



Butterfly Conservation Wales
Gwarchod Glöynnod Byw Cymru

Butterfly News

The Newsletter of the South Wales Branch
of Butterfly Conservation



Autumn 2010



Photograph 1:
Silurian habitat
© Clare Williams

Photograph 2:
Torchlight Surveys for
the Silurian larvae
© Clare Williams



Photograph 3:
Larvae of the Silurian
© George Tordoff

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Front Cover Image

Pink-barred Sallow, using camouflage to hide in plain sight

© Chris Manley

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Editorial by Andrea Rowe

A warm welcome to the autumn edition of Butterfly News. As I write, the weather has been lovely for a week or so, but that predicted two-week heat wave at the start of August seemed to pass me by! I journeyed to France for the first week of the school summer holidays and was treated to a garden full of lavender on which Humming-bird Hawk-moths and Scarce Swallowtails (*Iphiclides podalirius*) (one of which was reported flying past the café at Cosmeston Lakes on 1st September) spent their days. On returning home, however, the rest of the school holidays seem to have coincided with lots and lots of rain!

I very much hope that many of you have managed to get some butterfly and moth spotting in and hopefully some photography, so that you can support our first ever Branch Photographic Competition (details on page 9). I'm really looking forward to seeing the entries at our AGM and Members' Day on **Saturday 16th October**. Even if you have never entered a photographic competition before, why not give it a go and come and support this new venture at the Members' Day? The closing date is not until 1st October so there's still time to dig out your camera and try your hand.

To help inspire you, in this edition, we have a great article on moth photography and some amazing photographs by Chris Manley, author of the best-selling book 'British Butterflies and Moths'. We also have articles on a wide range of species, including an update on the studies into the Silurian moth and results from the first ever Big Butterfly Count. Don't forget we are always keen to receive articles from local members, no matter how short and on any butterfly and moth related topic – just send your article to the Editor or if you need more of a helping hand to get started, contact the Editor, who will be more than happy to work through your ideas with you!

Welcome to new Branch Members

The Branch Committee welcomes the following new members to the South Wales Branch. We hope you enjoy your membership and look forward to meeting you at Branch events and our forthcoming annual Members' Day.

Dr AL Jay, Llandysul; Dr VJ Clutterbuck, Halesowen; Miss NA Jenkins, Bridgend; Miss CA Taylor, Llandrindod Wells; Mrs HJ Mitchell, Cwmtillery; Prof PJ and Mrs SM King, Llandysul; Mrs JE and Mr P Bergson, Whitland; Mr MD Ashbridge, Narberth; Ms MJ Collier, Whitland; Mr S Mostyn, Talley; Ms R Bevan, Swansea; Ms J Jeeves, Bettws, Bridgend; Mrs S Smith, Bettws, Newport; Mr SR & Mrs LM Coleman, Llanilar; Mr DC Moore, Abergavenny; Ms EA Izett, Ystumtuen; Mr DL & Mrs R Richardson, Rogerstone; Miss J Lewis, Kidwelly.

In search of the Silurian

by Clare Williams

The Silurian moth occurs in large parts of Europe and parts of Asia. In central and southern Europe it has a patchy distribution, regularly occurring in very isolated, high montane areas. In Britain, the moth is only known from one locality - a single 4kilometre (km) square of high moorland above Abertillery in Blaenau Gwent (Photograph 1, page 2). The moth was first discovered by Neil Horton in 1972 and larvae were only discovered there in 2005. Very little is still known about its distribution. This moorland area has been repeatedly threatened by wind farm development, so Butterfly Conservation's South Wales branch are supporting a project which aims to find out more about this species. Additional funding secured from the Oakdale Charitable Trust has enabled a Swansea University student, Rhiannon Bevan, to be appointed to assist with the fieldwork.

