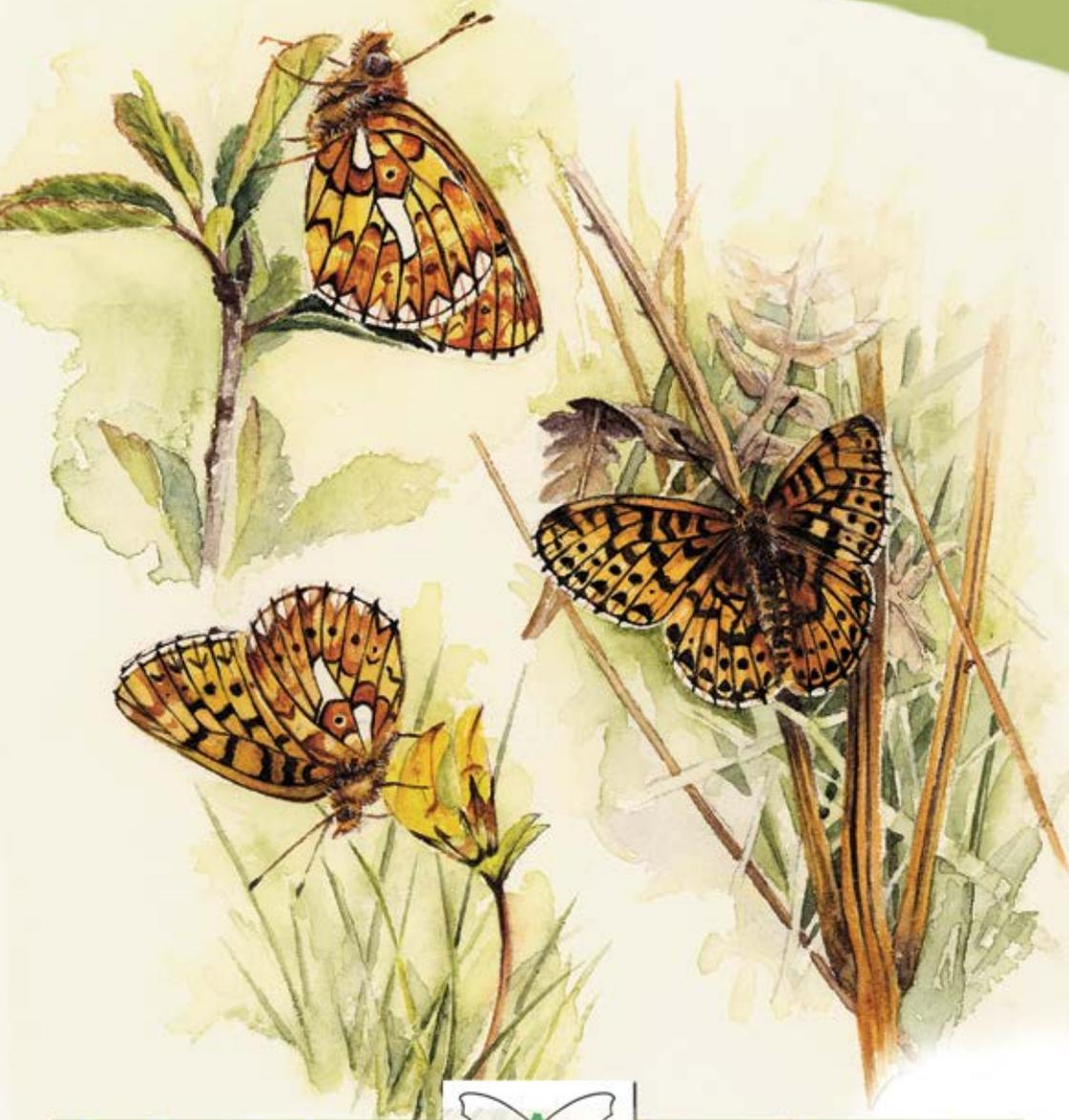


Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch



Newsletter 98



Butterfly
Conservation

April 2015

Butterfly Reserves Walks

As well as the usual 'Wednesday Wanders', we will be holding a few select events over the summer months. A day out for the family is planned at Magdalen Hill Down on Sunday 19 July from 10.30am to 2.30pm to coincide with the **Big Butterfly Count**. It's a great opportunity for the children to count butterflies, and participating in a whole raft of activities from face-painting, badge making to making your own 'megapillar' caterpillar with Abby, our Education Officer.

Wednesday Wanders on Magdalen Hill Down Meet 10.30am at SU512295

Meet in the gravel car park opposite the cemetery on Alresford Road, B3404

- 15 April** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Jayne Chapman – tel. 01962 808400
- 6 May** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Brian Fletcher – tel. 01962 882746
- 3 June** Leader: Jayne Chapman – tel. 01962 808400
- 1 July** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Jayne Chapman – tel. 01962 808400
- 5 August** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Jayne Chapman – tel. 01962 808400
- 2 September** Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Jayne Chapman – tel. 01962 808400

Walks at Bentley Station Meadow Meet at SU802433

- 27 May** **Meet at 10.30am** Leader: David Walton – tel. 07759 684513
Meet in the Forestry Commission car park off Gravel Hill Road
- 19 June** **Meet at 7.00pm** Leader: Arthur Greenwood – tel. 01962 808400
Meet in the north-east corner of Bentley Station car park

Walks at Yew Hill Meet at SU451269

Meet at the end of Old Kennels Lane at junction with Port Lane and Millers Lane

- 7 June** **Meet at 10.30am** Leader: Peter Hutchins – tel. 07895 388378
- 25 July** **Meet at 2.00pm** Leader: Brian Fletcher – tel. 01962 882746

Other walks and events on Magdalen Hill Down SU512295

- 17 July** Launch of the Big Butterfly Count
Leaders: Jenny Mallet and Jayne Chapman – tel. 01962 808400
- 19 July** **Meet at 10.30am** Leader: Peter Hutchins – tel. 07895 388378
- 19 July** **10.30am to 2.00pm Big Butterfly Count** – see above
Leaders: Jayne Chapman and Abby Sullivan – tel. 01962 808400
Meet at the top of the track between the cemetery and the stonemason's yard, off B3404, Alresford Road. SatNav. SO21 1HE
Suitable for all ages; come and help us count butterflies!



Chairman's Message

Welcome to the spring edition of the newsletter. As I write, two Brimstones have meandered through the garden in bright early spring sunshine, the first *lepidoptera* of any species I've seen this year. An indication that I need to get out more, perhaps! This time each year I'm sure most of us look forward with anticipation to the year ahead, hoping for the coming months to be warm and settled, with winds from the south to bring in something unexpected from the Continent... hopes that are often dashed by a rain-filled summer, but it doesn't hurt to be optimistic!

I recently had the pleasure of attending, and speaking at, the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Moth Conference that the branch has been running annually for the past few years. As ever it was an interesting event, and the attendance of over 70 is a sign that there is as much interest in mothing in the two counties as there has ever been. It was particularly gratifying to see and meet many new converts to the moth world who are eager to expand their recording experience. I'd like to record my thanks in particular to Tim Norriss for organising it almost single handed, to the speakers, and the volunteers who helped in the refreshment break. Congratulations should also go to Patrick Fleet for winning the quiz – I'll try and make it easier next time to encourage more entrants!

These are challenging times financially, with uncertainty as to the future levels of government grants for conservation and land management. Your committee is dedicated to ensuring that the protection and creation of habitat for lepidoptera is at the forefront of what we do as a branch – exemplified by the incredible work carried out by the reserves team on our three nature reserves – and we are actively considering the best strategic direction we should follow to ensure we can continue delivering to this aim, regardless of what the future may bring. Butterfly Conservation continues to attract new members, many of which are in our area (if the reader is one of them, welcome!) but this growth – while welcome – brings challenges as well as opportunities. To enable us to maximise our efficiency, we continue to work closely with head office in Lulworth; as the country's largest branch we are seen as the flagship in many ways, and we are determined that we will continue to be so.

I hope you enjoy reading this newsletter and wishing you all a butterfly and moth filled year ahead.

Mike Wall, Chairman

Branch News

2015 SHOWS AND EVENTS PROGRAMME

During the summer the Branch will be attending shows and events across Hampshire to promote Butterfly Conservation. Do come along and visit the Branch's stand: at most of the events there will be butterfly- and moth-related activities for children including, if we're lucky, the opportunity to observe at close hand some live moths – a big eye-opener for adults as well as children at last year's New Forest Show.

