



No. 57

NEWSLETTER

Spring 2004

WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH, BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION

Contents

Chairman's Notes Spring 2004	front cover
Spring Meeting Saltwells Nature Reserve 8 May	2
Location location location	3
BC West Midlands Branch AGM and accounts	5
Good News for the Brown Hairstreak	7
Moth Migration to my garden 2004	7
A year in the North	8
Moth trapping at Crown East Wood Worcester	9
Butterfly Recording after the Millennium Atlas	10
National macro-moth recording scheme	11
National moth night 2004	11
Moth identification - the Satellite <i>Eupsilia transversa</i>	11
West Midlands Branch on tour	12
Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary project at Consall & Coombes 2003	13
Maternity leave—Jane Ellis	14
Transects in 2003	15
RDO report	15
Instructions for Contributors	16
Dates for your diary:	
Warwickshire Branch events	17
WM Branch Moth programme	18
WM Branch Butterfly events etc.	19

Chairman's Notes Spring 2004

HAPPY NEW YEAR

Let's hope we get another warm, sunny summer like last year, with lots of butterflies. For me the year has already got off to a good start with a **Small Tortoiseshell** on the wing on 6th January.

Committee News

I am pleased to report that John Tilt (reserve manager Grafton Wood) has joined the committee. I am sure John's knowledge and experience on practical conservation matters will be of great assistance.

Dave Haslam has decided to resign from the committee. I would like to thank him for all his

efforts whilst on the committee and offer him our best wishes for the future.

Peggy Higgins

It is with regret that I have to report that Peggy Higgins died at the end of the year. Peggy was a keen volunteer who contributed much to the branch and she will be greatly missed.

Our thoughts are with Terry and their family.

I would like to end by expressing my sincere thanks again to all those who have helped the Branch in the last year, especially to the hard working committee members.

PTO

Chairmans Notes - Prees Heath

The main event since the last newsletter has been the news that Prees Heath in Shropshire has finally been put up for sale.

Many of you will recall that Butterfly Conservation tried to purchase part of this site in 1993/4 and launched an appeal towards the purchase cost. Unfortunately the site did not come on the market and the fund (now around £34,000) has been lying dormant ever since.

Butterfly Conservation is primarily interested in the western part of the heath where a notable population of the **Silver-studded Blue** exists. This is a BAP species for which Butterfly Conservation is a lead partner. However this is not just a single species site, **Small Heath**, **Green Hairstreak**, **Brown Argus** and **Common Blue** are also present. Important breeding birds include Skylark, Corn Bunting, Yellow Hammer and Grey Partridge with wintering Lapwing, Golden Plover and Woodcock.

In the Butterfly Conservation Regional Action Plan, Prees Heath is identified as a priority for acquisition.

Butterfly Conservation has submitted a bid for part of the site and we are currently waiting to hear if we have been successful. Our bid is contingent on raising the necessary funds through a Heritage Lottery application and a number of other sources. Funds are being used from the existing fund to assist with the potential acquisition and fund raising. The balance remaining in will be put towards the purchase cost.

If we are successful in our bid this will be a major acquisition for Butterfly Conservation both nationally and regionally. A large commitment will be required from members to help manage the site. A further appeal may also be necessary.

We also intend working very closely with the local residents and other conservation partners to ensure that the site is managed effectively in both the short and long term.

• Ian Duncan

Spring Meeting – Saltwells Nature Reserve Saturday 8 May

Start 11am in Visitor Centre
Programme –

1. Introductions
2. Overhead projector and television available – so bring own slides, videos etc. If you want pictures identifying bring them along
3. View the moths caught in the moth trap at Saltwells from the previous night
4. Guest speaker – Councillor Les Jones
Chairman Dudley MBC Economic Regeneration Committee

Subject – **“Economic Regeneration and Conservation – can they be bedfellows?”** An open, participative debate is encouraged. Case histories show how local action can highlight the issues, fully inform the planning process and have positive outcomes for both interest groups.

Early lunch – hot drinks available at visitor centre but do bring food to share with others.

GUIDED WALK – A Ranger will take us around this wonderful reserve – habitats include coppiced forest, wetlands, heathlands and some of the best brownfield locations for wildlife. Key species - **Dingy Skipper** and

Green Hairstreak.

Directions :-

M5 junction 3 – turn on A456 to Kidderminster for 5+ miles; turn right at traffic lights (signposted Stourbridge, Dudley and Merry Hill Shopping Centre) – follow signs for Merry Hill for 3.5 miles. Turn right at traffic lights that are signposted SALTWELLS NATURE RESERVE. This is Coppice Lane; travel half a mile and turn left at sign for both Saltwells NR and the Saltwells Inn public house. Note: on your left is the factory – Hays Technology.

Park in either the Reserve or Pub car park – there will be directions to the Visitor centre.

By public transport, take any bus to the Merry Hill shopping centre and the Saltwells Reserve is literally just across the road, e.g. 004 from Harborne & Halesowen, 127,139, 258 from Birmingham and countless others; there is probably one near you.

Phone number of visitor centre 01384 812795.

Location, location, location

Buying a house or finding some decent habitat to live and breed in, what's the difference? The conclusion I have come to after recording for the Millennium Atlas and then asking individual members living in Worcestershire and Shropshire to record in specific areas, which I then followed up by comparing the results with Ordnance Survey maps, is "none".

There is another main consideration though. Mankind determines where the habitat is for butterflies and moths, we also control how this land is maintained so that it can remain attractive to wildlife or not. I am not aware of any butterfly or moth questioning a property developer or farmer about their activities! Butterfly Conservation head office has been successful over the years influencing national policy. But how effective are they at influencing a planning decision to protect a **Dingy Skipper** colony in Telford or alter a farmer's perception on how to alter his hedge-mowing regime around Grafton Wood to make it more conducive to the lifecycle of the **Brown Hairstreak**? As the late and great Eric Morecambe would have said, "Not a lot".

We have no choice therefore if we really want to make a difference to the survival of our wildlife. It is our individual responsibility to influence the habitat in our local patch, don't expect Mr A.N. Other to do it. I looked in the telephone directory and can tell you that not many of them exist.

Therefore, what and where are the species under threat in our patch? The list is not comprehensive, how can it be? There are not enough records from some areas and, as I am finding in Dudley, wildlife can quickly move to new locations if corridors allow it to do so. The list is intended to bring a focus to our branch membership at large. The reason Fritillaries are not included is they don't exist on our doorstep unless we live in a large coppiced forest.

Feeling threatened or put upon? Yet another request falling on deaf ears? I think not. The good news is that Butterfly Conservation has an unusual membership. The majority of us actually want to do something! That is you, the

reader. Over 50% of Branch members actually recorded butterflies for the Atlas after being directly asked to record in specified locations. Jane Ellis got a 60% response to her letters inviting new members to the Birmingham Botanical Gardens training event last year. In 2003 a student was employed by Head office to survey long-standing and new members on our opinions which included a question enquiring if we were prepared to do something. It showed that 40% of new members and 54% of the old lags want to record species for conservation purposes. The percentages are even higher if one includes other conservation activities or creating habitat in our gardens where our Vice President Alan Titchmarsh has clearly been a positive influence. Therefore let us merge the lepidopteran need to where we actually live.

Let us conclude. We have found that articles in the national magazine or our Branch Newsletter are not the way to get you to do something; we Brits are far too shy to volunteer even if we want to. Expect a direct communication from me, one of our Local Authority Officers or the Regional Organisers asking you to do something in your locality. But what?

- (1) Send records, butterflies or moths, to Jim Chance or Neil Gregory on the forms accompanying the newsletter.
- (2) Identify good habitat in your patch and inform Peter Boardman, in Jane Ellis' absence on maternity leave, to build up our brownfield site dossier that will inform the planning process.
- (3) Directly contact your local council official or

Areas with LBAP or declining species						
	Grizzled Skipper	Dingy Skipper	Green Hairstreak	Wall Brown	Small Heath	Grayling
Oswestry area	*	*	*	*	*	?
Pontesbury		?	*	*	*	*
Shrewsbury and environs		*	*	*	*	
Telford		*	*	*	*	
Stafford Moorlands		*	*	*	*	
Stoke conurbation	*	*	*	*	*	
Tamworth area	?	*	*	?	*	
Cannock area (not the Chase)		*	*	?	*	
Uttoxeter		?	?	*	?	
Birmingham & Black Country		*	*		*	
Worcester City	?	?	*		?	
Hereford City			?	*	?	
Kidderminster and environs			*		*	
* exists but there may be new locations ? not yet recorded but may exist						