The first part of the project concentrated on determining the key habitat features required by the moth. During April this year, I was accompanied by a group of hardy volunteers to survey for the post-hibernation larvae at the two sites with existing larval records. The surveys involved searching for the larvae by torchlight just after dark (Photograph 2, page 2). The first night produced 34 larvae in the area above Blaentillery Farm. As with the 2005 searches, which first discovered the wild larvae in Britain, they were found in habitat above 500 metres (m), where Bilberry shoots were growing through mossy, grassy mounds. Many of the larvae were found feeding on buds at the top of Bilberry shoots (Photograph 3, page 2). The second night located a further six larvae in the area 4km to the north of the first site, above Ty Bryn Maen Farm, Cwm Celyn, at a lower altitude of between 455-470m. Sampling of vegetation using quadrats was subsequently undertaken where larvae had been recorded.

This habitat data was used to provide a 'search image' to map the full extent of potential breeding habitat between the larval records and the county boundary. This habitat mapping has just been completed and once analysed, will help target further larval searches to confirm whether these areas are indeed suitable breeding habitat for this moth. Hopefully this work will bring us a step closer to understanding why this moth appears to be restricted to a few particular locations on one moorland plateaux despite similar Bilberry dominated habitat being present on numerous other hills in the area.

If you would like to help with larval searches in April 2011, please register your interest with Clare Williams on 07974 158814 or cwilliams.bcw@btconnect.com).

10 Million Moths ... and counting.

The National Moth Recording Scheme (NMRS) database now contains an incredible 10 million moth records! The 10 millionth record imported into the NMRS database was that of an Eyed Hawk-moth (*Smerinthus ocellata*).

The NMRS is growing at a considerable rate. Records have been submitted from every vice-county in the UK and refreshed data continues to come in, improving the recording coverage all the time.

Thank you to the County Moth Recorders, moth recorders and everybody else who has been instrumental in this achievement. We have provided an update of the data to the National Biodiversity Network Gateway and, once this has been loaded, up-to-date maps will be available to view on the Moths Count website www.mothscount.org (though there will be a time delay of up to a month due to the large amount of data to be processed).

The next major output of the project is the publication of a Provisional Atlas of macro-moths, which we aim to publish (on-line and hard copy) later in the summer. This will not be a glossy book, but will simply present new distribution maps for all species; the first for several decades.

Laura McLellan
BC Moths Count Project Assistant

Members always welcome to help Branch Committee

The Branch Committee is still on the look-out for members to assist with existing roles and to help us expand in new directions. There are many aspects of the Branch's work to get involved with or you could put yourself forward to sit on the Branch Committee. We hold around four evening meetings a year, which are kept as short as possible. The Committee manages the budget for the Branch, makes decisions on site management and decides where the Branch should focus its energies, as well as organising the AGM and Members' Day. We want the Committee to reflect YOUR views, so why not consider giving up a small amount of your time and getting involved.

If you would like more information, please contact any of the Committee Members (see page 11) or come along to the Members' Day in October and have a chat.

Fritillary butterflies flying again

by BC Wales

The Marsh Fritillary butterfly is fighting back!

This spring's dry sunny weather, enjoyed by many across Carmarthenshire, coincided with the butterfly's flight period and brought them out in force. New records show that, along with many other Fritillary butterflies, the Marsh Fritillary had a really good year in Wales. In addition to high counts of adults, the butterfly was also seen flying at new sites close to its stronghold in Cross Hands, Carmarthenshire.

Declines of this pretty orange-chequered butterfly can be mainly attributed to the loss of flowery meadows abundant in Devil's-bit Scabious - the caterpillars' food plant. BC and the Countryside Council for Wales (CCW) have run the Mynydd Mawr project, to protect and enhance Marsh Fritillary habitat in Carmarthenshire, for the past six years. Despite 78 hectares of land, mainly belonging to private landowners, being brought into sympathetic management, numbers of the butterfly had remained low because of poor weather.

After sightings of the butterfly, BC staff hope that this September's caterpillar searches will reveal them breeding on the land recently restored by the Mynydd Mawr project.

Russel Hobson, Head of Butterfly Conservation Wales said "It was heart warming to see the butterfly searching across fields that were previously unsuitable. And it is equally exciting to think we may find the caterpillars on new sites this year. This butterfly is an excellent indicator of the health of these marshy grasslands. These sites are still threatened by development in the Cross Hands area and elsewhere in South Wales."

