

SUFFOLK BRANCH NEWSLETTER

The

Suffolk Argus

Volume 86

Spring 2023



**Butterfly
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and our environment



The Suffolk Argus



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Butterfly Conservation

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Editorial

Trevor Goodfellow

As we start the new year and the hot dry summer of 2022 seems a distant memory, our thoughts again turn to butterfly and moth surveys.

In this issue we have foreign travel reports, photo competition results and an enhanced repeat of a previous Argus article about butterfly aberrations accompanied by more intriguing photos. Richard Stewart's continuing alphabetic nectar and foodplant series will help members decide what to plant in their gardens this spring, events guide including Suffolk Moth Group meeting, plus lots more.

We are all encouraged by international agreements at COP 15 aiming to improve biodiversity. Let us hope that the aims are met.

It was good to see another good turnout for the AGM and members event although personally, I am sorry that I was so busy

with taking donations and raffle ticket sales that I was unable to circulate to have a chat.

Locally I noticed increased rainfall over the autumn and winter, but the ditches are only now starting to hold water. I imagine that we need a whole lot more rain to replenish the ground water that was lost in the 2022 drought.

The influx of migrant species was a thrill; Clifden Nonpareil, Crimson Speckled, Humming-bird hawk (also resident), and Clouded Yellow, all seemed to do well last year.

I would like to thank all the contributors to this edition for their articles, keep them coming!

Copy date for the Summer issue is May 22nd 2023

Cover image: Common Blues by Graham Jackson



White Admiral by Izumi (www.hachiware-art.blogspot)

AGM and Members' Afternoon Stowupland Village Hall 8th October 2022

Peter Maddison

It was good to be able to welcome 45 of our members to Stowupland Village Hall for our first face-to-face meeting since 2019.

The afternoon began with the AGM. Paper copies of the Chair's Report were available. Some additional news was the granting of permission by Natural England for us to restart conservation work at Purdis Heath. Julian Dowding will be leading work parties on the last Saturday of each month through to new year. We are awaiting permission from NE for work to be extended into 2023 and beyond.

BC has published its Strategy for 2021-2026 the three goals of which are to halve the number of threatened species of butterflies and moths, improve the condition of 100 of the most important landscapes for butterflies and moths and transform 100,000 wild spaces in the UK for people, butterflies and moths.

The Treasurer, Kev Ling, reported that our bank balance was in a healthy condition with a closing balance of £9,425.00. We had spent less during the months of Covid but we had made a donation of £6,000.00 to head office to help cover their losses due to the pandemic.

Richard Stewart, author of *The Wildlife Garden at Aldeburgh*, and Trudie Willis,

about whose garden the book focuses, were thanked for their continuing donations to the Branch of money raised from book sales. Trudie was thanked also for once again kindly opening her garden in aid of Branch funds.

Mark Brewster, who had been co-opted onto the committee during the year, was elected to the Committee. John Lepley, who has a particular interest in Theberton Wood, was elected as an Associate Member of the Committee.

Rob Parker is moving away from Suffolk and was presented with a book of memories which followed his many years of service to the Branch. Rob joined the Branch in the late 1990's and in 2000 became the Chair for the next five years. During that time, he became County Conservation Officer also County Butterfly Recorder, relinquishing the latter in 2013. We are very grateful for the countless hours that Rob has spent on butterfly matters, and we wish him well in his new home.

Rob has gathered a large library of butterfly related books which he has decided to disperse and at the meeting these books were displayed on tables along one side of the hall. Members present were invited to select a book and make a small donation to the Branch. We thank Rob wholeheartedly

for his generosity. Book sales raised £166.50 for our branch making a total of £281.00 with raffle and other donations.

James Corton our County Butterfly Recorder was unable to attend the meeting, but he sent a report on the features of 2022.

After the tea break, when once again it was good to chat to members, our speakers for the afternoon held the floor. Patrick Barker, whose family farms in the Westhorpe area and has won several awards for conservation and farming, gave a fascinating talk about his work to bring about improvements for biodiversity on and around his farms. Recently Patrick had been using a portable

moth trap which had been donated by SNS. That survey work had concluded so he kindly donated the trap to the Branch. It will be a trap that will be available for loan to members during the coming season.

Our second talk of the afternoon was given by Susannah Riordan who gave an excellent talk on the reintroduction of the Chequered Skipper to Rockingham Forest. Susannah is the project manager and her talk ranged from the initial detailed planning to obtaining stock from Belgium and its successful release in 2018.

(Photos by Jillian Macready)



Patrick Barker giving his presentation



Patrick Barker presenting our Chairman with the moth trap



AGM Audience

Suffolk Moth Group Indoor Meeting - 18th March 2023.

Neil Sherman, County moth recorder. (moth@sns.org.uk)

The meeting will start from 10am onwards. Some of the group will be lunching in a local pub just down the road from around 12.30pm onwards. Please let me know if you intend to eat at the pub well before the meeting day so I can phone in advance to let them know numbers. Or you can bring your own food along, the hall can be left open for those doing this. The meeting will continue until we have run out of talks etc, possibly around 4.30-5pm.

I will start the meeting with a presentation on where we are with recording moths in Suffolk and a review of 2022. The floor will then open for members to show presentations. A digital projector will be available for those with digital presentations or images.

Tables will also be provided for those with exhibits. It would be useful if you are intending on giving a presentation to let me know.

Refreshments (tea, coffee, and cake/biscuits) will be provided. There will be a request for voluntary contributions towards the hiring of the hall, which has unfortunately increased this year due to the increase in the cost of gas and electricity.

If you are doing a Powerpoint presentation then you should save it in OpenOffice format or if you use Microsoft Office then Office 2007 format or earlier.

Bucklesham Village Hall is not far from the Nacton A12/A14 roundabout to the east of Ipswich. From the A12/A14 roundabout take the minor exit after the A12 exit but before the A14 Felixstowe exit. This exit is signposted to Bucklesham and leads via a single-track road to Bucklesham Village. At the end of this road you will reach the village, at the T junction turn right into Bucklesham Road. Take the next right turn into Levington Lane and the village hall is a short distance down the lane on the right.

The OS Grid Reference for the hall is TM242417.

What3words: marinated.upper.acre

All are welcome even if you are just starting getting interested in moths, this is a great event to meet up and find out all about it.

Hopefully see you there!



Brimstone and Buckthorn Project 2022

Peter Maddison

Last winter 600 Common and Alder Buckthorn plants were made available for our members, and all were eagerly taken up. The weather was reasonably mild and wet at planting time but that was followed by summer drought. How did your buckthorn plants do? Did you plant in clay or sandy soil? Naturally moist or dry soil? Did you water your plants? Were they mulched? If you had both species, which did best? Were

you lucky enough to see a Brimstone come to your Buckthorn?

We'd be grateful for some feed-back about your successes and where it didn't go quite so well!

