



No. 44

# NEWSLETTER

Autumn 1999

## WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH, BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

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## Chairman's Message, Autumn 1999

### Branch AGM

We have decided to send out this newsletter earlier than usual to provide a reminder of our branch AGM at Sandwell Park Farm on 30 October. As I mentioned in the last newsletter, we have moved the meeting to Birmingham to make it easier for members in the north of our region to attend. **Unfortunately, due to delayed construction work we cannot use the building shown in the summer newsletter and the meeting is now at Sandwell Park Farm.** See the new map and travelling instructions on the next page.

Stephen Jeffcoate, our new national chairman, will be the guest speaker. Stephen is an entertaining and stimulating speaker and his theme of Butterflies in the Next Millennium promises to be very interesting. Why not do a bit of early Christmas shopping at the same time. We will have Christmas cards, calendars and all the Butterfly Conservation publications for sale including the new Holly Blue booklet.

### Field Trips

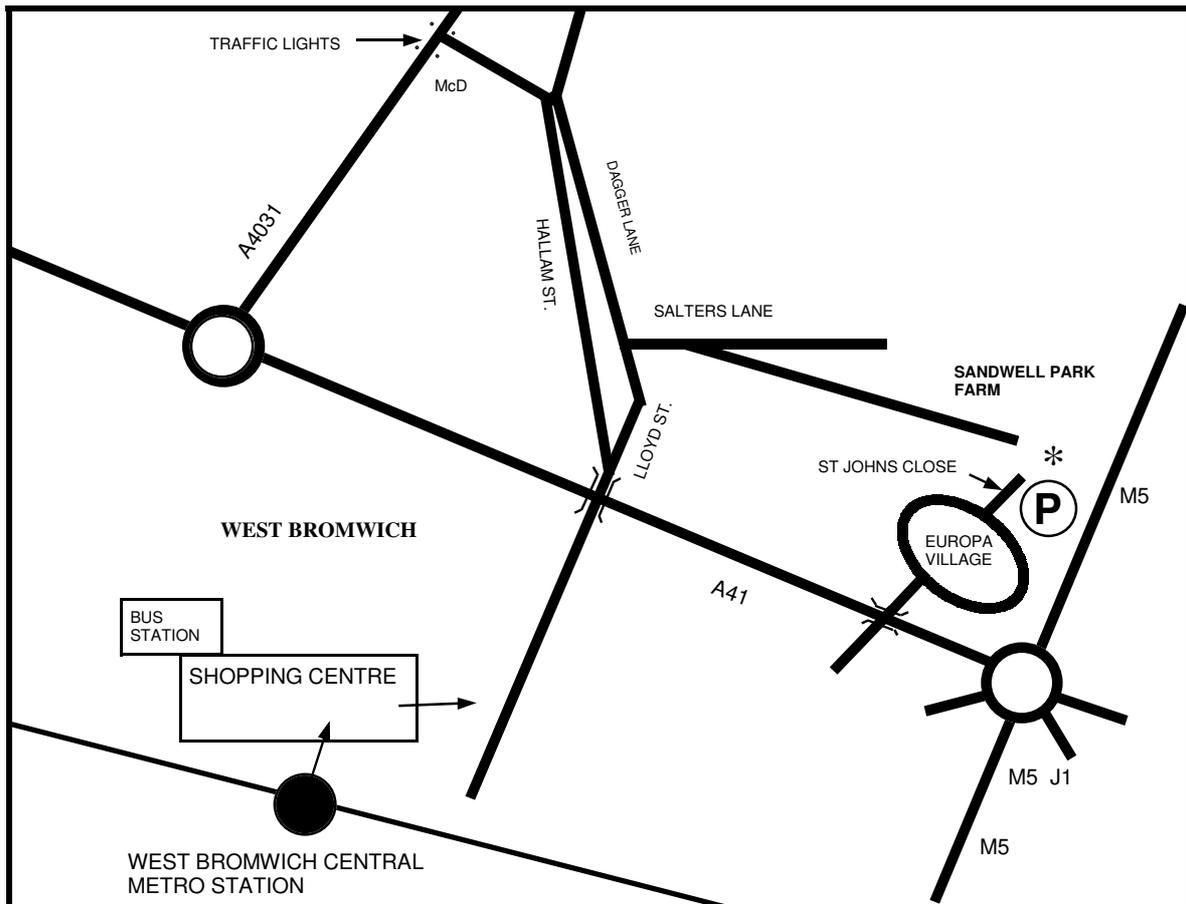
We have had a very successful summer of trips. These have been well attended with lots of butterflies seen (48 of

*Continued on page 3*

## CHANGE OF VENUE! West Midlands Branch AGM 30th October 1999

As reported in the summer newsletter, the West Midlands Branch AGM is being held at the Sandwell Valley Country Park. Unfortunately, due to builder's 'slippage' the venue has had to be changed and is now at Sandwell Park Farm at the southwest of the

reserve. Everybody on the committee warmed to David Jackson's suggestion that the WM Branch AGM could be held in the Vice-county of Staffordshire, for a change. Please come along and say your piece, it will be a new and exciting experience for most of us.



**By car:** Leave M5 junction 1, westbound on the A41. Turn right at the roundabout onto the A4031. At the traffic lights (MacDonalds on the right), turn right and then right again along Dagger Lane (see map). After 400 yds, turn left into Salters Lane and bear right to Sandwell Park Farm. (Car parking adjacent).

**By Public transport:** Take the Midland Metro (newest UK mass transit system which runs from Birmingham Snowhill to Wolverhampton St. Georges) to West Bromwich Central station. Cross under West Bromwich Ringway to the shopping centre. Carry straight on to the pedestrianised Duchess Parade (left) and Princess Parade (right).

**From here by bus,** carry straight on and turn left to the bus station. A 419, 640 or 646 calls at the bus station and will take you to Europa Village, from which there is a path to Sandwell Park Farm from St. John's Close.

**On foot** (25 mins) from W. Brom. Shopping Centre, walk along Princess Parade, past the interesting market traders, to the main road (Cast Iron Clock). Cross the road and walk left, over the A41. Bear right along Lloyd St. until you see Salters Lane and the sign to Sandwell Park Farm.



# Worcestershire Mothers Group Moth Report 1999

This year has shown a diverse and interesting set of Lepidoptera trapped over 10 evenings throughout 1999 (in total 186 Macro-moths, 142 Micro-moths and 1 Butterfly). There has been an abundance of insect life on some evenings and on others very little; such is the way with conservation work that depends on climatic conditions. Various notable species have been seen throughout the county this year and many regular species sightings.

At Chaddesley Wood in June, the rare (for Worcestershire) **Small Seraphim** was caught. Feckenham Wild Moor brought the rare **Southern Wainscot** and new records for **Blue-bordered Carpet**, *Brachmia rufescens*, *Coleophora deauratella*, *Eurrhynx hortulata*, *Hedya salicella* and *Scoparia subfusca*.

