be found by visiting Westleton in late June or July. There are 2 pubs in the village, and the butterfly flies on Westleton Common, which is accessible to the public and only 500 yards south of the village centre. The colonies are spread around the heathery dells in the common, and you will need to walk slowly and look carefully to find them, but once you are in the right place, it can be a delight to watch a rare butterfly thriving and tumbling about in good numbers. If you are going on to Dunwich, you might like to know that there are other colonies scattered either side of the road as you pass through the Westleton Heath National Nature Reserve.

Stopping at the Natural England car park at the corner of the Dunwich Forest is a good plan too. Not only is there a good chance of seeing Silver-studded Blues or Graylings close to the car park, but a walk in the forest can bring you a glimpse of a White Admiral gliding along one of the rides.

Other good woodlands for White Admiral can be found in the Tunstall Forest or the Rendlesham Forest. Both are excellent places to stretch your legs and have good

numbers of other species throughout the summer. It needs to be late June or July for White Admiral or White-letter Hairstreak though; look out for honeysuckle and elm, as these are the larval host plants for the 2 species respectively. Both forests have a lot of dense pine plantation, but the butterflies prefer the sunnier rides with broadleaf woodlands, so walk into the more promising habitat at every junction. Dunwich, Rendlesham and Tunstall Forests all have Forestry Commission car parks/picnic sites and guarantee a walk on the wild side.

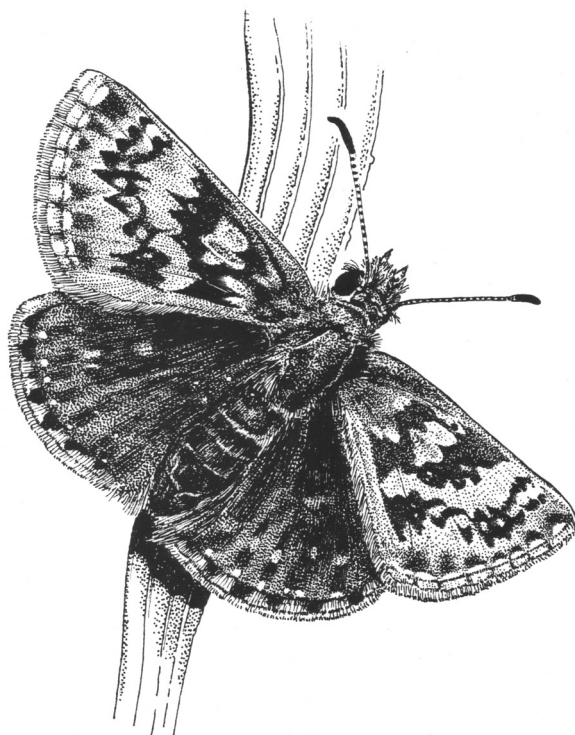
If you prefer a view of the sea, the Suffolk coastal path can be joined at many places and can be a joy whenever we are lucky

enough to have a good year for immigrant butterflies. Not only do Painted Lady and Clouded Yellow make their landfall along our coast, but they are accompanied by Red Admiral and Large White – 2 species which are residents, but are also boosted by migration most summers. The incomers settle on the flower-rich grassland of the sea wall/coastal strip, and lay their eggs for the next generation, making the coast a good butterfly-watching zone for a much longer period than the few days of the massed landfall. Aptly enough, the Wall is a butterfly seen occasionally along the sea wall. If you join the coastal path at Orford you might see it whilst visiting Orford Castle. Sadly the Wall is in decline, and is very much a

coastal species these days; watch out for it basking in the sun on the bare ground at your feet.

Suffolk only has 35 species of resident and regular migrant butterflies, which is less than can be seen in the south of England, but they enhance the lives of anyone who cares to watch them, so it ain't silly to keep a good lookout. If you know your butterflies and see anything interesting, why not send in your sightings to: butterflies@sns.org.uk

Illustration: Dingy skipper-Douglas Hammersley



The Wall brown

Robert Quadling

First Wall Brown sightings for 2017 and 2018 have been on the 10th May for a single Butterfly.

1st Generation Walls fly from May to June: highest Number recorded for 2018 was 10 Butterflies.

2nd Generation Walls fly from July to August: highest number recorded for 2018 was 10 Butterflies.

