
NORFOLK BRANCH of Butterfly Conservation



**Butterfly
Conservation**

NEWSLETTER 90 AUTUMN 2015

Butterfly Conservation

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NORFOLK BRANCH - OFFICERS AND COMMITTEE

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Catfield Fen Reserve - Warden	Dr. Keith Bacon

[Contact details are available in hard copy 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**

Front Cover Photograph: Pearl-bordered Fritillary in Abbots Wood, Sussex by Harry Faull – winner of the British class in the 2015 photographic competition.

Inside Front Cover: More photographs from the 2015 Photographic Competition: Spanish Festoon in Andalucia, Spain by Stephen Burrell – winner of the Overseas class in the 2015 photographic competition (top);

Queen of Spain Fritillary at Fordham, Essex by Harry Faull (bottom right);

Swallowtail at Hickling by Helen Burrell (bottom right).

Part of the cost of printing this newsletter has very kindly been donated in memory of Mr John Edgar Mallett, originally of Stiffkey, Norfolk. The additional cost of printing in colour has also kindly been donated by Roland Rogers.

Chairman's Notes & Recent AGM

By Judy Dunmore

It was pleasing to welcome 48 members to our AGM at the excellent new venue of Hethersett Village Hall. David Newland entertained everyone with his presentation and anecdotes about his exploits when researching for his books on Butterflies and Day-flying Moths. Bargain-priced books were readily snapped up. After the short AGM Mandy Gluth gave an illustrated talk about Gardening for Butterflies. Many of those present went away inspired to get out and dig up some grass to make room for butterfly and bee-friendly plants. There were some excellent photos entered for the photographic competition, many of them included in this Newsletter. This year there were 2 prizes, one for each category.

Membership this year has continued to increase and now stands at over 725 households. Several new members came to the AGM and I certainly hope that they, and others, will join in with next year's field trips and the winter indoor programme. We did not organise any separate New Members Events this year but hope to have at least one next summer; invitations will be sent out to all those who have joined since 2014.

Following the resignation in October 2014 of our Events Organiser, I had to report a reduction in the number of **Public Events** we had attended in 2015. For the first time we did not have a stand at the Royal Norfolk Show. Attending a variety of Events is an important activity for the Branch. As well as providing fundraising opportunities, it gives the chance to engage with the wider public and to enrol new members. The job could be broken down, so that someone could perhaps just be responsible for arrangements for bookings etc and ensuring there are enough volunteers. Or different people could take on the work involved in just one particular event. Unless we get more help we may well have to cut back even further next year.

In my Annual Report I focused this year on **Social Media**. Dave Brice joined the committee 3 years ago and started a **Twitter** account for us. There are now around 1650 Followers! Due to work commitments Dave decided not to re-stand for the committee although he will continue with Twitter for us. My thanks go to him for his hard work on our behalf. Neil Saunders has been updating and improving our **Branch webpage**. This now holds lots of useful information, including up-and-coming field trips and indoor events together with maps showing locations. Neil will be continuing to add more and more information over the winter and this will include the best sites in Norfolk for specific butterfly species, reports on past events and last minute changes. Last year Neil launched a **Branch Facebook page** and currently there are around 380 Followers. This is a resource we want to expand and are keen for our members to use more and more. It is an excellent medium for us to post urgent last minute changes/cancellations, and I would urge everyone to familiarise themselves with it and to look there if you think there is any doubt about whether a field trip or indoor meeting is likely to be cancelled. (*This year, at a very late stage, we had to cancel the planned Moth and Butterfly Event at Hillfield Nursery due to exceptionally bad weather*). The page can easily be accessed by going to the Branch Website, scrolling down and clicking on the Facebook symbol (F) at the bottom. You can also check what is being said on our Twitter account from this area. Facebook is a wonderful window to showcase photographs and Kiri, our Publicity Officer, has been working really hard on this. She would be delighted to receive photos from members –

perhaps you have been abroad recently and have something you feel would be of interest. Although butterflies are coming to the end of their season, interesting moths are still around. Those of you who are Facebook users can upload directly, if you wish, as this is a public page.