The joint evening with Worcestershire Wildlife Trust in Trench Wood proved to be a good one for numbers and diversity of Lepidoptera with 92 Macros, 72 Micros and several performing Glow Worms. **Angle Striped Sallow** was noted as being the first record since 1976. Also there were new site records for **Oak Eggar** (attracted to various peoples' trousers!) and **Round-winged Muslin**, all of which were classified as "local and less common". There were two rare status moths of the night: two separate trappings of **Festoon**, which hadn't been recorded since 1974 and **Mere Wainscot**, last recorded in 1994. New site records of micros were: *Acentria ephemerella*; *Acleris aspersana*; *Bryotropha senectella*; *Epinotia cinerana*; *Euzophera pinguis*; *Lozotaeniodes formosanus*; *Monochroa lutulentella*.

Bredon Hill in July gave a wonderful view of a sunset over the Malvern Hills. Because it was an exposed site, there was a chill to the air, but

deep in the wood, various Lepidoptera were trapped including the **Green-veined White**. Haugh Wood in Herefordshire proved to be very interesting with Wood Ants in the traps and Bats preying on the insects attracted to the lights. Several rare **Buff Footman** were seen with over 130 different moths.

Wilden Marsh had a spectacular array of mostly non-aggressive (!) midges over the traps (hence most observers watched at a safe distance). The traps attracted the rare **Small Seraphim** and new records for Worcestershire: **Small Rufous** and *Cochylis atricapitana*. There was also a new site record for *Platyptilia isodactylus*. Ravenshill Wood, with no previous records, turned up the rare **Bordered Sallow** and a spectacular display from a **Red Underwing**.

The last three nights all turned quite cold with depleted numbers of moths. 27 showed at Roundhill Wood, a site not previously recorded; 19 at Saint Wulstans, a developing local nature reserve, and 19 at Grafton Wood, which had previously been recorded only once at a different location. The last site also brought out an inquisitive and striking Leopard slug.

Many interesting moths showed throughout this year including the **Brimstone Moth** which was regularly attracted to Corinna's hand. The **Black Arches** and **Leopard Moths** showed their simple, yet appealing markings many times. Some very enjoyable meetings were to be had all thanks to the participants and the valuable contribution of the generator for supplying power to the traps, which was provided by English Nature. A full list of this year's records will be available in due course.

þ Neil Gregory & Corinna Philpott

## Reports on Trips

This Newsletter has reports on most of the events in the 1999 summer calendar, in the hope that members who have yet to come on a trip will be tempted. – Ed

### Wyre Forest – 12 June

The Vagaries of an English Summer - not a Vestige of Sun.

The itinerary for the day 12th June 1999 was to be a repeat of that of the 17th of May 1998 when 35 members descended on Wyre Forest

in brilliant sunshine and a record total of 68 **Grizzled Skippers**, 48 **Pearl-bordered Fritillaries** together with a further 11 species were recorded.

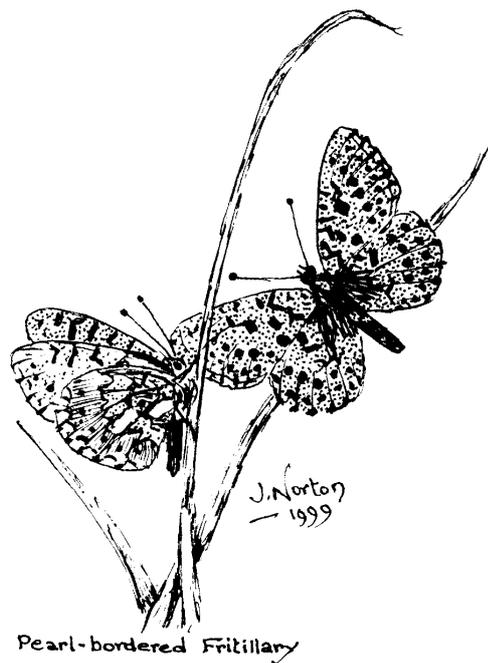
Twelve months on, our expectations were dampened. During the day the sun never broke through a low cloud base and the

temperature stubbornly remained at 16°C. Despite the uncompromising weather conditions, the party of four, Dean Fulton, a new member, Mike Williams, Pat and I had an enterprising day, veering into the wide world of natural history.

During a period of four hours various habitats produced a total of 4 butterflies of 3 species, a single **Common Blue**, **Speckled Wood** and 2 **Pearl-bordered Fritillaries** - the target species of the day. Had it not been for the damp conditions our attention would not have been drawn to many spiders' webs at ground level. Our curiosity was heightened by each having an inverted 'honey-pot' funnel, one of which contained the wings, all that remained, of a **Blood Vein Moth**.

A further small incident was whilst watching two fallow deer one a very dark form, we were distracted by a noisy flypast of three greater spotted woodpeckers.

Yes despite the vagaries of the English weather we four had an excellent day in the Forest, our thoughts focussed on warmer climes 12 months hence on a voyage of discovery to the Spanish Pyrenees to celebrate the Millennium - the motto for the murky day was "think positive".



Pearl-bordered Fritillary

p Frank Lancaster

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### Excursion to Glen Cova - Balmoral Estate, 2-5 July

Scotland did seem a bit too far for another Branch mapping weekend in early July, but there were six members willing to undertake the expedition. Travelling up on Friday, there were to be two days of intensive surveying, then back on Monday. Although over 400 miles to Glen Cova (northeast of Stirling), the journey passed by without hiccups. The accommodation booked was in a Boys Brigade Camp complex, right at the end of the Glen. It was an excellent choice, adjacent to a tumbling burn, with dippers, grey wagtails, goosanders and the frequent calls of nesting oystercatchers. All this framed with a backdrop of scenic mountains. One drawback was a million midges at any time of day!

On the Friday evening we enjoyed a slide show of the area, given by the local warden, but by Saturday morning some typical Scottish weather moved in, mist on the tops and rain. Undeterred by this, a trek was made up into the mountains with another warden to see how an SSSI, in the form of a mountain corrie, was managed. Miles of deer fencing to protect the special alpine plants, gave us all a chance to

see some specialities, not seen before. There were glimpses of red deer, and yet another million midges to eat us alive.

Sunday was altogether a much better butterfly day, with two groups for most of the day, setting off in opposite directions, to explore other glens that led up into the mountains. Although like England a lot of the area was devoid of butterflies, small colonies of **Small Pearl-bordered** were discovered, one **Northern Brown Argus**, one **Common Blue** and a **Dark Green Fritillary**, plus a few other commoner species.

By the end of the day lot of territory had been explored and mapped, plenty of wonderful scenery viewed and in excellent company. Not least was the filling up of some very empty squares in our mapping project.

