



## Shropshire Butterfly Conservation Group 2009-2010

It seems like a long time since the last e-mail newsletter and I almost daren't say it but something is just around the corner! First of all a huge thank you for all sending me your records and monitoring sheets which helps me have a good overview of what is happening in the county. [Second, we already have a number of events planned for 2010 which I have highlighted in blue.](#) So to start with some snippets from the information you have recently sent me:

### Snippets

A large number of **Shropshire Wildlife Trust (SWT) volunteers** took part in a recording programme across SWT reserves thanks to the coordination work and the enthusiasm of **Rhona Davies** (SWT Reserves Officer). Thanks are due to the following people: 1) **Allan Dawes** for his counts of Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Grizzled Skipper from Jones Rough and records from Dolgoch Quarry, 2) **Doug Hampson** for records from Llyncllys Common and Llanymynech Rocks which included Grizzled Skipper and Dingy Skippers as well as plenty of Painted Ladies! 3) **Brian Herring** for monitoring Ercall Quarry (and other Telford sites) and whose records included Green Hairstreak and Small Heath 4) **Annie Hazelhurst** for her huge recording effort at Llyncllys Common (undertaken with Doug Hampson) which has given us numerous records for many butterflies, 5) **Jerry Hughes** for his counts from Brook Vessons and the Hollies, 6) **Stephen Lewis** for counts at Brook Vessons and Jones Rough as well as Argent & Sable records from Wem Moss, 7) **Cath Price** for her many records from Melverley Farm, 8) **Graham Statham** for his recording efforts at Llyncllys Common, the Granville Country Park area and Wem Moss (also see below), 9) **Mike Williams** for his Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary counts at Cramer Gutter and Catherton Common, 10) **David Wilson** for his continued monitoring at Earls Hill which is particularly notable for Grayling and 11) the Warwickshire Branch of Butterfly Conservation for their Large Heath count at Wem Moss. The **Whitchurch Branch** of the Shropshire Wildlife Trust also undertook a butterfly survey at **Greenfields Nature Reserve** during 2009. Twelve members took part and recorded 15 species of butterfly and 5 species of moth during five visits to the site between June and October. Members of the **Ellesmere Branch of SWT** took part in a survey morning at Wood Lane and recorded 12 species of butterfly and 3 species of moth in 2 hours! **Rhona** also undertook monitoring visits to The Plantation and Birch Road Pond (where Jane and David Farncombe also got members of the SWT Ellesmere Branch to help with the surveys), and land at Holly Banks so thank you Rhona for really making the level of butterfly monitoring on SWT reserves go to such a good level in 2009.

**Joan King** and **Gwen Lovatt** recorded numerous butterflies at sites in Wellington and Norton-in-Hales respectively and got a good variety of species as

a result of all the effort they put in. **Roy Fussell** surveyed sites in the Donnington and St Georges area of Telford and again recorded a good range of species including Small Heath and Common Blue, **Christine Littlewood** surveyed a number of sites in the Ironbridge area with Meadow Brown and Ringlet being abundant in the Shakespear Meadow area, **Dave Plowman** monitored some of the sites in the Wyre Forest and has provided some good records for Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Wood White, and **David Williams** recorded good numbers of Dingy Skipper on two sites in Telford (one where they had not been recorded for a considerable time).

**Alan Reid** continued to monitor Wood White transects at Bury Ditches and Radnor Wood but we urgently need more help if this monitoring is going to be really informative (see below).

**Peter Branson** has recorded butterflies all over the county this year including Dingy Skipper from a number of sites in the Ironbridge Gorge area and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary at the Wyre Forest.

One other new recorder who managed to cover a good number of new sites in addition to undertaking surveys on SWT reserves was **Graham Statham**. Graham has just sent in a really impressive list which is focussed on the Telford area but includes records from further afield such as the Greenwood Centre and Chetwynd Deer Park.

**Adrian Miles** has continued to make huge progress on the restoration of the Hay Cop in Broseley and was rewarded by Dingy Skipper returning to the site for the first time in many years.

The date of the next meeting for the **Telford Butterfly Recording Group** will be **Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> January at 10am** at the Croft, Off Haygate Road, Wellington, TF1 2BW (please let Jenny Joy know if you intend to come and if you need directions to help find it)

## **Projects**

### **Midlands Fritillary Project**

This project finally got fully underway in April 2009 thanks to funding from Countdown 2010 and the Tubney Charitable Trust. The project aims to direct effort on practical conservation measures to improve habitat for five fritillary species on 168 individual sites in the eight most important areas in the West Midlands, plus the Forest of Dean. In addition to the focus on the High Brown Fritillary, Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary, work will benefit a further 11 UK BAP Priority Species of butterfly and moth, and two other fritillaries, the Dark Green Fritillary and Silver-washed Fritillary.