Last year I announced that, as our Membership has been growing, we would arrange more **winter indoor meetings** in Norwich. For many years 5 well-supported meetings have been held at Blakeney, but this does not service our members who live south, east or west of Norwich. These events take quite a bit of organisation and, of course, there are costs involved. We arranged to use the United Reform Church Hall, off Ipswich Road, as we felt this was a more friendly environment than the free room we had used at County Hall. This venue also has kitchen facilities. Unfortunately very few people turned up for the talk given by Alan Dawson in January or the Members Evening in March. I raised this issue with those present at the AGM and it was felt that we should continue to arrange these events for the time being in the hope that more people will come along. Bernard Watts will be giving an illustrated talk on European and British Fritillaries in early December and I am hopeful that there will be a good attendance. A further meeting has been arranged for March after which the Committee will review the viability of continuing to find speakers for Norwich. Please try and come along, it is an excellent opportunity to talk to other like-minded people and also to speak to any committee members present.

In my Report I did not cover everything that has gone on during the year. Most of it gets reported one-way-or-another in the Newsletter. However, lots of the work of individual committee members goes on behind the scenes and for this I am most grateful. One new area this year involved the **Norfolk Moth Survey**. Although nationally moth recording is co-ordinated by Butterfly Conservation, locally the Norfolk Moth Survey is a completely separate organisation. Many of you will be aware that, due to the amount of 'traffic' using their website, there was a major problem earlier in the year. I am pleased to say that the Branch has been able to step in and offer financial support, if needed, giving certainty and continuity to ensure that this excellent resource continues to be available.

During the afternoon, Andy made available the coverage map showing **tetrads** with records since 2010. We are all aware that this summer has been very poor as far as butterfly numbers are concerned. However, it is even more important that all records be sent to Andy so that he can continue to plot the coverage. He hopes to have a detailed map available soon on a website so that members can see which areas have either not been covered at all or only have very few species recorded. This year Andy re-instated his **butterfly alert e-mails**. If you would like to receive these next season then you need to e-mail Andy direct and request to go on his list.

Lastly, we have space on our Branch Committee for new members. You do not need to have a specific role, 'members-without-portfolio' would be most welcome; new blood and new ideas are essential in any organisation. Please give some thought to joining us. Give me a ring, I'm more than happy to talk things through.

We are extremely grateful to one of our members, John Bennett, who recently raised £310 for the Branch by throwing a party to celebrate a Swallowtail mosaic he had recently completed. It was a marvellous gesture and one which just might enthuse other members to think of fund-raising ideas. Thank you John, be assured the money will be put to good use.

Field Trips and Events 2015 / 2016

Friday 4th December 2015 – 7.30pm United Reform Church, Ipswich Road, Norwich
British and European Fritillaries – an illustrated talk by Bernard Watts, our Conservation Officer.

The Hall is south of the ring road, access via Lyhart Road

Postcode NR4 6QR – see website for map.

Contact: Ann Carpenter Tel: 01508 488337

Wednesday 6th January 2016 – 7.30pm at Blakeney Scout Hut HQ

Members Open Evening

A chance to show your photos etc from 2015. A laptop and digital projector will be available.

Postcode NR25 7PQ – see website for map

Contact: Judy Dunmore, Tel: 01263 822550

Wednesday 2nd March 2016– 7.30pm at Blakeney Scout Hut HQ

British Orchids – a photographic tour with aspects of pollination, biology and conservation – an illustrated talk by Mike Gasson.

Postcode NR25 7PQ – see website for map

Contact: Judy Dunmore, Tel: 01263 822550

Friday 11th March 2016 – 7.30pm United Reform Church, Ipswich Road, Norwich

Butterflies and Flowers in the mountains of Europe – an illustrated talk by John Geeson.