16 May	Sholing Spring Fayre Organiser: Phil Budd
17 May	Alesford Watercress Festival Organiser: Clive Wood
27 June	New Members' Day, St Swithun's School, Winchester Organiser: Clive Wood
28/29/30 July	New Forest Show, Brockenhurst Organiser: Clive Wood
12 September	Romsey Show Organiser: Clive Wood
13 September	Lyminster Reserves Open Day Organiser: Clive Wood
11 October	Blackmoor Apple Day, Blackmoor, near Liss Organiser: Clive Wood

Please check the Branch website www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk for further information and for confirmation, nearer the time, that an event is going ahead.

EDUCATION PROGRAMME UPDATE

September last year was a very busy period for our Education programme. I visited eight Scout and Brownie groups in the space of three weeks and have received some really lovely feedback. Over the winter I have been contacting schools, Scout groups, Brownies, Summer Camps and other Youth groups, booking up for this summer. The diary is already pretty full which is great news and I hope to make it even busier!

We are also running a family event this year to coincide with Butterfly Conservation's Big Butterfly Count. The event will be run at Magdalen Hill Down reserve on Sunday 19th July. We hope to have a selection of activities running like Big Butterfly Count walks, craft activities and face painting. I'm really excited that we are doing this and think it will be a great event.

If you run a youth group or are a teacher and would like us to run a session for you then please don't hesitate to contact me at: asullivan@butterfly-conservation.org or tel. 07845 849947.

Abby Sullivan, Education Officer

OBITUARY: PETER GARDNER

Sadly, I have to report that Peter Gardner died on 14th September last year.

Peter and his wife, Pat, joined the Branch in the mid-1980s at a time when the Branch was relatively small and still establishing itself. Peter and Pat contributed greatly to Branch activity during the period 1999 to 2006. In particular they arranged the field trips programme, during a time when we were holding up to 60 outings a year, the majority of which were organised by Peter and Pat. As well as local trips to sites such as Stockbridge Down, Noar Hill and Pitt Down, they also arranged meetings with other branches such as at Ballard Down, Swanage, joint with Dorset Branch, and trips to the Isle of Wight and MOD land at Porton Down.

Looking through the old newsletters I found information about the Open Days Peter and Pat held at their home. On display were 400 or so varieties of fuchsia and all money collected went to the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Butterfly Conservation. Peter was as passionate about his fuchsias as he was about butterflies. Peter also enjoyed photographing butterflies. On the back of the Order of Service for the ceremony to celebrate his life there were six of his photographs and some were featured on a screen during the ceremony. Peter will be remembered for his sense of humour, his love of butterflies and his enthusiasm for life.

Linda Barker

NEW MEMBERS – AUGUST 2014 to FEBRUARY 2015

I am delighted to say we have recruited 174 new Branch members since the autumn newsletter. The majority live in Hampshire or the Isle of Wight, but we have new members from the adjacent counties of Dorset, Wiltshire, Berkshire and West Sussex, and from as far afield as Bristol and the Channel Islands.

Usually a list of new members would be included in the newsletter but with so many this time around, regrettably this is not possible for this issue.

To all our new members, a very warm welcome and we wish you a happy butterflying and mothing season, and look forward to seeing you at our events and walks in 2015.

Pat Turner, Membership Secretary

Reserves News

The old adage ‘you can’t please all of the people all of the time’ is as true for butterflies and moths as it is people, although we seem to be doing a pretty good job of it! We do our utmost best to provide the different habitat requirements for the varied species of lepidoptera that are recorded on our Hampshire reserves, but even with the best will in the world, the weather and other external factors can still greatly affect butterfly numbers. Having said that, we have not seen any declines as yet, but the problem with ‘leps’ is that they just don’t decline in a season. Habitat change and loss can impact on colonies over a period of time. Grazing is crucial, as is scrub control, and this winter has seen an incredible, and increased, volunteer effort on the reserves to combat scrub encroachment. The data for the monitoring that takes place during the active season, isn’t analysed until the end of the season, by which time the practical winter tasks are well under way. Recording, collecting and understanding the data is crucial to keeping an eye on how the different species are faring, and is very much a case of always trying to be one step ahead. We carefully plan our tasks ahead, taking into consideration any informal observations over the summer and including the transect counts where we know what butterflies to expect to see on different parts of the reserves.



Magdalen Hill Down – chalk downland at its best. Jayne Chapman

MAGDALEN HILL DOWN

In the autumn newsletter I ended by saying “now that Adonis appear to have colonised Magdalen Hill Down, I will be setting my sights on the Duke of Burgundy butterfly over the coming months...”

Well, I am delighted to say that Magdalen has an area that is very well suited to this particular butterfly, which, like many other species, is in serious decline. There is a small colony that exists just over the other side of the valley, a mere flap of the wings away. However, in the world of butterfly dispersal, it just isn't that simple for them to pop over and set up home. This then raises the issue of possibly introducing the species to the reserve. After all, we have a suitable area, and the caterpillar foodplant – cowslip, grows in abundance among long, lush grass, with a good amount of scattered scrub habitat to provide the right conditions.



Cowslip (Primula veris), Duke of Burgundy caterpillar foodplant. Jayne Chapman Small Blue. Martin Warren

However, there are strict guidelines on the release/introductions of butterflies, and I am often asked the question ‘why can't you just let some go?’ For anyone that is really keen to find out the answers, it can all be found on Butterfly Conservation's website, and is well worth a read:

http://butterfly-conservation.org/files/bc-policy_introductions--re-introductions_2010.pdf

We do very much hope to be able to introduce this beautiful little butterfly to Magdalen in the near future.

The Small Blue has been a huge conservation success, particularly so on reseeded grassland sites. Magdalen was the second best site for this butterfly last year (beating many of the top sites), and in a fleeting visit, Martin Warren, photographed this very late Small Blue on the Extension on the 19th October 2014. Third brood perhaps, or late second generation? As there are no records of a third generation in this species, it is worth keeping an eye out for them later in the season.

We had a very successful grazing season across all three reserves, with the weather being kinder than in previous years. I am delighted to report that ‘Superman’, our 2014 resident summer bull, behaved impeccably and fulfilled his obligations to his nine ‘wives’. All are expected to calve in May – photos to follow in the next edition.

BENTLEY STATION MEADOW

The Reserve is finally taking shape after many hours of concerted efforts from the volunteers. Our last work-party was in March this year, and we wait once again for those exciting sightings – last year Thelma Smalley saw a Pearl-bordered Fritillary feeding on bugle. We have no way of knowing yet if this is as a direct result of our active management for the species – creating newly coppiced glades and rides – or if it is just another release? Time and transect records will tell.

A volunteer kindly gave up his weekends, and with his mini digger, the blocked ditches that surround the reserve and cut through it, were cleared. Wet pasture is a habitat in its own right, but the meadow at Bentley was simply water-logged due to silted up ditches. The increased drainage meant that we could significantly graze for longer. The three cattle below spent three months in the meadow.

YEW HILL

I thought I would provide you with a little visual medley of life at Yew Hill.



1 2014 was a great year for the orchids. **2** The Hampshire Conservation Volunteers cutting and 'gently' raking the Reservoir front, so as not to disturb any larvae overwintering in the thatch. **3** 'Posh' now in her 9th year, still working to keep the grasslands in good condition. **4** Everyone loves a bonfire. All photos Jayne Chapman

I am very much looking forward to meeting new members this year on the reserves. My contact details are on page 32: if you would like any information at all on the work that we do, or if you would like to learn how you could help us, do please contact me.



I hope to see you on our walk on the 6th May at Magdalen Hill Down to see the spectacular show of cowslips. Here we are about to set off last year.

Jayne Chapman, Reserves Officer



Butterfly Recording 2015

In the autumn newsletter Mike Wall explained in his 'Chairman's Message' that Paul Brock, who had been our Butterfly Recorder for two years, was stepping down. Tim Norriss took on the role as Butterfly Recorder until such time as we found someone else. We are pleased to announce this vacancy has been filled: Bob Annell is the new Branch Butterfly Recorder.

I am writing this short piece as Bob and his wife, Jean, are currently in New Zealand. Bob and Jean have been involved with the Branch for several years and currently coordinate some 15 transects in the New Forest.

2015 Records

2014 was the last in the five-year recording period 2010-14, so we start 2015 with a blank map. There are 1,180 tetrads (4,720 1km squares) so please go out and record.