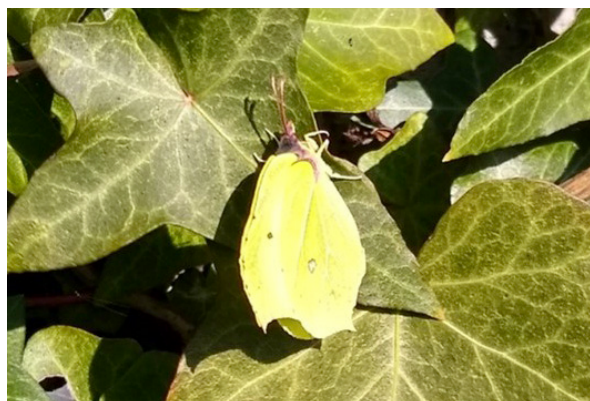
Please send a sentence or two to me at prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk.

Drama on a New Buckthorn Hedge (Brimstone & Buckthorn Project)

Steve Lovewell

Last winter, Butterfly Conservation offered members some Common Buckthorn hedging whips to try to boost the food supply and distribution of the Brimstone caterpillar and result in an increase in the adult population. I expressed interest and in due course heard that I had been allocated some. I grubbed out some ancient Hebes

and other hedging plants from our front garden and prepared the ground for the new whips. Peter Maddison contacted me at the end of January to say that he was delivering plants next week and would it be possible to drop mine off. They arrived on Thursday 3rd February 2022 and were soon planted in a row just inside the low front wall to the west facing garden in Lowestoft.



Male Brimstone seen in back garden 9th March 2022

Watering began immediately and continued regularly. For some time after other shrubs had started to leaf up there was no sign of development on the new Buckthorn and I was fearful that the plants had died. Eventually some tiny buds showed a hint of opening out and I breathed a sigh of relief, they had survived. I

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carried on watering on a regular basis and the leaves were beginning to grow nicely; and I thought that the hedge just needed to develop for a year and then some Brimstone butterflies might visit us.

In February, March and April I saw an occasional adult brimstone in the back garden, but never in the front. Then one morning in June as I was walking down the road to the newsagent, I saw to my horror that many of the leaves on the buckthorn were shrivelled up and I thought that some were dying. However, when I looked closer, I could see that they had been eaten but there was no sign of the culprit. The next day when I looked, more plants had been attacked and the few leaves that each whip had were being devastated. I took more time and looked more carefully and spotted a very small green caterpillar lined up with the mid rib of the leaf and virtually invisible. When I looked carefully at all the damaged leaves, I initially counted nine small caterpillars, then 10 and finally 11 distributed over several of the whips. They never seemed to move much but every few days they were a little larger and eventually at a size that I could be certain that they were the caterpillars of the Brimstone butterfly.

I started to become worried as the leaves were fast disappearing and the caterpillars would soon run out of food. One morning I could no longer count all the caterpillars and presumed that the larger ones had gone off to pupate. I then began to move the caterpillars

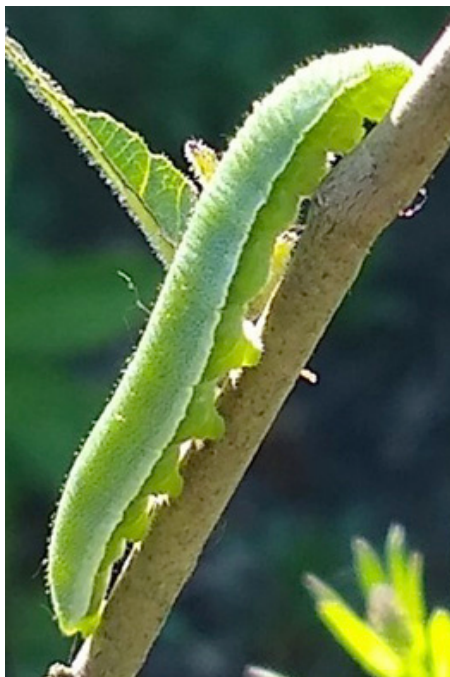
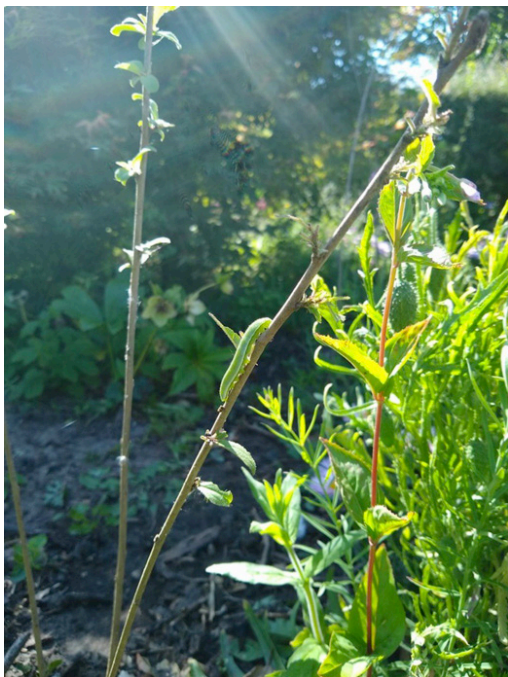


*Common Buckthorn whip with stripped leaves
15th June 2022*

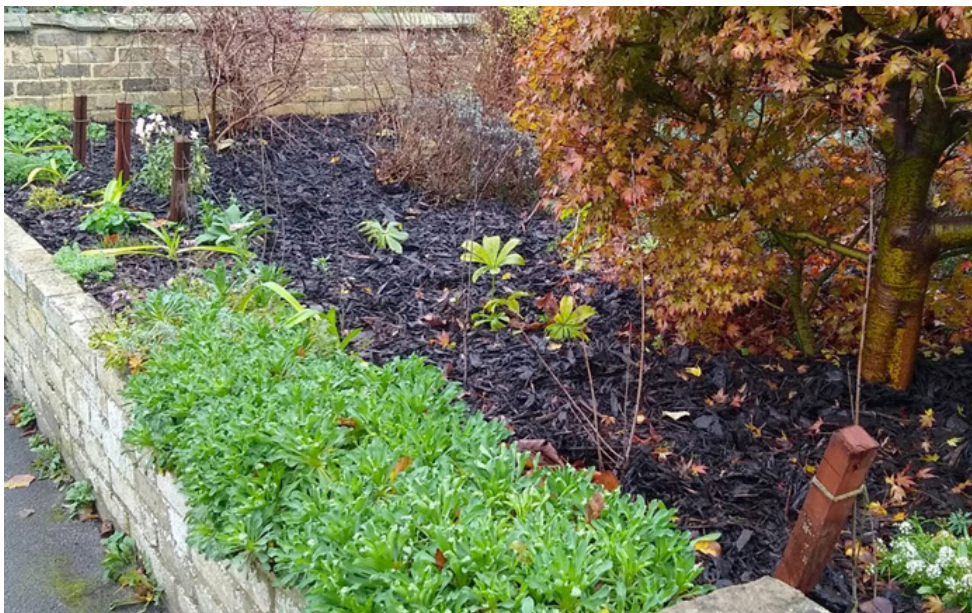
that had run out of leaves onto the leaves of intact whips. These caterpillars also soon disappeared, hopefully because they had pupated, leaving a row of Buckthorn whips with stripped leaves.

I thought that these whips would die off as they did not have any leaves to photosynthesise. But after a while some new leaves started to appear. I kept a lookout for emerging adult Brimstones in the front garden but have not seen any to date. The whips mostly still look in a poor condition, but it is winter again and so fingers crossed that there will be new growth next year. I know the object of the exercise was to attract Brimstone butterflies, however they were nearly hoisted on their own petard (if butterflies can do that); I just did not expect it to happen so quickly.