The Hall is south of the ring road, access via Lyhart Road

Postcode NR4 6QR – see website for map

Contact: Judy Dunmore, Tel: 01263 822550

Wednesday 4th May 2016– 7.30pm at Blakeney Scout Hut HQ

Namibia – an amazing self-drive trip to see wildlife – an illustrated talk by Judy Dunmore

Postcode NR25 7PQ – see website for map

Contact: Judy Dunmore, Tel: 01263 822550

Wednesday 25th May 2016 – 10.30 am Field Trip to Foulden Common

Target species Grizzled and Dingy Skippers

Meet at small parking area – TF7640 0003. Directions: From Mundford take A134

(Downham Market road) then right to Foulden, past Didlington Hall and left into Foulden village. Drive through village to a T-junction and turn left towards Oxborough. After the road bends round left there is a small pull-off on the left at entrance to the Common. Please share cars if possible – more parking available on wide farm tracks about 500 m further down the road. Stout footwear needed as ground may be uneven. If weather looks poor, please check in advance

Contact Judy Dunmore 01263 822550 or mobile 07884956462 on the day

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.

Mr A Andrews – Hoveton

Mrs C Ashton –Lincolnshire

Mrs Bowman – Norwich

Mrs S Brookes – Poringland

Mr A Browne – Norwich

Mr & Mrs Clifton – Hindolveston

Mrs Cole – Thetford

Mr & Mrs Cullern – Beckenham

Mr Cucher – Dereham

Mr Fisher & Ms Lee – Kings Lynn

Ms Fogden – Holt

Mr Frewin – Kings Lynn

Mr Gill – Norwich

Miss Hammond – Kings Lynn

Mr Harkness – Norwich

Mr & Mrs Hayden & family – Worstead

Miss Hollinger – Drayton

Mr Hubbard & Ms West – Norwich

Mr Hutchinson – Aylsham

Mr & Mrs Jones – Norwich

Mr Josland – Kings Lynn

Mrs Kendrick – Norwich

Mr D Knight – Sheringham

Mr & Mrs Leeder – Norwich

Mr Liappiatt –Norwich

Mr & Mrs Lister – Shotesham

Mr Lowen – Norwich

Mrs Maciejewska & Mrs Macready – Bury
St Edmunds

Mrs Mansfield & Mrs Tregunna – Ridling-
ton

Miss Mant – Lyng

Mr Melhurish – North Walsham

Miss Montgomery – Norwich

Mr Norgate – Dereham

Miss Pummell – Norwich

Mr Sanders – Norwich

Mr Sherwin – Kings Lynn

Mr & Mrs Simpson & family – Swaffham

Mr Snape – Aylsham

Mrs Turner & Miss Kennell – Bacton

Mrs Uglow – Shipham

Miss Utting – Bungay

Mr & Mrs Wallis – Holt

Mr & Mrs Williamson – Norwich

Mrs A Wright – Aylsham

Mr & Mrs Yaxley – Norwich

Your Lasting Legacy

HAVE you considered leaving a gift to Butterfly Conservation in your will? An increasing number of members and friends are choosing to support Butterfly Conservation in this way. All gifts, large and small, make a lasting difference to the conservation of butterflies and moths. Together they account for over one third of our voluntary income, contributing significantly to the success of our conservation work. So as well as looking after loved ones, please consider Butterfly Conservation; it will help to ensure butterflies and moths thrive in the years to come. To find out more, please contact Helen Corrigan on 01273 453313 or hcorrigan@butterfly-conservation.org

Thank you

Photographic Show Winners 2015

The British class in the 2015 photographic competition was closely contested with 5 entries gaining similar levels of support. Winner by one vote was Harry Faull's Pearl-bordered Fritillary in Abbots Wood, Sussex (front cover). The Overseas class was more clearly won by Stephen Burrell with a Spanish Festoon in Andalucia, Spain (inside front cover). Some of the entries are included on the cover pages of the newsletter. Many thanks to all who entered the competition!

