
NORFOLK BRANCH of Butterfly Conservation



**Butterfly
Conservation**

NEWSLETTER 89 SPRING 2015

Butterfly Conservation

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NORFOLK BRANCH - OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

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Conservation Officer	Dr. Bernard Watts
County Recorder	Andy Brazil
Transect Co-ordinator	Alan Dawson
Catfield Fen Reserve - Liaison	Mandy Gluth
Field Trip Organisers	Ann and Bob Carpenter
Events Organiser	Vacant
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Minutes Secretary	Derek Longe
Moth Officer	Greg Bond
Webmaster	Neil Saunders
Committee Member	Dave Brice
WCBS Co-ordinator	Julian Bull
Catfield Fen Reserve - Warden	Dr. Keith Bacon

[Contact details are available in the print versions of the Newsletter]

Norfolk Branch web-sites	www.norfolk-butterflies.org.uk http://butterfly-conservation.org/291/norfolk-branch.html
National web-site	www.butterfly-conservation.org
Facebook: Butterfly Conservation Norfolk	Twitter: @BC_Norfolk

**The opinions expressed in this newsletter are those of the author(s)
and not necessarily those of the Society**

**Part of the cost of printing this newsletter has very kindly been donated in memory
of Mr John Edward Mallett, originally of Stiffkey, Norfolk**

Front Cover Photograph: Yellow-Legged Tortoiseshell in Norfolk by Alan Dawson (see page 21 of Andy Brazil's Butterfly Report)

Inside Front Cover: More photographs from the 2014 Photographic Competition:
Pearl-bordered Fritillary at Gait Barrows, Cumbria by Mrs Shirley White (top)
Glanville Fritillary in Bulgaria by Helen Burrell (bottom)

Chairman's Notes

By Judy Dunmore

As usual, this edition is the one to include all the information about last season, the records we received and the surveying carried out. We are now half way through the ten-year recording set and it is pleasing to note that records were received from well over 100 new tetrads – i.e. not previously covered since 2010. Richard Fox, Head of Recording for the whole country, wrote about the national recording scheme 'Butterflies for the Millennium' in the recent edition of *Butterfly*. All your records go into this scheme but there are still lots of white spaces on our map and I hope many of you will get out there this summer and record the species that are, no doubt, in these areas. 'Tetrad bashing', as it is known, can be great fun.

A full and varied programme of events has been put together for this summer and I hope many of you will come along. If you are a new member, or just have not been on a field trip before, please make yourself known to the leader – you will be most welcome. A new venture for us will be attending the two-day Norfolk Bird Fair at Mannington Hall and we will be setting moth traps overnight both nights, opening them for the public the next morning. At the time of going to press exact details were not available so please check their website before attending.

We will not be attending the Norfolk Show this year – the first time for more than 20 more years. Unfortunately no-one has come forward to take over from our Events Co-ordinator, Angela Woodrow, who stood down at the AGM last autumn. Despite appeals for someone to take on this role and for extra people to help on stands at events such as this, we did not have enough volunteers to be able to cover the two days, as well as the extra work involved. This event gives us excellent opportunities to meet with people we would not normally come across and we hope to be able to attend again next year. Meanwhile we have also had to decline invitations to other smaller events around the county, many involving families and children – an important area for us. Most of these fall during the summer months when we also have field trips etc organised. If you feel you could help in any way in the future please contact me.

Our decision to re-instate winter indoor meetings in Norwich was a disappointment, with less than 20 people attending Alan's excellent talk on Bulgarian Butterflies in January. Our regular March members evening had even less attendees. For many years successful winter talks have been held at Blakeney and we would really like to be providing a similar service to our members in the Norwich area. It has, therefore, been decided to try again, on December 4th, and I hope lots of you will come along. Please check the website for a location map or give a committee members of ring beforehand if you are unsure of how to find this excellent venue.

Lastly I come to the AGM. The venue at City College last year was not deemed a success so this year it will be held in Hethersett Village Hall on Saturday October 3rd. I am absolutely delighted to tell you that David Newland has agreed to be our main speaker. David will discuss some of his recent sightings, including studies of Grizzled Skippers, Brown Argus, Hornet Moths, Raspberry Clearwings and Six-spot Burnets. He will also talk about the work that was required to complete the latest edition of his book *Britain's Butterflies* that was published this spring. Developments during the year, hopefully as exciting as 2014, will be reviewed and, if time permits, he will lead a discussion on butterfly photography. Hopefully there will be something for everybody. Please make a note in your diary now and come along and join us.

Field Trips and Events 2015

Wednesday 6th May – 7.30pm at Blakeney Scout Hut HQ

‘Wildlife of FYR Macedonia – an unknown part of Europe’

Illustrated talk by Greg Bond Postcode NR25 7PQ

Contact: Judy Dunmore Tel: 01263 822550 or Greg Bond Tel: 01263 579520

Sunday 17th May – 10.30am, Field Trip to Cut-Off Channel at Stoke Ferry

Target species Dinky and Grizzled Skipper

Directions: From Mundford take the A134 to Stoke Ferry. At Stoke Ferry roundabout take 2nd exit into village, turn left just after church, continue and turn left into School Lane and meet at the end TL696990. See website for map.

Contact: Mandy Gluth Tel: 01603 871069

Saturday and Sunday May 16th/17th – 10.00am-5.00pm at Mannington Hall

‘Norfolk Bird Fair’ admission £10 on day - £8 in advance

We will have a stand at this Event and will be setting moth traps overnight to be opened on the day. See website www.norfolkbirdfair.com for more details

Sunday 7th June 2015 – Catfield Fen Open Day

Our Catfield Fen Reserve will be open to members and the public for Swallowtails. Water levels permitting, there will be guided walks at 11am and 2pm, boat rides around the dykes may also be possible. Unaccompanied access is only possible along the Rond on the western and southern boundary of the Reserve. Parking by kind permission of Dr and Mrs S Holburn at TG369215 Postcode NR29 5DD.

Wellies highly recommended and essential if going into the Reserve. You might also find insect repellent useful. Sorry no dogs.

Contact: Mandy Gluth Tel: 01603 871069

Sunday 14th June – from 10.00am at Wheatfen Nature Reserve

Held in conjunction with The Ted Ellis Trust at Wheatfen Nature Reserve, Surlingham. An opportunity to see Swallowtails, Norfolk Hawker dragonflies, Marsh Harriers and other interesting fauna and flora on the paths around this special Reserve.

Guided walks all day. Please note the Reserve is tidal, wellies and insect repellent are strongly recommended. Refreshments available. No charge, donations are welcome. Sorry no dogs. Follow signs for parking. Postcode NR14 7AL www.wheatfen.org

Contact: David Nobbs Tel: 01508 538036

Saturday 27th June – 10.30am-4.00pm at the new Aspinall Centre at Cley

To celebrate National Insect Week Butterfly Conservation and Norfolk Wildlife Trust have organised a day full of fun insect activities starting with Magical Moths 10.30am-noon, then Butterflies and things that fly 1.00-2.30pm with Pond Dipping from 3.30-5.00pm.

More details including costs on the NWT website www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk

Contact Greg Bond Tel: 01263 579520 or Rachael at Cley NWT Tel: 01263 740008

Sunday 28th June – 2pm, Field Trip to Kelling Heath

For Silver-studded Blues. Meet in the public car park at TG099418 on Holt to Weybourne Road on the west side, north of Emcy’s Garden Centre.

Contact: John Wagstaff Tel: 01263 711213

Monday 6th July – 1.30-4.00 pm, Field Trip to Long’s Wood

Meet in the Wood’s Car Park. Grid Ref: TM144995. A gentle walk round this young wood looking for summer butterflies.

Contact: Ann Carpenter Tel: 01508 488337.

Wednesday 15th July – 9.30am at Middle Harling Heath

Day flying and Breckland moths. As a change of scene this year we will be visiting Middle Harling Heath which is within the big Forestry Commission block of woodland south of East Harling. We hope this will again be an excellent site for several Breck speciality day-flying moths such as Oblique-striped and Marbled Clover, as well as some excellent Breckland flora. We will also be running several traps the night before which we will open in the car park. As usual experts will be on hand to help identify moths and plants, so please join us. With the potential for a stroll in nearby forest walks, this visit may last a few hours, so please bring your own refreshments. Meet at the FC ride entrance to Middle Harling Heath on the Garboldisham Road between East Harling and Gasthorpe. It is marked on OS maps as ROMAN road between B111 junction and A1066 junction. This location is not that easy to find so do please allow extra time. Grid ref TL986833

Contact: Greg Bond gregorycbond@aol.com Tel 01263 579520 or mobile 07940 876994

17th July to 9th August – The Big Butterfly Count

To get involved, please see the website www.bigbutterflycount.org

Sunday July 19th – 10.00am, Moth Trap opening at Catfield Fen

As a new event this year we are running an open morning for members at Catfield Fen concentrating on some of the special moths which occur there. We will be putting out traps the night before and will, weather permitting, hope to attract nationally rare species such as Dotted Footman, Small Dotted Footman and Fenns Wainscot as well as good numbers of other moths which occur in this pristine habitat. Car parking will be as the main open day in June. No boat trips are being arranged this time but visitors will be free to wander along the road afterwards, looking for dragonflies or even a late Swallowtail. See Open Day details for site information.