The CCW District team leader Huw Williams said "The work we do in partnership with the Butterfly Conservation will ensure that future generations will have the opportunity to see these beautiful creatures across a wide area Carmarthenshire and South Wales coalfields."

Counts for the caterpillars' distinctive larval webs will take place at important sites in Wales from late August. The surveys are part of a Wales wide monitoring programme to assess the health of the Marsh Fritillary in Wales.

Llyn Llech Owain Volunteer Group gives butterflies a helping hand

News from the Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Partnership

A new 'Wildflower Volunteer Group' is working to enhance newly created meadows at Llyn Llech Owain Country Park in Gorslas, Carmarthenshire.

Butterfly Conservation Wales and the Rangers team at Llyn Llech Owain have been working together to improve the country park and surrounding area for wildlife, particularly the rare and declining Marsh Fritillary butterfly. We are lucky to have one of the strongest Welsh Marsh Fritillary populations in the Cross Hands area, although it is under enormous threat from development and inappropriate management. The butterfly needs light grazing by cattle or ponies in grasslands with Devil's-bit Scabious, which is the caterpillar's food plant.

Llyn Llech Owain, Butterfly Conservation's Mynydd Mawr Project and Coed Cymru developed a plan to remove a 1.5 hectare block of conifers along the southern edge of the park, to allow movement of Marsh Fritillary butterflies between suitable areas of habitat either side of the park, and create a flowery nectar-rich feeding area.

Wildflowers such as Ragged Robin and Foxglove have already appeared, but we decided to grow some Devil's-bit Scabious as well, to enhance the meadows for the Marsh Fritillary. Thus the Wildflower Volunteer Group was born. The group collected Scabious seeds in autumn 2009 from the adjacent Site of Special Scientific Interest at Rhyd-y-Gwiall. It is important to use locally grown seeds, which are adapted to local conditions. The volunteers have been growing seedlings over the spring and summer, and will plant them out in the new meadow this autumn. Everyone enjoyed growing the seeds so much that we are going to collect, grow and plant out other local wildflowers as well, such as the characteristic Whorled Caraway.

We were greatly encouraged in our work by the surprise appearance of a very large colony of Marsh Fritillaries at the southeast corner of Llyn Llech Owain this spring - more than a hundred were seen on one visit.

If you would like to join the Wildflower Group or would like more information, please contact the Rangers at Llyn Llech Owain Country Park on 01269 832229.

For further information about the work of the Carmarthenshire Biodiversity Partnership please visit www.carmarthenshirebiodiversity.co.uk

Butterfly Conservation South Wales Branch

Final Notice of NEW Photographic Competition

At this year's Members' Day in October we will be running, for the first time, a photographic competition. Many of you enjoy photographing your sightings and we hope this competition will encourage you to show off your results!

Closing date for entries is 1st October 2010.

There are three categories:

1. UK Butterflies
2. UK Moths
3. Immature Stages

Rules:

- The entrant must be a member of Butterfly Conservation.
- Entries are limited to 1 per person per category.
- Photographs must be the work of the entrant.
- Photographs submitted must be un-mounted colour 10" x 8" prints. Transparencies and blurred images will not be accepted. Digital images will be accepted but must be supplied as a print.
- Photographs must be printed on good quality photographic or inkjet paper. If necessary please seek further advice from a professional photographic outlet.
- Photographs must have been taken in the year preceding the closing date, in the South Wales Branch area.
- Entries must be clearly labelled, in capital letters, on the back of each photograph with:
 - what the photograph shows
 - the date it was taken
 - the precise location of the photograph (with a 6 figure grid reference)
- Entries will only be returned if a stamped addressed envelope has been supplied, or in person at the Members' Day.
- Copyright remains with the photographer, however by entering, entrants acknowledge that the South Wales Branch will be allowed to use any photograph (with accreditation) for the purpose of general publicity.
- Photographs must be of wild insects, not captive bred stock.