An Early Look at the 2015 Transect Season

Alan Dawson, Transect Coordinator

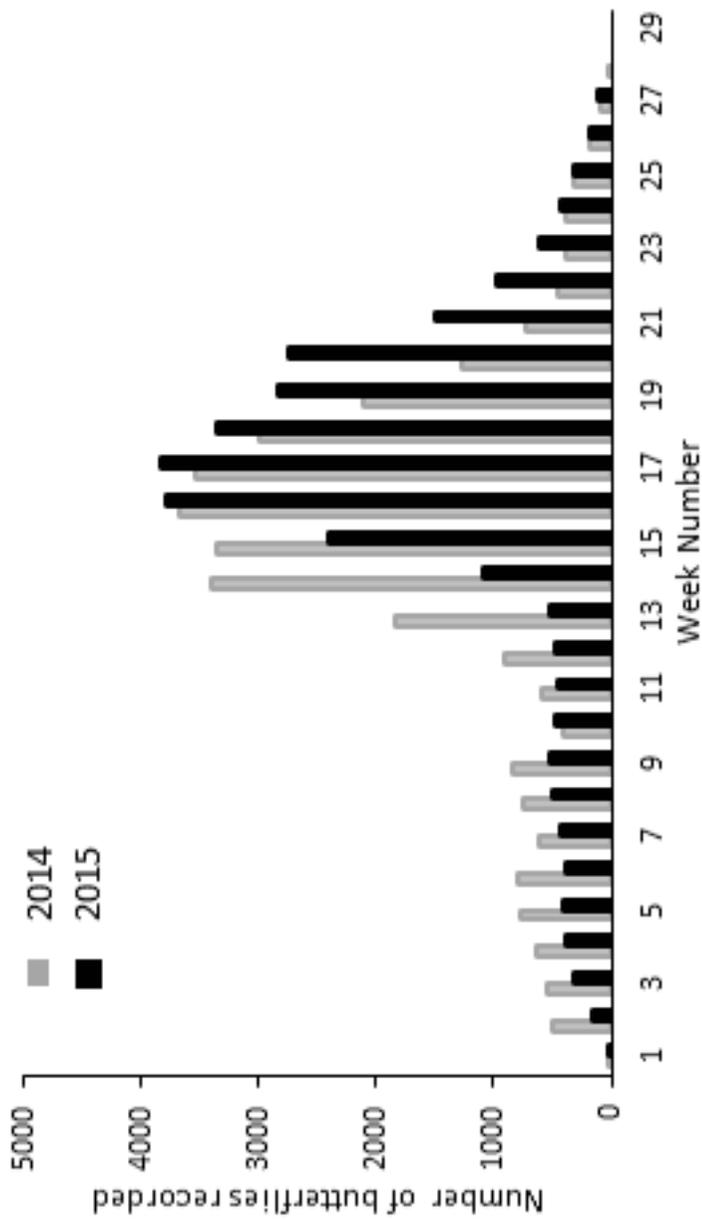
Although at the time of writing not quite all the transect data from 2015 is yet on the online data recording system, enough of it is available to have a quick look at what 2015 has been like on the UKBMS transects. Firstly, there was the very good news that the transect at Middle Harling Heath was re-started, and new transects got going at Blakeney Friary Hills, Courtyard Farm, Felbrigg Hall and Holt Country Park. My thanks to the extremely enthusiastic volunteers and wardens that have made this possible.

At the time of writing, I have all the counts in from 27 full transects, leaving 7 with data that are not yet fully on the system. A proper analysis of what happened in 2015 will wait until all the information is available. However, as last year, I have done a very crude comparison of the overall flight times of the butterfly seasons on 2014 and 15 (see graph). In both cases, week 1 starts on the 1st April. While the early Spring was sunny, temperatures were not high, then May was cold and damp so it is not surprising that the numbers of Spring butterflies were down overall compared with 2014. Overall, though, the total number of butterflies recorded in 2015 is not hugely different to 2014. The flight times of the summer butterflies are about two weeks later on average than 2014, again presumably because the Spring was colder.

Although total numbers of butterflies seen were not that different, it is clear from the data I have available that there were some major winners and losers. You may remember that Large and Small White had a very bad 2014 (gardeners having correspondingly good year). Numbers of both species have bounced back this year. On the other hand, Peacock and Small Tortoiseshell numbers were very low in 2015 compared with 2014. I will do a more detailed breakdown of the how all the Norfolk species have fared for the next Newsletter.