WM Branch membership – analysis by LA area		
	Jan-04	Local contact & telephone numbers
SALOP BAP	79	
South Salop	21	Bill Davidson 01588 640727
Shrewsbury & At' m	21	John Brayford 01743 270481
Wrekin	13	Jenny Joy 01952245684
Bridgnorth	7	?
Oswestry	6	Peter Boardman 01691 773026
North Salop	11	?
STAFFS BAP	90	(north) James Hill (south) Dave Jackson
Moorlands	14	James Hill 01782 610377
Stafford	13	Dave Jackson 01902 344716
South Staffs	12	Anita Ferguson 01902 892187
Stoke	9	Lynn Martin 01782 271979
East Staffs	14	James Hill 01782 610377
Lichfield	13	Pete Johnson 01543 459810
Cannock	4	Pete Johnson 01543 459810
Tamworth	5	Dave Jackson 01902 344716
Newcastle	5	James Hill 01782 610377
WORCS BAP	127	Neil Gregory Trevor Bucknall
Malvern	37	Ian Duncan 01684 568415
Wychavon	32	Neil Gregory 01905 771623
Worcester City	18	Trevor Bucknall 01905 755757
Wyre	17	Mike Williams 01299 824860
Bromsgrove	18	Jeff Rush 01527 832464
Redditch	5	Neil Gregory 01905 771623
B' HAM & BC BAP	136	Richard Southwell 01384 397066
Birmingham	70	(north) John Wills 0121 554 0963 (south) John Dodson 0121 444 7077
Walsall	10	Peter Newell 01922 863488
Sandwell	8	Dave Jackson 01902 344716
Wolverhampton	19	Phil Hopson 01902 758151
Dudley	29	Richard Southwell 01384 397066
HEREFORD BAP	46	(east) Jeff Andrews 01432 870301 (SW) Ian Hart 01981 510259 (NW) Andy Nicholls 01432 275834
WARWICK BAP	62	Keith Warmington 01827 715873
OUTSIDE REGION	42	
BRANCH TOTAL	582	
Warwick BAP covers members residing in county & Solihull Herefordshire only has a county authority		

politician, preferably by letter, if there is a bad planning decision or there is a poor grounds maintenance regime on council owned property.

(4) Speak to a farmer on your patch and encourage them to participate in Countryside Stewardship schemes and inform your local contact.

(5) Directly phone your local authority or county, BC contact to find out more or offer your help. Please do not feel obliged to say yes, we only like pushing against open doors! Even better, take the initiative and 'phone your local contact. Enthusiasm is infectious; grudging compliance is the death knell! Will all this make a difference

to Butterfly Conservation' s mission statement that is ' The conservation of butterflies and moths and their habitats' ? Yes it will. Many, including myself, have proved that this is the case, whilst recent newsletters give a number of case histories making the point. If you do not want to be contacted please let me, or your local leader know of your views before the end of March. Have a great lepidoperan year and please resolve to make it a proactive one from a conservation viewpoint.

• Richard Southwell

Butterfly Conservation West Midlands Branch Annual General Meeting
Bishops Wood Centre Stourport 14.00 Oct 11 2003
MINUTES

The Chairman (Ian Duncan) welcomed the attendees (34) to the meeting. Apologies were received from Neil and Corinna Gregory, Jim and Christine Chance, Mike Williams, Richard Southwell, Jenny Joy, Digby Wood, Tony Hatton, Jeff Andrews and Martyn Davies.

The minutes of the previous AGM (published in the spring newsletter) were approved and there were no matters arising. The following committee members were re-elected after 3 years in office - Ian Duncan, Richard Southwell, Christine Chance and Jenny Joy. Nigel Stone, co-opted during the year and John Tilt, standing for election, were also elected.

The Chairman presented the highlights of the year as follows:

Membership of the branch had risen by 15% to 584 during the year. The branch is very keen to meet the new members and a number of events would be arranged for 2004 along the lines of the very successful new members day held in Birmingham in 2003.

The appointment of the two regional officers, Jenny Joy and Jane Ellis had been very successful. A lot of effort had gone in to (a) increased conservation (b) members (c) volunteers (d) fund raising and (e) raising awareness.

The Chairman thanked Trevor Bucknall for organising another fruitful season of work parties over the winter. He pointed out that this activity had now been dubbed "green gym" and was a good way of keeping fit as well as aiding conservation. New volunteers were always welcome to attend.

The Chairman complimented Neil Gregory on the publication of the first annual transect review using the 'transect walker' software. This had set new national standards for such a review.

The many butterfly and moth recorders were thanked for continuing to send in all their records. The importance of such records would be discussed later by the guest speaker, Richard Fox.

Jim and Christine Chance were thanked for producing the second part of the Lepidoptera Atlases for Herefordshire and Worcestershire. The first volume (200 copies) had almost sold out and the second volume was also selling well. The third part was due to be published early in 2004. Mike Harper and Tony Simpson were also thanked for all their effort in producing the atlases and kindly donating all the sale proceeds to branch funds.

The branch website www.westmidlandsbutterflyconservation.co.uk was now a major part of branch activities, receiving up to 700 hits per month. Nigel Stone was congratulated and thanked for producing such a useful and well thought out website.

The Chairman notified the meeting that Prees Heath was rumoured to be coming up for sale during the summer but, so far nothing had happened. The branch had around £33,000 in a fund to put towards a possible purchase.

In conclusion, Ian Duncan expressed his sincere thanks to all the committee members who had helped so much during the year and to all the members and volunteers who had also helped the society. In addition, the Chairman summarised the conservation report received from Jenny Joy as follows:

- The conservation priorities were the Regional Action Plan (RAP) species.
- The major objectives were to increase the level of surveying and monitoring of all species and to ensure, knowledge based, conservation management sympathetic to Lepidoptera.
- Funding had been obtained for numerous projects e.g. **Wood White** in Herefordshire, **Argent** and **Sable** in Herefordshire and Shropshire, **Common Fanfoot** in Wyre and Shropshire, *Coleophora inulae* in Herefordshire and **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** in Shropshire.
- The **High Brown Fritillary** was continuing to decline in the region. A meeting had been arranged with all the relevant organisations and individuals to discuss how best now to proceed to conserve this species.

-The good summer had resulted in a number of species doing very well, such as, **Silver-studded Blue, Wood White** (especially 2nd brood) **Pearl-bordered Fritillary, Painted Lady, Small Tortoiseshell, Common Blue, Small Copper** and **Hummingbird Hawk Moths**.

Trevor Bucknall reviewed the major works and initiatives for the **Brown Hairstreak** which had taken place and were planned for Grafton Wood and the surrounding area.

Ron Hatton presented the accounts (attached) which were approved by members. The Chairman thanked Ron for his role as Honorary Branch Auditor and Tony Hatton for acting as Branch Treasurer throughout the year. The Chairman pointed out that the Branch would probably make a further donation to the funding of the regional officers posts in 2004. There being no other business the meeting closed at 14.40.

Following tea, Richard Fox (Butterfly Conservation Species Officer) gave a very interesting and well illustrated talk on the many uses of butterfly records. He highlighted the particular need to continue sending in all records to ensure that the update to the Millennium Atlas in 2005 provided good coverage of all areas.

**BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION
WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH
INCOME AND EXPENDITURE ACCOUNT
FOR THE YEAR TO 31ST MARCH 2003**

	2003 (YEAR)		2002 (9 MONTHS)	
	£	£	£	£
INCOME				
SUBSCRIPTIONS	3,157.50		1,874.00	
DONATIONS, GRANTS ETC	<u>3,973.96</u>		5,854.78	
INVESTMENT INCOME	29.54		85.11	
FUND RAISING	<u>1,007.30</u>		<u>594.60</u>	
		8,168.30		8,408.49
EXPENDITURE				
POSTAGE, PRINTING ETC.	2,900.87		3,305.00	
TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ETC.	1,236.56		1,043.70	
CONSERVATION	4,523.22		5,227.05	
OTHER	-		619.39	
VAT	<u>19.59</u>		<u>888.23</u>	
		8,680.24		11,083.37
EXCESS OF EXPENDITURE OVER INCOME		<u>- 511.94</u>		<u>- 2,674.88</u>
BROUGHT FORWARD FROM LAST PERIOD		<u>9,218.29</u>		<u>11,893.17</u>
TOTAL BRANCH FUNDS CARRIED FORWARD	£	<u>8,706.35</u>	£	<u>9,218.29</u>
FUNDS ARE REPRESENTED BY:				
CURRENT ACCOUNT		2,040.94		3,042.34
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT		6,665.41		7,385.87
STOCK OF GOODS FOR RESALE		-		125.50
LESS: MONIES OWED BY THE BRANCH		<u>-</u>		<u>- 1,335.42</u>
TOTAL	£	<u>8,706.35</u>	£	<u>9,218.29</u>
PREES HEATH APPEAL FUND	£	<u>33,767.78</u>	£	<u>31,810.58</u>
TONY HATTON HONORARY BRANCH TREASURER				

These Accounts have been prepared from the returns submitted to the main society's auditors and are in accordance with the Branch's books and records. The records have been examined and verified.