(All photos by Steve Lovewell)



Large Brimstone caterpillar perhaps 35mm long



Appearance of whips on 28th November 2022

How to Help Nature

Twam Wade

Having an interest in nature is the first stage. Circumstances will probably determine which species you take a special interest in. It does not matter what takes your fancy eventually you will want to identify and record what you see, where and when. You will then find there are other people that share your interest and enthusiasms. My interest is butterflies and fluttering on the edge of moths.

When I first joined Butterfly Conservation I was freshly retired and planning to film wildlife, a new hobby. The papers that came with membership documents made one thing clear, the most important thing I could do to help butterflies was to count, record and report what I saw, where and when. Not knowing where it would lead to, I said to myself, "I can do that."

In that first year I attended a few events, and, by reputation, there were not many butterflies about. That was not my experience as every butterfly was one more than previously noticed. Rob Parker took me under his wing and helped me with identification. We went counting Dingy skippers (DS); very few. And then Silver-Studded blues (SSB); less than the previous year. And then Silver-washed Fritillaries (SWF) at Pakenham Wood; rained out.

But then there were successes. I went back to Pakenham Wood to see SWF to see a WA,

the first in my entire life. Such joy was soon to be bettered. As I walked back to the car, I met a birder who came to see the SWF and asked if I knew where they were. It looked as if the showers of earlier were going to be replaced by sunshine, so I turned round and went back into the wood. In no time we saw the first SWF, and then another, and then another until it was raining SWF from the canopy. Of those that alighted onto flowers, 20 were counted and there could have been nearing 100 in the air. No camera but such joy never to be repeated.

Rob encouraged me to record my sightings and send the data to him as County Recorder. He suggested I start a transect near to me, without success. But then he suggested I took on the running of the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS) as the person doing it wished to retire from the role.

There was a rapid learning curve. Not only did I have to learn what the WCBS was about but also the role of the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (UKBMS). At that time the UKBMS website was slow and generally hard work. The available WCBS areas were slowly taken on and we were getting useful data on the spread and abundance of species.

Strangely I have not taken on a WCBS area or a transect although I have done the occasional WCBS area to see what it is like

and try to maintain the gathering of data year after year. I have kept up the casual recording and still try to film wildlife,

mostly butterflies. It is challenging, gets me outdoors and, sometimes away from traffic and other noise. I recommend it.

Aberrations

Rob Parker & Trevor Goodfellow (including previously published text)

Melanism is a condition which results in an excess of black scales compared to the normal form of a particular species. It results from higher-than-normal temperatures during the final process of metamorphosis, as the wing scales are arranged just before emergence from the pupa. Experiments have shown that exposing pupae to unusually high temperatures in the hours before emergence can produce spectacular melanic specimens - almost totally black in extreme cases. In nature, an unusually hot summer is rarely enough to trigger melanic forms. A poorly selected pupation site might allow direct sunlight to overheat the pupal case, or a falling branch might disturb the pupal resting place with the same effect.

Other Causes of aberration are recessive genes:

Single gene difference (Monohybrid inheritance)

Double recessive gene difference (Dihybrid inheritance)

Discontinuous variation

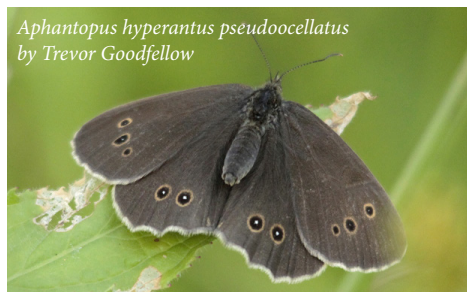
Continuous variation

Multifactorial inheritance

(Further reading: Variations in British Butterflies by A. S. Harmer)

Even a novice observer can spot one of many common species that vary in some way: Common blue, Ringlet and other species with 'eye' markings may have exaggerated markings or even absent. The Holy Grail of abs. must be the *gynandromorph* where a specimen exhibits both male and female attributes for example: female on their left and male on their right.

So, it is always worth giving all sightings a closer look where possible, maybe you will find a rarity.



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Aricia agestis snelleni by Graham Jackson



Lycaena phlaeas radiata-caeruleopunctata
by Trevor Goodfellow



Callophrys rubi bipunctata
by Graham Jackson



Pyronia tithonus antilacticolor by Rob Reeve



Maniola jurtina bioculata by Graham Jackson



Lycaena phlaeas caeruleopunctata (3rd gen)
by Graham Jackson



Maniola jurtina caeca by Graham Jackson



Polyommatus (Lysandra) icarus supra-caerulea + albocincta by Trevor Goodfellow



Polyommatus (Lysandra) icarus -female apicata-supracaeulea by Trevor Goodfellow



Polyommatus (Lysandra) icarus supra-caerulea by Trevor Goodfellow



Polyommatus (Lysandra) icarus radiata courvoisier



Vanessa cardui no name by Trevor Goodfellow



Zygaena filipendulae flava by Trevor Goodfellow

Sightings by Graham Jackson:

My wife and I moved to Beccles in July 2016 and the builders of six nearby houses had used a 200 to 250 square metre patch of rough land beyond our premises. Where they had laid a tarmac hard standing for their equipment, literally “over the garden fence”, became partly overgrown following the departure of the builders in 2016. A few Common Blue and a Small Copper and Brown Argus were noted in 2020, and subsequently established very small colonies. In 2021, from mid-July onwards, I sighted one or two Small Coppers on each of 50 days: total 53 with the last sighting on 18th October. In 2022 so far (apart from 15 to 21 July when I was absent) I sighted 1 or 2 on each of 52 days: total 63. First sighting 9th May. Last sighting

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19 September on site - I noted five magpies 'working' over the site on several days in late September. Some of the sightings in 2022 were of mating pairs although I also thought there might have been an attempt to set up an adjacent territory. I have recorded virtually every day this year so far within the Garden Survey and noted 23 species in the approximately 1000sq metres of home and rough land beyond the boundary. The Small Copper (*Lycaena phlaeas*) *caeruleopunctata* aberration is a regular sighting here, however, as I cannot accurately determine individuals, over time I can only guess the proportion. I suspect it is between 25% and 50% of the total are *caeruleopunctata* (examples with different numbers of blue spots). I had two sightings of Green Hairstreaks (*Callophrys rubi*) in my garden, one on 22nd and the other 27th May this year. Their underside white line/spots indicated two individuals, that may suit examples of *caecus* and *inferopunctatus* or steps in the

sequence of the variation in the white marks. They were my first sightings of the species for many years, so memorable.

Sightings by Trevor Goodfellow

Common Blue ab. *radiata courvoisier* (denoting the radial enlarged wing spots) was an exciting sighting of 2011 in our meadow at Thurston. It must be one of the best aberrations I have spotted, including the amazing yellow spotted version of a 6-Spot Burnet seen in 2021, something I thought I would never find. The odd-looking Painted Lady (see page 15) was a rare sight for me and when I photographed it, I couldn't quite work out why it seemed different from type until I compared it with other photos.