Please submit records using one of the three methods listed below:

Living Record

This is our preferred online recording system (see Newsletter 97, p5) which is easy to use and can be used for all your wildlife records, and it has the support of a number of county recording centres, including Hampshire Biodiversity Information Centre. Living Record also has the advantage that you are able to view and manage your records which you could not do on the Branch Website, and all records will be automatically submitted to Bob as County Butterfly Recorder, who will then be able to view and verify your records online, saving both you and him significant effort. Living Record has already had a positive response as more than 4,000 records were entered for 2014 and many of our long-standing recorders have already switched to this system. Please sign-up at www.livingrecord.net

Mapmate

If you currently use Mapmate please continue to do so. Please contact Bob Annell for CUK code, contact details on back page.

Excel spreadsheet

The Butterfly Excel spreadsheet is available for download on www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk/recording.php
Completed forms should then be emailed to Bob.

If your records are held on paper, please contact Bob to discuss the most practical way to submit your records or for advice on electronic submission.

Linda Barker

Day-flying Moth and Caterpillar Recording

Butterfly Conservation would love butterfly recorders to record day-flying moths and moth caterpillars when they are out and about. In 2018, in collaboration with MothsIreland, we will be publishing a Macro-moth Atlas for Britain and Ireland. The majority of moth recorders use light-traps and, as a result, the many species of day-flying moths may be relatively under-recorded compared to nocturnal ones. Butterfly recorders can make a huge contribution to the forthcoming atlas by submitting records of day-flying moths such as Speckled Yellow (figure 1) and indeed distinctive caterpillars (e.g. Cinnabar) that they encounter while out looking at butterflies.

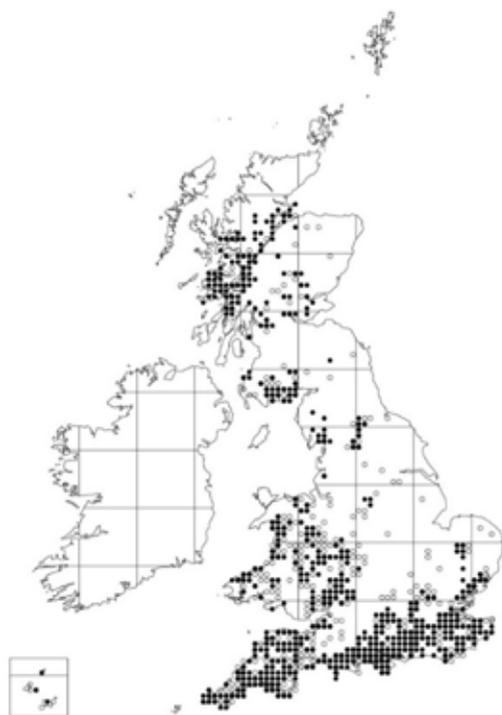


Figure 1: NMRS Provisional distribution map of Speckled Yellow at 10km resolution. Open circles pre 2000 records and solid dots 2000 onwards records

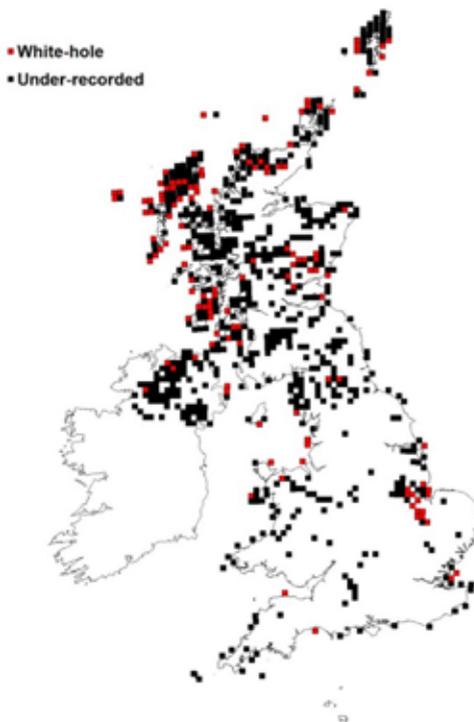
The National Moth Recording Scheme run by Butterfly Conservation will provide the UK moth data for the forthcoming atlas. The scheme already holds over 17.3 million moth records and geographical coverage of the UK, Channel Islands and Isle of Man at 10km resolution is very good (97% have at least one moth species recorded). There are only 113 10km squares for which we do not have any records from the year 2000 onwards (see figure 2). However, in addition to these, there are 613 10km squares which we consider to be under-recorded –

they possess 50 or fewer records of 25 or fewer species. You could really help by targeting these unrecorded or under-recorded squares for moth sightings during your butterfly recording. To find out which 10km squares, or tetrads, are under-recorded in your area please contact Mike Wall (mike@hantsmoths.org.uk) (Hampshire) or Iain Outlaw (zoothera@live.co.uk) (Isle of Wight).

If you wish to venture further a-field, the list of County Moth Recorders can be found on the Moths Count website (www.mothscount.org).

Many butterfly recorders already record the moths they see along their transects. In 2013, the UK Butterfly Monitoring Scheme (BMS) team extracted moth records entered into Transect Walker software. The data extraction exercise revealed data for 109,485 individuals of 123 moth species, with 13,622 records from 403 sites. The five most frequently recorded species (in descending rank order) were Silver Y, Six-spot Burnet, Cinnabar, Burnet Companion and Speckled Yellow. These records will be repatriated to County Moth Recorders in due course.

Participants in the Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey are also encouraged to record day-flying moths in their squares. In 2014 a record of Blood-vein in Gloucestershire was only the second for SP10 and the first since 1974.



In the run up to the forthcoming *Macro-moth Atlas for Britain and Ireland* all butterfly recorders can help boost coverage by recording moths, whether on butterfly/WCBS transects, during 'casual' butterfly recording or by specifically targeting areas that are under-recorded for moths. Your help will be very gratefully received. Records are best submitted to your local County Moth recorder on an annual basis by the end of the year to enable incorporation into local datasets and ultimately the National Moth Recording Scheme.

Figure 2: Map of National Moth Recording Scheme 'white-holes' and under-recorded 10km squares from 2000 onwards.

Zoe Randle

Butterfly Transects in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight

A butterfly transect is a method for determining butterfly numbers by walking a fixed route, once a week under set weather conditions, over a 26 week period from 1 April to 30 September. Data collected allows annual comparison of species and numbers.

We currently have 120 transects in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Some transects have been running since the late 1970s; others were only started last year with 12 transects walked for the first time. Transects cover most habitats including woodland, chalk downland, other grasslands, heathlands, gardens, and coastal areas.

All of the 46 Hampshire and Isle of Wight species have been recorded on transect at some time or another, but certain species such as the White-letter Hairstreak are not recorded every year. Several transects were set up where a high priority species is known to be present, such the Brown Hairstreak near Shipton Bellinger and Wall Brown on the south coast near Lymington. Nowadays, the Wall Brown is restricted to the coast in Hampshire but is much more common on the Isle of Wight. Woodland transects in the New Forest monitor the Pearl-bordered and Small Pearl-bordered Fritillaries and later in the season Silver-studded Blues and Graylings are monitored on the heathlands. These two heathland species are also monitored in north-east Hampshire, until recently both were under monitored but now new sites have been added to the list.

Several transects pick up the Small Blue, Dingy and Grizzled Skipper, in particular our Butterfly Conservation chalk downland reserves near Winchester. The Glanville Fritillary is only recorded on the Isle of Wight, and the Marsh Fritillary currently on just one chalk downland site, Martin Down. Being rare and elusive the Purple Emperor is seldom recorded on transect. The Silver-spotted skipper is found on a few chalk downland sites but is in decline.

The Adonis Blue is mainly an Isle of Wight species but is also monitored at Martin Down. Duke of Burgundy has been monitored for over 30 years at Noar Hill and for a similar period of time the White Admiral has been counted at Pamber Forest. Other White Admiral monitored sites include Walters Copse on the Isle of Wight and several new transects recently set up in the New Forest.

By comparing 2013 and 2014 data for each site, trends can be worked out for each species. Figures have to be 20% higher or lower between years for the change to be considered significant. Butterfly species showing a significant increase in number in 2014 compared to 2013 include: Large skipper, Small Skipper, Orange Tip, Common Blue, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell, Peacock and Gatekeeper. Butterfly species

showing a significant decrease in number in 2014 compared with 2013 include: Clouded Yellow, Chalkhill Blue, Small White, Large White and Small Heath.



White-letter Hairstreak. Pete Eeles

I am looking for help with three particular transects:

- 1) Browndown North, a heathland site near Gosport – a good Grayling site.
- 2) Peartree Green, Bitterne, known to support a colony of White-letter Hairstreaks; depending on the response this transect may run the whole season or it may just run during the White-letter Hairstreak flight season.
- 3) Cove, near Farnborough, a meadow/woodland habitat.