3rd Generation between September to October: highest number recorded was 4 butterflies. These figures are from a

butterfly survey on a single day within that generation period, compared with the 2nd generation adults from 29th July 2017 when highest number recorded on a single day survey was 25.

Wall browns at Carlton Marsh are found at the sluice next to the river Waveney and along the path from Whitecast marsh to the ramp on the new bank opposite Peto's Marsh. As the season progresses, they often spread out around the reserve covering a large area. It is these butterflies that are seen mostly on the paths which have short

worn grass and open patches of earth and as the name suggests, you can always find them on the defence flood wall at the sluice basking in the sun. As SWT Carlton marshes seems to be the last stronghold for the Wall brown in Suffolk. I closely survey the site each year to help protect the Wall's future on the reserve and to monitor and maintain the valuable habitat. (see photos page 28).

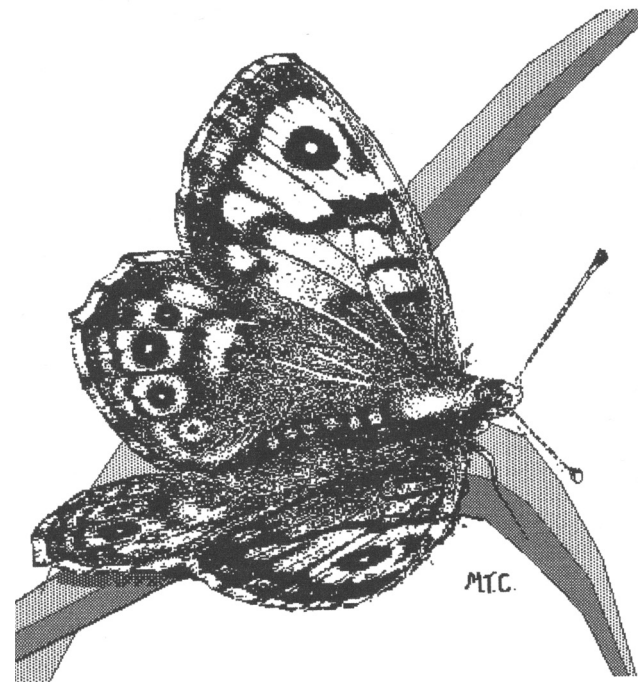


Illustration: Wall Brown by Mervyn Crawford

Thanks

Twm Wade

I thought some of you might know Gill Perkins who, I suspect was a volunteer into the WCBS scheme at the start. At the grand age of 80, she has decided to retire and wrote to me thus:

“I enclose my record sheets for this year and have decided it is time for me to retire. (I am 80 years young now!) It has been very

enjoyable to survey a lovely part of Suffolk and I hope someone else will take it on.

This year hasn't been good for Red Admirals, Small Tortoiseshells, Peacocks and Commas but Brimstones, Orange Tips and whites haven't done badly. I hope next year will be better for all species.

All the best for the future”.

Casual observations of butterfly habits during the 2018 drought

Trevor Goodfellow

Purple hairstreak and white-letter hairstreak were apparently feeding more often at or near ground level. I suspect their food supply of honeydew at their normal treetop haunt was dried up or the aphids that produce the honeydew may have vacated the treetops as the oaks and elms (respectively) react to the hot weather.

The oaks will regenerate but it was noticeable that some elms were dying, possibly diseased trees, that lack of water accelerated their demise.

During the very hot weather I also noticed small heath and small copper, laying their eggs on dried and shriveled leaves, and not always their first choice of foodplant. I am not sure whether these eggs will be successful, but I hope the tiny hatching

caterpillars manage to crawl to some food nearby if the chosen plant dies.

Another consequence of the prolonged dry spell was that grass died off and when the rains finally returned, weeds (wild flowers) recovered much quicker than the grass, ok for meadows but not for many gardens. For example: In late August, I watched brown argus and common blue butterflies frantically laying their eggs on these lush new growths of cranesbill, trefoils and vetches. This led me to wonder whether many lawns would get the 'weed and feed' treatment as a result and maybe the flourish of second brood argus and blues may be thwarted. The impact of these natural adaptations will be revealed next year. Fingers crossed that it is favourable for our ever-declining butterflies.