As ever, my thanks to the dedicated band of butterfly-lovers who do the recording on the Norfolk transects. There are currently two rather important single-species transects that are not being walked, at Narborough Railway Line for Dingy Skippers and at Foulden Common for Dingy and Grizzled Skippers. While a full transect covers 26 weeks of the year, a single-species transect only covers the flight time of the species concerned (in this case the end of April to the beginning of June), so is much less time-consuming. If there is anyone who thinks they might be able to walk one of these transects, please contact me. The routes are already set up and I am very happy to help with getting to grips with transect methodology.

Butterfly numbers on Norfolk Transects 2014 and 15



Moths Matter

By Greg Bond

2015 has been a curious year for moths in Norfolk (and elsewhere, for that matter) with the cold windy conditions which prevailed in the first half not at all helpful. Numbers of commoner moths such as Common Quaker in spring were well down generally and the unsettled, often windy weather continued into the summer, though Norfolk fared better than other areas. Later in the summer, high pressure dominated bringing settled conditions with winds off Europe, ideal conditions for migrants of which, happily, Norfolk, especially along the east coast had a decent share. Species rare for Norfolk such as Orache moth, Small Marbled, Ni moth, Convolvulus Hawkmoth and especially Bordered and Scarce Bordered Straw, Dark Swordgrass, Rush Veneer and Rusty-dot Pearl were appearing in traps as well as a number of new species, such as Passenger. Hummingbird Hawkmoths were especially noticeable and widely reported. Numbers of 'ordinary' moths also picked up with the softer conditions, with two particularly obvious at the time of writing, Black Rustic generally and Large Wainscot in coastal marshland, such as Cley NWT. Naturally, not all records are in yet so more information on both county and national mothing will follow in the spring newsletter.

Once again our specialist moth events were well attended. Particularly pleasing were the numbers of both members and non-members visiting our stall at the Norfolk Bird Fair at Mannington Hall on 15th-16th May, both when we opened the various traps we put out overnight and generally during the day. In line with the generally poor counts this spring only 33 species were recorded but these included several local species such as Scorched Wing, Chocolate Tip and four species of Prominent including several Greats. This was a new venture for the group which we are hoping to repeat in 2016 – if we do, see you there!

This year we held a Moth open morning event at Catfield Fen on 18th July, some weeks after the main Open day – in the past we have run traps and opened them as part of the main event. The weather wasn't great but there were decent numbers of moths about with 84 species including several reed bed speciality micros, a number of very showy Large Emeralds, plus Crescent, Fen Wainscot, the rare Reed Dagger and one for the photographers, Lempke's Gold Spot. We were hoping for two species of Footman for which the site is well known and one, the RDB3 species, Dotted Footman duly obliged. We also recorded three species of Hawkmoth, Poplar, Eyed and Elephant as well as two species which had some at least of us searching through the field guides. These turned out to be Dotted Clay and Minor Shoulder-Knot – my excuse is I don't usually see either in my garden trap!

Our third advertised event was for day flying moths at Middle Harling Heath in the Brecks. Sharon Hearle, to whom considerable thanks are due, put several of her own traps out in the area which we duly collected in after a soggy night. As the weather was really not great all day, day flying moths were a bit thin on the ground, limited to a couple of species of Plume moth, 6-spot Burnets and a few grass moths. We did however have some excellent species in the traps including Festoon, Satin Wave, three Oak Eggars, Mere Wainscot, European Corn Borer, Four-dotted Footman, Sharp-angled and Scorched Carpets and a couple of apparent wanderers from outside the immediate area, Red-necked Footman and Kent Black Arches. The latter at least is usually found near the coast of Norfolk while the Footman is undergoing a surge in records

Perhaps the most significant species found in our traps on our moth-orientated events were the four V-moths found at Middle Harling Heath. This species is fast declining nationally so any records are of considerable interest. Its food plants are ribes currants and Gooseberry and a major effort will be made next spring to find both the larvae of the moth and these species of plant, which are currently not known to occur in the conservation area. Given the success of the day we'd expect to repeat it in 2016. Our other publicised moth related event was on 25th July at Hillfield Nursery. Unfortunately this fell victim to the awful weather at the time and was cancelled.