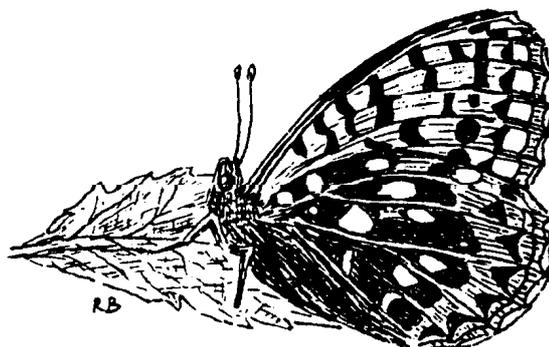
A big thanks to the organisers who arranged the trip.

p Garth Lowe

## Bircher Common field trip - 10 July

Picture by Roy Bedford (Yorkshire branch)

Andy Nicholls led a party of twenty-three on a two hour stint at this bracken clad Herefordshire site. The weather was very warm and very sunny for the duration and it was decided that we would follow the route of Beryl and Gunther Petters transect walk, in search of both **Dark Green** and **High Brown Fritillaries**. Before we commenced our walk, Ann (Andy Nicholl's wife), showed us a netted **Dark Green Fritillary** as a reference source, to aid us in identifying these two large fritillaries.



Dark Green Fritillary

Andy explained to us the methods used and the reasons for bracken management on site, and in particular, the specific egg laying requirements of both target fritillaries. This information is highlighted in the branch-produced "Bracken for Butterflies" leaflet, (the leaflet being presented to landowners where suitable fritillary habitat is found).

Eight species in all were encountered, a handful of **Ringlets** and some very fresh male **Gatekeepers** included.

It was generally considered, as we observed only sporadic nectaring on abundant marsh thistles by a few **High Browns**, that the majority of very active resident population males were probably seeking out females with which to mate.

Thank you Andy and Ann and Beryl and Gunther for making the trip informative and worthwhile.

p Philip Hopson

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## Manifold Valley - field trip 11 July

I led a party of seventeen on a very sunny, very warm (later hot), trek through the visual delights of this part of north Staffordshire.

I was pleased to meet John Stanney, Val Riley and Helen Ball - all Staffordshire Wildlife Trust members; in addition Colin Hayes joined us explaining that he is undertaking research at Castern Wood site on behalf of the local Wildlife Trust - including habitat study of our target species - **Northern Brown Argus**. We spent two and a half hours at Castern and investigated the five site "compartments" as defined for us by Colin.

A total of seven species were found amongst the limestone outcrop habitat: (rock rose, harebell and wild thyme were typical flora seen). Although the most numerous species was **Meadow Brown**; the second highest count was sixty-nine individuals of the target species seen across the five "compartments", certainly the highest figure I've seen in four previous visits. Two pairings were observed and photographed.

Male **Common Blues** and **Small Skippers** were also seen in good numbers.

Helen Ball, who knows the site well, told us that both **Dingy** and **Grizzled Skipper** also occur on site in the appropriate flying period.

I found another colony of the target species nearby, separated from the Castern Wildlife Trust site by a grazed hillside meadow. This new site had less herbage cover and more limestone rock exposure than the traditional Castern site; however rock rose was present in smaller quantities and I counted thirteen **Northern Brown Argus** here, plus another record for the Millennium Atlas.

Later, John, Val and Helen accompanied myself and David Jackson to Atlas survey sites at Ossoms Hill and Ecton.

### Thought for 2000

The above mentioned area, given good weather, is superb if you haven't visited before, with splendid walking country, and designated cycle pathway along the Manifold Valley (cycle

hire available). Staffordshire Moorlands is rich in limestone-associated flora; also abandoned lead mines and the flora associated with lead spoil heaps. Caves are a prominent landscape feature where prehistoric animal bones have been found. Bed and breakfast accommodation can be found locally and there are the usual countryside pubs. Stoke-on-Trent is only half an hour away,

### Radnor Wood, Shropshire - 17 July

The day was overcast, but windless and warm. Ten folk were there, four from Butterfly Conservation and eight from Shropshire Wild Life Trust. We were delighted that Richard Southwell came chauffeured by Ron Hunt, both of them a great asset, Richard was complete with net which he wielded with success so as to show us close ups and stills of some of the species.

We set off along the edge of the wood, hoping for but not really expecting a **Silver-washed Fritillary**. This was not the day for it as there, as in other parts of the area, it has but a tenuous hold. The rides on Radnor are well bordered with a good variety of food and nectaring plants so numbers and species increased once we

### Coach trip to Blackmore Copse – 18 July

The day of the coach trip to Wiltshire brought beautiful weather: sunny and very warm, ideal to see butterflies. We visited Bentley Wood, Blackmore Copse and Figsbury Rings in the Salisbury Plain area. There was a strong group of 28, including one Corsican and two who had come all the way from Japan.

On arrival at the Bentley Wood car park we were confronted by an array of cameras, a somewhat perturbed warden and piles of rotting fruit. Yes, this was the territory of the elusive **Purple Emperor**. As there were no large groups crowding round, we realised that there were none currently present. However the abundance of beautiful **Silver Washed Fritillaries** as well as a **Holly Blue** more than made up for this lack (or at least for those who had come for the general 'butterfly experience'). There were also plenty **Ringlets**, **Meadow Browns**, **Gatekeepers** and the odd **Large White** and **Speckled Wood** and a **Red Admiral**. The flora was also plentiful in this area, including Enchanter's Nightshade, Common Valerian and Fleabane, and somewhat unusually, Water Mint.

Going further into the woods proved to be more successful as this was where a **Purple**

Derbyshire Peak District with Ashbourne and Buxton are close by. Why not give it a try - we still need Staffordshire records for this under-recorded locality in 2000 and beyond.

Ⓟ Philip Hopson

were in the wide open rides.

We saw eleven species. The most abundant was the **Meadow Brown**. It was sad to see only one lonely **Common Blue** female for the rides there are abundant with Birdsfoot Trefoil and **Common Blues** are usually very numerous. A good sighting was a **Wall Brown**, but best of all, at the very end, a **White-letter Hairstreak**. Worst of all, only the two in the very front saw it and the back of the man with the net, having zigzagged the rides, was unable to bend and scoop it up as it took off from warming itself on the road and zipped up to the tree tops. At least one of our key butterflies was seen.

Ⓟ Jean Armstrong

**Emperor** was found hiding, along with **Purple Hairstreaks**, **Marbled Whites** and **White Admirals**. Unfortunately though it was a case of catching a brief glimpse of the **Purple Emperor** floating by, as well as a rather stiff neck, now known as 'Emperor neck'. Again the flora was plentiful, the highlight being the tiny but vibrant Lesser Centaury.

Slowly, members of our group managed to tear themselves away from the main 'viewing arena' to walk along to the other end where the coach would be waiting for us. It was a very pleasant walk, out of the heat of the sun and with plenty more butterflies floating past. Along here there were also the **Small**, **Large** and **Essex Skipper** (the latter managing to elude Mark Farmer's camera), **Comma**, **Small** and **Green-veined White**, **Small Tortoiseshell** and a **Peacock**. The valezina form of the **Silver Washed Fritillary** was also spotted when it conveniently landed on Digby Wood. Those who opted for the longer way round were rewarded for their efforts with the **White Letter Hairstreak**.