Contact: Greg Bond Tel: 01263 579520

Wednesday July 22nd – 1.30-4.00 pm, Field Trip to Foxley Wood

Meet in the Reserve Car Park, Grid Ref: TG049229, Postcode NR20 4QR. A walk round this NWT reserve looking for butterflies and other wildlife. The ground may be uneven in places and it can be quite damp, so sturdy footwear is advisable.

Contact: Ann Carpenter Tel: 01508 488337.

Saturday 25th July – 10am at Hillfield Nursery, Thorpe-next-Haddiscoe

Moth Trapping and Butterfly walk. Moth traps set the night before will be opened at this nursery and pick-your-own fruit farm. Even if the weather has been wet, we will be able to open the traps in the dry. A butterfly walk will follow, taking in the nectar-rich field margins, pond area and orchard. With the diversity of habitat on this site our visit may last all day so bring food, drink and a folding chair. Directions: From Norwich take the A146 towards Lowestoft. Turn left at Hales and follow the road for approx 4 miles past the signs for Raveningham Hall on the right and Reedham Ferry on the left. When the pylons end, look for a sign for Hillfield Nursery at Mill Lane on the left. Follow the road a short way to a right turn into the Nursery and car park. TM422974 Postcode NR14 6PA

Contact: Judy Dunmore Tel: 01263 822550

Thursday 30th July – 11.00am-2.00pm at Holt Country Park

Family Day – Beautiful Butterflies. The Rangers at Holt CP are organising a Butterfly Day in the school holidays taking families exploring in the woods and Lowes for butterflies. We will be leading a guided walk at 11.15am. Silver-washed Fritillaries and White Admirals should be around. Other activities include ‘make a butterfly house to take home’ so bring your children and grandchildren along; you could also take part in the Big Butterfly Count. Postcode NR25 6ES Cost: Adults £2, children £1. No booking required; charge for car parking.

Thursday 6th August – 1.00-4.00 pm, Field Trip to Upton Fen

Meet in the Reserve Car Park. - Grid Ref: TG380137 Postcode NR13 6EQ
A walk round this NWT reserve looking for butterflies and other wildlife. The ground can be uneven and very damp in places so sturdy footwear is advisable.
Contact: Ann Carpenter Tel: 01508 488337

Wednesday 2nd September – 7.30pm at Blakeney Scout Hut HQ

‘Weird and Wonderful Ecuador – a journey from high in the Andes down to the Amazonian lowlands.’ An illustrated talk by Kath Clayton Postcode NR25 7PQ
Contact: Judy Dunmore Tel: 01263 822550.

Saturday 12th September – 10.00 am at the Cley Visitors Centre

For the annual National Moth Night, Butterfly Conservation are again teaming up with Norfolk Wildlife Trust to open traps set the night before at the famous Cley reserve. With an emphasis on migrants, given reasonable weather we can expect many rare and colourful moths in the traps, which will be opened from 10.00am on. Further moth and nature related activities are planned for the day and for full details see either our website or the NWT website www.norfolkwildlifetrust.org.uk
Contact Greg Bond Tel: 01263 579520 or Rachael at Cley NWT Tel. 01263 740008

Saturday October 3rd – 2.00pm – 5.30pm, AGM

Talks, photographic competition and AGM - See elsewhere in this Newsletter for details of the afternoon’s programme Contact: Judy Dunmore Tel: 01263 822550

Saturday 10th October – 10.00am-4.00pm at Easton College

‘Wild about Norfolk’ Visit our stand at this annual wildlife fair. A full day of activities and events, especially suitable for children. Postcode NR9 5DX
Contact: Judy Dunmore Tel: 01263 822550

Wednesday 4th November – 7.30pm at Blakeney Scout Hut HQ

‘Butterflies and Farming – a European perspective’ An illustrated talk by Simon Spencer, chairman of the European Interest Group, Butterfly Conservation. Postcode NR25 7PQ
Contact: Judy Dunmore, Tel: 01263 822550.

Friday 4th December – 7.30pm at United Reform Church, Ipswich Road, Norwich,

‘British and European Fritillaries’, an illustrated talk by Bernard Watts, our Conservation Officer. Postcode NR4 6QR The Hall is south of the ring road, access via Lyhart Road – see website for map
Contact: Ann Carpenter Tel: 01508 488337

Norfolk Moth Survey Meetings

The following are confirmed dates and sites but more are in the pipeline. All will be on Saturday evenings. For further details and updates please check the Norfolk Moth Group website mentioned in our Moths Matter article.

16th May – Little Snoring Meadows. Meet 8.00 pm at TF969339

20th June – East Wretham Heath. Meet 8.30 pm at NWT car park

15th August – Stow Hall (Stow Bardolph). Meet 8.00 pm at TF634075

Gardening for Moths

By Greg Bond

As with butterflies, moths are attracted to a variety of plants for nectaring and also egg laying. Whilst I would generally encourage you to have at least some of your garden turned over to wild native plants, stocking it up with a variety of species favoured by many caterpillars might be a step too far, though a nice Hawthorn hedge works for many.

Nectar plants are however a different issue and many are attractive to us gardeners as well. Wild honeysuckle, various campions and catchflies, single flowered pinks, hemp agrimony, soapworts and valerian etc as well as introduced species such as buddleia, tobacco plants, evening primroses all attract moths, provided they are the heavily scented (and often old fashioned) forms and make a welcome addition to many gardens. Needless to say insect friendly gardens generally work best, with a decent amount of shelter and some untidy, leaf litter strewn corners where moths can hide from their many predators. And please, no insecticides! There are many articles on the web and in books on this subject but perhaps the most useful is that published by Butterfly Conservation at http://www.mothscount.org/text/64/nectar_plants.html

Events Co-ordinator and Helpers

We are in desperate need of someone to take on the role of co-ordinating our attendance at a variety of Events throughout the year and also others to come along on the day and help man a stand. The main responsibilities of the co-ordinator would be to liaise with Event organisers and maintain our stock of sales goods and leaflets. This is an important role for the Branch as going along to these public events raises our profile locally and gives us opportunities to enrol new members. These events are often family-orientated and we are all aware that getting children interested in the natural environment as early as possible is key to the future health of our flora and fauna. Through lack of volunteers we have had to turn down the chance to attend a number potentially excellent events this year. Please give serious thought as to whether you could be part of this important work.

Saturday October 3rd 2015

2.00pm-5.30pm

Hethersett Village Hall

Back Lane, Hethersett NR9 3JJ

‘Discovering Butterflies and Moths in East Anglia’

An illustrated talk by David Newland

David is a well-known author and photographer

‘Gardening for Butterflies – planting a nectar bar’

A short illustrated presentation by Mandy Gluth

AGM

Photographic Competition

Further details on page 29

Free Parking

Refreshments

From North/Norwich

At the A47/A11 Thickthorn roundabout take the HETHERSETT exit B1172. After about 2 miles look for STEEPLE TOWERS housing estate (about 20-25 years old) Turn RIGHT into the estate. Follow the road through the estate. After about half a mile the Village Hall is on your right.

From South/Wymondham

At Waitrose supermarket roundabout follow the signs for HETHERSETT on B1172. After 3 to 4 miles look for STEEPLE TOWERS housing estate on the LEFT. Turn into the estate, then as above. Follow the road through the estate. After about half a mile the Village Hall is on your right.

See website for map

**Please make a note in your diary of on your calendar
NOW!**

Brown Hairstreaks in Lincolnshire

By John Geeson

My wife Judy and I had only ever seen a single Brown Hairstreak on a dedicated visit to Oxfordshire way back in August 1993 – too high in an oak tree for photography and of course well before the digital age! As Judy was otherwise occupied, I therefore jumped at the chance to join Peter Kitchener and Clive Sheppard on a trip up to Chambers Farm Wood (one of a patchwork of ancient lime woods managed for wildlife by the Forestry Commission) in central Lincolnshire, where this difficult and often elusive species can be found. As Judy and I had suffered two failed attempts at this site in the past, the idea of going with Clive who had seen and photographed the beasts here in 2012, and knew which tree(s) to be looking at, seemed a very good move indeed.

Peter and I left home bright and early and drove over to Clive's house in west Norfolk before heading north, and we pulled into the car park at Chambers Farm Wood by 1030, with the comforting thought that late morning was supposedly the peak period of activity for our quarry. A gentle fifteen minute walk along a broad ride brought us to the junction of several paths and the "master" ash tree reputedly the centre of operations, where a few other would-be observers were already busy examining the vegetation and anything which moved. Over the ensuing couple of hours, a few more folks came and went and we walked up and down; a few brown flashes through the canopy kept us on our toes, but the only positively identified butterflies in the treetops turned out to be Purple Hairstreaks. Eventually, as I scanned down the ride to a small group of people looking down intently into the trackside vegetation, a hand signal from one lady made us abandon our packed lunches and tripods to leg down to the assembly, where a female Brown Hairstreak was busy exploring the grass and *Prunus* saplings, presumably for ovipositing sites – great relief all round! The butterfly stayed in an area of a few square metres for several minutes and provided excellent photographic opportunities for the small gallery of admirers, though one of the photographers was painfully slow! Then it disappeared up into an overhanging oak tree (see photographs opposite on page 11).

After completing lunch in a more leisurely fashion we explored the wood further, including the large clearing of Little Scrubbs Meadow, which holds a long established re-introduced population of Marsh Fritillaries and where their food plant Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis* was flowering in profusion. Our visit to Chambers Farm Wood yielded over twenty species of butterflies including single Silver-washed Fritillary and White Admiral, a couple of Clouded Yellows and several Painted Ladies (photograph inside back cover) and Purple Hairstreaks, together with a good selection of late-summer dragonflies including one female Common Hawker *Aeshna juncea*.