Back in 2019 I spotted an unusual Small Copper in King's Forest during a Dingy Skipper count which turned out to be *radiata-caeruleopunctata* which describes both the radial hind wing border markings, plus the blue spots.

2022- A Superb Year for Humming-bird Hawk Moths

Richard Stewart

Our garden at Westerfield Road Ipswich has an abundance of nectar sources and in most years, we get at least one visit from that welcome migrant, the Humming-bird Hawk moth. However, in 2022 we had at least sixteen visits from mid-June to the end of August. The nectar sources visited also widened from *buddleia* and red Valerian to *verbena bonariensis*, plumbago in a large pot and marjoram. We were also surprised that several visits were in evenings with no

sunshine. Paul Gilson lives not much more than a mile from us and in the SNS 'White Admiral' edition 110 had a photo of one in flight together with the comment that it had been an exceptional year for this species. The newsletter of other BC branches I belong to have also repeated this increased occurrence and in Paul's garden he had visits on at least ten days between 14th June and 4th September. All were to red *valerian* or *buddleia*. His total does in fact exceed ours as many were

repeat visits on the same day, first morning then afternoon. He suggested it might be that this moth, having found good nectar sources in one location, it will return. It might be that return visits, with a few hours between, allow a nectar source to be replenished. The

Humming-bird Hawk moth is an avid feeder, on one occasion when it was feeding on red Valerian, I timed it for one minute during which it visited forty different florets. (*See also photo competition 2nd place winner*)

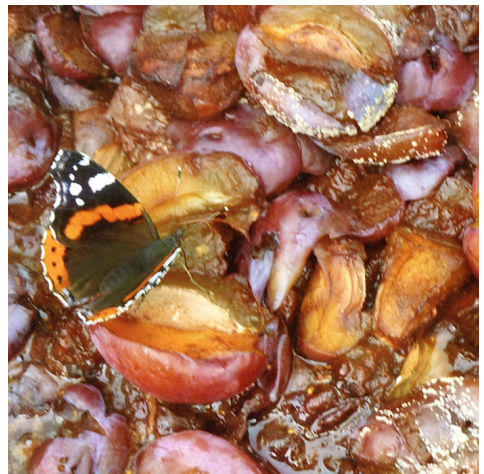
Nectar Sources for Garden Butterflies - R is for Ragwort and Rotten Fruit

Richard Stewart

Ragwort is one of those ‘Marmite’ plants, as instanced a few years ago when I had to write a letter in its defence to the East Anglian Daily Times after an earlier letter suggested, because it could poison livestock, that it should be totally erased. There is no reason why it cannot feature in a ‘wild’ garden area and in the oft quoted top two hundred butterfly plants for the garden by Dr Margaret Vickery, the result of many years compiling national garden trends, it came in the top forty. It attracted 23 different species, especially Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, and Small Copper. From my own experience I would add Peacock, very useful to this species as Peacock tend to hibernate early. The plant itself is a bright yellow and it also is the larval food plant of the Cinnabar moth, with its black and yellow caterpillars and crimson red day flying adults. Often the caterpillars will completely strip plants.

Ripe or rotten fruit is obviously a late feeding source for butterflies. In our garden plums and apples, usually bruised windfalls, will attract Red Admirals, Commas and sometimes Speckled Wood. With soft plums there is always the chance of attracting that rare

migrant, the Camberwell Beauty. I was still the County Recorder in 1995 when Suffolk had 39 reports of what the Americans call ‘The Mourning Cloak’ because of its prominent white border. Several of these were reported as feeding on soft plums. Fruit that is soft but still on the tree can also be visited and a few years ago in the garden at Otley Hall we saw a Comma feeding on soft grapes. There are also well documented reports of both birds and butterflies becoming inebriated and finding it difficult to fly.



Red Admiral on rotting fruit by Richard Stewart

The Sun-Loving Wall

David Tomlinson

As a schoolboy butterfly collector, I regarded the browns as a pretty dull lot, though with one exception: the Wall Brown (these days known simply as the Wall). It was a much more dashing butterfly than the familiar Meadow Brown, as it was quite wary and difficult to approach, as well as being much more handsome. It was also quite scarce, though I soon discovered a number of sites where I could be confident of finding one.

I doubt if any of those sites exist today, for the Wall is a butterfly that has undergone a widespread decline throughout much of its range in England. However, Jeremy Thomas, writing in *The Butterflies of Britain & Ireland*, notes that “from time-to-time numbers plummet, leaving it restricted - sometimes for decades - to scattered centres where its favourite habitat abounds”. There aren’t, as far as I am aware, many of those left in Suffolk, but perhaps one day these attractive butterflies will stage a comeback. I hope so.

Though these sun-loving butterflies may be a rarity here in Suffolk, they are still common on the North Norfolk coast. Last May I visited friends who were staying at Burnham Norton, and on a sunny early evening walk, enjoying the displaying

Lapwings and Redshanks on the nearby grazing marshes (part of Holkham NNR), I came across at least a dozen Walls. As usual, to get within photographic range required a careful and cautious approach, but I was delighted to get some pleasing shots.

My encounter with the Walls was on 15 May, when the first adults were emerging; the initial generation flies until the end of June, followed by a second brood in August, with a third, in good years, in the autumn. I was back in North Norfolk at the end of September, and was delighted to encounter Walls once again, this time on Barrow Common, not far from Brancaster Staithe. The butterflies I saw were freshly emerged.

On the Continent Walls may have four generations. They were one of the commonest species I encountered in both Spain and Greece in October and November. Males are very active, chasing off rival males, or any other insect that happens to pass by. Walls are butterflies that favours sparse vegetation, and they like to land on bare ground (or walls) where the warmth of the soil or the bricks recharges their energy. On really hot days, however, they will retreat to the shade.

Suffolk Branch of Butterfly Conservation Events 2023

Please check suffolkbutterflies.org.uk/events for up-to-date details

Saturday 29th April 2023

Spring Scything Experience Landseer Park

The event is suitable for novices or people with experience of scythes. Aiming for an early cut to vary sward height and extend flowering times for meadow plants and invertebrates. Basic mowing techniques demonstrated. We will look for spring butterflies during the event. Please bring packed lunch.

Time 10am - 2.30pm.

Booking essential.

Meet: Landseer Park car park,
Landseer Rd, Ipswich
Grid Ref: TM 17584 42515 Postcode:
IP3 0HL
Time: 10 am
Leader: Julian Dowding
Contact: julian.dowding@ntlworld.com
Mob: 07910170609

Monday 1st – 14th May 2023

Dingy Skipper Count Dependent upon weather so exact date will be known nearer the time.

Register your interest at trevor@greenfarm.org.uk to get updates

Where: King's Forest, Wordwell
Location reference: TL826738. Nearest
post code IP28 6UR

Meet: at small car park west side of
Brandon road opposite cellphone mast
Time: 10.00 am to 1.00 pm approx.
Leader: Trevor Goodfellow - email
trevor@greenfarm.org.uk, mobile
07900 696960

Sunday 7th May 2023

Pakenham Water Mill Wildlife Day **

Many wildlife and conservation groups
represented.

Refreshments and family fun.