Garden Nectar Plants for Butterflies B is For Buddleia and Bowles Mauve Wallflower.

Richard Stewart

Much has been said about the 'butterfly bush' so I will restrict my comments to just two points. First, by planting early varieties like the graceful *alternifolia* and late-flowering *weyeriana* the flowering season can in a good year extend from late May to early December. The best way of seeing a wide range of buddleia species is to visit Trudie's garden at Aldeburgh, normally in the last week of July as a Butterfly Conservation event. Details will be on the forthcoming 2019 programme.

Secondly, I have lost count of disappointed comments about lack of butterflies on summer flowering *dauidii* species and I think it often occurs because there is no deadheading after the initial flowering period. In the long hot summer of 2018, I deadheaded six times, extending the flowering through to the start of October.

Species recorded nectaring on *alternifolia* in our Ipswich garden: Small White, Green-veined White, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Meadow Brown.

Dauidii: Large Skipper, Brimstone, Large, Small and Green-veined White, Purple Hairstreak, Holly Blue, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock, Comma, Silver-washed Fritillary, Speckled Wood, Grayling, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown plus Silver Y moth and Hummingbird Hawk moth.

Weyeriana: Large White, Green-veined White, Red Admiral, Peacock, Comma, Speckled Wood, Gatekeeper, Meadow brown plus Silver Y moth.

Bowles Mauve Wallflower: this has the great advantage of having a long flowering period

and cuttings are easy. Ours survived the 2018 summer drought but its height was noticeably shorter. Like some species of buddleia, it can be grown in pots and fine examples, admittedly in very large pots, surround the main fountain in the Cambridge Botanical Gardens.

Nectaring: Brimstone, Large, Small and Green-veined White, Orange Tip, Common Blue, Red Admiral, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Comma.



Painted Lady by Beryl Johnson

A new Suffolk butterfly- Southern Small White (*P. manni*)- a brief update

Bill Stone, Suffolk Butterfly Recorder

I have previously written about potential new species of butterfly for Suffolk and most recently about Southern Small White (*P. manni*). This particular species of butterfly has expanded its range considerably in mainland Europe over the last few years and with a recently recorded northern movement of over 100km per year it is slowly heading towards the UK. In 2017, *P. manni* had reached the Netherlands and had colonised southern Germany.

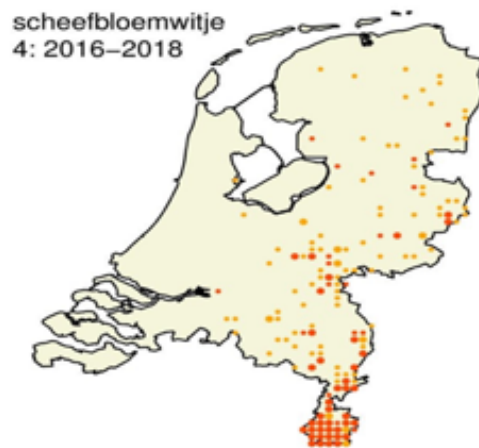
I have recently made contact with key observers in Holland and Belgium to ascertain what they have noticed as to *P. manni* movements in 2018. In respect of the Netherlands, Chris Van Swaay from De Vlinderstichting (Dutch Butterfly Conservation) has reported that the spread of *P. manni* has not been as extensive as expected with the suspected reason being the high temperatures experienced in Europe last year and the corresponding effects of drought. The 4th generation of *P. manni* is the one that drives its expansion and in 2018 individuals had been recorded as far north as Waddensea and just to the north of Amsterdam. Of note, *P. manni* is now common in the south-east of the country. The map, courtesy of Chris van Swaay below helpfully shows how *P. manni* has been recorded during the period 2016-2018.

In Belgium, Pieter Vantiegheem a well-known and respected butterfly expert has also commented that the expected expansion of *P. manni* with the 4th generation in the Autumn was smaller. As such, *P. manni* remains restricted to the south-east of the country. The map below, courtesy of Pieter Vantiegheem shows this position well.

Despite the restricted expansion in 2018 as described above there remains a real possibility that *P. manni* could arrive in the UK in the Autumn of 2019. Given Suffolk's position on the east coast of the UK that means it is very likely to be found on a coastal walk particularly in gardens where the larval foodplant, Candy Tuft (*Iberis sempervirens*) is found. Candy Tuft is a common and popular plant and is often used in formal gardens given its dense, clump forming habit.