Back at the visitors car park, a dead moth found on an inside windowsill of the toilets provided some final entertainment for the three of us – all dedicated moth-ers. This turned out to be a fine (though expired) specimen of Svensson's Copper Underwing, and being able to open up the hind wings to see the extent of orange (the best diagnostic character to separate this from the closely related Copper Underwing) was a rare opportunity – and a fitting way to round off an enjoyable visit.

Chambers Farm Wood, between Horncastle and Lincoln, is the closest site for this beautiful late-emerging butterfly for anyone here in Norfolk – for further details see: www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/EnglandLincolnshireNoForestChambersFarmWood

Brown Hairstreak photographed by John Geeson (top) and Peter Kitchener (bottom)



Moth Traps on a Budget

By Karen Husband

On a sunny Saturday morning in May 2013, under supervision, I built my first skinner trap, having purchased an array of MV electrical ‘bits and boxes’ the previous week. I had been bitten big time by the fascinating world of moths and moth trapping. The following year, this wonderful hobby prompted the construction of several prototype traps, trialling different bulb configurations, aiming not to break the bank. We wanted to find a cheaper alternative starter trap configuration for newbies.

As we work away from home, taking the MV ballast trap would not have been an option in some places, so our first prototype trap using a ‘black light blue’ bulb 240V 25W ES manufactured by Prolite, requiring no ballast, was built. Having ‘borrowed’ a table lamp from the house and laying a white bed sheet over the hedge, we waited in anticipation. Amazingly, a variety of moths came to light/sheet over a four hour period. The outside lighting on the white boarded house some 5 metres away, acted as control. Only three species of moth came to the house wall (including a small magpie!); 17 species came to the sheet. Similar results were recorded for the next couple of tries.



Black light blue bulb trap at Hillfield Nursery July 2014

Our next prototype was a MV 160W 240V bulb requiring no ballast. Altering the electrics to my partners’ skinner trap, to take a standard ceramic bulb holder and waterproof rubber cable used for ponds, produced even better results than the black blue light, both in quantity and variety, but the MV with ballast constantly attained the best counts. In July, we took all three traps to Hillfield Nursery Open Day. The traps were laid out around the fields and orchards. For power we use 20m Masterplug case reel extension cables with weatherproof sockets. All cables were connected via waterproof connections. It was a fantastic night for moths and we certainly were able to show the public a variety and quantity of beautiful insects, from a variety of trap formats, proving that it doesn’t cost an arm and a leg to get

started with what I am sure will become a fascinating addictive hobby. This year we plan to test these prototypes further, so a full set of comparable data will be available by autumn (weather permitting). I intend to take all three traps to our event at Hillfield Nursery this year, so why not come along and take a look? All our bulbs were bought from www.bltdirect.com Tel. 01473 716418 (sales) . 01473 559501 (customer service); BLT Direct Unit 9, The Quadrangle, The Drift, Nacton Road, Ipswich, Suffolk IP3 9QR. They arrived promptly & very well packaged.

Website and Social Media

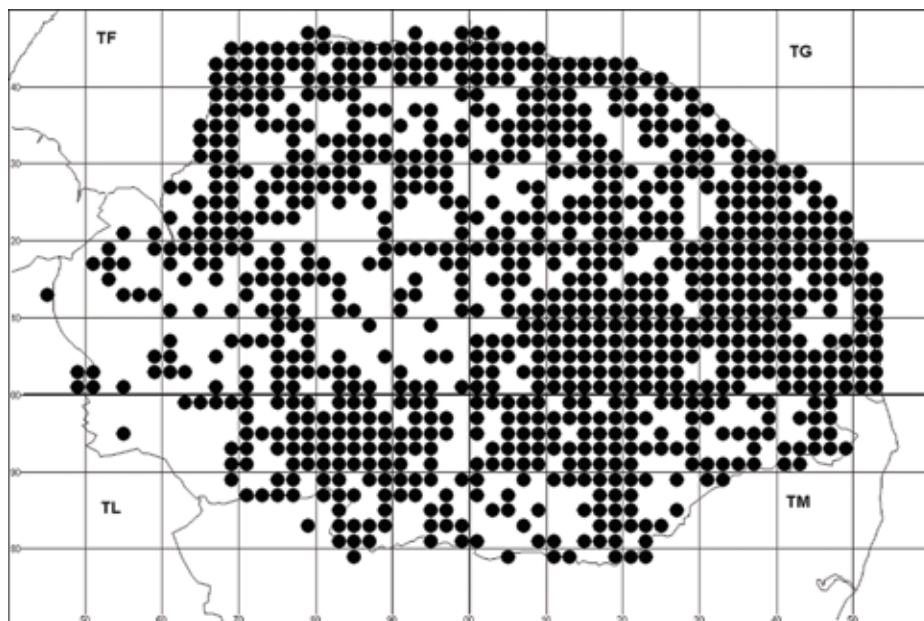
In the Autumn 2014 Newsletter Neil Saunders, our website manager, explained how to access the various social media accounts that the Branch holds. Importantly, he now places location maps for all the events we hold – meeting places for field trips, access and parking for indoor meetings etc. Putting this on your favourites will give you instant access to all the most up-to-date information. The direct access to the relevant Branch page is:

<http://butterfly-conservation.org/291/norfolk-branch.html>

The Norfolk Atlas Project 2011-2019

By Andy Brazil

We have reached the mid-point of our current recording period. We aim to complete this period a year early in order to bring us into line with the national recording scheme, and so that we can publish the new atlas in 2020 – the International Year of Bio-Diversity. At this stage we have records for approximately two thirds of Norfolk's recording squares, and now we need to begin to focus on the gaps in our coverage. Here is what we have so far:



The white spaces are where we have no records during this period. Are there any close to you? Can you spare an hour to pop over and write down the butterflies you see this summer? Not sure where the blanks are? We will shortly be re-opening the recording website at www.norfolkbutterflies.co.uk where you can see large scale maps showing the gaps. Or give me a ring and I'll tell you where your nearest blank square is (07759892597). "Tetrad-bashing" can be a fun way to get to explore unknown and neglected bits of the county, and every square you can fill in will help us complete a full view of the state of Norfolk's butterflies.

Of course we still want your records even if you live in a filled square. Many of the squares we do have records for are still missing common species, so we still want your records wherever you are.

First and Last Sightings – 2014

By Andy Brazil

Records were received from the following:

P Allard [PA], G Allen, B & Y Anderson, Appleton, A Arak, M Arber, L Bacon, J Baker, D Balcombe, R Barnett, S Barnett, J Barrett, S Bashforth [SB], S Baylis, J Bennett, P Benson [PB], A Bloomfield [ABl], P Bonham, L Bovey [LB], P Boyes, A Brazil, K Brett, D Brice [DB], R Briscoe, A Broadmeadow, A Brown [AB], S Brown, M Bruce, D Bryant [DB], A Buckel, J Bull [JB], A Burkin [ABu], H Burnett, R Burrell, R Bushell, T Butler-Stoney, A & B Carpenter, M Casey [MC], P Cawley, M Chapman, S Chapman, M Chittenden, B Christie, A Clarke, K & M Claydon [KMc], M Clements [MCI], P Cobb, B Cobbold [BCo], S Cockaday [SC], R Cole, S Davey, A Davis, C Davison, A Dawson [ADa], J Dossetor, P Douch, M Dowland, M Duddy [MD], A & A Duff, J & G Dunmore [JD], C Durdin, A Dyball [ADy], R Dykes, J Ebbage, G Edden [GE], N Edwards, B Ellis [BE], J Ellis, N Elsej [NE], J Emerson, S Evans, D Fairhead, R Fairhead, P Fairman [PF], C Falvey, F Farrow [FF], M Ferris, G Fletcher, K Flowerday, A Freeman, J Frew [JFr], J Furse [JF], N Furtek, G Fyfe, T Gabriel, C Gambrell [CG], S Garten, K Gay, M Ghullam [MGh], R Gibson, Gill, M & P Gluth [MPg], R Goff, H Goody, E Goodyear, I Gordon [IG], M & B Gough [MBg], A Gray, D Green, M Greenland [MGr], M Gwilliam [MGw], A Haines, J Halls, N Hancox, M Harcup [MH], M Harvey, S Hathaway, S Heal [SH], S Hearle, H Hepburn, R Hoe, J Hogg, L Hogg, S Holland, M Holmes, R Holmes, R Holt, C Hood, G Hooton [GH], D Horsley, D Housden, M Hughes [MHu], J & J Hurst [JH], C Jacobs, P James, S Johnson, F Jolliffe [FJ], D Jones, R Jones [RJ], T Kemp, A Kerr, P Kirby [PK], D Knight [DK], M Lacey, V Lea, D & J Leak, D Leech, P Leeder, S Levene, B Lewis, J Lines, P Lindsey [PL], C Littlewood, A Livingstone, S Locker, D Longden, D Longe [DL], K Lovatt, I Lovering, B Lund, A Maguire, J Mathews, M McCarthy, T McKie [TM], A McLennan, R McQueen, S McWilliam, J Mee, J Metcalf, A Middleton, A Miles, P Millard, C Miller, G Miller, F Mitchell, D Moss, C Murray, A Musgrave, P Nichols [PN], D Nobbs, B Osborne, N Owens, B Palmer, P Palmer, P Parker, R Parker [RP], J Peek, S Pennell [SP], T Phillips, R Porter [RPo], J Powley, T Prater, M & M Preston [MMp], I Pritchard, P Redmond, M Riches [MR], A Riley [AR], R Rogers, M Rowe, N Rye, I Sagers, K Sales [KS], A Saunders [AS], H Sayer, R Scrafield, E Smith, R Smith [RS], C Spinks [CS], D Stagg [DS], T Stevens, C Stevenson, S Steward, R Stewart, W Stewart [WS], E Stocker, A Stoddart, M Stolworthy, F Storrar, K Stuart-Clarke, E Stubbings, M Taylor [MT], P Taylor [PT], A Tegala [AT], G Upton [GU], J Wagstaff [JW], M Wallis, C Ward [CW], I Ward, J Warham, G Warne, M Webster, J Wells, I West, D Westlake, R Wheeler [RW], J Whiting [JW], R Wike, P & D Wileman [PDw], C Willow [CWl], L Wilshaw, A Winnington, T Wood, M Woodcock, A Woodrow [AW], P Woolnough, M Wright [MW], S Wright [SW], E Yeomans [EY]

Records were also received from BC Field trips, BADCOG, Bug Alert, the iRecord App, BC MigrantWatch, BTO Garden Birdwatch and the Norfolk Flora Group. Reports were also abstracted from postings and blogs on the following websites: BirdForum, Rare Bird Alert, UK Butterflies, and the websites of the NNNs, NWT and RSPB.