After lunch we headed into Blackmore Copse, although there didn't seem to be so many butterflies about. The only new species here was the **Brimstone**. For the 'Mothers' in the group, there were a couple of moths: the **Codlin Moth** and the **Small Fanfooted Wave**. It was quite a surreal experience, with muffled

cries drifting through the woods, mingled with the calls of two buzzards overhead. At first it was only possible to make out the words "**Purple Emperor**" causing a brief bubble of excitement. In reality though, the cry was "Have you found the **Purple Emperor** yet?" - slightly disappointing!

Figsbury Rings seemed like an ideal spot for butterflies: a large, open, sunny site covered in wild flowers. With few butterflies around though, we concluded that it was perhaps too hot for them. At this point those who hadn't seen the **Purple Emperor** and felt it unlikely that they would see the **Dark Green Fritillary** started asking for their money back. However, the **Meadow Browns** and **6-spot Burnet Moths** were plentiful along with a few **Gatekeepers**, **Ringlets**, **Small Skippers**, **Marbled** and **Green-veined Whites** and a **Small Heath**. The Butterfly speciality here was the **Chalkhill Blue**, and one **Dark Green Fritillary**



did eventually make an appearance to a few lucky members. Some interesting flowers were seen, including **Pyramidal** and **Frog Orchids** (unfortunately past their best), the stunning **Autumn Gentian**, **Squinancywort** and **Small Scabious**. On the bird front, the nicest sighting was a large family of young **Long-tailed Tits**.

Despite only catching glimpses of the **Purple**

**Emperor** and not necessarily seeing the **Dark Green Fritillary**, it was overall a super day and well worth going (especially for us, having recently moved down from the North East where there are considerably fewer species). Many thanks to our leader, Mark Farmer, whose enthusiasm never faded.

Ⓟ Corinna Philpott and Neil Gregory

### Coach Trip to Lardon Chase and Aston Rowant, Oxfordshire – 14 August

A group of 28 led by Mark Farmer enjoyed a beautifully sunny, warm day for the coach trip to Lardon Chase and Aston Rowant in Oxfordshire. Fortunately there was a breeze too, which meant that the butterflies (including the two target species: **Adonis Blue** and **Silver-spotted Skipper**) tended to stay on the ground. This provided everybody with plenty of opportunities to have a good look at them, and of course, kept the photographers happy.

At Lardon Chase there were 18 species of butterfly spotted in total, including 2 **Brown Argus**, 3 **Essex Skippers**, a **Comma**, a **Purple Hairstreak**, a **Red Admiral**, 2 **Peacocks** and a **Painted Lady** among the more widely-seen. Once we began to spot the **Adonis Blue**, it became clear that its striking electric blue colour is quite different from the **Common** and **Chalkhill Blues**. There were around 20 flitting around, one even landing on a convenient viewing platform: a cow-pat! One moth made an appearance too: **Treble-bar**. The notable insect here was the **Hornet**. It quickly became apparent that Lardon Chase is quite a treasure-trove for flora, with many interesting species.

The sweet-smelling **Marjoram** was abundant, along with **Wild Basil**, **Harebell** and **Yellow-wort**. Other notable species were **Wild Carrot**, **Wild Parsnip**, **Small Blue Fleabane**, **Ploughman's spikenard**, **Fairyflax**, **Pale Toadflax** and **Autumn Gentian**.

After a necessary break for lunch at a local pub we drove to Aston Rowant, renowned for **Red Kites**. The only pair we saw, however, was from the coach on the way there! There were less species seen here (13), but there were plenty chances to study the species of interest: **Silver-spotted Skipper**. **Chalkhill Blues** were also seen, along with **Essex Skipper**, **Small Copper**, **Brimstone** and **Small Heath**. Again the flora was abundant. This chalk grassland site is particularly known for **Wild Candytuft** and **Chiltern Gentian**. We saw the former around patches that had been nibbled by rabbits (perhaps their one saving grace). However we didn't find the former - a student studying the site acknowledged they are difficult to find. Other interesting flowers were **Squinancywort**, **Frog Orchid** and **Rock Rose**.

Ⓟ Corinna Philpott and Neil Gregory

## Butterfly Conservation – 3rd International Symposium Oxford Brookes University, 3-5 September 1999

Over 150 delegates from all over the world gathered on Friday 3rd. of September for the 3rd. International Symposium organised by Butterfly Conservation. This was composed of two and a half days of presentations, all devoted to the conservation of butterflies and moths. The weekend was divided into various sessions, each with a general theme.

After the opening speeches by our chairman Stephen Jeffcoate and the very able organiser Andrew Pullin, the first part of Friday morning concentrated on the use of Genetics in Species Conservation. During this session we learned about an African butterfly being used for genetic experiments in Holland; the population structure of the **Clouded Apollo** in Norway; how the **Marsh Fritillary** seems to have come into this country from one single postglacial colonisation; how inbreeding depression increases the risk of extinction of **Glanville Fritillary** colonies in Finland; and how some of the sub-species of **Northern Brown Argus** seem to be hybrids with the **Brown Argus**. The more we look at what a species is, the less we seem to be able to define the term.

The second session was devoted to the Conservation Management of Metapopulations. Here we found out about The **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** in Scotland; The **Silver-studded Blue**, **Forester Moth** and **Horehound Plume Moth** in North Wales; **Prairie Butterflies** in Wisconsin; how a German researcher is inducing dispersal of the **Bog Fritillary** by annoying them with a model of the Butterfly on a stick; and how good habitat for the **Lulworth Skipper** is no good for the **Addonis Blue** and vice versa, a habitat management problem on the Dorset Coast. Stephen Jeffcoate pleaded with the speakers in his opening speech not to use too many statistics in their presentations, this was not heeded by all speakers, but the science presented was proving ideas which many of us had suspected as being the truth all along. It was nice to see many PhD students presenting their work and being accepted into the family atmosphere of Butterfly Conservation, a friendly symposium carrying on from the first in Keele and the second at Warwick. The last presentation was by Robert Pyle on the migration of **Monarchs** in North America, a fascinating talk on an amazing subject, by an extraordinary character. In the evening there was time for socialising, meeting up with old friends, making new contacts, and

putting faces and personalities to the names we read about in the news.

Saturday was an annoying day for me as the day was a day of parallel sessions, meaning that I could only possibly attend half of the talks, so reluctantly I had to decide which ones to miss out. In the morning I went to the Management of Habitats session where we had talks on various forms of management from Britain (including our own Jenny Joy from Shropshire), Holland, Belgium, Germany and Belize in Central America which I was particularly interested in. I missed out on the session on species conservation which included work on the **Purple-Edged Copper** in Germany; three presentations on moths; and work on the Butterflies of the Slovakian mountains.

On Saturday afternoon I managed to attend Jeremy Thomas' presentation on the latest work he has done on the **Large Blue**, which started off the Restoring Species and Habitats session, before I went off to the session on Survey and Monitoring. The Restoration session also included work on the **Heath Fritillary**; the **Chequered Skipper**; the **Large Copper** and the **Black Hairstreak**. In the session I attended we found out about the Monitoring of The Coppice for Butterflies scheme; The Rothamstead Insect survey; the U.K. Butterfly Monitoring Scheme and other surveys. What did come out of this session was the vast amount of data that is being collected by various schemes which could be used by other organisations but is not always readily available, even if it is widely publicised. During the evening the symposium banquet was held in Headington Hill Hall, a very fine building once owned by the late Robert Maxwell. This was a very refined way to unwind after a hard day of listening.