Please contact me, details on page 32, if you would like to get involved with one of these transects.

Linda Barker

COUNTY MOTH RECORDER

I am sorry to announce that Tim Norriss has decided to hang up his hat as County Macro-moth recorder. On behalf of the branch, I would like to express my thanks to Tim Norriss for all his efforts over the years – more years than I've been involved with the branch – in raising the profile of moths within both the Branch and in the two counties, and actively encouraging recorders, new and old alike. He was instrumental in developing the annual butterfly and moth report into the quality publication that it has become in recent years.

Tim's departure leaves a hole that will be difficult to fill like for like. I am considering the options for recording in the county, including reappraising the role of, and whether there is a need for, a designated county recorder. In the meantime, please address any moth recording related enquiries to myself at mike@hantsmoths.org.uk

Mike Wall, Chairman

Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey (WCBS)

Following on from my article about the WCBS in the April 2014 newsletter, where I asked for help with six 1km squares, I am pleased to report that four of those squares now have volunteers to monitor butterflies there. The two unclaimed squares are listed below along with four other squares which have become vacant:

SU 2003 Burley

SU 4628 Stanmore, Winchester

SU 6439 Lower Wield, Bentworth

SU 7959 Eversley Common, 4 km north-east of Hartley Wintney

SU 8230 Liphook

SZ 4587 Apse Down, Isle of Wight, about 2Km south of East Cowes

2014 proved to be a good recording season with respect to the weather, 31 species being recorded in total. Some of the sites are deep in the countryside and it is interesting to look at some of the species counts which would probably have not been recorded if this survey scheme did not exist. For example, 41 Silver-washed Fritillaries in a woodland square near Basingstoke; and in an area of heathland in the New Forest 185 Silver-studded Blues were counted; a farmland square south-west of Basingstoke recorded 123 Gatekeepers. Other highlights include 21 Peacocks in a square north of Romsey, 123 Meadow Browns on an area of downland on the Hampshire/Wiltshire border and 20 Graylings on one of the sites mentioned above, Eversley Common. I have not given details of the scheme here as it is outlined in the April 2014 newsletter. Any new members who have not had access to this newsletter please contact me and I will send the details to you.

I am looking for someone to help me this year, to take over the following year, with the organisation of this scheme for Hampshire and the Isle of Wight. Please contact me if you would like to help with one of the squares mentioned above or if you would like to get involved with organising the scheme. Contact details on back page.



Linda Barker

Regularly walking a set route is a lovely way to become acquainted with a particular piece of countryside. Ashley Whitlock

The European Interests Group

Those who were present at the branch AGM in October would be aware that Members' Day had a European feel to it. The Branch shared Littleton Hall with EIG so that their meeting could be geographically accessible to a wide range of members. I have been a member of EIG for some time but it took my attendance at their AGM for me to really appreciate the importance of their activities.

I always enjoy reading their splendid newsletters, which usually feature lots of trip reports. These and the information on the web site, on both species and countries, is very helpful when planning holidays. www.bc-eig.org.uk is the place to look to see some old newsletters and a lot of other interesting information.

EIG wants to increase its membership so that it can spend more money on realising its objectives. For just £10 a year BC members can apply for membership in the same way as we can belong to other area branches. A form to join can be downloaded from their website. Please consider supporting EIG as they're doing much good work to protect butterflies and facilitate recording schemes. The provision of skilled volunteers to carry out surveys in European countries that lack the UK's resource in studying butterflies is just one way in which EIG supports the conservation of European butterflies. And the financial support it gives to local projects in poorer countries like Romania is a particularly valued contribution.

EIG has mainly focussed on butterfly species but is also keen to give more attention to moths. Tim Norriss and I have found nothing in Europe has the advantage of giving the opportunity to see species which are exceedingly rare in the UK as native species but very common on the continent. However, sometimes little is known about local moths abroad so an expansion of recording and photographing overseas would be great, especially if it led to enhanced conservation measures for moths.

There is an awareness of how changes in agriculture on the Continent are having an adverse effect on lepidoptera and one of EIG's objectives is to publicise the plight of butterflies and moths in Europe.

I hope everyone who has a concern for butterflies and moths on the Continent will give EIG richly deserved support.

Lynn Fomison

See p28 for Ken Bailey's interesting account of a field trip to Romania with EIG 2013.



2015 Field Trips Programme - Hampshire

Sunday 3 May

Lower Butser Hill

Quite a strenuous walk and different from previous years as we will be looking at less familiar sites with good populations of spring butterflies. Please bring lunch.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – **SU712201 at 10:30am** (OS maps: Landranger 197, Explorer 120)

Meet at the Butser Hill car-park (Pay and Display), north of Clanfield

Aiming to see – Duke of Burgundy, Green Hairstreak, Grizzled and Dingy Skipper

Sunday 10 May

Standing Hat

A circular walk in the New Forest, taking in many wildflowers, listening for the cuckoo and seeking spring butterflies. Usually muddy at this time of the year so wear appropriate footwear and bring a packed lunch.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – **SU314036 at 10:30am** (OS maps: Landranger 196, OL22)

Meet at Standing Hat car park in the New Forest, just north of Brockenhurst off the B3055 at Balmerlawn by Balmer Lawn Hotel, taking the long track to the car park.

Aiming to see – Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Speckled Wood

Sunday 24 May

Kitts Grave and Martin Down

Invertebrates at Kitts Grave (am) followed by a more strenuous walk at Martin Down NNR (pm), and with great views, good birdlife (skylark, buzzard), rare invertebrates and very rare fungi. Bring a packed lunch.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – **SU036200 at 10:30am** (OS maps: Landranger 184, Explorer 118)

Meet at Martin Down NNR car park, off the A354, 11 miles SW of Salisbury.

Aiming to see – Grizzled Skipper, Brown Argus, Adonis Blue, Small Blue

Sunday 31 May

Bentley Wood and Frenchmoor Copse

A large tract of ancient woodland on the Hampshire and Wiltshire border with very good invertebrate and birdlife. Bring a packed lunch. A walk around Bentley Wood's Eastern Clearing (am) followed by Frenchmoor Copse (pm), about 1 mile away.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – **SU258291 at 10:30am** (OS maps: Landranger 184, Explorer 131)

Meet at Bentley Wood car park, reached along a track signed off Scouts Lane (the lane between West Dean and Middle Winterslow)

Aiming to see – Pearl-Bordered Fritillary, Small-Pearl Bordered Fritillary, Argent and Sable Moth.

Wednesday 3 June**Old Burghclere Lime Quarry**

A Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust Reserve. Joint meeting with HIOWWT.

Leader – Mervyn Grist, Tel: 01264 358737

Meet – SU469578 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 174, Explorer 144)

Meet in the old station farmyard to left of gate. This is reached by a rough lane, south off minor road through Old Burghclere between the manor house and old railway bridge. The large quarry is a short walk away.

Aiming to see – Small Blue, Dingy Skipper and Wood Tiger

Sunday 21 June**Butser Hill – Duke of Burgundy caterpillar hunt**

Hunt for caterpillars of one of our rarest butterflies, the Duke of Burgundy, at one of its most successful breeding sites. Plenty of birds and other invertebrates to keep us all interested if the caterpillars are a little shy! Bring a packed lunch.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – SU712201 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 197, Explorer 120)

Meet at the Butser Hill car-park (fee). See 3 May venue for directions.

Aiming to see – Dark Green Fritillary, Small Heath, Chalkhill Blue, Marbled White

Sunday 28 June**Chapel Common**

This site is on the border of Hampshire and West Sussex. There's a strong Silver-studded Blue colony here and normally at peak season in the last week of June.

Leader – Arthur Greenwood, Tel: 01428 604730, Mob: 07720 803900

Meet – SU813286 at 11:00am (OS maps: Landranger 186, Explorer 133)

Coming from Liphook on the B2070 towards Rake, turn right on to the track at the end of the stretch of dual carriageway. Going from Rake towards Liphook, turn left on to the track just before the start of the dual carriageway. Park on the right at the bottom of the short hill; meet by the gate on to the common.

Aiming to see – Silver-studded Blue

Saturday 4 July**Silchester Common and Pamber Forest**

Joint meeting with HIOWWT. Join us for the whole day, in which case bring a packed lunch, or for either the morning or afternoon walks.

Leader – Brian Fletcher, Tel: 01962 882746

Meet – SU616621 at 10:30am or 2:00pm

(OS maps: Landranger 175, Explorer 133)

Meet at the Impstone Road car park, Pamber Heath

Aiming to see – White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary, Purple Emperor, Silver-studded Blue, early Grayling.