Species	First Sighting	Recorder	2013	Last Sighting	Recorder	2013
Comma	2 Jan.	MPg	5 March	3 Dec.	AR	15 Nov.
Peacock	4 Jan.	JB	6 Jan.	23 Dec.	RJ	30 Dec.
Red Admiral	8 Jan.	WS	24 Jan	26 Dec.	MC	19 Dec.
Small Tortoiseshell	13 Jan.	SW	17 Feb.	4 Nov.	AR	28 Dec.
Brimstone	16 Feb.	AB	1 March	28 Oct.	MC/AB	17 Dec.
Orange-tip	17 Feb.	RW	24 March	21 June	ABu	19 Aug.
Speckled Wood	24 Feb.	MC	20 April	24 Nov.	TM	4 Nov.
Large White	7 March	KS	21 March	30 Oct.	FF	1 Nov.
Holly Blue	16 March	AS	21 April	3 Oct.	JF	13 Sept.
Small White	16 March	AS	29 March	16 Oct.	MC	24 Oct.
Small Copper	30 March	ADy	5 March	4 Nov.	SP	4 Nov.
Green-veined White	1 April	Many	19 April	30 Sept.	MCl	8 Oct.
Small Heath	2 April	RJ	23 May	7 Oct.	ADy	30 Sept.
Painted Lady	9 April	MCl	20 May	27 Oct.	SW	26 Oct.
Green Hairstreak	13 April	NE	16 April	18 June	EY	19 July
Grizzled Skipper	14 April	ADy	3 May	21 June	SW	8 June
Brown Argus	15 April	ADy	19 May	4 Oct.	MC/AB	5 Nov.
Wall Brown	22 April	KS	27 May	12 Oct.	DL	4 Sept.
Dingy Skipper	23 April	ADy	16 May	21 June	SW	8 June
Common Blue	4 May	BCo	14 May	7 Oct.	ADy	27 Sept.
Large Skipper	13 May	ABl	14 May	20 Aug.	MD	29 Aug.
Swallowtail	13 May	PT	16 May	9 Aug.	PT	20 Sept.
Clouded Yellow	14 May	SP	20 June	9 Nov.	ABl	4 Nov.
Meadow Brown	20 May	MT	29 May	10 Sept.	MC	21 Sept.
Dark Green Fritillary	23 May	DB	10 June	24 Aug.	PT	23 Aug.
Purple Hairstreak	30 May	DK	19 June	24 Aug.	MC	8 Sept.
Silver-studded Blue	6 June	Many	27 May	17 Aug.	JD	4 Aug.
Ringlet	7 June	TM	30 May	18 Aug.	MC/AB	3 Sept.
Gatekeeper	8 June	MGH/BE	17 June	5 Sept.	MCl	1 Oct.
Small Skipper	9 June	ADa	17 June	15 Aug.	MCl; MC/AB	1 Sept.
Essex Skipper	12 June	MC/AB	17 June.	21 Aug.	MC	1 Sept.
White Admiral	13 June	JD	19 June	17 Oct.	SC	28 Aug.
Grayling	20 June	MH	13 July	12 Sept.	RS	30 Sept.
White-letter Hairstreak	20 June	MC/AB	26 June	4 Aug.	AB	19 Aug.
Silver-washed Fritillary	21 June	MPg	6 July	12 Aug.	SP	2 Sept.
Chalk Hill Blue	7 July	KMc	18 July	23 Aug.	FJ	2 Sept.

Butterfly Report 2014

By Andy Brazil

The year was notable for both the early spring emergence and the addition of a new species to the county list. It also saw the return to the list of a species missing for over 30 years, an exceptional number of Clouded Yellows, several interesting aberrations and a rarely seen vagrant. Nationally, we saw an unprecedented number of continental species breeding in the UK.

We received 15,639 records (15,345) covering 566 tetrads (498) and representing 5,302 site reports (5,581). (In this report, where I give figures the following figure in brackets is the comparable 2013 result, while the initials in braces are the recorder. Refer to the list of recorders for details).

Weather

Globally and nationally 2014 was the warmest year on record, while Norfolk recorded average temperatures 1° to 1.5° above the 1981-2010 average. (and 1.8° to 2.1° above the 1961-1980 average). However, while the year was warmer, July and August in Norfolk were actually slighter colder than average, explaining perhaps, why some summer species had shorter flight periods than last year. December 2013 was marked by storm surges that did considerable damage to shingle banks on the north and east coasts.

Species Reports

Dingy Skipper

Recorded from 15 squares (9). Earliest sighting 23rd April [ADy](16/5), last 21st June [SW] (8/6). Highest count 46 on the BC survey of 21st May at a new site at Lynford Lake TL89H. This site also produced the 2nd highest count of 31 on 15th May [CG]. Sadly, over-zealous winter scrub clearance may have damaged the larval population at what could have been an important site. We await this year's results anxiously. Pleasingly, a total of 6 new tetrads reported sightings, and reports from Suffolk confirm a general expansion of populations into adjoining squares from core populations.

Grizzled Skipper

Although it was recorded from 7 tetrads (4), this represents just three sites: Leziate/Bawsey, Foulden Common and the Cut-Off Channel. With plans afoot to turn Bawsey into a holiday camp, the future looks bleak for Norfolk's most endangered butterfly. Highest count was 29 at the channel on 21st May [ADy], seen between 14th April (3/5) [ADy] and a very late 21st June [SW](8/6).

Large Skipper

First seen on the 13th May [ABl](14/5) until 20th Aug [MD](29/8). Recorded from 131 tetrads (120). Highest count 40 on 8th July.[FJ/PB]

Small Skipper

Recorded from 137 Tetrads (125). First seen 9th June [ADa](17/6), last 15th Aug [MCl, MC/AB](1/9). Highest count 60 on 21st July [CW].

Essex Skipper

Recorded from 75 Tetrads (75). First seen 12th June [MC/AB](17/6), then 20th [MC/AB] and 22nd[FF], but regular sightings didn't occur until 30th June [many]. Last 21st Aug [MC] (1/9). Highest count 103 on 31st July [SB].

Swallowtail

First seen 13th May [PT](16/5), last 9th Aug [PT](20/9). As is usual these days, there is no clear break between generations, records for every week in the flight period. However, records noticeably scarcer after the 4th July, either because people were elsewhere, or the butterflies were scarcer. Max count 13 from Hickling on 21st June [AS], recorded from 21 tetrads (18). Much was made nationally of successful breeding of European sub-species in Kent, but as yet it poses no threat to our indigenous sub-species. Apart from anything else, Kent is a long way away as the butterfly flies.

Brimstone

First seen 16th Feb [AB](1/3), this species was exceptionally early out of hibernation this year with 17 reports in February. Last 28th Oct [MC/AB](17/12). New brood emergence appears to have been in last two weeks of July, but sightings were scarce for rest of year. Nevertheless recorded from 242 squares (165).

Large White

A remarkable series of records of larvae seen in January and February [MGr] match sightings in other parts of the country. A recent paper ⁽¹⁾ suggests there might be a survival advantage in avoiding parasites despite the reduced chance of successful pupation in such late broods. Of adults, first seen on 7th Mar [KS](21/3), last on 30th Oct [FF](1/11), recorded from 301 tetrads (272). Highest count 72 on 18th July [CS]. Interestingly, few records of migration this year.

Small White

Also observed as larvae in January and February [MGr]. Adults first seen 16th Mar [AS] (29/3) until 16th Oct [MC](24/10). Recorded from 258 squares (258). Highest count 58 on 26th July [GU].

Green-veined White

259 (202) squares, 1st April [many](19/4) until 30th Sept [MCI](8/10). Highest count 58 on 24th July at Pensthorpe [AR].

Orange Tip

A freshly deceased individual was found on Feb 17th [RW]. Presumably it had experienced temperatures that convinced it to emerge, only to be hit by either a cold spell or a lack of food. Similar “pulses” of unseasonably warm weather in the first 2 months of the year, followed by a return to normal cold temperatures, might in future pose a threat to spring species if it convinces more insects to follow this example. More conventional emergence began 21st Mar [TM](24/3), last seen on 21st June [ABu](19/8). No second brood sightings this year. Recorded from 218 squares (151). There is some suggestion this species has declined in the Broads over the last few years, and this warrants monitoring.