Enquiries: Ian Robertson
07876 644 611

Wednesday 17th May 2023

Martlesham Wilds

A morning walk at SWT's new
reserve, Martlesham Wilds, for early
butterflies. New members and
those wanting help with butterfly
identification are most welcome.

Meet: St Mary's Church Car Park,
Martlesham.

Location reference: Grid
Ref. TM261469, Post Code IP12 4PQ
Time: 10.30 am to 12.30 pm
Leader: Peter Maddison
Contact: Phone 01473 736607,
Email prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk

Sunday 4th June 2023

Brampton Wood Nature Reserve

Brampton Wood Nature Reserve, nr Huntingdon for Black Hairstreak

Meet: Brampton Wood car park

Location reference; Grid

Ref. TL184698, Sat Nav. use PE28

ODB and continue west, away from A1, for 3/4 ml,

Time: 11.00 am to 3.00 pm

Leader: Peter Maddison

Email: prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk

Contact the leader near the time for details.

Wednesday 14th June 2023

To be confirmed

Green Farm Butterfly Walk

Guided tour of a 30-acre former dairy farm. Including Meadows, lake and arboretum.

Where: Green Farm, Oak Road, Thurston

Location reference: Post code IP31 3SN, (What 3 words: speared. freshest.Populate)

Time: 10.00 am – 12.00 approx.

Contact: Trevor Goodfellow - email trevor@greenfarm.org.uk, mobile 07900 696960.

Please book in advance.

Saturday 17th June 2023

Purdis Heath SSSI for

Silver-studded Blues.

Come and look at the SSB colony and the recent habitat work carried out.

Meet: Lay-by on Bucklesham Road (at the southern roadside edge of Purdis Heath)

Grid Ref: TM 21229 42389 Postcode: IP10 0AU

Time: 9.00am - 12 noon.

Leader: Julian Dowding

Contact: julian.dowding@ntlworld.com Mob: 07910170609

Saturday 24th June 2023

Silver Studded Blues

Suitable for all abilities)

Where; Upper Hollesley Common (nr Woodbridge)

Meet: at carpark

Location Reference: TM335471

Time: 10:00 am to 1.00 pm

Contact: Kev Ling

Email: kevingling2013@aol.com

Saturday 24th June 2023

Landseer Park for Summer Butterflies.

Meet: Landseer Park car park, Landseer Rd, Ipswich

Grid Ref: TM 17584 42515 Postcode: IP3 0HL

Time: 10.00am - 1pm

Leader: Julian Dowding

Contact: julian.dowding@ntlworld.com Mob: 07910170609

Saturday 1st July 2023
Northfield Wood, Onehouse

Woodland species including Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral (Northfield Wood is owned and managed by the Woodland Trust and is accessible by the public.)

Where: Meet at Community Centre, Forest Road, Onehouse (parking available)

Location reference: Post code: IP14 3HJ; What3Words: editor.sizing. engulfing

Time: 10.30am to about mid-day

Contact: Mark Brewster - Mobile 07759024440, email mark.ian.brewster@gmail.com

2023 date to be announced
National Moth Night **

Theme - to be announced

For more information see www.mothnight.info

Friday 14th July to Sunday 6th August 2023
BIG BUTTERFLY COUNT **

For more details visit

[Big Butterfly Count \(butterfly-conservation.org\)](http://BigButterflyCount(butterfly-conservation.org))

Sunday 30th July 2023 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)

Location reference: Map grid ref. TM452591, Post Code: IP15 5QE

Time: 10.30 am to 4.00 pm

Contact: Peter Maddison

Email: prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk
01473 736607

Saturday 22nd to Sunday 30th July
National Moth Week **

National Moth Week was started in 2012 in Central New Jersey. The idea grew out of the popular local moth nights and what began as a plan for a statewide moth night evolved into a national week and quickly became an international citizen science project that invited organizations and individuals to register their events for free. Participants were encouraged to post photos and observations on partner websites dedicated to moth and wildlife identification and study. Events have been registered annually in more than 80 countries on every continent but Antarctica. Each year, thousands of new moth photos are posted during National Moth Week.

Although you can post photos on their website, for Suffolk recording should be via Suffolk Moths
www.suffolkmoths.co.uk

More information at
www.nationalmothweek.org

Tuesday 1st August 2023 **Butterflies of Rendlesham Forest,** **with particular focus on Grayling.**

Meet: Butley Corner Car Park on B1084, 600m west of the main entrance to Rendlesham Forest Centre

Location reference; Grid Ref TM349502

Time: 10.30 am to 1.00 pm

Leader: Peter Maddison

Contact: mobile 01473 736607, email prmaddison@yahoo.co.uk

Saturday 18th November 2022 **at 2.30 pm** **Suffolk Butterfly Conservation** **A.G.M & Members Afternoon 2022** ******

at Stowupland Village Hall, IP14 4BG

Speakers to be announced

There will be a raffle and photo competition, and time to talk over a cup of tea.

Enter our photographic
competition 2023 - click here for
details

Saturday 4th November

Butterfly Conservation National **Annual General Meeting ****

Late-season Butterflies

David Tomlinson

Which do you reckon would be the best for seeing butterflies: Southern Spain in October, or Northern Greece in November? Last autumn I enjoyed nine-day birdwatching trips to both destinations, and though birds may have been my principal quarry, I was also looking for butterflies. Surprisingly perhaps, the November trip to Greece was much more productive than that to Andalucia, not only in terms of the variety of species recorded, but also the number of insects seen.

I had high hopes for Andalucia, with a trip that started in the mountains around Grazelema and took us down to Europe's most southerly point, Tarifa. However, like much of the rest of southern Europe, Andalucia had suffered from an exceptionally hot and dry summer, and even in October the countryside was still desperately parched and in need of rain. Our first day, driving from Seville to the village of Montecorta, not far from Ronda,

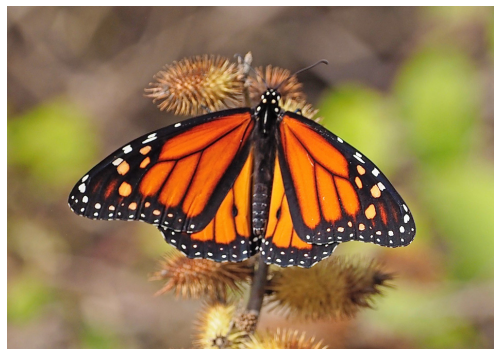
produced sightings of a few Bath Whites and a couple of Swallowtails, but there wasn't even a Clouded Yellow to be seen.

The next day we were looking for birds around the village of Grazelema (it's a reliable site for species like Chough and Blue Rock Thrush) when we found a small population of what were clearly grizzled skippers, but what sort? Turn to plate 97 and 98 of Tom Tolman's *Colins Butterflies of Britain & Europe* and you are faced with a confusion of species, all of which are very similar. The taxonomy of Grizzled skippers is clearly a complex subject, but I reckoned that a combination of habitat, date and location would help me sort out the identification. It didn't.