**RON HATTON
HONORARY BRANCH AUDITOR**

Good news for the Brown Hairstreak

The reason for purchasing Grafton wood was an obvious one, to preserve the midlands only colony of **Brown Hairstreak**.

Grafton is the core population, but it currently occurs over a wider area, in fact we have records of eggs in 35 1km squares in the surrounding area. Unfortunately the bulk of these eggs is lost when farmers do their annual hedge flailing and historically we have been unsuccessful in persuading farmers to alter their practices. With this in mind, we asked Jane Ellis to devote some of her RDO time, to see what she could achieve.

I'm pleased to say Jane has been very successful. Through her contacts at DEFRA, Jane asked me for comments on a countryside stewardship scheme, for Richard Hocknell's farm immediately east of Grafton Wood. Jane and I had a meeting at DEFRA to discuss stewardship and the **Brown Hairstreak**, also present was the local FWAG officer and Michael Tarver, another local farmer going into stewardship on the western side of Grafton wood. It's great news that we were able to have such input into these schemes, even prescribing specific management for the most important hedgerows.

The key features of the scheme are, six metre margins to all fields allowing Blackthorn the foodplant to sucker, the favoured egg laying habitat. Cutting the hedges on a 3 year rotation, cutting at the right time of year, planting corners of fields with nectar rich plants, and areas for seed and berries for wintering birds. Another real reward of this contact was a Farming

Wildlife Advisory Group/ DEFRA event held at the 3 parishes hall at Grafton, and later on Mike Tarver's farm where we were able to advise local farmers. Incredibly almost 50 farmers paid to attend the event.

Farmers were advised on alternatives to the flail, such as hedge laying, restoring and planting hedges, and the importance of suckers. We even found them some **Brown Hairstreak** eggs!

Most of the farmers were quite receptive, some even asked us to come and survey their hedges for eggs. The event was well covered by the media, with articles appearing in Berrows journal and a farming magazine, and I did a radio interview for BBC Hereford and Worcester.

On 18th January, a group of us surveyed Coneybury Farm, 2km east of Grafton at the request of the farmer. Although his hedges were not the best, due to constant flailing we still found 28 eggs. This farm is also going into stewardship as is a third adjacent to Grafton; our recommendations have been fed back to the farmer and DEFRA, the prescription will be the same. I'm confident that, with proper management, the 28 eggs on Coneybury farm, can soon be hundreds. More importantly if more farmers go into these schemes, hopefully the **Brown Hairstreak's** range will start to increase.

Finally I'd like to remind you all that this is a fine example of the brilliant work our two RDOs are doing, well done Jane and Jenny.

• Trevor Bucknall.

Moth Migration to my garden 2003

By all accounts this year has been one of the best for moth migration for many years, with the migration websites turning red with the number of scarcities. The majority of these sightings were along the South coast, which is to be expected, but personally I have recorded more sightings in Worcestershire than I have ever before. This can be partly attributed to running a Robinson trap and a Heath trap through the summer for the first time. This dramatically increased both the quantity and variety of moths recorded in my garden compared to just operating a Heath trap. Roughly I recorded a 100% increase in quantity, and a 25% increase in variety.

The first migrant moth I recorded was a **Silver Y**

in the third week of May, more of which later. Some of the best memories from the summer did not involve the traps at all. In late June in the early evening sunlight I had one of those "wish I had my camera moments", when I got close to a **Humming-bird Hawk moth**. This was busy feeding on a patch of Knapweed in a remote part of the farm. It was feeding intently, oblivious to my presence, its long tongue clearly visible probing into the purple flowers. I saw this species in my garden on two occasions later in the summer. Once I happened to look out of my kitchen window at lunchtime and one was hovering in front of a patch of Verbena close to the glass. Another sighting was a very rapid affair when the insect flew past me, it had to be a **Humming-bird** it could not be anything else.

Another highlight of the summer was finding my first **Convolvulus Hawk** moth in the bottom of the Robinson trap during the middle of August. This female was enormous compared with anything else I had caught that night; the large black eyes were particularly striking. A week later I was inspecting a trap, when another **Convolvulus** came flying into the garden. It looked bigger still with its wings outstretched. It was flying over my single white flowered Nicotiana plant, which was giving out a heady scent attracting the moth to the long trumpet shaped flowers. My third encounter was of a male caught during early October. This specimen had much more markings than the female, almost looking like another species.

The hot weather during July was beginning to bite into my family's farming operation. In particular the early Stick bean crop was suffering from heat stress and a drop in demand. At this time we began to notice some holes appear in the leaves of the plants. I identified the cause to be the caterpillars of the **Silver Y** moth after some searching, as they were not easy to find. The black form of the caterpillar was also present. Unfortunately they then began to feed on the developing bean trusses, taking small bites out of different beans, making each damaged one unsaleable.

This problem, which we had not experienced before, resulted in a significant financial loss to the business.

During this hot summer period a succession of unusual migrants were appearing in the garden traps. This included five records of **Bordered Straw**, and six separate **Small Mottled Willows**. The **Vestal** turned up on five occasions. This pretty yellow moth with a contrasting pinkish sash was always a delight to see. The colouring of the cross-band varied in the **Vestals**, apparently caused by the temperature experienced by the pupae as they developed. The very hot and sultry night of the eighth of August produced a **Scarce Bordered Straw**, the first of three, and also my first record of the **Gem**. This time also saw movement of more unusual local moths and I recorded **Archers Dart** and the **Peacock** moth at this time.

Migrant moths continued to appear right through the autumn and into early winter. The Robinson trap, which I ran on a mild night on the eighteenth of November, attracted a **Dark Sword-grass**, a **Rusty-dot Pearl** and a **Rush Veneer**. A very interesting year all round for migrant moths, but not quite so good for stick bean growing.

• Michael Southall

A year in the North

After putting the phone down on the initial call from Richard Southwell, I had been left with the impression of there being very few records, and a large gap in the North of the county for the Millennium Atlas. What could be done? The gauntlet had been thrown down and without realising it at the time I'd accepted the challenge. But where to start? Who had been out there recording in the past?

The first task was to get the individual recorders to meet and for me to get to know them. Fortunately, I'd been sent a membership list for the area. With the support of Dave Jackson and Richard it was decided to hold an inaugural meeting in February of 2003 to promote butterfly and moth recording and the sharing of information. As many of the members lived in or around the Staffordshire Moorlands, the meeting was to be held at Consall Nature Park, near Leek. I woke up on the morning of the meeting with more than a few butterflies in my stomach - well it was too cold for them to be elsewhere! Several thoughts were going through my head. Would it be a success? Had I provided enough refreshments.

I needn't have worried. The meeting turned out to be a huge success with over 40 people attending. After initial introductions a brief presentation was given by Dave Jackson giving details of species that we were particularly interested in people recording. This was followed by a short coffee break and then an open forum for any questions individuals may have had. Members of the public and organisations including Staffordshire County Council, RSPB and English Nature were represented.

As well as the usual recording of butterflies and moths at Consall and the surrounding area, much of my time was taken up by being involved in projects relating to two specific species, one being a butterfly, the other a moth. The species in question were the **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** and the **Common Fan-foot**.

The **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** is first mentioned at Consall in the original 1982 survey before the Nature Park had been created. It was believed by the late Richard Warren, to be

breeding in a small glade on the eastern side of Hollins. After these initial records it was thought that the colony became extinct. Then in 1997 a singleton was observed by myself. Little did I realise at the time the significance of this sighting. This was only to occur to me after several questions as to whether I was sure of what I had seen? Since then isolated individuals have been seen in Consall Nature Park but only ever basking or nectaring.

It was after these last few observations that I was contacted by Jenny Joy, who, having done work on this species in the Wyre Forest was particularly interested to hear of this location, as it was only previously known at 3 sites in Staffordshire. The result of an initial meeting held on 2 November between English Nature, RSPB, Staffordshire County Council and Butterfly Conservation was a project to be carried out during 2003. This was to record firstly the abundance of violets (both Dog and Marsh) on the chosen sites, secondly the density of Bracken and lastly, where the violets had been in a favourable position, search for the adult butterfly.

As well as filling in survey forms, two dates, one at the beginning and one in late June were chosen to look for adults at potentially viable sites. One of the main aims was to determine whether there was a breeding colony still present in the Churnet Valley or whether all post 1997 records were of just wandering individuals. Despite a huge effort from interested individuals, no fritillaries were seen on the two dates, although suitable areas of habitat were identified. These are to be looked at in the near future for the possibility of managing them for this species. As for the location of the breeding colony - that remains a mystery!

My involvement with regards to the **Common Fan-foot** project happened quite by accident. Through previous communications many readers will know of Dave Grundy's work on this species in the Wyre Forest. Whilst he was doing the research an old record from the Churnet Valley was discovered. As a result of the method of snapping oak branches taught to me by Dave the presence of **Common Fan-foot** at Consall Nature Park was confirmed.