On the last day the morning session concentrated on Issues for the New Millennium. Jim Asher updated us on the Millennium Atlas, thanks to everyone's hard work it is looking very good. Two papers looked at the expansion of some British butterflies northwards due to an increase in temperature. This made me look forward to receiving some interesting additions to our fauna from continental Europe, but three other papers showed what a bad way European butterflies are in as a whole. There

aren't cohorts of butterflies waiting to invade our future. After the symposium, since it had been a sunny weekend, eight of us decided to go to Bernwood Forest. We found lots of butterflies, 13 different species including the **Brown Hairstreak**. A very good end to a stimulating weekend.

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p Richard Lamb.

This was an excellent, friendly conference which I would thoroughly recommend anyone to attend in

## Autumn Glory

September certainly did us proud, the warm sunshine allowed the **Large Whites**, **Small Tortoiseshells** and the **Red Admirals** to search for the last vestiges of nectar in the Buddleia blossoms. September is the last month of the "official" butterfly season, but a warm spell in October will often encourage one last fling before the frosts of November bring the season finally to a close, and even then the odd hibernating butterfly is sometimes tempted out to bask in the feeble rays of the winter sun. This is probably not a good idea as it tends to use up part of the fat reserve that they have built up to get them through the winter and which they cannot replace because of the absence of flowers on which to nectar. The same problem arises when a butterfly (usually a **Small Tortoiseshell** or **Peacock**) appears in the house in mid-winter, aroused from its sleep by the house heating. The best one can do is to transfer it to the coolest room available or maybe a shed or garage where it will have to take its chance with the predatory spiders.

Another of our winter hibernators is the **Comma** (remember the orange ones with the deeply indented wing margins and the tiny silver "," on the underside?). They were once a pest in Worcestershire. The caterpillars feed on nettles and hops and in the last century became a serious menace to the Worcestershire hopyards causing great damage to the growing hop vines. The hop pickers used to call them "hop cats". However the discovery of nicotine sprays rapidly wiped out the **Comma** colonies (and probably some

hop pickers too!). Since the last war it has staged something of a comeback and is slowly extending its range, but now the caterpillars feed mainly on nettles. I've had a golden leafed form of the hop growing on a pillar in the garden for several years and late in July I noticed some small holes in the leaves and on the underside were some tiny caterpillars. Two weeks later on returning from holiday, one had already turned into a chrysalis and a second was fully grown and hanging by its tail below a leaf, its body forming the shape of a letter "J". Half an hour later it had turned into a perfect chrysalis, fawn in colour with two small but brilliant silver spots. The butterflies emerged about two weeks later and after allowing their wings to dry and harden for about an hour, flew off into the sunshine. Unfortunately I missed the actual, wonderful moment of emergence from the chrysalis, but maybe I'll be lucky next year.

Looking back over the summer, it's been a pretty poor butterfly season, partly as the result of 3 consecutive years of unsettled spring weather and partly because of a steady decline in butterfly numbers that has been taking place over the last 50 years and particularly over the last 20 years. Next month we'll take a look at the overall picture. How we go about measuring the health of the butterfly populations and what is being done to help not only the butterflies but all wildlife.

p Digby Wood

## A Polish Experience

My holiday started with a drive to Harwich followed by a nineteen hour crossing to Hamburg. My destination was Bielowieza Forest on Poland's eastern border; after a day and a half I arrived at Bielowieza village and booked into the Iwo Hotel.

The main reason for this trip was birdwatching but mammals and butterflies were high on the agenda.

Bielowieza Forest is the last truly primeval Forest left in Europe with an amazing biodiversity. It was to be the first location in a two part holiday the second being the Biebrza Marshes to the north.

On my first morning in the Forest butterflies encountered were **Chequered Skipper**, **Nothern Chequered Skipper** and **Spotted Fritillary**. Birds included Nutcracker, Green Sandpiper and Lesser Spotted Eagle. As my stay advanced I added **Lesser Purple Emperor**, **Poplar Admiral**, **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** and **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** in good numbers but alas no **Camberwell Beauties**. Many more birds, but the highlight for me was a European Bison and a Wild Boar, three sows with about fifteen piglets in a family group.

All too quickly it was time to move on to the Biebrza Marshes although I would be happy to leave the mosquitoes behind as I was beginning to feel like a mobile dining table.

On route I decided to visit Siemanowka Reservoir - here I saw **Glanville Fritillary** and **Alcon Blue**; birds seen included White Tailed Eagle, Marsh and Montague Harriers - but the

sight of a pair of Citrine Wagtails feeding young at the nest was an unforgettable experience. I decided to head for Gniadz for its central position in the Bielboza River flood plain - an immense area. The marshes are one of the major wetlands left in Europe with a biodiversity to challenge Bielowieza. Although I had not booked ahead, I was lucky enough to be able to rent a house near the river where I could watch White Winged Black Tern, Black Tern, Black Stork and various raptors.

On the insect front, pride of place must go to the dragonflies which were prolific, Yellow Winged Chasers being particularly numerous. Butterflies included **Bog**, **Heath**, and **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary**, **Short Tailed Blues**, **Purple-shot Coppers** and **Lesser Fiery Coppers**.

The bird list was extensive - some of my favourites were Crane, Aquatic Warbler and Bittern. I found the nests of Golden Oriole, Penduline Tit, Woodlark and Wryneck (a bird I've wanted to see for a long time) to mention a few. One of the most memorable experiences of the trip was listening to the evening chorus over the marshes. This included booming Bitterns, Thrush, Nightingales, Cuckoos, March and Willow Warblers plus Corncrakes and their cousins topped off by a multitude of Frogs.

After Bison the other mammal that I really wanted to see was Elk (Moose) and on my last morning I was lucky enough to encounter a cow with calf at close quarters. This seemed the ideal way to finish what was an experience that would be very hard to beat anywhere else in Europe and relatively inexpensive.

p Mark Farmer

## South West Shropshire Signing off

The butterfly season met a sudden wet end. The rain came like a curtain pulled across our memories of sunny days. Looking on the bright side Andy must have received records far earlier than if September had continued as it started.

South West Shropshire may be signing off for the Atlas but there is now a network of recorders many of whom are ready to continue into 2000. Our records have had an enormous boost from Bill Davidson who has come to live

in the area. His is a case of enthusiasm and energy being matched with expertise and a nose for the right places. Bill works at home so that days with any prospect for butterflies are days in the field and other work is done at night. New sites have been found for many key species, stacks of **Purple Hairstreaks**, many **Greens** and some **White Letters**. There have been several new ones for **Walls**, a few **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries** and **Wood Whites**. The Atlas will show it all.

One day Bill took me to see Dingy Skippers where he'd seen them the day before. Clouds came over, it turned cold but we began searching, tramping over the dry area, heads down but ears as well as eyes open.

"There's a Redstart."