Judging will take place during the Members' Day, the winner being voted for by Branch membership present on the day. Voting will take place throughout the morning session and results will be announced during the formal AGM.

Please send entries clearly marked to South Wales BC Branch Photographic Competition, c/o SEWBReC, 13 St. Andrew's Crescent, Cardiff, CF10 3DB.

EVENTS	
October	
Fri 1st	Closing date for entries in the South Wales BC Branch Photographic Competition For further details on how to enter, see page 9.
Sat 16th 10:30 - 16:00 (approx.)	South Wales BC Branch Members' Day & AGM Join us for our annual Members' Day get-together & AGM. Don't forget to take part in our new photographic competition too! See back cover for further details of the Members' Day.
Mon 18th 19:30 - 21:30	Wildlife Trust of South & West Wales Mid Pembrokeshire Group AGM and talk on Moths and Mothing AGM followed by a talk by Tony Lewis - 'Moths and Mothing in Pembrokeshire'. Indoor meetings held at the Furzy Park Community Centre, The Patch, Haverfordwest. Contact Programme Secretary Robin Taylor, Maesteg, Hayscastle, Haverfordwest, Pembs. SA62 5NY. Tel: 01348 840617.
November	
Sat 20 th	BC National AGM/Members' Day To be hosted by Cambs & Essex Branch at Churchill College, Storey's Way, Cambridge, CB3 0DS. Further details will be available on the main BC website: www.butterfly-conservation.org
Winter weekdays & weekends	The South Wales Branch usually runs a series of surveys and workdays during the winter months: Surveys for Brown Hairstreak eggs in Carmarthenshire take place from late November, are mainly held on weekdays and dates are chosen a few days in advance for weather. For the more energetic, habitat management tasks at Brown Hairstreak sites (Carms), Marsh Fritillary sites (Carms & possibly Glamorgan) and in the Alun Valley (Glam) for High Brown Fritillary are all likely to take place.

Please Note: The Branch winter programme is not yet finalised – full details will appear on the Branch website: www.southwales-butterflies.org.uk as soon as they are available.

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Big Butterfly Count provides interesting results ...

The main results of the UK's first ever **big butterfly count** were revealed at the end of August. So far, a staggering 187,000 individual sightings have been entered via the Internet from all over the country. The BC big butterfly count (run in partnership with Marks & Spencer) involved over 10,000 members of the public, who carried out more than 15,000 counts during this year's event. The count was designed to give scientists an overall indication of the state of the nation's butterfly population, particularly in gardens and urban areas.

Sightings are still being received, but the main results of the big butterfly count are already clear. From 24 July - 1 August 2010, the top ten most common species were the Small White, Large White, Gatekeeper, Meadow Brown, Common Blue, Peacock, Green-veined White, Red Admiral, Small Tortoiseshell and the Ringlet.

Interesting results include an impressive number of sightings of the Small Tortoiseshell. This beautiful butterfly has been ravaged in recent years with numbers declining by 82 per cent in south-east England, perhaps due to the arrival of a parasitic fly called *Sturmia bella*. The big butterfly count results indicate strong signs of recovery, with results showing it was the ninth most common butterfly seen across the UK, with even better results from garden habitats.

The Gatekeeper's results also pleased conservationists. This butterfly has suffered a run of extremely bad years but ranked as number three in the top ten list during the count. It was seen in greatest numbers in fields and other rural habitats, but this orange butterfly was also found thriving in major cities such as London and Manchester.

Although no day-flying moths made it into the Top 10, the most common moth reported during big butterfly count was the Six-spot Burnet, followed by the Silver Y and then, some way behind, the Humming-bird Hawk-moth. The Six-spot Burnet came in 13th place overall, with just under 4,000 individual moths counted.

Richard Fox, BC's Surveys Manager said: "A big thank you to all who have made the big butterfly count the biggest ever weekly count of butterflies anywhere in the world! We were impressed by the Gatekeeper and delighted to see the Small Tortoiseshell in the top ten as it had become a scarce sight, particularly in the south. It's been a fantastic start and the big butterfly count will continue in 2011. With the public's help, we'll be able to compare how

butterflies and moths have fared. We hope people from all over the UK will help us take the pulse of nature in years to come".