So, in conclusion, please keep looking out for this small white butterfly particularly in the Autumn on the coast and ensure you take photos to confirm the identity.

NB: Identification help was given in the Suffolk Argus- Autumn 2017 (Vol 70- p 16-20).



The herald of spring

Kev Ling

Winter has its pleasures for sure. The festive season with its prolonged build up and the countryside taking on a crisp, frosty appearance. For some at least the arrival of snow adds an added splendour to the landscape, with migrating birds from the north and east providing keen interest to the naturalists amongst us.

However, as the new year is welcomed, I start to have a yearning. That patient waiting and anticipation for greener seasons, when the trees are once again adorned with fresh leaves and the hedgerows begin to burst with colour and blooms. For me, spring is never truly here until I am treated to the first dancing flight of the Orange Tip. Never a year goes by without me feeling real emotion and elation at that first sighting.

My interest in Butterflies started as a small boy, when I would gaze excitedly at the sheer number of Nymphalidae on my father's Buddleia. How I wish they were so prolific now. I would marvel at the range of colours on display from Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Painted Lady. But nothing pleased me more than the conspicuous flash of bright orange from a male *Anthocharis Cardamines* (Orange Tip) in early April, the "Herald of Spring".

This species is one of the first to emerge that has not overwintered as an adult. It enjoys a wide range of habitats from hedgerows to woodland rides where Garlic Mustard, one of its larval host plants is found. Another crucifer that is used for egg laying is Cuckooflower (Lady's Smock). This tends to prefer damper ground, such as riverbanks and rain enriched meadows.

Male and female of this species are very different in both appearance and behaviour. The orange markings to the forewings of course make the male unmistakable. This also serves as a timely reminder to predatory birds that they are not the

tastiest snack to be had, a result of mustard oils that have accumulated in the body from the larval foodplant. The male is also far more active than the female. Its most defined characteristic is how it patrols the hedgerows and countryside for much of the day, searching all available plants in the hunt for a female and seldomly stopping for rest or nectar as it does so. This can be particularly frustrating for the photographer. Although it is not especially difficult to photograph a male, patience is certainly a virtue as is understanding their habits. A male Orange Tip must not be pursued. As a child I didn't have a camera but loved seeing them at rest. Conjure an image of a child running up and down the hedgerows in the vain hope that the butterfly would tire before he does. I soon learned that this didn't work. For inspection of Orange Tips at close quarters, a partially cloudy day provides the best odds. Allow them to come to you and once the sun is obscured by cloud they settle, sometimes with their wings open, as they try to absorb the heat energy from the sun. Some of my best photographs have come with these tactics, using only a mobile phone as my camera of choice.

The females are slightly more difficult to identify, especially in flight when they can be mistaken for Small or Green Veined White. But once settled with their wings closed, they are unmistakable as they share the same mottled green and white underwing pattern as the male. The design being reminiscent of lichen (see photo page 27). Only the Bath White displays a similar pattern to that of the Orange Tip and this species is sadly not found in Britain. The underwing pattern also adds to the female's ability to camouflage itself whilst at rest on its preferred plant choice.

Females are far less active than their male counterparts and are not as readily seen on the wing, being more concerned with egg laying. I have enjoyed analysing their behaviour though. As

The Suffolk Argus

the accompanying photo demonstrates I observed the female raising her abdomen to the approaching male. At first, I was of the understanding that this was a courtship ritual, but in fact the male was being shown a clear sign of rejection, probably as the female in question had already mated. I have however established that the same raised abdomen of a virgin female is an invitation for the male to court and mate with her.

Equally as interesting and easy to observe is how the female seeks out a suitable place for laying her eggs. Firstly, it must be a crucifer and she is seen to brush past or momentarily land on a plant to establish this. Once the correct larval food plant is located, she will then ensure that it is in flower. She identifies this either by sight or using her feet to taste the plant. She can also detect if an egg has already been laid to that plant. After considering all these things she will usually deposit a single egg to the flower stalk. Orange Tips caterpillars are well known as being cannibalistic, so it is unusual to see more than one egg per plant. In 2018 though, I did observe for the first time a plant carrying two or three eggs.