Small Copper

Recorded 116 tetrads (118). Surprisingly, no exceptionally early sighting this year, but this may be a lack of recorders at suitable sites. First 30th Mar [ADy](5/3) last 4th Nov [SP] (4/11). Highest count 16 on 5th May at Holme [LB].

Common Blue

Photographs of 3 similar aberrations received [AB], [DB], [SP]. Each were of females with orange spots on upper wings mostly or completely absent, and wings noticeably

bluer and with more black than usual. Such abnormalities are frequently associated with high temperatures during pupation. First 4th May [BCo](14/5), last 7th Oct [ADy](27/9). Recorded from 156 squares (156), highest count 100+ at Abbey Farm on 6th June [EY].

Holly Blue

Recorded from 113 tetrads (96). First 16th Mar [AS](21/4) was not followed until 30th Mar [many] but then regularly until last 3rd Oct [JF](13/9). Second brood overlapped with first, probably as a result of the early emergence.

Chalkhill Blue

Recorded from 4 tetrads (6). The situation here is unclear; apart from the well-known colony at Warham Camp, it was again recorded from a number of other sites – as in 2013. Some in both years could be explained as males wandering from the main colony, but sightings in south of county are more puzzling. They might be from the known site at Newmarket, or the result of artificial introduction. None of the southern sites from 2013 reported sightings this year, but it was found at Middle Harling Heath for the first time [RP]. Apart from Warham, the only site where it was seen in both years is Ringstead Downs, where it is possible that a small colony now exists. First seen 7th July [KMc](18/7), last 23rd Aug [FJ](2/9). The BC annual count at Warham this year was 2,765 – much fewer than last year's 6,500. There are plans by a local estate to create suitable habitat close to the Warham site in the hope that it will be colonised.

Silver-studded Blue

First seen 6th June [many](27/5), last 17th Aug [JD](4/8). Highest count 324 (560) from Kelling Heath on 20th June [JW], this site now being the main stronghold of the species. There are just 4 sites in the county: Buxton Heath, Cawston Common, East Ruston Common and Kelling Heath – this is unlikely to change in the near future.

Brown Argus

First seen 15th April [ADy](19/5), one other report in April on the 19th [ADy], then regular from 1st May to 13th June. Second brood 3rd July to 21st Aug, and either a third brood or stragglers seen 30th Aug to 4th Oct [MC/AB](5/11). Recorded from 61 tetrads (53).

Green Hairstreak

Recorded from 33 squares (23). First seen 13th April [NE](16/4) last 18th June [EY](19/7). Highest count 13 at Cawston on 18th May [MW].

Purple Hairstreak

Recorded from 31 Tetrads (54). A record from 30th May [DK] was exceptionally early, next sighting not until 20th June [MC/AB](19/6), last 24th Aug [MC](8/9). Highest count 6 on 15th July at Beeston [FF]. Since 2013 was such a good year for this species, populations were likely to decline and this was reflected in the records. I speculate that many sites go unrecorded unless populations reach a critical mass.

White-letter Hairstreak

Recorded from 19 squares (29). First seen 20th June [MC/AB](26/6), last 4th Aug [AB] (19/8). While it is possible that scarcity of records reflect absence of recorders, I suspect it may genuinely reflect a decline in numbers in this species, as reports from its stronghold at Holkham were much reduced this year.

White Admiral

Recorded from 47 tetrads (39). First 13th June [JD](19/6), last of that brood 4th Aug.[MR] (28/8). Then, surprisingly, a second brood seen 21st Sept to 17th Oct [SC]. Highest count 22 on 25th June at Bacton Wood. Six tetrads had not had the species recorded before this century, indicating that expansion continues, but all were adjacent squares to existing populations – suggesting a slower pace of expansion than in previous years.

Red Admiral

Recorded from 321 Tetrads (150) reflecting a much improved population this year. First seen 8th Jan [WS](24/1), last 26th Dec [MC](19/12). Highest count 225 at Blakeney point on 4th Sept [RPo]. Sightings increased markedly from mid-May, probably representing inward migration, while the high coastal counts in September may represent outward movement back to the continent.

Small Tortoiseshell

First 13th Jan [SW](17/2), last 4th Nov [AR](28/12). Recorded from 376 tetrads (295). Highest count 148 on 1st July at Hillfield Nursery [AW]. A large number of reports in March suggest a high survival rate in over-wintering individuals. (I received 36 reports on 9th Mar alone!)

Peacock

First 4th Jan [JB](6/1), last 23rd Dec [RJ](30/12). Recorded from 564 Tetrads (275). Again, good survival rates over winter produced a healthy brood in summer. However sightings dropped abruptly in mid-August as individuals appear to have hibernated early. Highest count 109 on 23rd July at Catfield dyke [PT].

Painted Lady

The first sightings 9th April [MCI] and 5th May [ADy] were followed by regular sightings from 21st May [PN, AS](20/5) to 17th June [MR]. A second peak from 29th June [AT] might represent a native brood or further migration. Sightings in September probably native-bred; last seen 27th Oct [SW](26/10). The high count of 20 from Blakeney Point on Sept 4th [PN] might suggest migration back to the continent. Recorded from 147 Tetrads (124). No major migration this year, however early reports for 2015 from Morocco suggest the species has had a good breeding season there, and we might get a higher than usual arrival this coming year.

Comma

First 2nd Jan [MPg] was just tempted out of hibernation – main emergence began on 22nd Feb [GH](5/3), with first brood 13th June, then constant until 31st Oct. Last report 3rd Dec [AR](15/11). Reported from 222 squares (124); many counts of 10+.

Dark Green Fritillary

Recorded from just 13 squares (15). Bizarrely this is now our most endangered fritillary, with colonies at Horsey/Winterton and north coast between Scolt Head and Blakeney Point being the only reliable locations. First seen 23rd May [DB] was exceptional, main sightings began 8th June [ADy](10/6), last 24th Aug [PT](23/8). Highest count of 112 on 2nd July at Horsey Gap [PT]. Low numbers on north coast may reflect damage done by tidal surges over the winter, and we should hope therefore for an eventual recovery. A fascinating record of 2 individuals photographed at Drymere in the Brecks on 7th Aug [SP] was probably late-season movement from the coast – but I can't rule out the possibility of

an as yet undiscovered colony somewhere in the area. Certainly, if woodland areas are now suitable for Silver-washed they ought to be suitable for recolonization by Dark Green.

Silver-washed Fritillary

Recorded from 19 Tetrads (18) and continues to spread; 9 tetrads had no sightings before (but all were of single individuals), while we now have records from 53 tetrads this century. The core known populations are around Holt (particularly the country park), Foxley, Cawston, Drymere, and Cockley Cley. However, I am certain that there are populations not yet discovered. I suspect they are in Ken Hill Woods near Snettisham, Ringland Hills near Norwich and logically every suitable bit of woodland between Holt and Ringland. First seen 21st June [MPg](6/7), last 12th Aug [SP](2/9). Highest count an estimated 50+ flying at Holt CP during July. At least one female of the form *valezina* recorded.

Speckled Wood

Recorded from 284 tetrads (212). First sighting an astonishing 24th Feb [MC]. Normal emergence began 30th Mar [SH](20/4) then regular until 31st Oct, then a very late 24th Nov. [TM](4/11). Highest count 50 on 13th Aug [PMg], but several 30+. Much improved on last year, which was rather poor for this species.

Wall Brown

Recorded from 79 tetrads (59). First seen 22nd April [KS](27/5), that brood ended 9th June. Second 16th July to 30th Aug, third brood 18th Sept to 12th Oct [DL](4/9). A recent paper (?) suggests that changed climate has led to an increasing number of second brood offspring attempting a (failed) third brood – leading to population declines. If the hypothesis is true, it would suggest that coastal areas, being colder, are less likely to induce a third brood, hence the survival of populations in those locations. It is interesting to note, therefore, that reports after August split 2 to 1 in favour of coastal locations. My impression is that the species did better this year, with the highest count an estimate of 100+ at Horsey on 23rd May [DB] (put in context - in some recent years no first brood count has gone into double figures)

Grayling

First 20th June [MH](13/7) was an outlier, next sighting was 28th [PDw] then regular until 12th Sept [RS](30/9). Recorded from 25 tetrads (39). Populations appear healthy, with highest count 100+ Winterton 25th July [ADy]. Welcome confirmation received that population at Sculthorpe airfield remains healthy. This is probably the largest “inland” colony, albeit one within 15km of the coast. Apart from small populations in the Brecks, all records this year were also within 20km of the coast.

Gatekeeper

First 8th June [MGh/BE](17/6), and another 10th June [MD] were outliers. Emergence proper began on 30th June [many], then until 5th Sept [MCI](1/10). Recorded from 234 tetrads (216). With many three-figure counts, populations were clearly healthy.

Meadow Brown

First 20th May [MT] was an outlier, main emergence began 31st May [MR](29/5), until 10th Sept [MC](21/9). Recorded from 288 squares (270). My impression is that numbers were down this year: only 10 recorders felt they had seen numbers in excess of a hundred, whereas in previous years a report of “hundreds” was seen quite frequently. Nevertheless it was still Norfolk’s commonest butterfly.