Despite the pleasing results for some species, scientists from BC, who are analysing this year's data, warn that most butterflies continue to face serious long-term decline.

The full results of the big butterfly count can be viewed online at www.bigbutterflycount.org

Lepidoptera Conservation Bulletin Number 10

The latest edition of the Lepidoptera Conservation Bulletin is now available to download from the national BC website www.butterfly-conservation.org/lepidopteraconservationbulletin. The Bulletin summarises the work carried out by BC and partner organisations over the course of the year and the resulting advances in understanding of UK Biodiversity Action Plan Priority Species (moths and butterflies) including information on distribution, habitat requirements and management.

This year's edition includes updates on conservation efforts for a broad selection of highly threatened moths and butterflies across the UK as well as articles about Lepidoptera recording, BC reserves, BC Europe and National Moth Night. There is also a selected bibliography covering publications of interest in 2008 and 2009.

County Moth and Butterfly Recorders will already have been alerted to the publication of the Bulletin which we hope will also be of interest to branch members with a particular interest in work on key BAP species and the progress of our many projects last year. If members have any comments on the overall content and usefulness of the newsletter, BC would be interested to hear your views. NB: To make it easier to read on screen you should be able to use the contents page to navigate around the report (hold 'ctrl' then click on the subject header).

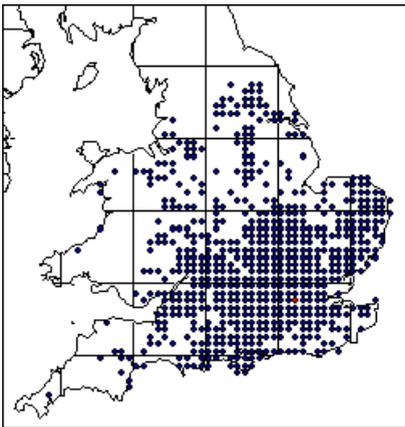
Amber Rosenthal, BC Conservation Officer (Threatened Species)
lepconsbulletin@butterfly-conservation.org or tel: 01929 406029.

Mission: Alien Moth Survey - The Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner (*Cameraria ohridella*)

by Andrea Rowe

Over the last couple of years I have been aware of articles in the news about the Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner (see Photograph on back page). I saw some evidence of the moth's damage to trees whilst on holiday in France, but it was only on a recent trip to London that I actually saw the major damage to trees caused by this little non-native moth. The Horse Chestnut trees stood out in all their 'autumnal' (brown) glory against a backdrop of lush green trees. I now see why the often London-centric media have made such a fuss - it's hard to miss and makes a great news story as conker time approaches!

Scientists first described the Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner in 1986 in what is now the Republic of Macedonia. The tiny (5mm) moth then spread throughout Europe, leaving a trail of evidence on Horse Chestnuts in its wake. The first infected tree found in the UK was spotted in 2002 in Wimbledon, London. Since then it has spread at a rate of 40-60km per year and now covers half of the country, including much of south-central England, East Anglia, the Midlands and most recently East Yorkshire and Cornwall.



UK distribution of *Cameraria ohridella* up to 2009 © Forest Research

The moth's caterpillars live inside the leaves, forming distinctive patches of damage called leaf mines. Up to 700 leaf mines have been recorded on a single leaf and the damage caused by large numbers of larvae can be striking. Severely damaged leaves shrivel and turn brown by mid summer and fall early, well before the autumn, giving the impression that the tree is dead.

Some scientists believe that the spread and establishment of the Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner is of particular concern because, once established, the moth maintains exceptionally high rates of infestation without any evidence of decline. Although the moths do not kill the trees directly, they may weaken the trees, which then produce fewer and smaller conkers.