"Plenty of Goldfinches"

"Good to hear a Marsh Tit"

"A garden Warbler -----"

"-----and a Black Cap on the other side."

Then Bill exclaimed, "I wish these damn things

would sing!"

I vaguely wondered what song a **Peacock** would have and if the **Holly Blue** would sound a little like the well known Christmas carol.

Starting next year Bill plans to make an annual systematic report on butterflies in South Shropshire, so if anyone in the area is interested, gardens only and of course beyond, please be in touch. Tel 01588 640 727.

## Atlas Recording - full of the unexpected

A very hot and sunny July weekend, Richard Southwell, David Jackson (and his two year old son Robert), plus myself, all attended a couple of advertised Branch field trips.

Spurred on by the redoubtable and ever enthusiastic Richard, to cover areas where no butterfly records presently exist; herewith are some of our unexpected experiences and adventures.

- 1) A pub's former swimming pool, (Richard curiously found this!), now filled-in but boasting a magnificent display of evening primrose and musk thistle - plus **Small Skippers** and **Comma** for Atlas recording, (Stourton, Staffordshire).
- 2) Investigation of a reported **High Brown Fritillary** sighting in Montgomeryshire, (Powys) - no **High Brown** seen but an invitation from the landowner to look round his property revealed **Ringlet**, **Marbled White**, and an aerial display by a bat and an opportunity to view the owner's collection of wolves! David Jackson's two year old son can now probably claim to be one of the youngest English humans to have his face licked by two wolf cubs.
- 3) The "is it" "isn't it" - a **Dark Green Fritillary**, near Priest Weston (Shropshire), that caused us to stop the car suddenly and chase it up and down a quiet lane and a

perplexed local lady cottage owner to, temporarily, lose her black labrador when we tried to explain what we were doing.

- 4) Having to explain to Richard that a visit to the bog, (Shropshire), was not a call of nature but to search out **Grayling** (successful), and then having to remind a Telford woman of the name of a Michael Powell Emeric Pressburger film; filmed on the Stiperstones ("Gone to Earth"), so she could relay this to her mother who lived at a nearby pub.
- 5) Seeing the expanse of Blithfield Reservoir for the first time whilst checking out nearby Bagot Forest (Staffordshire).
- 6) Finding an additional colony of **Northern Brown Argus**, close to the established Castern Wood site and counting the largest number of this species, personally seen, in four previous visits.
- 7) The discovery of the caves and views from Ossoms Hill (Manifold Valley).
- 8) The flora - common valerian, lead sandwort and potential fragrant orchid at Ecton lead mine and its environs (Staffordshire).
- 9) Being shown a wing damaged kingfisher whilst checking out some Atlas sites with Maurice Waterhouse Coombes Valley R.S. P.B. Reserve (Staffordshire).

þ Philip Hopson

## A not so Typical Day out

It's Bank Holiday and Moor Green are playing an away match at Stafford Rangers. Unfortunately the game is to kick off at 3 o'clock and not the normal evening time. However, we still had the early part of the day to try and get some of those desperately needed Staffordshire butterfly records.

Just after 9 am we set off thinking it was a good omen when we were *not* held up on the M6! Using the map that Richard Southwell had kindly

sent us we found our first tetrad and a handy lay-by to stop at. Our plan was that we would leave the car and then walk in opposite directions along the road meeting back at the car.. We didn't get off to the best of starts as the only sighting of interest was a Devil's Coach Horse beetle. Not put off by early failure we headed off again, looking for a turn that would take us to those lovely roads that are so narrow they aren't allocated a number. Just as we reached a turn we saw our first butterfly - a

white; jumping out to check it I found the local farmer was waiting behind us in his Land Rover (whoops). Eventually he realised that we were not going to move and went round us. The butterfly was still sitting where it had landed and a **Green-veined White** was the first record of the day in our first tetrad.

We continued down this single track road only to meet the same farmer on his way back, not wanting to upset him again we reversed to a gateway to let him pass - this time he smiled! At our next stop we found a **Small White** and a **Vapourer moth**. Further on we went through a corner of our second tetrad and managed to spot a **Small White** before entering the third.

This tetrad was an experience. We stopped seven times and got records each time, but how often on a single track road do you meet a fire engine with all lights blazing and siren sounding heading in the opposite direction. We'd heard the siren in the distance but never in a millennium did we expect it to be on the same road. I don't think the car has ever been reversed so far or so fast but having a fire engine willing you to find a passing place does give some incentive for speed!

After recovering from that experience we managed to cover a few more tetrads without incident. We did wonder how many times we might have been reported to the local Neighbourhood Watch Coordinators because of our habit of looking into people's gardens for those butterfly friendly plants - even reversing for a second look on occasions!

Around 1 o'clock the sky had got considerably cloudier and our targets much harder to find; we found a parking spot where we could have lunch opposite a field full of whites flying about. While munching we checked out the field and found that apart from one **Green-veined** and two **Large Whites** the rest were all **Small Whites**. By this time Alan wanted to start finding our way to Stafford so that he didn't miss the start of the match. In spite of being slowed down by a farmer (twice), a fire engine, and numerous cyclists who turned up all along our route we'd managed to cover 17 tetrads.

Arriving at the football ground with 10 minutes to spare we parked in the adjacent industrial estate.

Alan went off to the match just as the sun reappeared from behind the clouds. I decided to go exploring on foot round the industrial estate - I was amazed to come across a lovely nature reserve called Astonfields Balancing Reservoirs which was swarming with Speckled Wood butterflies. I also wandered along a couple of nearby roads checking out the gardens. Whilst doing this I came across another of those annoying little orange blurs known as the Vapourer moth; for the first time ever I found one sitting still on a wall so that I could have a good look at it and confirm for myself how colourful they are and make a positive identification.

As the match would soon be over I headed back to the car, on the way finding a **Common Blue** on a nearby cycle track in a remaining patch of sun. When Alan got back to the car he told me that he'd managed to get one record - a **Small White** surveying Stafford Rangers goal net - adding that it was never in any danger as Moors had only had one shot in the first half and that had hit the cross bar. However the result did go his way as his team scored in the second half for a 1-0 win and are now top of their league.

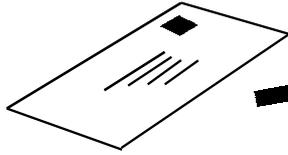
On our return journey the M6 was stop/start most of the way which made us late enough to miss the traffic from the Birmingham City match but the aptly named Small Heath Highway was closed for half its length by the Police (we do not think M. Slater was involved in any way!). Luckily Alan knew a better way round than the official diversion and we got back home reasonably quickly.

Recovering from our days adventures we couldn't face cooking so we went out to our local Burger King to feed up so that we could collate our records and, knowing that Richard couldn't wait to receive them, we put them in the post the next day. Although we did not manage to cover the full 35 tetrads

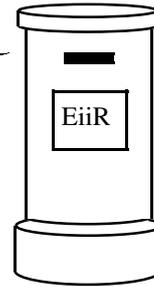
we were pleased with what we did achieve on such an adventurous day. Our sightings for the day were, **Small** and **Large** and **Green Veined White**, **Meadow Brown**, **Speckled Wood**, **Peacock**, **Small Tortoiseshell**, **Common Blue**, **Red Admiral**, **Gate Keeper**, **Small Copper**, and a **Vapourer moth**. According to Richard Southwell the **Common Blue** seen at the last minute was the first ever seen in that decade.