According to the books, these skippers aren't meant to fly in October, though Tolman does mention that Oberthür's Grizzled Skipper is most abundant in Sardinia in October. Oberthür's remains a possibility, but in



Lang's Short-tailed Blue, Greece,
November 10th by David Tomlinson



Monarch, Tarifa, Spain, 9 October
by David Tomlinson



*Queen of Spain Fritillary, Northern Greece,
November 13th by David Tomlinson*



*Southern Grizzled Skipper, Grazelema, Spain,
October 4th by David Tomlinson*

the end I concluded that the butterflies I photographed were Southern Grizzled Skipper (*Pyrgus malvoides*), which is treated by some authorities as a full species, but Tolman regards it as a sub-species of the more familiar Grizzled Skipper, *P. malvae*. They were very co-operative butterflies, always landing with their wings fully open, but this meant that I never got a shot of the underside. If you disagree with my identification, please let me know.

The following day we were watching Woodlarks and Cirl Buntings just a few miles from Grazelema when I became aware of small butterflies flying around the evergreen Ilex oaks. Frustratingly, I never managed to see one settle, so I didn't get any photographs, but I was as near certain as I could be that these were Ilex Hairstreaks, though False Ilex was also a possibility. The former is a species that I have seen many times before, as it's common and widespread throughout the

Mediterranean. However, according to my reference books, both these hairstreaks are single brooded, flying from May to late July (or early August in the case of the False Ilex). What were they doing flying in early October? I can only conclude that second broods do occur, but nobody has recorded them before.

My main target species in Andalucia was the Monarch, a butterfly I'd seen before in Portugal in 2020, but never in Spain. It a relatively recent colonist of southern Spain and Portugal, and is now quite common in the area, its spread apparently helped by the naturalisation of cultivated milkweeds, its food plant. Despite looking hard, we failed to see any, though they are reported on the wing until well into December. We employed local bird guides, both of whom expressed surprise that we hadn't seen one, as they assured us that they were quite common, even around the Tarifa hotel where we were staying.



Swallowtail - Southern Spain 10-10-22 by David Tomlinson

On our last morning in Tarifa we had one last look. Just as I was about to give up a single Monarch appeared and favoured us with its presence for a mere 30 seconds, before disappearing as suddenly as it had arrived. It was sufficient for me to grab a few photographs, though they weren't as good as I was hoping. However, it was a minor triumph, and the best butterfly of the trip.

The butterfly species score for Andalucia failed to reach double figures, but in Greece in November it reached 13, a satisfactory total for so late in the season. Unlike Spain, there were no unexpected sightings, but there was one walk where we encountered hundreds of Lang's Short-tailed Blues

feeding on late bramble blossoms. These butterflies are migratory, though probably resident in the Mediterranean, their flight period (according to my books) February to October. Flying with them were a number of Common Blues and Brown Arguses.

During the holiday we saw numerous Clouded Yellows (Berger's Clouded Yellow was also a possibility), but Bath Whites were scarce, with just a few sightings. Red admirals were abundant, and there were a few fresh Painted Ladies, too, but no tortoiseshells. (Large Tortoiseshells are quite common here in spring). As far as I am aware, the only fritillary that's a possibility so late in the year is the Queen of Spain. Most fritillaries have just a single generation, but



*Wall Brown North Norfolk September 28th
by David Tomlinson*



*Wall Brown Northern Greece November 10th
by David Tomlinson*

the Queen of Spain has four, and I've seen these handsome little butterflies in every month except December and January. I wasn't disappointed on this trip, finding

beautifully fresh individuals as late as 13 November. They are delightful butterflies, and an easy species to photograph as they like to stay within their territories.

On my travels for Butterflies – Brampton Wood and the Black Hairstreak

Kev Ling

The Black Hairstreak remains one of our rarest species of British Butterfly. Found only in a select number of locations in the East Midlands and Oxfordshire area. Although not found in Suffolk, you don't need to travel too far out of the county to observe them in their natural habitat, as their range does extend to Cambridgeshire. The two main sites in the Huntingdon area are Monks Wood and Brampton Wood. It is the latter that was my choice for a field trip on 11th June 2022.

The Black Hairstreak has a relatively short flight period, starting in early June and lasting no more than two to three weeks. Finding them at their peak numbers can

be a challenge and is weather dependant. Fortunately, the sightings page on our neighbouring branch's website will keep you well informed daily <https://www.cambs-essex-butterflies.org.uk/>

I arrived at Brampton Wood in breezy, but sunny conditions, full of expectation as to what I would discover. The small car park can be found at grid reference TL184698, a couple of miles west of Brampton on the road to Grafham.

2023 will mark 30 years since the wood was purchased from the Ministry of Defence by The Wildlife Trust of Beds, Cambs & Northants. This ancient woodland is home

to over 3000 recorded species of flora and fauna and is maintained by trust volunteers, ensuring that through coppicing, the woodland rides are wide open for species of Butterflies, amongst other things, to flourish. The continued restoration of the wood has seen the clearance of conifers, creating space for native trees and plants.

The wood has a network of paths and three significant rides. The Main Ride, heads northwest directly from the car park and the West ride in a parallel position a few hundred yards further west. Both paths are intersected by the Cross Ride. It is the junction of the Main and Cross Rides where the Black Hairstreak was found on my visit and volunteers had assembled signage to help lead to the most optimum locations.

I started my walk along the southern paths, enjoying many species including Small Tortoiseshell, Comma, Speckled Wood, and Large Skipper. I then sighted a pristine Silver Washed Fritillary. This was the earliest date that I had personally recorded this species in the UK, and it left me suitably energised for the rest of the walk. Before the day was out, my count had reached double figures. Sadly, I was just a few days too early for another woodland specialist, the White Admiral.

After exploring a wide variety of footpaths and enjoying a range of wildflowers including Orchids, I had my first encounter with the Black Hairstreak on the Cross Ride. It was almost lunchtime, the part of the day when this butterfly is at its most active.



Black hairstreak by Kev Ling

The Suffolk Argus

As its scientific name *Satyrrium pruni* alludes to, this species has various species of *Prunus* as its larval foodplant, with the most common being Blackthorn and Wild Plum. The adults however mainly feed on aphid honeydew higher up in the canopies. But my first sighting was resting just a foot or two from the ground. What a treat it was to get such a close-up view (see photo). In keeping with its close cousins, the White Letter and Green Hairstreak, this species is a lateral basker, resting with its wings always closed, at angles to the sun, to control its temperature. To my good fortune, this example sat patiently for some time, a behaviour I had observed with the Green Hairstreak when left undisturbed. The easiest way I find to differentiate between Black and White Letter Hairstreak is that there is a more definite white 'w' marking on the latter, whereas the Black Hairstreak has more prominent black spots amongst the orange section of the hindwing edge.

I moved on to the main ride and before long I had several more sightings, as they spiralled amongst the canopies. Occasionally, when I got my eye in, I would follow one as it descended to Blackthorn bushes to settle. From the main ride, there were signs with arrows pointing the way to some more sheltered sunny glades. Despite this butterfly preferring to perch high up in the treetops, I was treated to several males settling at low level for observation.

The Black Hairstreak lays single eggs on Blackthorn, which will overwinter in this stage. In March/April the first instar larva appears and starts its diet on the flower buds close to the empty eggshell. As new leaf shoots start to grow, it will turn to those for feeding. Following three further instar changes, pupation will begin in late May. Although the larva pupates on the topside of a leaf, it adopts a clever camouflage strategy, by resembling a bird dropping. Sadly, this camouflage is not full proof, and a high predation rate is experienced at the hands of local birds.