So, listening to the radio last week I wasn't surprised to hear another article on the moth, this time focusing on a joint project by the Universities of Bristol and Hull and funded by the Natural Environmental Research Council (NERC). The project, which has been running since 15th June, is inviting people to help track the rate of spread of the moth by looking for evidence of leaf mines in local Horse Chestnut trees. People can then log the location of the tree, either with or without the indication of alien moths, onto the project website.

Dr Michael Pocock from the University of Bristol explains, "The moth is spreading year-by-year and so this will give us the most up-to-date picture of the spread of this moth. Verified records will then be passed to Forest Research to add to its national database, which has been recording the spread of the moth since its arrival in 2002."

Another part of the survey (which is now complete) allowed members of the public to record the appearance of nature's pest controller - a tiny parasitic wasp that eats the moth caterpillars from the inside out.

To find out more about the survey and take part visit the project website at www.ourweboflife.org.uk, where you can also see all the results so far.

The Horse Chestnut Leaf Miner - a local entomologist's perspective.

by David Slade

Almost as seasonal as the conkers themselves, autumn rolls on and the plight of the Horse Chestnut tree hits the headlines. In case you have not heard, "tiny parasitic moths" have infested one of our nation's favourite trees, and the future of conkers is in peril. Or as I would prefer to put it, a pretty amazing little moth has rapidly colonised the UK making use of one of the least interesting 'native' trees - entomologically speaking!

I am not a horticulturalist, but my understanding is that the moth is unlikely to actually kill a tree. Indeed, the more serious threat to the trees is caused by bacteria, which forms 'bleeding cankers'. What the moth does do is make the trees look prematurely autumnal, with all the leaves turning brown and in some

cases dropping earlier than they ought to (see Photograph on back page).

There is no doubt that this moth is one of the most prolific species of leaf miner, with several generations a year, to the effect that it is effectively continuously brooded. To eradicate the species would be impossible, but there are students working on biological control in the form of parasitic wasps.

The first Welsh record was in Newport, Gwent in 2005 and within two years it was firmly established in Cardiff. Although it does not yet appear to be in Swansea, I now rarely find a tree in the eastern half of Glamorgan that has not been colonised.

Help the South Wales Branch go green

As a Branch, we are looking to reduce our carbon footprint by cutting down on the amounts of paper, ink and transport costs associated with traditional newsletter production and distribution, by increasing newsletter distribution to members via email (as a full colour PDF document). This will result in significant cost-savings for the Branch too. We completely understand that some members enjoy receiving their newsletter by post and have no desire to receive it by email, which is why a mix and match approach is the one that we favour.

If you would like to receive future newsletters and Branch updates by email only, please email the Newsletter Editor (newsedit@southwales-butterflies.org.uk) with your full name and BC Membership number. Your email contact details will be stored for these purposes only and will not be passed to any other parties.

Enthusiastic children succeed in making butterfly and caterpillar creations!

In our last newsletter we told how Butterfly Conservation (BC) and children's author Elise Harter had launched a butterfly and caterpillar themed story writing competition for children aged 8 to 11. Well, plenty of budding Lepidopterists used all of their creative talents to come up with some great tales, observations and poems.

Winning entries in the 8-9 section were: Michael Baiden, Megan de la Haye and Rose How, and in the 10-11 section: Oliver Northcott, Bethany Butler and Lasya Karthikeyan. Well done to everyone who entered! To read all the competition entries visit Elise's website www.eliseharter.weebly.com.

An Introduction to Moth Photography

by Chris Manley, author of 'British Moths & Butterflies'.

There are many reasons for taking photographs of moths, perhaps principally to record their beauty and confirm identification. Photographs can also show behaviour, special identification features of details or pose, camouflage, comparison with other similar species, or simply make a beautiful picture. The use of digital cameras and the Internet, mean that photographs of interesting records can be published immediately, allowing others to know what you have found.

Many digital cameras have an 'image stabilisation' facility. These are excellent as they help produce sharp, crisp shots. There's nothing worse than taking a wonderful photo only to find that it is a bit blurry on the computer screen. However, far better and more reliable results come with the use of a tripod. Even a small, lightweight one will do for most compact cameras, although something more substantial is needed for an SLR camera.