One of the key elements of this project was to derive match funding from landfill applications to implement practical conservation work. Two landfill applications have been submitted and we have just heard that both of these have been successful. The Biffaward funded **Princethorpe Woods Habitat Restoration Project** in Warwickshire will create 112 ride-side clearings as well as creating some coppice and butterfly banks, with the work due to be completed over the 2009/2010 winter. The SITA Trust funded **Conserving the Wood White Butterfly in the South Shropshire Woods Project** will implement an extensive ride-side widening and conifer removal programme on seven sites in South Shropshire. So if you hear about any of the three projects mentioned above they are really all part of the same one.

The Midlands Fritillary Project is being managed by **Jenny Joy** and has two project officers **Mike Slater** and **Nick Williams**. Nick is covering all landscape areas outside Warwickshire while Mike is principally implementing the Princethorpe Woods project.

Practical conservation tasks coming up in the next few months to improve fritillary habitats in Shropshire include:

**Sunday 31 January** – at the **Wyre Forest** to help Natural England to restore one of the meadows along the Dowles Brook prior to grazing being re-established. Leader: Mike Williams. Meet 10.00 am at the entrance to Hawkbatch car park on the B4194 Bewdley-Kinlet road (SO762777)

**Saturday 6 February** – at the **Stiperstones Monastery** to help to create a better link from this site into Brook Coppice and to provide a water trough for the Exmoor Ponies. Leaders Alan Reid and Jenny Joy. Meet at 10am at the main Stiperstones car park (SO369978).

**Sunday 28 February** at the **Wyre Forest**, a joint work party with the Forestry Commission's Watch Group. Leaders Phil Rudlin and Jenny Joy. Meet at the back of Wyre Forest Discovery Centre 2, Callow Hill, Bewdley at 10am.

**For all tasks please wear very old clothes & strong shoes, boots or wellies and bring your own drink & food (except for the 28<sup>th</sup> when food for a BBQ is brought to be shared). Transport will be available from Telford for all 3 tasks.**

One of the most important parts of Nick's job is to work with volunteers, encourage new recorders and provide training in survey and monitoring techniques. Involving local people is therefore an essential part of this project and one we want to particularly focus on in several parts of Shropshire next year. We have already set up three butterfly identification training days in 2010 in conjunction with the Shropshire Wildlife Trust which are as follows:

**Wednesday 26 May** – **Wood White** survey/monitoring day in south Shropshire. We urgently need more help to monitor three sites near Clun.

**Wednesday 23 June** – **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** survey day in south Shropshire. We need more volunteers to monitor known colonies as well as more people keeping their eyes out for unknown colonies.

**Saturday 26 June – Dark Green Fritillary** survey day in the Oswestry Hills where the current status of this butterfly has never really been fully determined. The full details of these events have yet to be confirmed. Please contact Nick (e-mail [nwilliams@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:nwilliams@butterfly-conservation.org) or telephone 0121 550 9853) if you would like to register your interest.

If you are happy to help with this project by surveying other sites for fritillaries please also do get in touch as we would very much appreciate your help. If you own or manage a site which you think might support fritillaries and you would like some advice we again would be only too happy to help.

Contact Jenny (e-mail to [jjoy@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:jjoy@butterfly-conservation.org) or by telephone on 01952 249325) or Nick (see contact details above).



## Wyre Forest Area

The Heritage Lottery Funded **Grow with Wyre** Landscape Partnership Scheme is now in full swing with numerous events planned for the rest of 2009 and all of 2010. Butterfly Conservation has been helping to deliver the **Back to Orange** Project (again based on the conservation of fritillaries) for the past three years and much of the management and monitoring work is now complete. In 2009 Butterfly Conservation helped to deliver the Grow with Wyre Scheme by running a butterfly ID course led by Mike Williams (Butterfly Conservation) and Rosemary Winnall (Wyre Forest Study Group). As this ID course was very successful it will be repeated again in 2010 with the same leaders. The dates for the Butterfly ID Course in 2010 are:

**Saturday 15 May**

**Saturday 19 June**

**Saturday 10 July**

For more information on the ID course or to book a place on one or more dates (they are free) please contact Louise Sutherland by e-mail [louise.sutherland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk](mailto:louise.sutherland@forestry.gsi.gov.uk) or by phone 01299 269048. A leaflet on the butterflies of the Wyre Forest was produced early in 2009 to complement the butterfly ID course. These leaflets fold out to a poster with photos showing the key ID features of Wyre Forest butterflies. These leaflets are available priced at 50p per copy at the Wyre Forest Visitor Centre or by post from Mike Williams, Annesbrook, 2 Dewberry Close, Stourport, Worcs, DY13 8TB at £1/copy to include postage and packing. Please make cheques/postal orders payable to Butterfly Conservation (West Midlands Branch).

The Wyre Forest also has a very successful moth group which would welcome any new participants including beginners. Dates for 2010 trapping evenings are as follows:

**Wyre Forest Moth Group Events – 2010**

**March, 20<sup>th</sup> 2010, Sat.** - Wyre Forest Indoor Moth Group Meeting – 8.00pm, Wyre Forest Visitor Centre.

**April 16<sup>th</sup>, Fri.** – Wyre Forest Outdoor Field Meeting – meet at Wyre Forest Visitor Centre Car Park, meet at 6.30pm.

**May 21<sup>st</sup>, Fri.** - Wyre Forest Outdoor Field Meeting – meet at Wyre Forest Visitor Centre Car Park, meet at 7.00pm.

**June 18<sup>th</sup>, Fri.** - Wyre Forest Outdoor Field Meeting – meet at Wyre Forest Visitor Centre Car Park, meet at 8.00pm.

**July 16<sup>th</sup>, Fri.** - Wyre Forest Outdoor Field Meeting – meet at Wyre Forest Visitor Centre Car Park, meet at 8.00pm.

**August 20<sup>th</sup>, Fri.** - Wyre Forest Outdoor Field Meeting – meet at Wyre Forest Visitor Centre Car Park, meet at 7.00pm.

**September 17<sup>th</sup>, Fri.** - Wyre Forest Outdoor Field Meeting – meet at Wyre Forest Visitor Centre Car Park, meet at 6.30pm.

Suggested field locations for these dates are Bracken Field, Lodge Hill – April & August, Great Bog – May, Coopers Mill – June, Ribbesford – July & September. If you are interested in the Wyre Forest Moth Group contact Dave Grundy [dgcountryside@btinternet.com](mailto:dgcountryside@btinternet.com) or telephone 0121 446 5446.



**Prees Heath**

**Volunteer work parties January – March 2010**

<b>Date</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>
Wednesday 6 <sup>th</sup> January	installing an indestructible bench and rabbit proof fencing two 5mX5m compartments	Near the control tower and on the restoration areas
Wednesday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Scrub control	Runway
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> February	Scrub control	Runway
Wednesday 24 <sup>th</sup>	Scrub control	Runway

February		
Wednesday 3 <sup>rd</sup> March	Lifting ragwort rosettes	Restoration areas
Wednesday 17 <sup>th</sup> March	Scrub control	Runway

All work parties start at 10.30am prompt and finish around 3.30pm – come for half a day or all day if you wish – everyone is welcome to lend a hand. Meet on the access track off the A49 opposite the Steel Heath turning OS Grid Reference SJ557363. Please let Stephen Lewis know if you wish to come so that he knows how many tools to bring and can organise the work to be carried out appropriately. No previous experience required – you will be shown how to use hand tools, and you can work at your own pace. Wear suitable clothing and footwear. Bring a packed lunch and drink. All tools and gloves are provided. Let Stephen know if you need a lift. He will help if he can.

Contact details: Stephen Lewis, Prees Heath Warden, 193 Abbey Foregate, Shrewsbury, SY2 6AH. Tel: 01743 340721. Mobile 07900 886809. E-mail: [slewis@butterfly-conservation.org](mailto:slewis@butterfly-conservation.org)



So I think you will agree there is a fair bit going on. If this newsletter makes you realise that you have not yet sent your records in or that I don't seem to be aware of what you have done please get in touch – it is not too late and I intend to do another newsletter in early spring. Alternatively if you think you can contribute by undertaking any survey and monitoring work, by attending a work party or by helping to coordinate activity in your area please do not hesitate to get in touch. We very much appreciate any involvement however big or small.

Jenny Joy

17/11/2009



**Butterfly  
Conservation**

Saving butterflies, moths and their habitats