## THE DEADLINE

for  
Spring Newsletter



contributions is  
Saturday  
29th January 2000



**Hand-written articles** will be transcribed and returned for checking. Printed documents are less prone to transcription errors and can often be scanned in. Laser printed 14 point copy usually scans perfectly, 12 point is OK but 10 point is hopeless. Text on 3.5" disc is best of all but please send unformatted text (e.g. saved as a **.txt** file under MS Word) as some formatted texts received recently have proved to be incompatible with my system. Limiting file compatibility seems to be the latest marketing ploy. Extra safe is to use a simple editor, such as Notepad (under Accessories in Windows) or Edit (MSDOS). Please label your disc with your name.

**Pictures** will normally be scanned in and should be black and white. (The final reprographic process for printing off the newsletter does not do justice to 'grey scale' or colour). Note that, unlike text, pictures cannot be modified by me (except for size adjustment).

**Copyright:** Pictures for publication must of course be free of copyright restrictions.

**Spelling:** I will try to correct obvious spelling mistakes unless this affects the writer's style but, in the cause of achieving a consistent format, will use the Word UK dictionary spelling where there are several options.

p Christine Chance

## Conservation Corner

### Northern Brown Argus

The lack of proper monitoring of this species in north Staffordshire has long been a source of embarrassment but hopefully all is about to change thanks to the Staffordshire Wildlife Trust. Arising out of the Staffordshire Biodiversity Action Plan, the county wildlife trust were able to commission a local ecologist, Colin Hayes to carry out a proper survey of Castern Wood NR earlier this year with the aim of establishing guidelines for effective monitoring of the site. Helen Gee, the Conservation Officer at the Trust has now been able to identify a local volunteer prepared to carry out a transect walk at Castern next summer which is a major step forward. The field trip in July gave our own members a good opportunity to reacquaint ourselves with the site and enjoy seeing the butterfly in very good numbers.

### Flying start for Moth group

The new Worcestershire Mothers Group has made an excellent start with records of nearly 200 'macros' at various sites in its first full season (see separate report). By the end of the year, the Group will have visited around a dozen sites in the county covering a range of habitats

including woodland, limestone grassland, wetland sites and heathland. A report is in course of preparation which will be sent to English Nature who part funded the work and further copies for interested parties can be obtained from Neil Gregory. Something not recorded in the report was our brush with the law at Grafton Wood in August when members of the group were apprehended by a police panda car on our return from the wood around midnight. Apparently, we had been reported as acting suspiciously by a vigilant member of the village Neighbourhood Watch scheme who had seen us heading off for the wood in gathering darkness carrying various strange objects! Next year the plan is to frighten the inhabitants of rural Herefordshire and anyone interested in joining in on the fun should contact Jeff Andrews.

### Birmingham & Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan

The value of our own Regional Action Plan for Lepidoptera has again been highlighted over the summer through the branch's involvement in the drawing up of the latest Biodiversity Action Plan within the region. Jim Chance and myself have represented the branch on the Lepidoptera

working party for the Birmingham & Black Country BAP and, as a result, were asked to draft Species Action Plans for **Wall Brown** and **Green Hairstreak**. These plans will serve to highlight the importance of urban habitats like canal towpaths and old industrial sites for butterflies and hopefully will result in a higher profile for such sites and better management.

#### **West Midlands branch to champion Small Pearl-bordered**

As part of the Staffordshire BAP process, West Midlands Butterfly Conservation has agreed to act as lead organisation for the **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** within the county. **Small Pearl-bordered** have declined sharply in Staffs over the past 15 years and are now only known from three remaining sites. Under the new Action Plan, we will be looking to update our information on the current status of the butterfly and work to improve management at extant sites. In the longer term, the Plan suggests the possibility of re-establishment at former sites but this will remain a secondary objective until all existing colonies are identified and safeguarded.

#### **White Admiral egg-laying choices**

Research into the ecology of the **White Admiral** undertaken by Dr. Jenny Joy at the Dudmaston NT estate near Bridgnorth has now been published in an article in the Entomologist's Gazette (J. Joy et al 1999, Entomologist's Gazette 50: 169-179). The article compares egg-laying sites at Dudmaston with those in part of the Wyre Forest 9km to the south and suggests differences between the choice of habitat between each site. Previous research has suggested that **White Admirals** choose to lay their eggs on drapes of honeysuckle growing in shady conditions and avoid low growing honeysuckle growing along ride edges and generally the Wyre Forest conformed to this pattern. This proved not to be the case at Dudmaston, however, particularly in the first year of study 1996-97 when the majority of larvae were found on low growing clumps of honeysuckle along track edges. Although still generally in shady places, most larvae were found on south-facing aspects on leaves within 20cm of the ground. This may partly have been a reflection of what honeysuckle was available to the females or the particular weather conditions during that year (very low rainfall figures) but may also suggest differences in the ecology of a species on the northern edge of its range. Interestingly, choice of egg-laying site also appeared to impact on overwintering larval survival with eggs laid on honeysuckle drapes doing much better than those laid on clumps which are presumably more vulnerable to being

eaten by rabbits, deer and possibly spiders. All in all, a fascinating piece of research proving once again that we should not assume that what we read in textbooks necessarily applies to all sites in all seasons.

#### **Wyre Forest experimentation**

Wyre Forest is one of the most important sites nationally for the **Pearl-bordered Fritillary** thanks to some excellent work carried out in recent years by Forest Enterprise and English Nature with active support from Butterfly Conservation and the Wyre Forest Society. As such, it is an ideal location for experimentation into the impact of different kinds of management on population levels. A meeting between Ruth Feber, Butterfly Conservation's new Threatened Fritillaries Officer, and representatives of Forest Enterprise, English Nature and West Midlands Butterfly Conservation in August has now led to a series of new proposals which hopefully will enable us to compare the success of different management techniques such as coppicing in strips, scarification, scalloping of ride edges and regular mowing. A series of sites have been identified where these different techniques will be applied over the course of the winter and monitoring is to be established involving students from a local College with support from Rosemary Winnall from Forest Enterprise. Further details will be published in a future Conservation Corner.

#### **Mounting concern over High Brown Fritillary**

1999 proved another extremely poor year for the **High Brown Fritillary** at its remaining West Midlands sites. Very few were reported on the Malverns and at the Bromyard site, while numbers at Bircher may be worse than at first sight appears because of the presence of **Dark Green Fritillary** there possibly boosting the figures. On the Malverns transect it was the fifth consecutive year of decline with only 2 **High Browns** being reported with none seen at all at Chase End Hill. A Fritillaries seminar organised by Butterfly Conservation in July brought together all the relevant groups to share experience and good practice. In the continuing absence of grazing, it would appear that more radical measures need to be introduced if we are to have any hope of retaining **High Browns** in the region. Already, the Eastnor Estate have sprayed an area of bracken while the Malvern Hills Conservators have used a bracken breaker on a large part of Swinyard Hill. Similarly, at the Bromyard site large tracts of bracken have been cut over the summer in an attempt to increase potential habitat. Only time will tell whether these measures and others elsewhere will succeed in reversing current trends.