• James Hill

Moth Trapping at Crown East Heritage Woodland Worcester

It all started when a friend invited me for a stroll around a wood followed by something to eat. It sounded like a good way to spend an afternoon to me and so I accepted the invitation. That is getting on for ten years ago now. Since meeting Phil and Kim Westwood, the owners of the wood, I've become a regular visitor as that first time was such a rewarding experience. With Phil's ever increasing knowledge as a woodsman and Kim's ever expanding menu, there is always something new to see, learn or try. It's always been worth every penny. On my early visits, the wood seemed a dark and overcrowded place. Since then, I've been able to see the results of Phil's hard work and now the wood has been opened up enormously. Everything now feels as though it's got room to breathe as the management plan has taken shape. It's been fantastic to see the wood develop and experience it in all its different seasons.

Over the years, Phil and Kim have become more like friends than woodland guide and cook. So, when one day I mentioned something about moth nights and Phil said that that was one area he knew nothing about but would love to find out what was in the wood, I said that I would see if I could get somebody down to the wood as I didn't have the expertise myself. After a couple

of years trying to get somebody to help, I finally thought I'd found the answer. Unfortunately, promises made were not kept and I was back to square one. Events took a desperate turn as I learned that Phil and Kim may have to sell the wood if they didn't obtain planning permission to build a Visitor Centre with living accommodation on their land adjacent to the wood. So, it was now or never if I was going to get the wood moth-trapped. I made some pleading phone calls and finally managed to recruit a few people to help find out what was in the wood. At the beginning of May 2003, four of us made our way to the wood. Phil had no idea what to expect as he watched four humans "setting light" to his wood in the rain. The weather wasn't great with the rain clearing to cool, cloudless-skies but it was not going to put us off as it had taken me so long to get anybody here.

That first night proved successful, sixteen species were recorded and Phil had gained an insight into what would be happening once a month until at least the Autumn. In the end, a further six trapping nights have taken place with around 300 species being recorded. Two of them are Nationally Notable, namely, **Silver Cloud** and **Waved Black**. Also, over 25 species new to the 10km square were found.

Phil is now hooked on moth trapping and even looks forward to our visits. Also, he is hoping to arrange a public event in 2004 to include some of Kim's delicious cooking. I imagine that' ll be worth every penny too. These moth trapping sessions would not have been possible without great assistance from Neil and Corinna Gregory, for help with the Branch generator. Special thanks must also go to the people who helped with the recording: Tony Simpson, Dave Grundy, Jeff and Elaine Rush, Nigel, Richard and Philip Stone and last but not least Alan Prior who managed to get me home in time to go to work after some very late nights/early mornings.

Thanks to you all.

• Val Weston

P.S. The wood is still under threat if planning permission is not granted. Hopefully, a favourable decision will be taken in early 2004 and the wood can remain in caring hands.

Visitors please note that there is a charge for any of the varied events (moth night, badger watching, butterfly spotting), to include refreshments. Tel: Kim or Phil 01905-425645 ed.

Butterfly Recording after the Millennium Atlas

Since the Millennium Atlas (M.A.) of UK butterfly records was completed, Head Office has continued to update records collected countrywide from members. The normal course of events is that members send paper records for the year to the Branch Recorder (me). The Branch recorder uses a software package called "Levana" to save the records on disc and the digitised data is sent to Head Office. Some members appear to think that we are not collecting data any more. In fact we have data for every year back to 1980 and intend to continue collecting. Butterfly Conservation hopes to compile a set of maps for the five

Year	Records	Tetrads
1999	27079	1458
2000	17850	441
2001	11349	367
2002	19158	506
2003	17550	524

whereas the detailed transect recording would be preferable for studying flight periods etc. By the way, a new member, Peter Branson from Shropshire, but lately from Dorset, sent in more records in 2003 than anybody else and saw many different butterflies on a lot of sites - congratulations Peter.

Year	Records	Tetrads
1999	17229	1450
2000	5234	414
2001	3909	349
2002	5522	478
2003	7625	501

The Levana data input package has recently been rewritten to run under Windows (rather than MSDOS). A noteworthy change is that butterfly quantities can now be recorded either in the A,B,C,D,E categories or as numbers (For details see the recording form included with this Newsletter). Personally I prefer the numbers because of the greater precision below 10, although they do take longer to enter (especially when some joker reckons to have counted 1263 **Silver-studded Blues!**). Butterfly names are also laid out rather differently in the new Levana and I have altered the recording form to match the new layout exactly. This should make little difference to the recorder but data entry for me should be speedier and more accurate. Old hands will notice the addition of **Wood White, Clouded Yellow, High Brown Fritillary** and others. Happy butterfly spotting to all.

years after the M.A. This is 2000 to 2004 and so N.B. this year is the last year for inclusion in this. W.M. Branch 'casual' recording dropped very dramatically in 2000 after the big effort in 1999, the last M.A. year (table 1). Since then both records and tetrads covered have increased although obviously we shall not be able to get data comparable to the busy years of 1995-1999. We are now able for the first time to add transect records to the Levana database. Table 2 shows how the transects have added a huge number of records but almost nothing in the way of tetrads. Thus you can see that, if you want information on the distribution of butterflies, you definitely need the 'casual' data,

• Jim Chance

National Macro-moth Recording Scheme (NMMRS) Day

On January 10th 2004 a meeting was held at Warwick University to discuss the proposed NMMRS. This is currently undergoing consultation lead by Mark Tunmore and Adrian Spalding. The scheme is a collaboration between Butterfly Conservation, English Nature, the British Entomological and Natural History Society and the Heritage Lottery Fund.

It was a very popular meeting with nearly 100 attendees from all over the country. There was good representation from the West Midlands together with various county recorders, enthusiasts and professionals from the mothing world.

The day started with talks from Rothamstead Insect Survey about their recording efforts. They highlighted some results from their studies, such as the worrying decline in **Garden Tigers**. There was also a talk about various other current national recording schemes. Tony Davis also went into detail about his Pyralid Scheme. He emphasised the difficulties of managing such a scheme, but also the benefits of a

national perspective. The talks then moved on to moth recording in Britain and the proposals for the new NMMRS. Adrian Spalding talked about why and how we record moths, data ownership, ways of storing and validating records and the issue of confidentiality.

The afternoon was a more general discussion. The presenters lead various questions about recording methods, verification and who should direct the creation of the scheme. Butterfly Conservation was felt to have a very strong lead in this.

The NMMRS is now at the stage of waiting for funding to be agreed from the Heritage Lottery Fund. Details of scheme will be fed through the recording networks and can also be found at www.mothrecording.org.uk. It was a stimulating day and enabled lots of discussion with people face-to-face who normally converse by phone, letter or email

- Neil Gregory

National Moth Night 2004

This year's National Moth Night will take place on 22nd May 2004. The focus has been made broader this year to include day-flying moths. The overall targets are **False Mocha**, **Narrow-bordered Bee Hawkmoth** and **Netted Mountain Moth**. There are records for **False Mocha** in the past 20 years from the region so this may be a possibility.

We would welcome input from as many people as possible with records from people's garden and local patches. The records can be passed directly to the organisers (Atropos), your county

moth recorder for national collation or myself.

This is a great opportunity to help a national scheme gain a snap shot of the species flying on this one day.

For information see www.nationalmoth.info

For details of events see the final pages of this newsletter.

- Neil Gregory

Moth Identification: 2256 The Satellite *Eupsilia transversa*

The **Satellite** moth is a common species and is widely distributed. Its general appearance is a slightly variable brown colour. More specifically it has a clearly defined orange or white mark in the middle of each forewing (known as the reniform stigmata). This mark has two smaller dots of the same colour slightly further down the wing resembling planetary moons or satellites.

You can readily see the adults at light and also at sugar. They fly from September to April during the slightly warmer spells. The peak

times to see the adult moth are at the start of November and in March. The larva feeds on various deciduous trees and interestingly it is reported to have some carnivorous tendencies towards other larvae.

The **Satellite** is a moth worth seeing due to this unusual wing patterning.

- Neil Gregory

West Midlands Branch on tour

It all started as a celebration of the West Midlands branch's 21st birthday back in 2000. Someone, and I can't remember now who to blame, it might even have been me, suggested as a one-off that we should organise a trip abroad. Anyway, whoever suggested it, it fell to me to organise things and eventually a group of ten branch members set sail for Spain in late June to visit the Picos Mountains and the Pyrenees. A good time was had by all and that I thought was that. But no, traditions rather quickly establish themselves in the West Midlands and the following year another trip was planned - this time to Bulgaria. After this, there was no stopping us; Spring 2002 saw us heading for the exotic climes of Trinidad and Tobago followed by a return visit in July to the Pyrenees where we saw an incredible 142 species in a fortnight. Last year, having clearly acquired a taste for both the former Soviet block and tropical rainforest, it was the turn of Hungary and Ecuador.