When the adults do emerge, they are a beautiful sight to behold, with vibrant orange patches, studded with black dots, along the outer wing margins. I was fortunate to see a small number of fresh examples and despite this species elusive characteristics, I had more than my fill of close-up time with them. I loved the challenge of trying to follow their flightpath when they did get airborne again. They are quick and fleeting and you sometimes wonder just where they could have gone in just a second or two. But with patience, they will come down to you once more and the fun begins all over again.

This trip was a highlight of my summer and will live long in my memory.

If this article has whetted your appetite for some Black Hairstreak action, may I point you to our events page, where Peter Maddison has a trip arranged in early June.

All About Monarchs

Mark Brewster

My interest in butterflies came relatively late in life, and I was well into my fifties before I started to photograph and record sightings of UK species. In the years since, and whilst attempting to make up for lost

time and learn more about them, I've come to realise that one cannot have too many books on butterflies. Alongside what has surely now become a passion for British butterflies, rather than merely an interest,

I've developed a particular fascination for a species that is only very occasionally recorded here: the Monarch. I now have a handful of publications, the subject matter of which is this enigmatic butterfly, and below, I offer *Argus* readers my personal reviews of three of them.



Chasing Monarchs

by Robert Michael Pyle

Chasing Monarchs, as one might deduce from the title, documents the author's efforts to track the species' lengthy winter migration. His journey begins in Canada's westernmost province, British Columbia, before he then heads south, all the way to the Mexican border. His clockwise, 9,500-mile route sees him eventually return north, via the coast of California. Insert photo 'monarch' and 'milkweed'

The near 300 pages feature wonderfully detailed descriptions of the flora and fauna the author encounters as he tracks the butterflies. Readers can refer, if need be,



Monarch at Stratford on Avon butterfly farm
by Mark Brewster

The Suffolk Argus

to the two handy maps inside the front and back covers. These show both the route taken, and the sites referred to within the book.

The author comes across as extremely amiable, and perhaps a little eccentric - he's in good company here, I'd say. As well as being an extremely well written account of how one man chose to discover for himself, more about Monarchs and their migration, the books serve as a great advert for the Honda Civic, should you be considering purchasing an inexpensive, but very reliable second-hand runaround.



Milkweed, the Monarch's foodplant, by Mark Brewster

Wings in the Meadow

by Jo Brewer

Within the pages of '*Chasing Monarchs*' is a recommendation for this title. First published in 1967, to quote from the Preface, '*Wings in the Meadow*' follows with rare skill the bewildering and little understood path of nature as represented by a single butterfly from egg to death.' The book is written from the point of view of one particular Monarch, the appropriately named Danaus.

At under 200 pages, it's not overly long. It's

an easy, intriguing, and enthralling read, and the owner of the meadow referred to plays a major supporting role in the story. Whilst the style and layout of the book are quaintly dated, for its uniqueness, I'd say it's a must-have publication for anyone with an interest in the species, if not butterflies in general. The detailed account of Danaus' emergence as an adult butterfly alone, justified the modest price I paid for a used hardback copy.

Bicycling with Butterflies

by Sara Dykman

As much as I enjoyed reading the two previous books, this one came out on top. Like *Chasing Monarchs*, it's a personal diary, but in this case, the author takes to

two wheels, rather than four. She also tracks the migration of the eastern rather than the western population of Monarchs, as she follows the summer migration north from

the El Rosario sanctuary in Michoacán, Mexico, all the way to Canada, and back.

Sara's 10,201-mile cycle ride spans 9 months. The book is so much more than a recounting of a journey on a bike and in pursuit of butterflies, however. Its short, easy-to-read chapters offer encouraging tales of how so many citizen scientists, in their own modest way, are fighting to help preserve a species whose population used to number billions, but is now millions, or perhaps fewer.

Whilst the author enjoys the freedom of

cycling with an admirable peace of mind and sense of adventure, on one occasion, her positive demeanor and willingness to see only the best in those she meets along her route is almost her undoing. There are, though, many more heartwarming stories within the book's 270-odd pages.

As an occasional cyclist and enthusiastic lepidopterist, I look forward to working my way through the title's 30-plus chapters again at some point if I can find the time. What did I say, you can never have too many books on butterflies...?

Moth Traps for Members

Trevor Goodfellow

Suffolk Branch now has a battery powered heath trap available. The trap was kindly donated by Patrick Barker after completing his commitment to Suffolk Naturalists Society who originally financed it.

We now have 3 traps available to members

to loan: a mains powered MV Robinson, an actinic Skinner, and the battery actinic Heath trap. Interested members should email me at trevor@greenfarm.org.uk and I will send relevant information and a loan request form.

Wild Spaces – a project for us all

Peter Maddison

One of the 3 Goals of the BC Strategy that is just coming into play is the creation of Wild Spaces and members nationwide are being asked to take part.

A Wild Space is an area that will support the complete life cycle of a butterfly or moth. It might range in size from a balcony flowerpot to a meadow or woodland. This is not a nectar-only project, Wild Spaces requires nectar plants to attract adults and

their egg and caterpillar food plants for the next generation.

Bird's-foot Trefoil, for example, would be a great plant in a pot. It would attract butterflies and moths for its nectar and be a host for Common Blue and Burnet moths to lay eggs and to feed their caterpillars. A Wild Space in a garden, which might be a patch of lawn left uncut, a corner where nettles and a bramble are allowed to grow. A rickety fence

that is strengthened by an overgrowth of ivy, will be home to numerous species, the observation of which can only bring joy to the watcher! The benefit of creating a small meadow, butterfly bank or the planting of a hedge or copse hardly need to be explained. The challenge for us is to identify an area and then create a wild space.

You might be involved with a new or ongoing town or village community project, and it is hoped that during the coming year members will not only create their own spaces but encourage others in their communities to make wild spaces too.

There is information about the project on

the home page of the BC website and this is going to be supplemented in the next month or two with planting ideas, species that you might attract, and videos of where, how, and what to do.

If you have a Wild Space or you are planning to create one you are asked to register or pledge your Wild Space on the BC website. This is an easy process and will give BC feedback as to how the Strategy goal is progressing.

Why not start planning your wild space now, register or pledge your space and then, when the weather improves, get your hands dirty!

Purdis Heath SSB update. Jan 2023

Julian Dowding



The branch held volunteer work parties at Purdis Heath in the latter months of winter 2022. Gorse and other scrub preventing Silver-studded Blue (SSB) from moving between suitable habitat were cleared. Hopefully it will result in better habitat connectivity for SSB in summer 2023. Efforts also aimed at beginning to open up a 'flightpath' for SSB onto Ipswich Golf Course where Neil Sherman has been creating suitable SSB habitat. With the hot dry period last summer, much of the heather died back so Neil has also been cutting heather across the heath to improve heather structure and encourage regeneration. Thank you, Neil and thanks

also to all volunteers who helped with this vital work. Last year's SSB transect at Purdis recorded over 500 butterflies.

(Photos by Mark Brewster)

Perdis Heath work party November 2023



Theberton Wood update – January 2023

John Lepley

This brief report is to update members, following the previous article published in Volume 85.