Sunday 5 July**Abbotts Wood Inclosure**

A walk in this lovely part of Alice Holt Forest, stopping at several Purple Emperor 'assembly points' to see these wonderful butterflies battle for their territories.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – SU810410 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 186, Explorer 145)

Meet at the Abbotts Wood Inclosure car park, off Dockenfield Street, just SE of The Halfway House pub. Bring a packed lunch.

Aiming to see – Purple Emperor, White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary.

Tuesday 7 July

Foxlease Meadows North

Large and Small Skippers in profusion with Essex Skippers and meadow species on MOD land recently returned to grazing. Mixed habitat from marsh to meadow.

Leader – David Walton, Mob: 07759 684513

Meet – SU834571 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 186, Explorer 145)

Meet at the far end of the Crown and Cushion pub car park, Minley near Blackwater (GU17 9UA). The pub is 600m north of M3 J4A on the A327 (Minley Road). Please check with the Leader nearer the day to ensure we have clearance from the MOD.

Aiming to see – Large Skipper, Small Skipper, Essex Skipper

Sunday 12 July

Havant Thicket, Bells Copse and Southleigh Forest

The Purple Emperor experience! Hopes are high for reasonable counts at Havant Thicket and Bells Copse following a good 2014. More observation than walking; the more observers the better! Havant Thicket and Bells Copse (am), then Southleigh Forest (pm) to see Emperor acrobatics and chases in the high canopy... hopefully.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – SU722103 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 197, Explorer 120)

Meet at Havant Thicket car park, signed as the 'Forest of Bere', off the B2149 on western outskirts of Rowlands Castle.

Aiming to see – Purple Emperor

Friday 17 July

Botley Wood and Whiteley Pastures

Joint walk with Botley Garden Club (USA Royal Study Group, am only) around one of the best sites in Hampshire for woodland butterflies.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – SU530098 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 196, Explorer 119)

Meet in the Whitley Outlet Village car park (max. 3 hours free before payment) reached off Whiteley Way from M27 J9.

Aiming to see – White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary

Sunday 19 July

Hawkhill Inclosure and Hatchet Moor

Easy-going walking amid glorious New Forest woodland and heathland with the possibility of seeing nightjar. Bring a packed lunch.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – SU35020 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 196, OL22)

Meet at the Hawkhill Inclosure car park in the New Forest, off the B3055 between Brockenhurst and Beaulieu.

Aiming to see – Grayling, Silver-studded Blue, Dark Green Fritillary, White Admiral

Saturday 25 July **Butter Wood and Bartley Heath**

A circular walk in Butter Wood followed by a ramble over nearby Bartley Heath.

Leader – David Walton, Mob: 07759 684513

Meet – SU730525 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 186, Explorer 144)

Meet in the lane leading to The Derby Inn and Bartley Heath Pottery, signed off the first roundabout on A287 south of M3 J5.

Aiming to see – Purple Hairstreak, Silver-Washed Fritillary, White Admiral

Saturday 1 August **West Harting Down**

Bring a packed lunch and good walking footwear as this is a long ramble in Hampshire/West Sussex border country with plenty of interesting flora and wildlife.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – SU739155 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 197, Explorer 120)

Meet the walk leader in the lane just over the railway bridge east of Chalton village and Chalton Down, where a few parking spaces are marked 'Ditcham Park School'.

Aiming to see – A good variety of chalk grassland and woodland species.

Saturday 8 August **Broughton Down**

A classic chalk escarpment fringed with woodland, Broughton Down is well-known for its grassland flora and pre-historic tumuli, and has fabulous Hampshire views.

Leader – Tim Norriss, Tel: 01264 354944, Mob: 07713 254901

Meet – SU295324 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 185, Explorer 131)

Meet on Broughton Down, parking next to the Southern Water reservoir reached along access track off Roman Road about 1 mile SW of Broughton village.

Aiming to see – Plenty of downland species including Chalkhill Blue, Dark Green Fritillary and early Silver-spotted Skipper, which has one of its largest colonies here.

Wednesday 12 August **Yew Hill**

A joint walk with HIOWWT on one of BC Hampshire Branch's own reserves.

Leader – Brian Fletcher, Tel: 01962 882746

Meet – SU452270 at 2:00pm (OS maps: Landranger 185, Explorer 132)

Meet at the end of Old Kennels Lane at junction with Port Lane and Millers Lane, Oliver's Battery on the SW outskirts of Winchester.

Aiming to see – Chalkhill Blue, Common Blue, Clouded Yellow

Sunday 16 August **Oxenbourne Down**

Quite steep chalk grassland in some areas but a good site for Chalkhill Blue and Silver-spotted Skipper with plenty of birdlife to look out for including red kite.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – SU717181 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 197, Explorer 120)

Meet at the bottom of the old Petersfield-London road just past the Hampshire Hog pub; there is a small parking area on the right-hand side close to the A3.

Aiming to see – Chalkhill Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper, Small Copper, Clouded Yellow

Sunday 23 August Shawford Down, the Itchen, St Catherine's Hill

A walk along the Itchen Navigation links this exploration of two chalk grassland sites south of Winchester, both local nature reserves. The Itchen has been an SSSI since 1997 and there's the possibility of seeing kingfisher, otter and water vole.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – SU471250 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 185, Explorer 132)
Meet at Shawford Down's lower car park at the bottom of the Down off Shawford Road, just west of the railway station.

Aiming to see – Adonis Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper

Sunday 30 August Noar Hill and Selborne Common

Seeking the elusive Brown Hairstreak, and other interesting invertebrates, especially in the set-aside fields on the NE side of Noar Hill (am); bring lunch; in pm walk to Selborne Common, on the way searching out blackthorn hedges for possible signs of Brown Hairstreak.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – SU736320 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 186, Explorer 133)
Park and meet in the lane alongside Charity Farm, about 1 mile SW of Selborne.

Aiming to see – Brown Hairstreak, Brown Argus, Clouded Yellow

Sunday 6 September Old Winchester Hill NNR

A steep-sided, wildflower-rich, chalk downland National Nature Reserve with a prominent Iron Age hill fort and stands of deciduous and yew woodland.

Leader – Ashley Whitlock, Tel: 02392 731266, Mob: 07752 182340

Meet – SU645214 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 185, Explorer 119)
Meet in the reserve's car park, signed off A32 from Warnford and West Meon

Aiming to see – Adonis Blue, Silver-spotted Skipper, Brown Argus, Clouded Yellow

Ashley Whitlock



*Oxenbourne Down.
Ashley Whitlock*



2015 Field Trips Programme - Isle of Wight

Saturday 18 April	Parkhurst Forest
Leader – Stuart Read, Mob: 07877 333734	
Meet – SZ480900 at 1:30pm (OS maps: Landranger 196, OL29) <i>Meet at the main car park off Forest Road, close to the No.7 bus route.</i>	
Aiming to see – Brimstone, Grizzled Skipper and other spring butterflies	
Wednesday 20 May	Whealers Bay
<i>A walk along the revetment</i>	
Leader – Andy Butler, Tel: 01983 854925	
Meet – SZ569775 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 196, OL29) <i>Meet at Wheelers Bay car park (free) off Wheelers Bay Road, Ventnor</i>	
Aiming to see – Glanville Fritillary and, possibly, some moths if Andy has been able to run a moth trap the night before	
Friday 5 June	Compton and Shippards Chine
Leader – Sue Davies, Mob: 07702 151312	
Meet – SZ367854 at 10:30am (OS maps: Landranger 196, OL29) <i>Meet at the Afton Down chalk pit car park, near Compton Farm. On the No.12 bus route. If the weather is poor on the day, please contact Sue as the walk will be rescheduled for Saturday 6 June.</i>	
Aiming to see – Glanville Fritillary, Wall, Small Blue	
Friday 19 June	Moth night at Freshwater
<i>Freshwater Fruit Farm, Wilmingham Lane, Freshwater, PO40 9UG. By kind permission of John and Brenda Craddock.</i>	
Leader – Iain Outlaw, Email: zoothera@live.co.uk	
Meet – SZ358869 at 8:00pm (OS maps: Landranger 196, OL29) <i>Meet at Freshwater Fruit Farm. From the Newport to Afton road, turn right at the sign to Yarmouth (B3054); this is Wilmingham Lane. The drive to Freshwater Fruit Farm is about 400m on the right, just past a bungalow (also on the right). Follow the drive through the wood down to the house.</i>	
Saturday 27 June	Fattingpark Copse, near Wootton Common
Leader – David Biggs, Tel: 01983 292595	
Meet – SZ524918 at 11:00am (OS maps: Landranger 196, OL29) <i>Meet in the lay-by at the top of the lane to the Crematorium. On the No.4 and No.9 bus routes.</i>	
Aiming to see – Silver-washed Fritillary, White Admiral	

Friday 17 July**Moth night at Wight Salads, Arreton**

Introduction to moth trapping: a look at different moth families, different designs of trap and other methods of moth recording. Bring a torch and warm clothing.