I don't think anyone is really sure of the total number of butterflies, let alone moths, found in Ecuador but 2,000 species seems to be the often quoted number. As with many tropical countries, a good field guide is not yet available and we were fortunate in finding the next best thing - a knowledgeable and friendly guide in Harold Greenway. Harold is a young American who has lived in Ecuador for many years and runs his own research station at Yanayacu in the eastern Andes. With his help, we were able to put names to around 300 species of butterfly over the course of our 18 day stay plus a similar number of birds. Butterflies in Ecuador have not so far been given English names so for each species we were having to note the Latin name - something that took some getting used to. The constant question (from me) of "How do you spell that?" became the running joke of the holiday.

We stayed mainly in purpose built bird lodges which were generally of a very good standard and offered quality food. The variety of delicious fruit juices on offer was impressive and Ecuador is definitely the place to go to if you are partial to soup! Most of the lodges were surrounded by hummingbird feeders and we were constantly bowled over by the fabulous array of hummers they attracted. Some of the very names like Violet-tailed Sylph, Purple-crowned Fairy, Mountain Avocetbill, Golden-breasted Puffleg and so on were every bit as exotic as their appearance. The location of the various lodges

was often very stunning with wonderful views over areas of cloud forest with a backdrop of the majestic Andes themselves. The proximity to good habitat also meant we were close to some very good butterflies and birds and we had no need to walk far to see a wide range of species. Everyone I'm sure had their own personal highlights as far as butterflies were concerned. Coming from Europe, the two families which impressed me most with their sheer colours and diversity were the **Skippers** (very few dull brown jobs in Ecuador) and the **Metalmarks**. The latter were just staggering and we soon learned that if a butterfly was not obviously a member of a particular family then it was probably a **Metalmark!** **Heliconids** were also pretty impressive and the sheer numbers of **Glasswings** (and the difficulties of identifying them) was mind-boggling. Nets are rather frowned on in Ecuador but discreet use, combined with a digital camera, meant that we were eventually able to identify a goodly proportion of what we saw at least to genus level. Moths were another matter and, although we saw some pretty spectacular examples, we have so far been able to put a name to a mere handful. Often, our overnight accommodation was the only light source in tens of miles and pulled in moths in huge numbers. **Noctuids**, **Geometers**, and **Arctiids** were all well represented, while **Hawkmoths** were relatively common and we also saw several examples of the very large **Saturniidae** family. The group's interest in Lepidoptera was obviously a matter of some bafflement to most Ecuadorians who only normally have experience of British and American birders but they were eager to please and one morning a member of staff from where we were staying produced a large **Atlas Moth** which was the size of my hand. Fortunately, no local was around to see the group on their hands and knees a few days later taking a photo of an **Adelpha** butterfly on a dead rat!

The middle part of the holiday was spent deep in the Amazonian rainforest which was quite an experience. Even getting there was an adventure in its own right with internal flights, a lengthy boat trip down the Napo river, a walk through the jungle on a boardwalk and finally a paddle in a dug out canoe to our destination. It was amazing to reach such a remote but peaceful spot with the reward of incredible starlit nights and just the sounds of the jungle around us.

The trip was not without its physical challenges

too. The combination of climate, the altitude and the travelling could be exhausting at times and there were a few hairy (and for some of us wet) moments crossing swollen streams after a tropical downpour in the jungle. High on most people's list, however, would be the pre-dawn departure to a Cock of the Rock lek high in the hills above Mindo. I will spare the details but, for some group members, by the time they had made their way to the viewing point above the lek, their faces were every bit as scarlet as the bird itself.

Apart from the staggering diversity of butterflies, there were many other highlights to look back on. For those with a head for heights, the canopy tower in the Amazon opened up an entire new world of parrots, macaws and many other birds that one certainly would have no chance of seeing at ground level. A night canoe ride, armed with a flashlight and surrounded by fishing bats, enabled us to see Caiman and also a Three-toed Sloth. An early morning trip along

the Napo allowed us to watch hundreds of brightly coloured Parrots visiting a clay lick. Later on in the holiday, at the Pacific coast, we were able to see Green Iguanas and, on a visit to an island offshore, the hugely comical Blue-footed Boobies. For many perhaps, particularly those who had not seen them before, the one single and abiding memory of the whole trip was to witness at close hand a group of Humpback Whales - just magical!

I would certainly recommend Ecuador for its sheer biodiversity and would be pleased to provide further details of our itinerary for anyone thinking about organising their own trip. 2004 sees the West Midlands tour bus head for central Asia and the incredible unspoilt wilderness that is Kazakhstan. There are still a few places left if anyone is interested.

• Mike Williams
mike@stagborough.fsnet.co.uk

Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary Project at Consall and Coombes 2003

This project is just the sort BC wants to encourage in the West Midlands region. It involved a number of organisations (including Staffordshire County Council, EN, RSPB, Staffordshire Wildlife Trust and BC), used the knowledge of local people, and increased our knowledge of the potential for **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** in the area. The only thing it did not really deliver on was increasing the number of records for this species (but then you can't win them all!). The project started off with a meeting at Consall Nature Park in November 2002 where it was decided that the whole of the Coombes Valley and Churnet Valley area should be considered as one potential unit for this butterfly and searches should be made in 2003 for potential breeding areas as well as for **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** adults. Following on from this meeting Jenny then devised a recording sheet to measure certain characteristics of violets (common dog violet and marsh violet) wherever they were found. Although these forms temporarily became the bane of life for the volunteer recorders (mentioning no names here) they did subsequently provide very useful information on the suitability of habitats for the butterfly.

For Jenny this project then gave her an opportunity to visit part of the region she had never seen before. Three days searching for violets with limited success could have been quite disappointing but the scenery here is fantastic, the gradients are challenging and

Jenny certainly felt a lot fitter than when she started. The other striking thing about this area is the mosaic of habitats present - dense woodlands, marshy fields, thick bracken, grazed pastures, canal edges, river, railway - this area has it all!

Two West Midlands Branch field visits in June then resulted in the opportunity to meet local recorders, enabled us to talk to them about their local knowledge as well as giving us further a further opportunity to record the butterfly which was the focus of this attention. Although we did not unfortunately record any **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** during these two visits which were both in ideal whether conditions, we did on the second visit finally see a large area of potentially suitable habitat (marshy area with abundant marsh violet) which we hope to investigate further next year.

In brief, the results of combined efforts in 2003 can be summarised as follows:

a) A total of four adult **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** were recorded in the Churnet Valley (and none in the Coombes Valley) in 2003. This was despite the fact that 2003 was in general a very good year for the **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** in the West Midlands region. These four sightings, taken together with previous records and the identification of only one likely breeding area, suggest that the **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** may be quite a mobile

species in this part of Staffordshire.

b) As the majority of past and recent records for **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** at Consall Wood relate to one small wet glade which supports marsh violet, it may be that this is the only breeding habitat in the area. However, as the extent of potential breeding habitat here is very small and it is unlikely that it could be significantly enlarged, it is difficult to see how this glade could support a viable **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** colony in the long term.

c) Very few patches of potentially suitable habitat for the **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** were located within RSPB land in the Coombes Valley area in 2003. Violets tended to be uncommon and only very patchily distributed. When they were present they were frequently in heavily shaded areas under trees, bramble and other scrub. Virtually all violets identified were found to be dog violet. No large areas with violets were identified with most violet patches being tiny and <10m² in size.

d) Four possible breeding areas for **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** were identified by James within the Consall Nature Park area. Although these possible breeding areas were much larger than those identified in the Coombes Valley, they commonly consisted of shaded dog violets. The one small patch of marsh violet identified in a wet glade did appear to be suitable breeding habitat as there were some exposed leaves in a sunny sheltered position.

e) Two other potential breeding areas for the **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** were identified within the Churnet Valley area in 2003. The lack of any **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** records in these two areas is difficult to explain. Possible reasons may be that one area is too high and exposed for this species and the other marshy area is too wet due to winter flooding.

We wish to acknowledge the financial support of English Nature for this project and are particularly grateful to the local officers Jonathan Blowers and Graham Walker for their support. We are also especially grateful to the RSPB (Nick Chambers), Staffordshire County Council Ranger Service (Adrian Bell), Staffordshire Wildlife Trust (John Smith) and James Hill (Staffordshire BC) for encouraging their volunteers to become involved in this project. Volunteer recorders were Jonathan and Helen Blowers, John Bryan, Steve Dalton, Cliff Davies, David Dawson, Colin Hayes, James Hill, Roger Hill, Paul Hodgkinson, Jo Mayland, Val Riley, John Stanney and Andy White. Thanks are also due to the Scott-Montcrieffs for allowing us to have access to their land and for allowing us to use the results obtained from these site visits in our report.