Ringlet

First 7th June [TM](30/5, last 18th Aug [MC/AB](3/9). Recorded from 228 tetrads (195). An estimated 500 at Haveringland Gt Wood on 8th July [PMg] was highest count. A short season this year, and although many recorders reported high counts, I felt it struggled in some areas.

Small Heath

First reports 2nd April [RJ] and 15th April [ADy] were outliers. Main records start 5th May [many](23/5) until 7th Oct [ADy](30/9). Recorded from 44 tetrads (60). A poor year, away from the coast it struggled to get into double figures at most sites. East Ruston Common, Horsey and Holkham were the best sites

Incidentals and Migrants

Clouded Yellow

An exceptional year by modern standards, and following a previously good year – normally clouded yellow years are followed by a sharp decline in sightings the following year. First report 14th May [SP], nothing then until 6th June [i](20/6), then regular until 23rd Aug. A further 11 sightings between 4th Sept and 6th Nov [ABl](4/11). Recorded from 47 tetrads (61). Highest count of 25 from Choseley[i] on 7th Aug almost certainly represented local breeding, as did reports from Queens Hills [MC/AB].

Marbled White

Two reports have been accepted: 15th June [CW] on Pedders Way near Ringstead, and 2nd July [IG] at Felbrigg Hall.

Yellow-Legged Tortoiseshell

And so we come to the most astonishing week in modern British butterflying. It began with a report of a Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell at Queens Hills estate at Costessey on 13th July [MC/AB]. Then several others were found in Norfolk and throughout the east coast of England, a Purple Emperor turned up in Sheringham, then a High Brown Fritillary in Suffolk. We also received reports of a mysterious Hairstreak (possibly Ilex) on 12th July [MGw] – although this could not be confirmed to species. Clearly a quantity of unusual continental butterflies were about the countryside, although we know of at least one release of captive butterflies during the period.

At about the same time, starting on the 10th July, Holland was also experiencing a major invasion of the “Eastern Fox” (*Oostelijke vos* as *Nymphalis xanthomelas* is known there)*. The invasion of Holland followed recent migration into Scandinavia and eastern Europe during the period 2009-13 (?). In Holland, the adults seem to have gone into hibernation almost immediately, sightings dropping markedly after July 20th, but several reports of hibernating adults in bat boxes were subsequently received. Again a report from Denmark stated several hundred were seen between July 8th and July 11th, but reports dropped markedly after that.

It would seem therefore that it is quite likely that the short-lived nature of the sightings is to be expected, with migrating adults going into hibernation almost immediately upon arrival. Indeed on Sept 11th one was disturbed “from the cupboard under the TV - where the Sky and BluRay boxes are kept.” [GE]. This is clear evidence of an attempt at hibernation, the first for the UK. (*Reports of two YLTs have been received for March 2015 – showing successful over-wintering.*)

Following publicity in local and national press, several other reports were then submitted in the months that followed. The list below shows date of sighting, not report. Where recorder shows “web” it means that no formal report was received, but sufficient individuals claimed on-line to have seen it to make the report probable. Here are the reports received to date:

Date	Location	Recorder	Status
12 th July	Weybourne	MMp	Definite
13 th to 16 th July	Queens Hills	AB/MC	Definite
14 th to 15 th July	Burgh Castle	PF	Definite
15 th July	Letheringsett,	PL	Probable
16 th July	Wells	AR	Definite
16 th July	Hoveton	DS	Definite
17 th July	Sheringham	web	Probable
17 th to 18 th July	Great Ryburgh	MHu	Definite
18 th July	Thetford	JW	Definite
18 th July	Weybourne	MBg	Definite
19 th July	Holme Dunes	web	Probable
21 st July	Kelling Water Meadows	web	Possible
25 th July	Herringby	PA	Definite
11 th Sept	Hempnall	GE	Definite

It is likely that more insects were present but unrecorded. However, given the size of the county, unless the females were already mated, it is unlikely that they will have laid eggs. If they succeed in forming a viable population in the Netherlands however, it is possible that this will become a regular migrant in the future.

Purple Emperor

Photographed in a garden in Sheringham on 17th July [JH]. The garden in question is about 100m from the coast and the report coincided with a Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell nearby. In view of this, and the complete absence of any records of Purple Emperor from the Sheringham area in the last two hundred years, I find on-line speculation of an undiscovered colony in Pretty Corner to be both bizarre and unfounded. I consider it most likely that this insect was of continental origin, although we cannot completely eliminate the possibility of a deliberate release.

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- 3 http://www.phegea.org/Dagvlinders/Documenten/VVE_WG_DV_Manil_Cuvelier%202014_L%C3%A9pidopt%C3%A8res_58_p_69-74_N_xanthomelas_expansion_English_version.pdf

*The name “Scarce Tortoiseshell” is often used for this species, however it is preferable to use the name Yellow-legged Tortoiseshell as this draws attention to the precise identification feature necessary to correctly identify it.

In conclusion it remains for me to thank all the recorders for their efforts, none of this would be possible without their hard work.

New Members

A warm welcome to all these new members who recently joined the Branch. We hope that you will enjoy your membership, and we would be delighted if you are able to come along to one of our indoor meetings in the winter, or field trips in the summer – please make yourself known to a member of the committee.

Ms Amanda Bennett – Wood Dalling
Mrs Joanna Fenner – Diss
Ms Anita Diaper –Norwich
Mr Marc Bonsor –Norwich
Ms Beryl Bruff – Kings Lynn
Miss Louise Jay – Hempton
Miss Amy Butcher – Norwich
Ms Susanne Wardle & family – Norwich
Mr Alan Wilkinson – Norwich
Mrs Paula Pithers – Norwich
Ms Helen Bowman – Oulton
Mr Tim Bourn – Norwich
Miss Caroline Wells – Norwich
Miss Christina Nobbs – Hingham
Mr A Sturgeon – Lytham St Annes
Mr Jon Dunn – Cromer
Mr Rodney Booty – Thetford
Miss Susie White – Norwich
Mr Richard Perry – Holt
Mrs Tina Anderson –Norwich
Mr Robert White – Norwich
Mr Allan Archer – Swaffham
Mrs Vera Spinks – North Walsham
Mr Roger Steele – Norwich
Mr & Mrs Gooch & family – Norwich
Mr Jeremy Scott-Bolton – Taunton

Mrs Julie Cavill – Gt Yarmouth
Mr & Mrs Williamson & family – Kings
Lynn,
Mr & Mrs Digby – Gt Yarmouth
Ms Yvonne Mynett – Gt Yarmouth
Mr Stephen Pinnington – Gt Yarmouth
Ms Katherine Wallace – Kings Lynn
Mr David Collins – Norwich
Mrs Carol Nutt – Diss
Miss Sam Stewart – Norwich
Mr & Mrs Wyatt – Gt Yarmouth
Mr & Mrs Ribbands & family – Gt Yar-
mouth
Mr James Bradbury – Acle
Miss Elinor McDowall – Bungay
Mr & Mrs Smith and Family – Kings Lynn
Mrs Susan Swanton – Wicklewood
Ms Peta Leeder – Norwich
Ms Lindsey Davis – Hanworth
Miss Victoria Lovesay – Dereham
Ms Sally Sharman – North Walsham
Mr Andrew Goodall – Diss
Mr & Mrs Demmer and family – Dereham,
Mr & Mrs Hazel and family – Gt Yarmouth,
Mr & Mrs Honeyman & family – Kings
Lynn.

Day-flying Moth and Caterpillar Recording

By Zoë Randle

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.

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 what 10km squares, or tetrads, are under-recorded in your area please contact Jim Wheeler your County Moth Recorder via jim@norfolkmoths.org.uk or 01945 774363. 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 re-patriated to County Moth Recorders in due course.

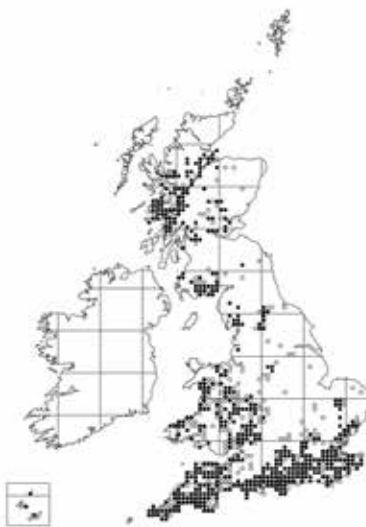


Figure 1: NMRS Provisional distribution map of Speckled Yellow at 10km resolution. Open circles pre 2000 records and solid dots 2000 onwards records

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 (above): Map of National Moth Recording Scheme ‘white-holes’ and under-recorded 10km squares from 2000 onwards.

Figure 3 (below): Speckled Yellow photographed by Pam Parsons





A Butterflying Trip to Spain and Portugal

By Roland Rogers

Last year Bernard Watts invited me to join him on a late season trip to Spain and Portugal in August. After deep consideration for one second I accepted gratefully. On the 6th August we flew from Norwich to Schiphol and on to Madrid where we collected a hire car and set off for Albarracin. This is an attractive town with a Moorish citadel prominent on a mountainside above. Bernard had booked us for three nights in a very comfortable town centre hotel.

To the north-west lies the Sierra de Albarracin whence we set off next morning. Bernard's targets here was female Zapater's Ringlet and second-brood Provencal Fritillary, both of which obliged. I didn't see the fritillary, which involved a search over rough terrain but, in the general area of the mountains, in addition to the ringlet, I was rewarded with:

Small White; Green-veined White; Clouded Yellow; Berger's Clouded Yellow; Brown Argus; Chalkhill Blue; Damon Blue; Dark Green Fritillary; Iberian Marbled White; Esper's Marbled White; Rock Grayling; Tree Grayling; Great Banded Grayling; Meadow Brown; Oriental Meadow Brown; Gatekeeper; Essex Skipper; Silver-spotted Skipper.