Leader – Iain Outlaw, Email: zoothera@live.co.uk

Meet – **SZ548848 at 8:00pm** (OS maps: Landranger 196, OL29)

Meet at the White Salads reception car park. From the A3056 south of Herringford, turn east off the road at the sign marked for Wight Salads. Ignore the initial car park to your right and follow the directions down to the reception car park.

Tuesday 21 July**Copse Mead, Cemetery Road, Lake**

By kind permission of Wight Nature Fund.

Leader – Colin Haygarth, Mob: 07752 256595

Meet – **SZ585829 at 10:30am** (OS maps: Landranger 196, OL29)

Meet by the entrance gate to Copse Mead. Note: parking is very limited in Cemetery Road, but there is roadside parking in nearby Green Lane and James Avenue.

Aiming to see – Small and Essex Skippers, Marbled White, day-flying moths

Friday 7 August**Moth night at Parkhurst Forest**

An evening of moth trapping at Oaks Cottage, Hillisgate, PO30 5UB (Ian's garden) and also in Parkhurst Forest. Bring a torch and warm clothing.

Leader – Ian Merrifield, Tel: 01983 297132

Meet – **SZ475924 at 9:00pm** (OS maps: Landranger 196, OL29)

Meet at Oaks Cottage, Hillisgate. At the traffic lights on Horsebridge Hill, turn west on to Noke Common Road. Continue to Hillisgate entrance to the forest; at this road junction proceed towards Marks Corner. Oaks Cottage is the second entrance on the right. Parking available in the paddock in the garden.

Thursday 20 August**Tennyson Down**

Leader – Caroline Dudley, Tel: 01983 754935

Meet – **SZ324855 at 10:30am** (OS maps: Landranger 196, OL29)

Meet at the National Trust car park at the end of Highdown Lane, Totland. The Needles Breezer open-top bus stops at the High Down Inn.

Aiming to see – Chalkhill Blue and other blues

Friday 11 September**National Moth Night, St Catherine's Pt**

At Windy Gap, St Catherine's Point. The focus of National Moth Night 2015 is on migrant moths. This site should maximise our chances of finding interesting migrant species. Bring a torch and warm clothing.

Leader – Iain Outlaw, Email: zoothera@live.co.uk

Meet – **SZ494758 at 7:00pm** (OS maps: Landranger 196, OL29)

Meet at the National Trust car park at the end of Old Blackgang Road.

Caroline Dudley



The Glanville Fritillary

The Glanville Fritillary is one of Britain's rarest butterflies, now found only on the Isle of Wight. In the last few years much concern has been expressed about its status (Butler 2013; 14 and Curtis 2014).

There have been two scientific papers (Curtis *et al.*, 2014 and Curtis & Isaac, 2014) and articles published recently that have highlighted the research into this species on the Isle of Wight. Curtis *et al.* studied the Glanville Fritillary at eight sites over 18 years until 2013. The results of this detailed research indicate that by 2013 the species was in crisis with five of the eight study sites having lost the butterfly.

As a consequence of these concerns Butterfly Conservation staff, with the support of Natural England, undertook both larval and adult monitoring in 2014 with the aim of assessing the current status of the butterfly across the Island.

The status of the Glanville Fritillary was first assessed in 1979 and has been monitored through larval web surveys by volunteers from the Isle of Wight Natural History and Archaeological Society since the early 1980s. The assessment in 1979 is a baseline and all the 13 original sites (and sub-sites) that were surveyed in 1979, apart from one, were visited at least once for either larval webs or adults.

The Glanville Fritillary was recorded as present on nine out of the 13 sites (equates to 11 locations including sub-sites). There were records of larval webs recorded on two 'new' areas of the original sites. Breeding was confirmed at six out of the 13 original sites as well as four 'new' sites; three of these were inland on the chalk grassland and one is the introduced population at Wheelers Bay. Data from these surveys combined with other records show that in 2014 the Glanville Fritillary was present at a total of 24 locations on 20 sites. Breeding was confirmed at 14 of these locations (on 10 sites). Combining the results of the surveys a total of 97 spring webs, 257 adults and 120 autumn webs were recorded.

Populations of the Glanville Fritillary fluctuate greatly between years, and Curtis's data over 18 years suggests that numbers are cyclical and that populations in the last few years are very low.

The Isle of Wight suffered from significant land slippage during the winter of 2013/14 but the recent survey shows that despite the level of cliff falls and land slippage the Glanville Fritillary remains in a number of core sites, although these have naturally moved around since the last comprehensive survey in 1979.

Curtis & Isaac 2014 state that site management could be an important factor in terms of grassland mosaics to retain this species in a changing climate. To increase the availability of suitable habitat and in particular mitigate for years when grass growth is vigorous due to climatic conditions. Butterfly Conservation will continue to work closely with partners the National Trust, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust and Natural England in the next few years to encourage appropriate management for this species.



A spring larval web.



An autumn larval web in August.
Caroline Kelly

Glanville Fritillary.
Peter Eeles

The spring web surveys will have been conducted in March this year but if you would like to help with any adult or autumn web surveys please contact: Andy Butler, tel. 01983 854925; a.butler321@btinternet.com or Caroline Kelly, tel. 01929 406029. ckelly@butterfly-conservation.org

Caroline Kelly

Butler A (2013) Glanville Fritillary. In Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly & Moth report 2012.

Butler A (2014) Glanville Fritillary. In Hampshire and Isle of Wight Butterfly & Moth report 2013.

Curtis RJ, Isaac NJB (2014) The effect of temperature and habitat quality on abundance of the Glanville Fritillary on the Isle of Wight: implications for conservation management in a warming climate. *Journal of Insect Conservation* DOI 10.1007/s 10841-014-9738-1

Curtis RJ, Botham MS, Brereton TM, Isaac NJB (2014). The rise and demise of the Glanville fritillary on the Isle of Wight. *J Insect Conservation* DOI 10.1007/s 10841-014-9737-2

Curtis RJ (2014) The Glanville Fritillary: a disappearing gem? *British Wildlife*, Volume 25, Number 6, August 2014

The Small Tortoiseshell Recovery

Prior to the beginning of the 21st century, I had been used to seeing plenty of Small Tortoiseshell butterflies, but, during the first decade of this century, there were some years when I did not see even one.

Variations in numbers can often be caused by weather extremes and other factors, but, the main culprit appears to have been the parasite fly, *Sturmia bella*, which arrived from the Continent, possibly due to global warming. With this fly laying its eggs on the leaves of their foodplant, the Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars easily consumed them whilst munching stinging nettle leaves. When the grubs emerged from the eggs inside the caterpillars, they started to eat them, leaving the vital organs until last.



Small Tortoiseshell. Colin Baker

As I was very disappointed at not seeing any Small Tortoiseshells some years, it was good at least to record 11 in 2010, eight in 2011 and five in 2012. What a pleasant surprise was in store for me when I saw 88 over 14 days in 2013. In 2014 I recorded the butterfly on 18 separate days, so the good trend has continued.

Were the last two butterfly seasons just a bad year for the parasite fly or have the Small Tortoiseshell caterpillars 'cottoned-on' to the presence of eggs on the nettle leaves? Only time will tell, but it would certainly be nice to see lots of these beautiful butterflies in future years.

Peter Martin

I'm indebted to Colin Baker for permission to reproduce his image in this article. See more of Colin's images at www.lepi-photos.com - Ed

Marbled White Butterfly Mites

I photographed a Marbled White butterfly (*Melanargia galathea*) on Beacon Hill NNR in July 2014, notably because I saw red mites on its back. I contacted Ian Middlebrook at Butterfly Conservation and Linda Barker for information. Ian very kindly answered with the following information which is passed on for interest.



Marbled White with parasites. John Nundy

Marbled Whites are often seen with small scarlet red parasitic mites attached to their bodies. These parasites *Trombidium brevi* feed on the blood of the living butterfly and in small numbers do not pose a threat to the butterfly's life. A major infestation may however kill the butterfly; it is thought that male butterflies tend to have a higher incidence of infestation.