Reference

Joy, J. 2003. The **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** (*Boloria selene*) in the Coombes and Churnet Valleys of Staffordshire in 2003. English Nature and Butterfly Conservation Report No. S03-42.

- Jenny Joy and James Hill

Maternity Leave - Jane Ellis (Regional Officer)

Just a quick note to let you all know that I will be starting 6 months maternity leave from 18th February.

I am happy to announce that Peter Boardman, who some of you will already know will be taking on the following pieces of contract work:

1. Organising and running a programme of training events and publicity relating to these.
2. Some items of moth work including reestablishment of the Shropshire moth group, loan of the moth trap, publicity relating to National Moth Night.
3. Distribution of display boards to venues and events
4. Work on the Brownfield sites dossier.

For all other matters please contact Jenny. My phone line and email address will not be

functioning whilst I am away, although callers will be redirected for a short period to Jenny's number. Please understand that Jenny already has a full work-load so please try not to bombard her with issues which could wait until my return.

I am sorry, to have to take a break at one of the busiest and most exciting times of year and hope that this doesn't cause too much disruption to the flow of progress myself and Jenny are making. Thank you in advance for your patience and understanding. I look forward to escaping the nappies and stepping back into the post in the autumn!!

Contact for Pete Boardman:
peperouda@btinternet.com tel: 01691 773026

Transects in 2003

2003 was a good year for butterflies on the transects with all the hot weather we enjoyed. A lot of valuable data has been collected. There is further data still to come in and I would urge anyone who hasn't sent in their data to please do it very soon. Once it has all been collated, a detailed analysis can be done for 2003. There are a few new transects and proposals for 2004 at:

Earl's Hill – Shropshire

Doward – Herefordshire

Sandwell Valley - Birmingham

Some will hopefully be resurrected too:

Perry Wood – Worcestershire

Malvern Hills South – Worcestershire

However there are a number of existing transects whose walkers are unable to carry on. If you would like to walk these transects please contact me. Your help would be very much appreciated. The walks are at:

Shelfheld Coppice - Worcestershire

Nunnery Wood – Worcestershire

Warndon - Worcestershire

Malvern Hills South - Worcestershire

Many thanks to those people who walked a transect in 2003; your data is very valuable. I hope that this year will be just as fruitful and that you will enjoy the 2004 season.

• Neil Gregory

Regional Officer Report

In the past few months, my emphasis has been on writing reports, commenting on reports written by contractors and continuing to liaise with other organisations to ensure appropriate survey, monitoring and management work gets carried out on the ground. As this process of report writing is still not complete, I plan to update the regional list of reports available for loan to branch members in the next issue of this newsletter. A refreshing change from all this report writing was a course entitled 'all change in agricultural support' at Losehill in Derbyshire at the end of January. This course was designed to show what the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP) review was going to mean for British farmers and who the winners and losers might be in the proposed new Entry Level Scheme (ELS) and Higher Level Schemes which are due to come in next year. This is an area where BC could have considerable input both nationally and locally but we need to ensure our efforts are targeted for maximum effect. Following on from this course I gave a presentation on the **Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary** at a seminar organised at the Shropshire Wildlife Trust last week. The aim of this meeting was to get together a wide variety of the organisations already working within the county (including DEFRA, the Environment Agency, EN, ESA officers etc.) and to make them more aware of the sort of work that is currently going on. I felt this seminar was very successful and I made a number of new contacts which I hope to be able to work more closely with in the future.

It is that time of year again when it is time to organise work for the summer field season. We

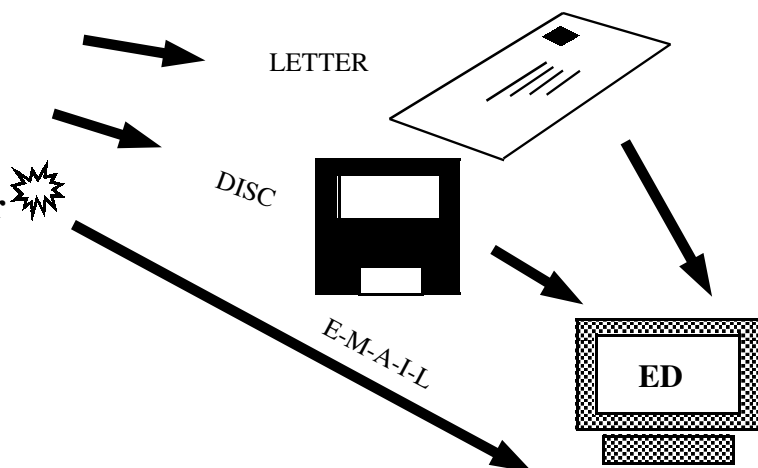
already have several exciting projects planned for 2004 including further work on the **High Brown Fritillary** in the Malverns, survey for **Argent & Sable** and **Common Fan-foot** in several counties, an update of the Regional Action Plan and a number of training days organised to cover a wide range of interest (see the events listings). As Jane will be on maternity leave from the RO post for the next six months this will invariably cut down what we can achieve as I will be covering some of the areas of the job normally undertaken by Jane. However, we are fortunate in that Peter Boardman has agreed to work with BC for the next six months and will be covering specific areas of the job. These work areas include publicity, events, moths and brown field sites. I am very much looking forward to working more closely with Pete over the next 6 months and I am sure we will work well together. Good luck to Jane with her second child - maternity leave for number two is much harder than working!

I have not written a conservation corner for this issue of the newsletter first due to lack of time and second for what I understand to be a lack of space (which must be a good position for the Branch to be in!). As David Jackson has now kindly agreed to take over chairing the WMB conservation committee, conservation corner will now be a task that falls to him - so I have missed my final chance. But I am handing over to very capable hands and I would like to take this opportunity to wish David all the best with the chair in the future.

• Jenny Joy

Instructions for Contributors

Deadline for Autumn Newsletter contributions is Saturday 3 July 2004



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 or attach to your email as plain text (e.g. "save as" a ".txt" or ".rtf" file under MS Word, not as a ".doc" file) as some formatted texts received recently, especially by email, have proved to be totally unreadable and, unlike a .txt or .rtf file, could contain viruses**, which frighten me to death. Newer software often produces files which are incompatible with older software even of the same 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.

v Christine Chance
harbornchristine@aol.com

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."

Warwickshire moth nights & guided butterfly walks 2004

- Sunday. 25th April. Meet 1.30pm. **Whitacre Heath.** Meet in car park, SP209931. North West Warwickshire. Target species: **Orange Tip, Peacock, Comma, and G.V. White.** Brilliant for birders and good for day flying moths. After the walk I shall have a meal at a local Inn before the moth night at 7.00pm. All are welcome to join me. Contact: Chris Johnson—024 76744207.
- Sunday. 25th April. Meet 7.00pm. **Whitacre Heath. Moth Night.** Meet in car park, SP209931. North West Warwickshire. Contact: Chris Johnson—024 76744207.
- Sunday. 16th May. Meet 11.00am. **Draycote Water.** Near Dunchurch. Meet at Rangers Office near main entrance, SP467692. Bring packed lunch or have lunch at Shoulder of Mutton Inn - Grandborough. Target species: **Grizzled Skipper.** Contact: Phil Parr—01788 578272.
- Sunday. 16th May. Meet 1.00pm. **Wolfhampcote.** Meet at Shoulder of Mutton Inn, Main St.—Grandborough. SP493670. Note! Unless you know the site best to meet at Inn. Or 2.00pm meet at site SP524650. Target species: **Green Hairstreak.** Contact: Phil Parr—01788 578272.
- Saturday. 22nd May. Meet 2.30pm. **Bishops Itchington.** Meet on Ladbroke Rd, SP394581. Target species: **Small Blue, Dingy Skipper** & Day flying moths. Contact: David Brown—01789 840295.
- Saturday. 22nd May. Meet 8.30pm. **National Moth Night. National Herb Centre,** Warmington. SP410473. Half a mile south of Warmington on B4100 Warwick to Banbury Rd. Extensive Nature reserve adjoining Herb Centre containing mature deciduous woodland and rough calcareous grassland. At 10pm there will be a special broth with herb bread served in the restaurant. (Reduced price for those helping with traps and generators.) Contact: David Brown—01789 840295.
- Sunday. 23rd May. Meet 2.00pm. **Feldon Forest Farm.** Meet at entrance to Frankton grounds, SP419697. Contact: Mike Slater—01788 335881.
- Sunday. 30th May. Meet 1.30pm. **Alvecote Pools & Pooley Fields.** Meet at Alvecote Priory car park, SK251043. Target species: **Dingy Skipper & Small Heath.** Superb for Dragonflies & Damselflies. Contact: Chris Johnson—024 76744207
- Saturday. 12th June. Meet 2.30pm. **Ashlawn Cutting.** Meet in allotment car park on Ashlawn road bridge, SP516732. Target species: **Forester moth & Brown Argus.** Contact: Phil Parr—01788 578272.
- Saturday. 19th June. Meet 9.00pm. **Burton Dasset Hills Country Park. Moth Night.** Meet in car park at hill top, SP398519. 6 miles north west of Banbury. This previously un-recorded grassland site in the South of County has potential for new records. The **Orange-tailed Clearwing** was recently discovered here. Contact: David Brown—01789 840295.
- Saturday. 3rd July. Warwickshire Branch. 9.00pm. **Draycote Water—Moths this time.** Meet at Rangers Office near main entrance, SP467692. One mile North of Kites Hardwick. A426 Southam to Rugby Rd. A first visit to this extensive wildlife habitat. Contact: David Brown—01789 840295.
- Sunday. 11th July. Warwickshire Branch. 2.00pm. **Ufton Fields.** Meet in car park, SP378615. Target species: **White-letter Hairstreak.** Good site for Orchids. Contact: Chris Johnson 024 76744207
- Sunday. 18th July. Warwickshire Branch. 2.00pm. **Draycote Water.** Public walk. With Phil & Severn Trent Ranger. Meet at Rangers Office near main entrance, SP467692. Target species: **Marbled White & White-letter Hairstreak.** Contact: Phil Parr—01788 578272.
- Sunday. 25th July. Warwickshire Branch. 2.00pm. **Ryton Pools and Country Park.** Meet at First public car park at Ryton Pool Country Park, SP374728. Species: **Silver Washed Fritillary, White Admiral, Purple Hairstreak & hopefully Wood White.** Contact: Mike Slater—01788 335881.
- Sunday. 15th August. Warwickshire Branch. 2.00pm. **Brandon Wood.** Meet at entrance to wood, SP400771. No car park so parking is on road that is on a bus route so be careful. Contact: Chris Johnson—024 76744207
- Saturday. 21st August. Warwickshire Branch. 7.30pm. **Ufton Fields—Moth Night** Meet in car park, SP378615. Half a mile south of Ufton. Pools, Limestone grassland and woodland. It is sixteen years since last Warwickshire mothers meeting here. Contact: David Brown—01789 840295.
- Chris Johnson: - Field Trip Co-ordinator for Warwickshire Branch - Butterfly Conservation.