Next day in the same general area Silver-washed Fritillary and Small Skipper were added to my trip-list. Three interesting moths were seen – Vestal, Hummingbird Hawk-moth and what I think was the Five-spot form of the Six-spot Burnet.

On our third day we set off south to Sierra Nevada, near Grenada, calling on the way at a curious formation of vertical rocks looking vaguely like city tower blocks. Called Ciudad Encantada (pronounced Theoothath Encantatha) meaning Enchanted City, the most spectacular part is privately owned charging an entrance fee. Looking around the roadside nearby I saw:

Dark Green Fritillary; Tree Grayling; Black Satyr; False Grayling*; Chestnut Heath*; Southern Gatekeeper*; Mallow Skipper** (*new additions to my trip list)

After an overnight stay at a hostel (roadside hotel) we arrived at the Sierra Nevada to find that, though warm, it was windy and rather disappointing. Only four species were noted:

Silver-studded Blue; Brown Argus; Iberian Marbled White; Black Satyr* (*new additions to my trip list)

We decided to cut our losses and set off for the Algarve in Portugal where we hoped to see one or other of the exotic coastal butterflies: Plain Tiger, Two-tailed Pasha, American Painted Lady and Mediterranean Skipper. Once again our hopes were dashed. Hardly any butterflies were seen despite searching along quite a bit of the Algarve coast.

Photographs from Spain and Portugal by Bernard Watts		
Cardinal (top right)	Provencal Fritillary (top left)	Zapater's Ringlet (bottom)

I noticed, in Portugal, that they seem to be keen to distinguish themselves from their larger neighbour. For example, in addition to having their own language, they use British Summer Time rather than Continental. Their motorways have a sophisticated number-plate reading technology whereby, after entering car and bank details at the first toll point, there is no need to stop at subsequent toll points. The apparatus reads the number-plate and debits one's account with the toll.

Having failed at the coast we set off inland to a very attractive town, Monchique, where we found a good hotel for two nights. It was situated in an elevated position whence one could see a panorama of the coast where it turns from N-S to W-E at Cape St Vincent. North of Monchique is the Serra of the same name where we had much more luck. During the two days I saw:

Small White; Clouded Yellow; Chalkhill Blue; Rock Grayling; Tree Grayling; Striped Grayling; Gatekeeper; Southern Gatekeeper

We then set off back into Spain, looking at various roadside locations during the journey. These sites collectively yielded:

Green-veined White; Clouded Yellow; Iberian Sooty Copper#; Lang's Short-tailed Blue*; Holly Blue*; Cardinal*; Silver-washed Fritillary; Iberian Marbled White; Rock Grayling; Gatekeeper; Speckled Wood** (*new additions to my trip list; # this was previously a subspecies of the Sooty Copper but has now been promoted to full species status)

After an overnight stay at another Hostel we arrived at Bejar which Bernard knew to be a good centre for visiting several sites. Here we stayed two nights. At Sierra de Candelario I saw, in two visits:

Lang's Short-tailed Blue; Iberian Marbled White; Rock Grayling; Tree Grayling; False Grayling; Gatekeeper; Silver-spotted Skipper

At Porto de Honduras were:

Brown Argus; Cardinal; Iberian Marbled White; Rock Grayling; Tree Grayling; Striped Grayling; Black Satyr; Gatekeeper; Dusky Heath; Sage Skipper*; Red Underwing Skipper** (*new additions to my trip list)

At Hoyas I noted:

Clouded Yellow; False Grayling; Gatekeeper; Silver-spotted Skipper

With our trip coming to an end we set off, over two days, to Sierra de Guadarrama, north of Madrid and our last 'butterflying' day. We found an excellent site with plentiful Ragwort and a large Thistle species which were fully in flower. Here were:

*Clouded Yellow; Small Copper**; *Iberian Sooty Copper; Scarce Copper; Grayling; Small Tortoiseshell**; *Queen of Spain Fritillary**; *Cardinal; Iberian Marbled White; Rock Grayling; Black Satyr; Great Banded Grayling; Dusky Meadow Brown**; *Oriental Meadow Brown; Silver-spotted Skipper; Dark Green Fritillary* (*new additions to my trip list)

After our last overnight stay, which Bernard had pre-booked, we negotiated the motorways in Madrid (it could be called Spaghetti City!) to the airport and our flight home. My overall impressions of the trip were the satisfying total of six Graylings, the ubiquitousness of the Gatekeeper and the large size of Spain. My trip-list totalled 41 species of which I had not previously seen 15. The weather was benign throughout, with the temperature hovering around 30 degrees C but not an oppressive heat.

I am very grateful to Bernard for doing all the organising, shepherding me throughout and for his company.

Norfolk Branch 2015 Photographic Competition

The popular photographic Competition will again be held during the branch AGM on October 3rd (AGM details are on page 9). Entry details follow:

1. There are two entry categories with a prize for both winners
 - 1. British Butterflies and Moths, including immature stages.**
 - 2. Overseas Butterflies and Moths, including immature stages.**
2. All entries must have been photographed during 2015.
3. Entries must be prints up to A4 size (297 × 210mm) including any mount.
4. Mark the reverse of entries with your full name, address, information on the subject and which category is entered.
5. You are limited to a maximum of three entries in each category.
6. Postal entries should be submitted to the address below to arrive by 19th September. They can be collected after the competition at the AGM but will not be returned by post unless a stamped addressed envelope is provided with the entry.
7. Entries on the day of the competition must be provided 45 minutes before the start of the meeting.
8. Some entries will be published in the branch newsletter. Postal print entries can be scanned but it will be helpful to have digital files sent to the Newsletter Editor at: moorend@globalnet.co.uk. For entries submitted on the day to be considered for publication digital files must be provided in advance of the meeting.
9. By entering the competition you agree that your photographs can be used in the branch newsletter or on our website. Photographer credits will be given.

Everyone attending the Norwich meeting on October 3rd will be encouraged to vote on the photographs; the winning entries will be announced on the day. Contact details for enquiries and postal entries:

**Mike Gasson, Moor End Cottage, Moor End Lane, Stibbard, Norfolk, NR21 0EJ
01328 829307**

moorend@globalnet.co.uk

Table 1: 2014 Totals for Four Months (rank shown in brackets)

	May	June	July	August	Total
Small Skipper	0	3	198	9	210
Essex Skipper	0	1	252	6	259
Small/Essex Skipper	0	23	247	18	288
Large Skipper	0	47	164	4	215
Clouded Yellow	0	2	0	1	3
Brimstone	5	12	2	4	23
Large White	18	12	359 (7)	269	299
Small White	35	8	500 (5)	257	300
Green-veined White	47	6	300 (10)	65	118
Orange Tip	61	4	0	0	65
Purple Hairstreak	0	0	3	4	7
White-letter Hairstreak	0	0	0	0	0
Small Copper	0	1	17	5	23
Common Blue	10	14	43	82	149
Holly Blue	1	0	4	3	8
Brown Argus	0	0	9	10	19
White Admiral	0	3	3	0	6
Red Admiral	3	15	109	87	214
Painted Lady	0	0	16	6	22
Small Tortoiseshell	49	324 (9)	553 (4)	188	237
Peacock	42	1	325 (8)	32	75
Comma	0	10	75	9	94
Silver-washed Fritillary	0	0	0	0	0
Speckled Wood	19	64	23	272	378
Wall	1	0	17	29	47
Grayling	0	0	2	0	2
Gatekeeper	0	1	1110 (3)	392 (6)	1
Meadow Brown	0	154	2002 (1)	291	445
Small Heath	1	28	9	6	44
Ringlet	0	28	9	6	44
Total	292	492	1193	1659	3636

Norfolk Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey 2014

By Julian Bull (WCBS Co-ordinator)

The season started well with a good showing of the common Pierids in May, although Brimstones did not pick up until the following month. Small Tortoiseshell and Peacock were seen in reasonable numbers too. Numbers steadily increased until July but they never really recovered after the cool weather in August. During July Meadow Brown, Gatekeeper and Ringlet were the most numerous. Some species managed to hold up during August, for instance Small and Large White, Small Tortoiseshell and Speckled Wood. This can be seen in Table 1, showing totals for the four months (rank shown in brackets), including all records from both BC and BTO. Bearing in mind that fewer visits are made in May and June I also prepared a similar table of the numbers shown per visit, which gives a more accurate measure of abundance. This increased the proportion seen in May and June but did not significantly change the rankings, so I have not included it here.

Tables 2 and 3 provide an analysis of BC records for July and August only, on the same basis as in previous years. The total number of records was good but did not compare with the exceptionally high numbers seen in 2013. It was pleasing to see Small Tortoiseshell continuing to rise up the rankings after its low point in 2012. No Silver-washed Fritillaries were recorded last year, but there were two Graylings seen by Judith Wells in TF8532 near Sculthorpe. These are present in our county but had not been recorded in this survey for a number of years.

In terms of squares covered Norfolk did well with 48, 12 of which were contributed by BTO members. Sussex was the clear winner with 57, and third Hampshire and IOW with 39. Much more detail about the WCBS can be found in the newsletter. As far as possible these are being sent out electronically this year. If you have not received yours try http://www.ukbms.org/Downloads/Wider_Countryside/Newsletter_WCBS_2014_FINAL.pdf

As always special thanks go to all volunteers listed below, without whom this valuable scheme would not happen.