In May 2022, Forestry England (FE) published their draft, revised management plan, covering 2022–2026. This divided the wood into three sectors: Low intervention,

Regenerating and Plantation woodland. (See page 34.) A work programme described the planned management of each sector, including ongoing ride management, phased thinning and Ash die-back safety management.

This draft provided little information on quantities of timber to be removed during thinning, so in early July 2022, requests for clarification were submitted on behalf of Butterfly Conservation (BC) and local enthusiasts.

In July 2022, local enthusiasts released



*Purple Emperor by Izumi
(www.hachiware-art.blogspot.jpg)*

several Purple Emperor (PE) butterflies, which had been reared from the larvae rescued from the wood the previous autumn. It was a fairly good season, with many subsequent PE sightings, along with purple hairstreaks, Silver-washed fritillaries and White Admirals.

Representatives of the branch and local enthusiasts met with the FE Ecologist on 17 September, to assess the impact of last year's management on the rides and to mark up some important Sallows for retention or pollarding.

The rides managed last autumn had

recovered reasonably well, with re-growth of brambles and other nectar sources. Many of the coppiced and pollarded Sallows had regenerated, with only limited deer browsing, but unfortunately some were affected by the exceptional summer drought, which also had deleterious effects elsewhere in the wood.

Once again, local enthusiasts searched for Purple Emperor larvae, both immediately before and after the second phase of ride management, which commenced on 24th October. Sadly, no larvae were found and rescued this year.



Figure 1

On 20th October 2022 we were delighted to receive a detailed response from FE to our queries on the draft plan, which included welcome clarification of the quantities of timber to be removed from each woodland sector over the five-year period. Importantly, the quantities involved are significantly lower than the controversial figure of 10,000 Tonnes, which had originally been mooted. For the regenerating woodland at least, thinning will be phased. (1 hectare each year / approximately 28 cubic metres of timber per annum.)

We have requested that FE make the final version of the plan and the all-important quantifications publicly available. This remains under discussion.

FE are also happy to discuss and formalise plans for BC volunteers to assist with future management work, including potentially ride management. They have requested

an initial discussion in April 2023, or possibly earlier. If any members might be interested in volunteering at Theberton on an occasional basis, please email me at johnlepley@hotmail.co.uk.

Ash die-back management felling along the roads is expected to commence during early 2023 and is likely to involve temporary road closures. Some 859 trees will be removed or pollarded, yielding approximately 345 cubic metres of timber.

Theberton woods remains a very special place. A Queen of Spain fritillary was photographed and seen by a few lucky people over a two-day period in early August! (Photograph courtesy of Vicky White.) A singing Willow warbler was heard around the high seat for much of the spring. Successful Nightingale breeding was suspected, and a Spotted flycatcher was watched feeding young on several occasions

in August. There were also sightings of Hummingbird Hawkmoth. Several additional ancient woodland indicator species were also found during the year. (Regular updates available on Suffolkbutterflies.org.uk)

Left: Queen of Spain Fritillary



2022 Butterfly Counts from WCBS and Transects

Twm Wade

Formal butterfly counting starts on 1 April and goes on for 26 weeks. The WCBS asks volunteers to do one survey during each of July and August, but the reality is that we receive a record for most weeks. From this information we get a better idea as to how the season has gone in Suffolk.

The WCBS was designed to get data in terms of numbers and how widespread common butterflies are. This year the total count of the WCBS is 5320, and the largest count in any week is 1834 during the week starting 15 July. The most numerous species is the Meadow Brown with 1,047 followed by the Gatekeeper at 799, the Small White at 670 and the Large White at 543. Those at less than 10 are the Clouded Yellow, the White Admiral, the Marbled White, the Silver-washed Fritillary and Green Hairstreak. There was a surprise this

year as the Grayling was more numerous and widespread than usual. The total is 156 Grayling of which one site alone had 109. Contrast that outcome from one person whose walks in July and August resulted in just one Small White.

Transects (Pollard Walks) produce a larger number of sightings: total 27,548. The most numerous species again is Meadow Brown with 4838, followed by Ringlets at 4652. At the other end of the scale, we have the Purple Emperor, Clouded Yellow, Wall Brown, and Green Hairstreak.

Bear in mind that each siting can be a matter of luck but each one is important to record and report. If you are uncertain of its identity there is always someone to help even with a poor photo or vague colouration. Give it a go.

Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey - In Suffolk

Squares Available to New Participants

Grid Ref.	Town Parish of OS Square & Post Code
TL9047	Acton, Lavenham CO10 0BL
TL9248	Lavenham CO10 9PE
TL9462	Beyton IP30 9AH
TM0378	Redgrave IP22 1SA
TM0969	Wickham Skeith IP23 8LX
TM2975	Cratfield IP19 0DP
TM3180	St James, South Elmham and Metfield IP19 0HT
TM3388	Bungay NR35 1PE
TM4069	Darsham IP17 3PH

If interested in any aspect of recording butterflies, please contact me at twm.wade@yahoo.com

Funds Raised

Squares Available to New Participants

For the last quarter of 2022, AmazonSmile donations for **Butterfly Conservation** were **£302.92**. To date, Amazon has donated a total of **£3,739.72** to Butterfly Conservation and **£18,557,857.86** to all UK charities.

Amazon states: ‘We plan to wind down AmazonSmile by February 20, 2023. We recognise that these are difficult times for everyone, including charities, so we are

providing an additional one-time donation to participating charities equivalent to six months of what they earned through the programme in 2022, and they will also be able to accrue additional donations until the program officially closes in February. Once AmazonSmile closes, charities will still be able to seek support from Amazon customers by creating their own wish lists’.

To Be a Tree

New Scientist Magazine

Bark beetles and fungus may be an increasing threat to trees as they have recently had less time to recover from drought stress says Jan-Peter George of Tartu Observatory in Estonia.

Without enough rainfall to aid their recovery, trees may die off from accumulated stress over subsequent years and it is suggested that dead trees should

not be replaced with the same species, but with more adaptable ones.

Trees have been found to grow better in air rich in CO₂ but is unlikely to significantly help in fighting climate change that also brings wildfires and drought.

Droughts since 2015 are unprecedented in the last 2110 years according to the study of growth rings of preserved trees.



Sketch by Beryl Johnson

Photo Competition 2022

Kev Ling

The annual photographic competition returned to its usual position at the AGM and members' afternoon on 8th October 2022, after two years of being online. There is something comforting about seeing physical photographs presented in front of you and the standard this year was as good as ever.

Thank you to everyone who provided entries in what was the closest run competition to date.

In 1st place with his photograph of Common Blues in copulation, was Graham Jackson.

2nd place went to Harry Faull with his Hummingbird Hawkmoth.

A very close 3rd went to David Pitt for his 'Suffolk' Marsh Fritillary.

Well done to everyone who entered, and we look forward to seeing more of your wonderful photographs in our 2023 event (see website events page for more details).



Photo comp 1st - Common Blues mating by Graham Jackson



Photo comp 2nd - Hummingbird Hawk Moth by Harry Faull



Photo comp 3rd - Marsh Fritillary by David Pitt

Approximate main flight periods.

For more details go to:

Butterfly Conservation - Suffolk Branch - Butterfly and Moth Species
(suffolkbutterflies.org.uk)

[illegible]