Moth Programme 2004

Contacts

Neil and Corinna Gregory: 01905 771623
Mike Williams: 01299 824860
Rosemary Winnall: 01299 266929 (day) 01299 266489 (eve)

February

Sat, 21/02/04, Wyre, Map 138 SO749740, 20:00, General Recording - Indoor Meeting. Contact Rosemary Winnall

April

Sat, 03/04/04, Highclere, Map 150 SP011479, 19:00, **Barred Tooth Stripe** on wild privet. Note parking is very limited so please confirm before attending. Bring a torch, net and any **actinic lights**. Contact Neil Gregory

Fri, 23/04/04, Wyre, Map 138 SO749740, 19:00, General Recording, Meet at the visitors centre. Location to be decided depending on weather conditions. Contact Rosemary Winnall

May

Sat, 1/5/04 Turnastone Farm Herefds SO358365 20:00 moth night; off B4348 Cleehonger to Peterchurch Rd. west of Hereford. Contact Jeff Andrews 01432 870301

Sat, 08/05/04, Grafton, Map 150 SO963557, 19:00, General Recording, Meet at 3 Parishes Hall by the church, Flyford Flavell, off A422 Worcester to Stratford road. NB strong boots essential as there will be a walk to the site. Contact Neil Gregory

Sat, 22/05/04, Trench Wood, Map 150 SO928589, 11:00, Day time event looking for **Drab Looper** and other day fliers as part of National Moth Night. Contact Neil Gregory

Sat, 22/05/04, Trench Wood, Map 150 SO928589, 20:00, **National Moth Night** event looking for **False Mocha**. Meet in reserve car park. Contact Neil Gregory

Sat, 29/05/04, Monkwood, Map 150 SO804606, 11:00, Day time event looking for **Drab Looper**. Meet in reserve car park. Contact Neil Gregory

June

Sat, 05/06/04, Shrawley Wood, Map 150 SO801664, 11:00, Day time event looking for **Drab Looper**. Meet in car park at end of lane leading up to gated entrance of wood directly opposite New Inn. Contact Mike Williams

Fri, 11/06/04, Wyre, Map 138 SO749740, 20:00, General Recording, Meet at the visitors centre. Location to be decided depending on weather conditions. Contact Rosemary Winnall

Fri 11/06/04, Moth recording and ID 7:00-11:00pm, Breidon Forest, Powys & Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, **Booking essential**. Contact Kelly Thomas 08707 706153.

Tue 15/6/04 Cannock Chase Forest Enterprise Visitor Centre at Lady Hill SK019111 10:00 am Day-flying moths of meadow & heathland. **Booking essential**. Contact Jenny Joy 01952 249325

Sun 20/6/04, 4/7/04 Beginner's Moth Course, Wyre Forest Discovery Centre, SO749740, 10am to 4pm each day £10 per day, £15 if you book for both days. Contact Dave Grundy 0121-446-5446

July

Fri, 09/07/04, Wyre, Map 138 SO749740, 20:00, General Recording, Meet at the visitors centre. Location to be decided depending on weather conditions. Contact Rosemary Winnall

Sat, 10/07/04, Grafton, Map 150 SO963557, 20:00, General Recording, Meet at 3 Parishes Hall by the church, Flyford Flavell, off A422 Worcester to Stratford road. NB strong boots essential as there will be a walk to the site. Contact Neil Gregory

Sun 11/7/04 Beginner's Moth Course, Lower Smite Farm, Hindlip, Worcester, 10am to 4pm £14. It will be part of the Worcestershire Wildlife Trust events programme. Contact Dave Grundy 0121-446-5446

Tue 13/7/04 Staffs wildlife HQ SK023203. Moth ID course. **Booking essential**. Contact Jenny Joy 01952 249325

Sat 17/7/04 RSPB, Sandwell Valley looking for bats and moths SP935028 Running from 9pm till 12 or later; small charge for refreshments. Contact Dave Grundy 0121-446-5446

Sat, 24/07/04, Hanley Dingle, Map 138 SO698666, 20:00, General Recording, Meet where track goes off minor road, 1 mile north of Stanford on Teme. Strong boots are needed because of the steep sided dingle. Contact Neil Gregory

Sat 24/7/04 Woodgate Valley Country Park, Birmingham Public event run by Birmingham City Council including a small barbecue and moths, running from about 8.30pm till 12, small charge for refreshments. Contact Dave Grundy 0121-446-5446

August

Sat, 07/08/04, Tiddesley Wood, Map 150 SO929462, 20:00, General Recording. Meet in reserve car park west of Pershore, Contact Neil Gregory

Fri, 13/08/04, Wyre, Map 138 SO749740, 20:00, General Recording, Meet at the visitors centre. Location to be decided depending on weather conditions. Contact Rosemary Winnall

Sat, 21/08/04, Monkwood, Map 150 SO804606, 20:00, General Recording, Meet in reserve car park. Contact Neil Gregory

September

Fri, 10/09/04, Hartlebury, Map 138 SO822704, 19:00, Heathland specialities. Meet in car park. Contact Rosemary Winnall

Sat, 18/09/04, Grafton, Map 150 SO963557, 19:00, General Recording, Meet at 3 Parishes Hall by the church, Flyford Flavell, off A422 Worcester to Stratford road. NB strong boots essential as there will be a walk to the site. Contact Neil Gregory

October

Sat 9/10.04 Wyre Forest Visitor Centre SO749740, 10.00 Leaf Miner Day . Tutor: Dr Tony Simpson

Dates for your Diary: Butterfly events etc.

Please Note that several planned events are currently incomplete as to venue or time. They are listed below

8 May - Follow up to 2003 New Members day, an introduction to simple recording and monitoring focussing on Dingy Skipper and Green Hairstreak. Venue to be confirmed. Please contact Pete Boardman for more details.

10 July - Bunkers Hill Wood, Staffordshire - Woodland butterflies. Joint event with Woodland Trust looking at recording and management for woodland butterflies. For more information please contact Pete Boardman.

12 July - Chalk Carpet and Dingy Skipper training event. Bishops Hill, Warwickshire. Looking at i.d and management requirements for the two species. Aimed at those who likely to record or carry out transects on potential sites. For more details contact Pete Boardman.

June - Wood White training event. To look at the ecology and management requirements of this species. Please contact Pete Boardman for more details.

Sat, 26 June, Possible event at Wood Norton near Evesham in the meadow. Contact Neil Gregory.

FEBRUARY

15 February (Sunday) Conservation Task - Prees Heath Meet 11.00 am (note later start time) at parking area east of A49. OS Map 126 GR. SJ558367. Heather management for the **Silver-studded Blue**. Travel expenses can be paid.