#### **Pyrenees trip - last chance to book your place**

We now have just two places left for the trip to northern Spain planned for next summer as part of the branch's 21st anniversary celebrations - first come, first served. Provisional dates are 21st June - 6th July 2000 and an information sheet is available from Mike Williams. The itinerary allows for four days in the Picos de Europa mountains followed by a similar period in the French Ariège and finally three days in the Spanish Pyrenees. We shall be targeting up to 100 species of butterfly during our two week stay and also hope to be able to run a moth trap at each location. Birds and wild flowers should

be pretty good as well, with even a chance of spotting whales and dolphins from the ferry on the outward and return journeys!

#### **Send in those records**

Hopefully, everyone will already have sent in their final year records for the Millennium Atlas but don't forget to also send in any transect records to Ian Duncan as soon as possible. We also need your first and last sighting reports together with nominations for butterfly of the year for the annual review which will again be published as part of the Spring branch newsletter.

## **Health and Safety**

Guidelines for health and safety during activities organised by Butterfly Conservation will be received from Head Office in due course - in the meantime we reproduce those adopted by the Devon Branch:-

"There are important responsibilities laid upon us to do what we can to ensure your safety at events organised by Butterfly Conservation. Please take a little time to read, consider and act upon the following points at any of our events:

- Wear appropriate foot wear for the conditions expected underfoot.
- Wear appropriate clothing for the conditions to be expected. Protect yourself against Cold, Heat, Sun, Rain, Wind and Thorns.
- Consider what precautions you should take to prevent being bitten or stung by insect, plants, snakes or animals.

- Children must be adequately supervised by an adult.
- Dogs must be kept on a lead. Seek permission from the leader before bringing your dog.
- Listen carefully to instructions given by the leader at the beginning of the event.
- Beware of branches swinging back onto you after being passed by the person in front.
- Beware of carefully dug rabbit holes, dug to twist your ankle.
- Inform the leader if you intend to leave early.
- Keep up with the party.
- Carry a drink - you may be away from your car for several hours.
- Observe the country code at all times.
- Enjoy yourself.

Site specific hazards will be outlined by the leader at the start of the field trip."

## **Dates for your diary**

### **OCTOBER**

- 23 October Craven Arms Community Centre – 10am – 4pm** Birds and Bees, Butterflies and Blooms too. See page 3 for details.
- 24 October Conservation Task - Trench Wood** Meet at reserve entrance on Sale Green-Dunhampstead road. OS Map 150 GR. SO929588. A Make a Difference Day event. Your chance to go MADD as part of the UK's largest day of volunteering with balloons, certificates and other freebies for all taking part + baked potatoes from the bonfire.
- 30 October West Midlands Branch AGM - Sandwell Park Farm, Sandwell Park** - see page 2 for details. A chance to meet and hear Butterfly Conservation's new

national Chairman, Steve Jeffcoate

### **NOVEMBER**

- 7 November Conservation Task - Monkwood** Meet 10.00 a.m. in the reserve car park just off the Sinton Green-Monkwood Green road. OS Map 150 GR. SO803603. Ride management work.
- 14 November Conservation Task - Grafton Wood** Meet 10.00 a.m. at Three Parishes Village Hall, Grafton Flyford (next to church) just off A422 Worcester-Alcester road. OS Map 150 GR. SO963557. Brash clearing.
- 20 November Log Sale - Monkwood** 10.00 a.m. - 1.00 p.m. in the reserve car park. A chance to stock up on firewood for the winter and support conservation at the

same time. Best quality logs just £3.50 per bag (every 5th bag free!)

**21 November Conservation Task - Hough Wood** Meet at 10a.m. in the car park on the north side if the minor road running through the wood. OS Map 149 GR 593365.

**28 November Conservation Task - Trench Wood** Details as 24 October but without the balloons!

#### DECEMBER

**5 December Conservation Task - Monkwood** Details as 7 November. Glade and ride management.

**12 December Conservation Task - Grafton Wood** Details as 14 November

**19 December Free**

**27 December Conservation Task – Haugh Wood. Meet 10 a.m.** Details as 21 November.

#### JANUARY 2000

**2 January Conservation Task - Monkwood** Details as 7 November. A Whitbread Millennium Action Earth event - work off the excesses of the new year at this special festive celebration. Soup, mincepies and malt whiskey all on offer. Glade & ride management for the Wood White.

**9 January Conservation Task - Grafton Wood** Details as 14th November. A second chance to celebrate the Millennium with Whitbread Action Earth. Refreshments and baked potatoes. Brash clearing.

**16 January The Great Egg Race** Join us at Three Parishes Village Hall at 10.00 a.m. (see 14th November for directions) for our annual Brown Hairstreak egg count. Drink at the Flyford Arms afterwards (optional). Free drink for the person who locates the most eggs! Free drink for the Conservation Officer from the

person who finds the least (compulsory)!!

**22 January Log Sale - Monkwood** Final

chance to replenish firewood supplies. Details as 20 November.

**23 January Conservation Task - Trench Wood** Details as 24 October.

**30 January Conservation Task Haugh Wood.** Meet 10 a.m. details as 21 November.

#### FEBRUARY

**6 February Conservation Task - Monkwood** Details as 7 November. Ride and glade management.

**13 February Conservation Task - Grafton Wood** Details as 14 November. Brash clearing.

**13 February Conservation Task - Haugh Wood. Meet 10 a.m.** details as 21 November.

**20 February Conservation Task - Prees Heath Meet 11.00 a.m.** (note later start time) at parking area east of A49. OS Map 126 GR. SJ558367. Heather management for the Silver-studded Blue. Travel expenses on offer courtesy of English Nature.

**26 February National AGM Three Counties Showground Malvern** full details next Newsletter.

**27 February Conservation Task - Trench Wood** Details as 24th October..

#### MARCH

**5 March Conservation Task - Monkwood** Details as 7 November. Glade management.

**12 March Conservation Task - Grafton Wood** Details as 14 November. Brash clearing.

**19 March Conservation Task – Bircher Common.** Meet 10 a.m. at Highwood end gate at bottom, of lane passing Croft Castle (look for NT signs) OS Map 149 GR 458658.

**26 March Conservation Task -Trench Wood** Details as 24 October.

#### Grafton Wood Warden

John Tilt  
9 Meadow Close  
Flyford Flavell  
Worcs WR7 4DE  
tel. 01386-792458

#### Monkwood Warden

Paddy Harrison  
Moorcroft Barn  
Sinton Green - Hallow  
Worcs WR2 6NW  
tel. 01905-641523

#### Trench Wood Warden

Neil McLean  
75 Rutherford Rd  
Aston Fields – Bromsgrove  
Worcs B60 3SA  
tel. 01527-831918