BC Recorders: Gerald Fletcher, Caroline Falvey, Philip Parker, Jonathan Dossitor, Julian Bull (2), Marian Rowe, Dorian Moss, Richard Hoe (2), Alison Haines, Judith Wells, Ajay Tegala, Janet Metcalf, S.Bashforth, David Longden, Mandy & Peter Gluth, Judy & Giles Dunmore, Fiona Jolliffe, Peta Benson, Angela Woodrow, Derek Longe, Michelle Duddy, Colin Ward, Alan Dawson, Peter Cawley, Ruth Cole, Ann & Bob Carpenter, Roland Rogers, Allan Kerr, Leslie Bovey, and Helen Hepburn, Robert Burrell, Stephanie Evans.

BTO Recorders: Simon Levene, Kathy Gay, John Wareham, Graham Upton, Mike Harcup, Frank Mitchell, Dave Jones, Kevan Brett, Marian Rowe, Michelle Chapman, Caroline Spinks, Appelton & Gill.

Table 2: Summary of Data for July and August

	2011	2012	2013	2014
Total Species	24	23	27	27
Number of Squares	31	29	33	35
Number of Visits	60	54	63	65
Average Count per Visit	71	56	141	90

Table 3: Occupancy & Abundance Data

	Occupancy (%)				Abundance (%)			
	2011	2012	2013	2014	2011	2012	2013	2014
Small Skipper	42	24	36	54	79 (9)	35	116	136
Essex Skipper	6	14	24	23	17	9	38	153
Small/Essex Skipper	39	41	55	89	121	94	161 (9)	209 (9)
Large Skipper	42	51	64	54	41	50 (9)	122	131
Clouded Yellow			12	3			8	1
Brimstone	6	3	21	11	4	1	7	5
Large White	90	83	88	89	411 (6)	187 (4)	978 (4)	301 (5)
Small White	100	86	100	91	683 (3)	149 (5)	1316 (3)	415 (4)
Green-veined White	81	58	76	69	478 (4)	134 (6)	334 (8)	292 (7)
Orange Tip								
Purple Hairstreak	10		9	9	6		7	5
White-letter Hairstreak		3				1		
Small Copper	29	21	39	20	20	10	25	20
Common Blue	10	10	55	37	6	5	147 (10)	81
Holly Blue	29	17	12	11	19	8	9	4
Brown Argus	26		6	11	6		8	16
White Admiral	6	7	9	6	2	5	4	3
Red Admiral	87	55	33	80	145 (7)	61 (7)	18	93
Painted Lady	13	3	21	20	6	1	18	9
Small Tortoiseshell	52	21	100	91	72 (10)	32	565 (6)	536 (3)
Peacock	32	45	91	66	36	49 (10)	432 (7)	178 (10)
Comma	48	62	55	57	52	54 (8)	45	62
Silver-washed Fritillary			3				1	
Speckled Wood	65	69	61	63	126 (8)	49 (10)	100	231 (8)
Wall	22	10	18	17	19	9	17	55
Grayling				3				2
Gatekeeper	90	100	91	91	413 (5)	442 (3)	750 (5)	839 (2)
Meadow Brown	90	100	100	94	759 (1)	939 (1)	2135 (1)	1724 (1)
Small Heath	10	14	12	9	9	16	19	15
Ringlet	65	86	88	86	713 (2)	664 (2)	1519 (2)	293 (6)
				Total	4258	3004	8899	5818

Wider Countryside Butterfly Survey 2015

By Julian Bull (WCBS Co-ordinator)

No doubt you have already seen your first butterflies of the year, which encourages us to look forward to the coming butterfly season. After the publication of this newsletter I will be contacting all those who took part last year to ask whether you wish to carry on. Nationally, the number of squares covered was slightly down on last year's, so I hope very much that you will be able to continue. If you feel that you will not be able to complete the survey I would particularly ask you to let me know sooner rather than later.

If you have not been involved before and are interested in becoming a volunteer please contact me (lepcjb@yahoo.co.uk , 01553 673424) to ask for details. The minimum requirement is to walk the route in your allocated square once in July and once in August, although many volunteers do other months as well. Each visit should take about an hour, so the task is not too onerous. Perhaps there is a square near you which you could take on. The following squares are not covered at the time of writing:

TF5122 Terrington St.Clement	TF9614 NW of Dereham
TF5212 SW of Terrington St.John	TL8487 NW of Thetford
TF5918 S of Clenchwarton	TL8490 West Tofts Heath
TF6106 N of Downham Market	TM1683 NE of Diss
TF6841 E of Hunstanton	TM1982 Rushall
TF7030 Dersingham	TM1983 N of Rushall
TF8039 NE of Docking	TM8684 Thetford Town

Moths Matter

By Greg Bond

Opinions as to whether or not 2014 was favourable to moths seem to vary with local conditions across the county and the season according to Norfolk Moth Survey's Autumn Newsletter. Be that as it may, no less than ten new records (or eight, depending on the reliability of one old report and the splitting of one species) were added to the Norfolk list. There was also an addition for 2013 viz. *Yponomeuta irrorella* (Yponomeutidae) Scarce Ermine, at Cley on the 30th July. The ten (or eight) for 2014 are, in date order:

Psychoides verhuella (Tineidae) at Heacham on 10th April

Diplopseutis perieresalis (Crambidae) at Bawdeswell on 10th June

Stigmella magdalenae (Nepticulidae) at Holt on 5th July

Endothenia ustulana (Tortricidae) at Repps-with Bastwick on 18th July.

This is the first modern record. Victorian records possibly confuse this with *E. pullana*.

Silvery Gem *Eucarta virgo* (Noctuidae) at Weybourne on 23rd July

Metalampra italica (Oecophoridae) at Titchwell on 29th July

Epinotia cineriana (Tortricidae) at Wheatfen on 16th August.

This was separated from *E. nisella* in 2012 but, presumably doubts exist as to whether or not it was recorded in Victorian times.

Bryotropha basaltinella (Gelechiidae) at North Elmham on 2nd September

Crimson Speckled *Utetheisa pulchella* (Erebidae) at Burnham Overy Dunes on 18th October

Epermenia aequidentellus (Epermeniidae) at Burgh St Peter on 30th October

Further details of these and new or post-Victorian records for one or other of the two vice-counties VC 27 (East Norfolk) and VC28 (West Norfolk) can be found on the NMS website www.norfolkmoths.co.uk

The Newsletter also includes Dave Hipperson's list of migrants reported up to 5th November. The list isn't particularly comprehensive but there were several Hummingbird Hawk-moths (*Macroglossum stellatarum*), Red-necked Footman (*Atolmis rubricollis*), European Corn-borer (*Ostrinia nubilalis*), Pearly Underwing (*Peridroma saucia*), and Rusty-dot Pearl (*Udea ferrugalis*). The autumn was considered to be one of the best in recent times for migrants and no doubt a lot more will surface when all records are put in and analysed. Our garden in Overstrand recorded Convulvulous Hawkmoth, a couple of *Palpita vitrealis* and Scarce Bordered Straw while Four-spotted Footman were fairly widespread, including inland. Oddly though, Silver Ys were relatively scarce. Let's hope for more (and a greater variety of species) this year

As usual the group held a number of field meetings through the season with perhaps the highlights so far as species are concerned being finding Orange Sallow larvae on 3rd May at Weston Park, a Rosy Marble at Barrow Common on 31st May, Common Lutestring and Muslin Footman at Gawdy Hall Big Wood on 5th July and Balsam Carpet and Triple-spotted Pug at Wheatfen on 16th August.

The website includes the two Newsletters which appear in April and November each year. Printed versions are available for a subscription of £3 to Dave Hipperson, Summerfield House, Main Road, Filby, Great Yarmouth, NR29 3HN.

Further afield, the latest edition of E-moth from BC advises that 18.7 million moth records are now on the National Moth Recording Scheme database, with over 2 million being added in the past year. These records are collated and verified versions of what we send to our county recorder and are available to use for conservation and other purposes, so thanks to everyone who sends them in and thanks to Jim Wheeler for the fantastic job he does.

A family of moths which is generally under recorded is the cleawings. This is for several reasons – they don't come to light, they are hard to find in the field and, even with pheromone lures, decent conditions are needed to attract them in. A random sighting of Red-tipped Clearwing in Lancashire last year led to the finding of a substantial colony with over 40 individuals being seen, despite a previous county total of only 4. The situation in Norfolk is a little better but many experienced mothers have never seen one. We ran a lure at Catfield Open Day last year which attracted a White-barred Clearwing and given calm sunny conditions in the right habitat, the set of lures bought some time ago will be pulled out the freezer and put to use. The commonest of all, Currant Clearwing can be found round the gooseberries and redcurrants at the allotment, so if you grow such fruits yourself, think about buying a lure or two and give it a try.

Photograph opposite top: Painted Lady at Chambers Farm Wood by John Geeson (top – see John Geeson's article on page 10)

Photograph opposite bottom: Yellow-Legged Tortoiseshell in Norfolk by Alan Dawson (see Andy Brazil's Butterfly Report page 21)

Back Cover Photographs: Silver-washed Fritillary by Mike Gasson (clockwise from top left: larva; emerged adult with spent pupa; Norfolk *valezina* female; conventional Norfolk female; Norfolk mating pair – see Andy Brazil's Butterfly Report page 20)



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