21 February (Saturday) Conservation Task - Haugh Woods - meet 10.30 am at main car park GR SO593365

22 February (Sunday) Conservation Task Trench Wood. Meet 10.00 am at reserve entrance on Sale Green—Dunhampstead road. OS map 150 GR SO929588

29 February (Sunday) Mapmate Training day

11.00 – 2.00pm Wyre Forest Discovery Centre. GR SO 749740 **Booking essential** – contact Jenny Joy 01952 249325 or email jjoy@butterfly-conservation.org

MARCH

7 March (Sunday) Conservation Task – Monkwood Meet 10.00 am in the reserve car park just off the Sinton Green-Monkwood Green road. OS map 150 GR SO803603

14 March (Sunday) Conservation Task - Grafton Wood Meet 10.00 am at Three Parishes Hall, Grafton Flyford (next to church). Just off the A422 the Worcester—Stratford Rd. OS map 150 GR SO963557

- 28 March (Sunday) Conservation Task Trench Wood.** Meet 10.00 am at reserve entrance on Sale Green—Dunhampstead road. OS map 150 GR SO929588

APRIL

- 18 April (Sunday) Grafton Wood Open Day 11.00 am to 5.00 pm.** Guided walks to see bluebells; demonstration of woodland management. Children's nature trail. Exhibitions/displays/craft stall in the hall and refreshments available. £1 per adult, children free. Meet at Three Parishes Hall, (next to the church) Grafton Flyford, GR SO963557 for further information John or Miriam Tilt tel:01386 792458

MAY

- 4 May (Tuesday) Wyre Forest** butterfly walk as part of Worcestershire Wild Life Week. Meet Lodge Hill Farm GR SO759766 11.00 am – **booking essential.** Contact Jenny Joy see 29 February
- 8 May (Saturday) Spring Meeting at Saltwells Nature Reserve** See page 2 for details
- 15 May (Saturday) Butterfly Training Workshop** - Threatened Fritillaries. Breidden Forest Powys and Preston Montford Field Studies Centre, Shrewsbury. 10.00 – 4.00 pm. **Booking essential.** Further details from Kelly Thomas (BC Wales) tel:08707 706153 or email k.Thomas.bcw@btconnect.com
- 29 May (Saturday) Chartley Moss. Green Hairstreak** also Dragonflies and Damselflies. Meet 11.am on wide grass verge north side of A518 Stafford to Uttoxeter Road see 7miles east of Stafford. GR SK022289. Bring packed lunch. Wellies advisable. Sorry no dogs. Contact James Hill 01782 610377

JUNE

- 17 June (Thursday) Hunt for Small Pearl-bordered Fritillary in Staffordshire Moorland, Consall Nature Park.** Meet Consall Visitor Centre car park GR SJ994484 10.00 am. **Booking essential.** Sorry no dogs. Contact Jenny Joy see 29 February.
- 26 June (Saturday) Wemm Moss to see davus form Large Heath and then on to Prees Heath for Silver-studded Blue.** Joint walk with East Mids and Cheshire

branches. Meet 11.am car park of Horse and Jockey pub. GR SJ464333 on B5063. Ground conditions can be wet and surface is uneven with large clumps of grass – come prepared. Bring picnic or go to pub lunch. For Prees Heath meet at southern end of site turn on unsurfaced road off A49 GR SJ558365 leader Richard Southwell tel: 01384 397066

JULY

- 4 July (Sunday) Search for White Admiral Dudmaston National Trust-** GR SO748887. Meet Dudmaston NT main car park 1.30 pm leader Adrian Miles tel: 07721 423607
- 10 July (Saturday) Butterfly walk Haugh Woods** Meet in car park at 11.00 am and 2.00 pm GR SO590360 details contact Jeff Andrews tel: 01432 870301
- 16 July (Friday) Silver-washed Fritillary Training day Wyre Forest.** Meet at Wyre Forest Discovery Centre 10.00 am GR SO749740. Morning classroom session – recording work afternoon. Leader Peter Boardman tel: 01691 773026
- 17 July (Saturday) Monkwood Discovery Day 10.am (especially for families) admission adults £1 children 50p.** Meet in the car park 10.00 am GR SO804606
- 17 July (Saturday) Ladyside Wood Manifold Valley - White Letter Hairstreak** and possibly **Brown Argus.** Meet Wetton Mill car park 1.30 pm GR SK096562. Sorry no dogs. Contact James Hill tel: 01782 610377

OCTOBER

- 9 October (Saturday) Monkwood Fungus Foray** with Diane and Tim Bateman. Meet in the car park 10.30 am (probably lasting until about 1.00 pm). Adults £1 and children 50p. GR SO804606

Committee Members:

Corinna Gregory
6 Thames Drive
Droitwich Spa
Worcs WR9 8TP
tel. 01905-771623
droitwich@btinternet.com

Mike Williams
2 Dewberry Close
Stourport
Worcs DY13 8TB
tel. 01299-824860

Ron Hatton
45 Delabere Road
Bishops Cleeve
Cheltenham
Glos GL52 4AN
tel. 01242-673923

Digby Wood
Jasmine Cottage
2 Upper Ferry lane
Callow End
Worcester WR2 4TL
tel. 01905-830391

John P Brayford
7 Coton Mount
Coton Hill

Shrewsbury
SY1 2NN
tel. 01743-270481

Phil Hopson
7 Woodhall Rd
Penn
Wolverhampton WV4 4DL

Anita Ferguson
14 Glendale Drive
Wombourne
Wolverhampton
WV5 0HD
tel. 01902-892187

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

Regional Development Officers

Dr. Jenny Joy (Shrops)
The Croft, off Haygate Rd
Wellington, Telford,
Shrops TF1 2BW
tel 01952 245684

Jane Ellis
111 Grosvenor Rd
Rugby
CV21 3LE
tel 01788 543809

Conservation Reserve Wardens

Grafton Wood

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

Monkwood

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

Trench Wood

Neil McLean
10 Hammond Close
Droitwich
Worcs WR9 7SZ
tel. 01905-795381

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION



WEST MIDLANDS BRANCH COMMITTEE AND OFFICERS

Chairman :

Dr. Ian Duncan
Midway Cottage
Upper Welland Rd
Malvern WR14 4LD
tel. 01684-568415

Vice-chairman:

Ian Hart
Laurel Cottage
Newton St. Margarets
Hereford HR2 0QN
01981-510259

Treasurer:

Tony Hatton
24 Loxley Drive
Mansfield
Nottinghamshire NG18 4FB
tel. 01623-659998

Newsletter Editor:

Dr. Christine Chance
65 Wentworth Rd
Harborne
Birmingham B17 9SS
tel. 0121-427-1706

Conservation Officers:

Dr. Jenny Joy (Shrops)
(Coordinator)
The Croft, off Haygate Rd
Wellington, Telford,
Shrops TF1 2BW
tel 01952 245684

Trevor Bucknall (Worcs)
26 Vine Street
Northwick
Worcester WR3 7DY
tel. 01905-755757

David Jackson (Staffs)
11 Hyperion Drive, Penn
Wolverhampton WV4 5QW
tel. 01902-344716

James Hill (N Staffs)
15 Parkside Drive
Maybank
Newcastle
Staffs ST5 0NL
tel. 01782-610377

Andy Nicholls (Hfds)
2 Auckland Close
Hereford HR1 1YE
tel. 01432-275834

Branch Recorder:

Jim Chance
65 Wentworth Rd
Harborne
Birmingham B17 9SS
tel. 0121-427-1706

Branch Organiser:

Richard Southwell
Sandilands
48 Whitehall Rd
Stourbridge DY8 2JT
tel. 01384-397066
(after 4pm only)

Webmaster

Nigel Stone
8 Grove Lane, Keresley End
Coventry CV7 8PN
tel. 02476 335189

Branch Secretary:

Vacant

Moth Officers:

Jeff Andrews (Herefordshire)
Meadow View
Dinedor
Hereford HR2 6LQ
tel. 01432-870301

Peter Boardman (Shropshire)
7 High St
Weston Rhyn
Shropshire SY10 7RP
tel. 01691 773026
(after 6pm please)

Neil Gregory (Worcs)
6 Thames Drive
Droitwich Spa
Worcs WR9 8TP
tel. 01905-771623
droitwich@btinternet.com

Education Officer:

Richard Lamb
Stratford-on-Avon Butterfly Farm
Tramway Walk, Swan' s Nest Lane
Stratford-on-Avon
Warks CV37 7LS
tel. 01789-299288



**Please see overleaf
for more Committee members RDOs & Conservation Reserve Wardens**



HEAD OFFICE: MANOR YARD, EAST LULWORTH, WAREHAM, DORSET BH20 5QP
THE BRITISH BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION SOCIETY LTD. (tel 01929 400209)

REGISTERED IN ENGLAND No. 2206468 REGISTERED CHARITY No. 254037