The following paper gives information on Parasitism by the mite *Trombidium brevi* on four UK butterfly species – Authors: Conradt, L.1; Corbet, S. A.2; Roper, T. J.3; Bodsworth, E. J.1. Source: Ecological Entomology, Volume 27, Number 6, December 2002, pp. 651-659(9)

The main findings are:

1. The incidence of parasitism by larvae of the mite species *Trombidium brevi* was reported in one population of the lycaenid butterfly *Polyommatus icarus* (Common Blue), four populations of the satyrine butterfly *Maniola jurtina* (Meadow Brown), one population of the satyrine butterfly *Aphantopus hyperanthus*, (Ringlet) and two

populations of the satyrine butterfly *Pyronia tithonius* (Gatekeeper), as well as on one specimen of the dipteran *Alophorus hemiptera*. A considerable proportion of butterflies (11-50%) were infested in all study populations.

2. The pattern of infestation was examined in detail in *Maniola jurtina*. Males had a significantly higher incidence of infestation than females, and middle-aged butterflies had a higher incidence of infestation than old or young butterflies. The incidence of infestation peaked in the middle of the flight season, and this seasonal effect was independent of the effect of butterfly age.

3. Using a model based on capture-recapture data, it was estimated that a hypothetical ideal male *M. jurtina* that lives exactly the mean expected lifespan of 9-10 days has an approximately 75% chance of becoming infested with mites at least once during its lifetime, a mean time to first infestation of 3-4 days, and an average infestation persistence time of 2-3 days.

4. Capture-recapture data failed to show any effect of mite infestation on the lifespan or within-habitat movement rate of *M. jurtina*.

5. In experiments in which individual butterflies were taken out of their normal habitat and released, *M. jurtina* and *P. tithonus* that were infested with mite larvae did not differ from uninfested individuals in the efficiency with which they returned to suitable habitat. Thus, parasitism by *T. brevi* larvae had no detectable effects on flight performance or orientation ability.

6. The results suggest that *Trombidium* mite larvae have limited potential in the biological control of insect pests.

A more detailed description of other types of parasitism on butterflies can be found here: www.learnaboutbutterflies.com/Enemies%20of%20Butterflies%202.htm

Very many thanks to Ian Middlebrook for his professional help. I would also be very interested in receiving reports of butterflies in 2015 which are seen to be infested with red mites.

John Nundy, Horndean Conservation areas co-ordinator

The EIG in Romania 2013 – part 2

Having settled into Gheorgheni, we headed east into the Carpathians. First, a stop at the touristy 'Killer Lake' and then through the Biczaz Gorge, with its dozens of stalls selling 'local crafts', to a flowery meadow beyond. A good number of species was seen, but nothing really memorable. We were all waiting for the real reason to be in Gheorgheni – a visit to the Danube Clouded Yellow site just outside town. A bit of a shock awaited us: the steep slope where the butterflies fly had been cleared, rather uncaringly, of all scrub, and the passing track had been regraded. All very suspicious and worrying. Passing herders and the local museum curator (who previously had had an interest) did not know what was going on or even who owned the land. As far as I know this is the only remaining 'for sure' Danube Clouded Yellow site, and the numbers of butterflies we saw did not fill us with optimism. We investigated two other likely sites in the immediate area and found the butterfly's foodplant in each. We also found one Danube Clouded Yellow in each area, one seen from a distance and one captured. We might have done better but we were herded off the property by a pack of fierce-looking sheep dogs (literally!). Safi suggested that the Trust should get involved in its first 'international' project and announced that he would donate moderate funds to initiate urgent fact-finding action on the main site and to start raising awareness at all levels.

The following day we romped among gentle hay meadows on the way to our final base, the interesting village of Rimetea, which nestles below the picturesque Szekelyko Mountain (1,200m). The group was split into two to fit into available accommodation. The luckiest ones had rooms looking out onto the mountain and an amazing collection of butterflies in the garden. Our list included Geranium Argus, Lesser Purple Emperor, Oberthur's Grizzled and Mallow Skippers, Common and Scarce Swallowtails, and Short-tailed, Eastern Short-tailed, Chequered, Reverdin's and Meleager's Blues. In my initial excitement, I did not notice the funny smell: these butterflies were attracted by the run-off from the farm's chicken shed.

Our first morning in Rimetea just had to be up the mountain. It was a fairly easy walk and soon produced new 'firsts' for the trip: Blue-spot Hairstreak, Pearl-bordered Fritillary and Great Banded Grayling. Then, real excitement as we saw what was undoubtedly an *Erebia* on a rocky outcrop – but which one? In the net it proved to be a Black Ringlet, one of our rare target species and unexpected in this particular place. This local speciality does not look like the illustrations in the book, as it is of the form *runcensis*. In all, our morning walk produced 38 species. The afternoon, in contrast, was disappointing. We went to a gorge a few miles to the south where the Black Ringlet was supposed to be, and after much clambering up and down steep and scary

scree slopes we had to be satisfied with more mundane species, including Twin-spot, Lesser-spotted and High Brown Fritillaries.



*Fenton's Wood White
& Pallas's Fritillary. Ken Bailey*



For our last day we visited the dry limestone pavements and meadows surrounding the Turda Gorge. The first butterfly, a few yards from our starting point, was a Lesser Clouded Yellow. Then we turned up another fine selection, including Safflower Skipper, Rock Grayling, Hermit, Niobe Fritillary and Lesser Fiery Copper. I remember this as a prime site for Meleager's Blue, but grazing, and maybe drier weather, have ended that. After lunch we headed for the final site chosen by Lajos – a green and leafy track somewhere near the bottom of the gorge. We noted an unusually high number of Common Gliders nectaring, and we were happily snapping away when from up the track there was a sudden strangled cry from Safi. I've never seen him so excited (and that's saying something), but he had just caught a butterfly he had been seeking for years and whose very existence he was beginning to doubt – Fenton's Wood White! We all agreed that it really was quite different from other wood whites and that Lajos had it spot-on.

So, after a trip which started with Pallas' Fritillary and ended with Fenton's Wood White, we did not mind getting up at 3am the next morning for our flight home. Our final count was 106 species. Well done to all who helped make this a memorable trip.

Ken Bailey

Apologies to Ken for the delay in printing the second part of his article - Ed.

Butterfly monitoring in Peru

A trip to Crab Wood on a July morning, armed with coffee, cake and a picnic lunch, to search for the White Admiral, Silver-washed Fritillary and (usually unsuccessfully) the Purple Emperor, is a typical butterfly experience for my wife, Sharron, and I: no doubt in common with many fellow members. So how did we find ourselves in July 2014 in the tropical heat and humidity of the remote Amazonian rainforest for up to eight hours a day, recording details of the spectacular butterflies of the jungle?

It started with a desire to take some time out and do something different, both of us having spent most of the last 30+ years working and bringing up a family. Accordingly, jobs were put on hold, goodbyes said and off we went a-travelling for nearly seven months. A major part of this adventure was to be two months working as volunteers with the Crees Project based at the Manu Learning Centre (MLC) on the banks of the Alto Madre de Dios river in southern Peru.

Crees (www.crees-manu.org/) has been running since 2007. The project aims to provide scientific evidence to support the case against uncontrolled exploitation of rainforest habitat that has previously been subject to varying levels of human disturbance, but is now regenerating. Butterflies are key indicator species: and monitoring their abundance and condition formed a large part of our work over the nine weeks. We also took part in mammal, reptile, amphibian and bird surveys and worked with local communities in bio-garden and sustainable forestry projects.

Shortly before we left, we learned that our first two weeks were to be spent compiling a wildlife inventory of a previously unsurveyed area at the remote Shipatieri community. We and our fellow volunteers arrived after a two-day journey from Cusco, the final section of which comprised a backbreaking trek along forest trails, carrying all our personal kit plus food and scientific and kitchen equipment. Any illusions of an easy time over the next couple of months were quickly dispelled!

The weekly routine was to set up butterfly traps at various locations each Monday, monitor them through the week and bring them back for cleaning on Saturday. This required long treks along jungle trails, scrambling up rock and mud strewn slopes and wading through streams to the selected sites. The traps comprised tubular nets with trays suspended from the bottom, attached to trees at low and mid-canopy level by ropes. We baited each, either with a noxious mash of fermented banana, or an absolutely rank-smelling liquid made from fermented fish, which led to a great deal of care being taken when raising or lowering the traps to avoid the dreaded fish bait shower, which could live with you for days!