A major problem with trying to photograph small moths is the need to get rather close. Firstly they tend to want to fly away when a camera looms over them, but assuming your moth sits still and you are close, you need a decent depth of field so that the whole insect is in focus. This means a wide aperture (big f number), which in turn means a slow shutter speed, and more blur. Hence the tripod! You can use flash, obviously, but I find that pictures are often overexposed and, if not, there are very strong shadows. I do use flash at night or to freeze the movement of a fluttering moth about to fly away but usually prefer natural light.

If running a moth trap the subjects are most likely to be approachable in the early morning when it is cool, and before the sun warms them up. However, popping a moth in a small container to keep in the fridge for a while (a few hours or overnight) to get cool and calm will do it no harm. Then it can be tapped out onto something to photograph before it flies away. A small amount of weak sugar solution will often be appreciated. The moth will put out its proboscis to suck it up whilst you take pictures!

Purely for identification purposes it does not matter what your moth is resting on, as long as the picture is sharp, in focus and nicely exposed. However, if you have gone to the trouble of doing all that, it is a small step to try to make a more pleasing final image, rather than simply a moth in a plastic pot. A plain green leaf can look fine but personally I like to add a little extra by including the local flora if possible, or have the insect showing off its camouflage in some way, for example.

Often I just shake a moth from the trap onto bushes nearby and try for a picture wherever it lands. This can make for tricky composition. I check the background for awkward twigs, grass etc. which might spoil the photo and check the foreground to make sure that I can see the whole moth. If your camera has a spot focus facility this is useful; many cameras focus on the nearest object, which may not be what you want.

The main thing is to actually take the picture, or several. You can always take a better one later. I have missed many a picture by trying to get the perfect shot and ending up with nothing because the moth has flown!



Pink-barred Sallow.
Using camouflage to
hide in plain sight.
© Chris Manley
(see Front Cover for
colour image).

Editor's Notes:

The images on the following page (page 19) have all been taken by Chris and illustrate beautifully the stunning results you can get with patience and practice and using Chris's great advice.

We are really grateful to Chris for writing this article for us. His book 'British Butterflies and Moths - a photographic guide' is well worth a look (if you haven't seen it already). With around 2400 stunning photographs, it is a very comprehensive printed photographic guide to Britain's Lepidoptera. It covers more than 1,400 species, including around 500 micro-moths and 74 species of butterfly as well as larvae, eggs and pupae. It makes a great companion book to other guides such as Waring or Skinner.

The book is available from usual outlets, but you can order it directly from Chris's own website www.chrismanley.co.uk and click on the books link.



Fox Moths:
Showing differences
between female on left
and male, right
© Chris Manley

Elephant Hawk-moth:
Detail of this stunning
moth.
© Chris Manley



Wax Moth:
Pretending to be a twig.
© Chris Manley

Date for your Diaries

Butterfly Conservation South Wales Branch MEMBERS' DAY and AGM

**Saturday 16th October 2010, 10:30 - 15:45
at Kenfig National Nature Reserve (NNR) Visitor Centre.**

Our popular Members' Day and AGM will include the usual entertaining and informative mix of talks and presentations from a wide range of guest speakers. The event starts at 10:30, with a chance to have tea and coffee and meet other Members. Over the lunch break (lunch is not provided, so please bring your own), everyone will have another chance to mingle and view the entries of the Photographic Competition. The AGM will take place immediately after lunch.

Non members are very welcome to attend.

Directions to venue: Leave M4 at junction 37. At exit roundabout follow A4229 towards Porthcawl. At 1st roundabout (after 400 yds) turn right onto B4283 towards North Cornelly. Go under motorway and carry on through village until crossroads. Turn left, passing over M4 - follow this road for ½ mile (past both "Angel" and then "Prince of Wales" pubs on your left) until you see the reserve car park on the right.



The Horse Chestnut
Leafminer (*Cameraria
ohridella*) © David Slade

Horse Chestnut showing
mild *Cameraria ohridella*
damage © David Slade