The next two stages of an Orange Tips journey to adulthood are also surprising easy to observe. Although greenish-white when first laid, the egg soon turns a vivid orange colour making them one of the easiest of any species to find. The egg will be found on the top part of the stem just below the flowerhead. I like to pack a magnifying glass in my camera bag so that I can see their exquisite detail.

The caterpillar emerges 10-14 days later, eats its eggshell and then begins feeding on the developing seed pods. It is at this point that they become easy to observe to the trained eye as they lay atop the seed pod, camouflaged nicely as they eat. The caterpillar will go through four instars before it heads off, away from the larval foodplant to pupate.

Since I was a child, one of the things at the top of my butterflying bucket list, was to find an Orange Tip pupa. Sadly, they are extremely difficult to find

in the wild, despite them remaining in this stage for well over three hundred days. I hatched a plan to increase the odds of finding my elusive holy grail. I had not seen an Orange Tip in my back garden before, so Garlic Mustard was planted (Being a bi-annual you may not get flowers until the second year). But when they did flower, we immediately attracted them, and one or more females had deposited a dozen eggs to our small patch of plants. As expected only a proportion made it to 4th instar, but overnight they went walkabout and I never did find a single pupa. Last spring however I kept my eye on a particular caterpillar, and with the cunning addition of some fine netting at just the right time, I restricted its onward journey and located the final pupation position. It was worth the forty something year wait, my very first Orange Tip pupa (see photo page 27).

All too soon the highlight of my butterfly year is at an end. How I wish my favourite species had more than a single brood, to prolong that enjoyment. But just as the Orange Tip disappears, summer is then starting, and the promise of many more species dilutes the disappointment that I will have to wait another 10 months before the child inside me is woken once more.



Orange Tip by Beryl Johnson

Orange tip courtship by Kev Ling



Orange tip pupa by Kev Ling



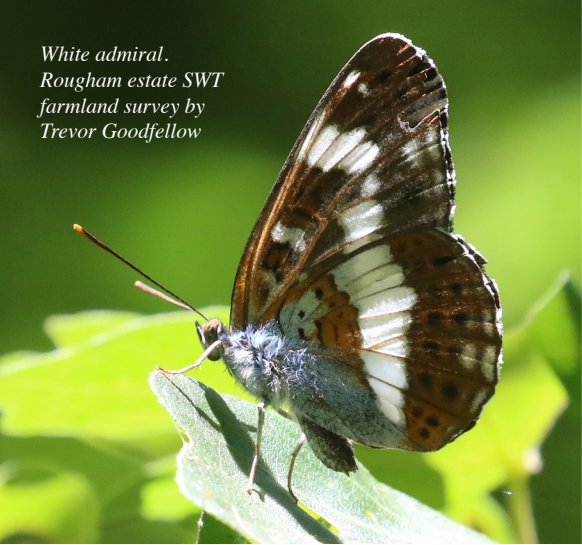
Orange tip by Kev Ling



Humming-bird hawk by Jenny and Gary Plank



*White admiral.
Rougham estate SWT
farmland survey by
Trevor Goodfellow*

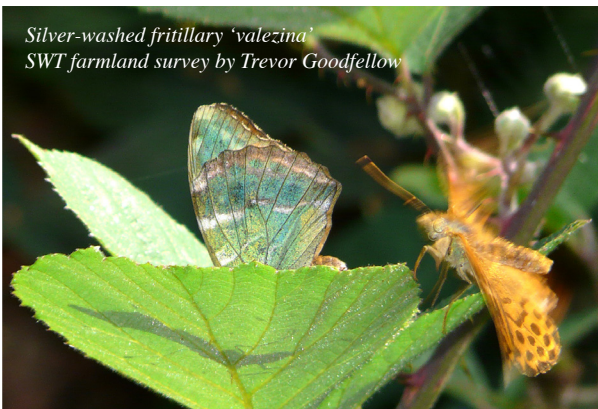


*Wall browns by
Robert Quadling*

Red admiral by Mark Brewster



*Silver-washed fritillary 'valezina'
SWT farmland survey by Trevor Goodfellow*



Wall brown by Robert Quadling

Common blue by Mark Brewster