These delights attracted species mostly from the Nymphalidae family (represented in Europe by the aforementioned fritillaries, admirals and emperors). Most that we caught were large and colourful, with the *Morpho* and *Caligo* genii being particularly spectacular. Each specimen had to be identified, measured and sexed (don't ask!); all details being meticulously recorded for later data entry. Identification was by reference to a set of sheets in a ramshackle ring binder, each species being represented by a number, a photograph and its scientific name. If there were English names, we never knew them and, as our identification skills developed, a typical remark on approaching a trap might be 'a couple of 49 males, a 14 and a few 67s'.



The disgusting bait also attracted many varieties of biting and stinging insect so putting one's hand in a net to retrieve butterflies for recording was something of a leap of faith. Even harder to bear were the hundreds of sweat flies that descended on us and sometimes drove us to distraction, as well as providing cover for the more insidious mosquitos and ants.

So what of the hazards? We found fresh puma tracks one morning outside our open-fronted sleeping pod and there was evidence of jaguar in the vicinity. An aquatic coral snake, the lethal bite of which has no anti-venom, joined us one day while washing clothes in a stream and Sharron found a tarantula nestling in her backpack rain-cover when packing to leave on our last day. Although potentially dangerous, attacks by such animals are rare as long as the basic safety drills are observed. The main irritants were the biting and stinging insects referred to earlier and the odd bout of dodgy stomach arising from drinking inadequately treated water. On the plus side, there were no roads to cross and no rush-hour traffic to negotiate!

Having avoided any significant health scares or injuries, we left the forest proud of our contributions to this highly worthwhile and enjoyable project and much the richer for the experience. In 2015 it will be back to Crab Wood with coffee and cake – now how will the elusive Purple Emperor feel about some nice fermented fish bait...?

Rupert and Sharron Broadway

Tips on keeping caterpillars and pupae

People have often said to me that they've found larvae and/or pupae and wanted to keep them, but have not known how to go about it. Having experience of doing just this since childhood I thought I would offer a few tips.

Many caterpillars are only able to eat one or a few closely related plants. Therefore, if you find one feeding make sure you memorise the plant or, better still, take a few leaves with the larvae on it. It is worth remembering never to pull a larva off whatever surface it is on. If it is in the process of changing its skin it will not be able to reattach itself and will not survive.

Assuming you have identified the foodplant and the caterpillars are feeding, it is best to use an airtight container to keep the food from wilting or becoming too tough. There is plenty of air for the larvae provided the container is opened once a day. It is hygienic to line the bottom of the container with kitchen roll to absorb moisture and make it easier to remove the ever-increasing frass (droppings). Renew the leaves everyday if possible.

Several smallish larvae or a single larva up to 2 inches long can be kept in a large coffee or jam jar. For larger caterpillars I suggest the plastic bucket-like containers that bird food such as fat balls are sold in. They are semi-transparent and have tight fitting lids. For keeping pupae I replace the lid with fine nylon netting held in place with a large elastic band.

The plastic or glass containers are like miniature greenhouses so the inmates will die if placed in the sun. I keep all of my containers under shelving in the garden so that they are out of the sun all day and sheltered from the rain.

Often larvae are found crawling about on the ground so unless you can identify the species you won't have any idea what to feed it. Fortunately most larvae found in this situation have finished feeding and are looking for a place to pupate. There are several different pupation sites 'chosen' by the various species so to cater for all of these the container in which they are to be housed should have 3-4 inches of fairly soft, almost dry soil (over 6 inches for some of the large hawk-moth larvae) and on top a few patches of moss and dead leaves/twigs. A lump of bark is required by the Puss and Kitten Moths. All of this should be dry. Although moisture is important to pupae during the summer months, fungus in the form of mould is a great enemy to lepidoptera. For this reason caterpillars should never be offered wet leaves to eat.

Despite all your preparations larvae often pupate on the sides of the container, often just where it joins the lid! Always be careful when removing the lid.

Larvae that are about to pupate often turn a darker or duller colour, e.g. from bright green to dull green, often with brownish patches and the caterpillar appears to shrink. Don't worry then if they start to look unhealthy, though occasionally you will have to endure the sight of parasites emerging or a sudden fatal fungal disease befalling the larvae. This is not for the squeamish or faint hearted.



Comma larva

pupa

adult.

Peter Eeles

At least 6 inches of airspace should be left between the moss and the top of the container and several twigs are arranged to enable the emerging adults to crawl up and let their wings expand and hang down to dry. Any pupae that are found while gardening can be placed among the moss. Never re-bury pupae that are dug up as they will probably suffocate. The larva makes a special cell in which the pupa can breathe.

One of the great benefits of rearing butterflies and moths is that you can see and photograph each species when they are looking at their best, because they haven't flown anywhere and started to lose their scales. So that they don't bash themselves against the container moths should be released on the first evening after emergence just before dusk. Butterflies should be released on the day of emergence as soon as it becomes reasonably warm – above 13°C.

Patrick Fleet

I'm indebted to Peter Eeles for permission to reproduce his images in this article. See more of Peter's images at www.ukbutterflies.co.uk - Ed



Useful Contacts

www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

Chairman: Mike Wall, Tel: 07981 984761; Email: mikewall@gofast.co.uk

Vice-Chairman: Clive Wood, Tel: 01962 852620; Mob: 07833 088150;
Email: clivepwood@btinternet.com

Branch Organiser: Jenny Mallett, Great Fontley Farm, Fareham, PO15 6EA; Tel: 01329 832177;
Email: jennifer@mallett2.orangehome.co.uk

Treasurer: Nick Radford, 10 Clausentum Road, Winchester, SO23 9QE; Tel: 01962 621431;
Mob: 07403 298849; Email: nrr@live.co.uk

Minutes Secretary: Penny Jeffreys, Tel: 01962 863018; Email: pjbutterfly@sidrat.co.uk

Butterfly Recorder: Bob Annell, Email: grahants23@gmail.com

Transect Recorders: Linda & Andy Barker, 13 Ashdown Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 5QF; Tel: 023 8027 0042; Email: lindabarker4@btinternet.com

Moth Records: Mike Wall; Email: mike@hantsmoths.org.uk

Chairman Conservation Subcommittee: Andy Barker, 13 Ashdown Close, Chandlers Ford, Eastleigh, SO53 5QF; Tel: 023 8027 0042; Email: aj3barker@btinternet.com

Chairman Information Subcommittee: Clive Wood, Tel: 01962 852620; Mob: 07833 088150;
Email: clivepwood@btinternet.com

Chairman Reserves Subcommittee: Jenny Mallett, Great Fontley Farm, Fareham, PO15 6EA;
Tel: 01329 832177; Email: jennifer@mallett2.orangehome.co.uk

Webmaster: Pete Eeles, Email: webmaster@hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

Newsletter Editor: Kevin Freeborn, Mob: 07929 278582; Email: kevinfreeborn@btinternet.com

Reserves Officer and Health & Safety: Jayne Chapman, Tel: 01962 808400;
Email: jchapman@butterfly-conservation.org

Financial Adviser: Arthur Greenwood, Tel: 01428 604730;
Email: greenwoodarthur@hotmail.com

Membership Secretary: Pat Turner, Bridles, Waggoners Way, Grayshott, GU26 6DX; Tel: 01428 605831; Email: pat@turner.me.uk

Useful Contacts

www.hantsiow-butterflies.org.uk

Publicity Officer: Richard Lemon, Email: richardlemonjnr@gmail.com

Field Meetings Organiser: Ashley Whitlock, 61 Adames Road, Fratton, Portsmouth PO1 5QE;
Tel: 02392 731266; Email: ashleyrwhitlock@virginmedia.com

Isle of Wight Group:

Caroline Dudley (events): Tel: 01983 754935; Email: caroline_dudley@btopenworld.com

Stuart Read (all other enquiries): Tel: 07877 333734; Email: s.jread@btinternet.com

Artworks: Rosemary Powell. www.powellwildlifeart.com

Cover painting – studies of Pearl-bordered fritillaries

Printed by: Better Printing, Southampton. www.betterprinting.co.uk

NEWSLETTER DEADLINE

Many thanks to everyone who has contributed with words and images for this issue. Please send your Lepidoptera-related newsworthy pieces to Kevin Freeborn... and you don't have to wait until September! New contributors most welcome.

The deadline for the autumn Newsletter is 4 September 2015



Speckled Yellow moth. Pam Parsons



Butterfly Conservation is a charity registered in England & Wales (254937) and in Scotland (SCO39268).

Registered Office: Manor Yard, East Lulworth, Wareham, Dorset BH20 5QP. Vat. No. 565 9070 16.

The opinions expressed in the Newsletter are not necessarily those of the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Branch.



Small Tortoiseshell. Dan Powell