Last but by no means least we occasionally get invited to run traps at sites for members' days and the like. One such this year was at Whitwell Common for the local trustees Open Event on 19th June. Again the weather was pretty indifferent and anyone who went on the guided walk after we opened the traps got pretty well soaked, but it's a beautiful site with lots of interesting flora. We recorded just 35 species of moth but these included Four-dotted Footman, Large Nutmeg and the nationally scarce Flame Wainscot, so most attendees were pleased. The other major bonus was the cake stall the trustees were kind enough to put out!

This sort of event has in the past been more difficult to publicise in advance but with the Group's greater use of e mail alerts, Facebook and the website we would hope to spread the word wider than before.

Finally, if you've never been and are not sure what to expect it may be worth mentioning that we have developed a user friendly approach to public moth trapping. We have three portable traps which we leave discretely overnight and then open them next morning for attendees. We will pass round the egg cartons or pots with more interesting species and always have people available to help with some of the trickier species. This can lead to some interesting discussions as it's generally the case that something appears which has most people scratching their heads. There are usually some facilities available for photographers as well, so if you would like to come along and see what is flying at night, you will be made very welcome.

Catfield Fen Open Day 7th June 2015

By Mandy Gluth

Our annual Open Day is the only day in the year when members of BC and the public have the opportunity to see what the inside of the reserve is like. Guided walks through the alder carr woodland and into the fen meadow are a taste of the exceptional habitat which supports so many Red Data Book species. It can also be a dangerous habitat for a stranger, which is why access has to be with a guide.

Guided walks were conducted around the reserve while BC's Dr Keith Bacon took visitors out in the boat to see the reserve from a different perspective around the dykes. The weather was breezy but there were still a few Swallowtails for visitors to admire and photograph as well as local Norfolk Hawker dragonflies, both of which were seen from the Rond. Other butterflies seen included Brimstones, Small Tortoiseshells and Red Admirals.

We are very grateful to Dr and Mrs Sandy Holburn for allowing the use of their field as a car park, without which the Open Day would not be able to take place, as well as the RSPB and their volunteers for the work they did before the Open Day to ready the reserve for visitors.

May Butterfly Field Trip to the Cut-off Channel

By Kiri Stuart-Clarke

Breezy, but brighter and milder than forecast weather augured well for our first butterfly spotting field trip of 2015, held at the Cut-off Channel at Stoke Ferry on Sunday 17th May and led by Mandy Gluth. Our principal target butterflies were the scarce Grizzled Skipper and the rather unkindly named Dingy Skipper, both threatened regional 'Priority Action Plan' species that have been in long term decline.

As we arrived the group was greeted by beautiful song of a nightingale hiding in the shrub and the sight of a buzzard soaring on thermals high in the sky overhead. Along with the Grizzled and Dingy Skippers, other early flying species on our radar included blues, Brimstone and the large, colourful Nymphalidae family butterflies often seen in spring, such as Peacock, Comma and Red Admiral. During the walk we were fortunate to be joined by a national bee expert who was monitoring bee species on the same site and shared some fascinating insights into the lives of these amazing creatures.

We hadn't ambled too far along the Cut-off Channel before Brimstones fluttered past overhead and sightings were made of a lovely little copper Brown Argus and a Treble Bar moth. Shortly after, our first Grizzled Skipper was spotted, but Dingy Skippers remained stubbornly elusive, despite the many sharp eyes in our good-sized group.

Towards the far end of the channel quite a number of us enjoyed sightings of several more Grizzled Skippers, lingering amongst patches of wild strawberries one of their favourite host plants. This was shortly followed by the beautiful sight of a pair of Green Hairstreaks dancing amongst the white hawthorn blossom.

By the end of the walk our tally had reached some 13 Grizzled Skippers and 10 other butterfly species, as well as 6 moths, including several vivid red Cinnabar moths. But alas, not one single Dingy was to be seen, which we speculated might be down to encroaching scrub or reduced numbers of larval vetch plants. Back at the car park we said farewell to the group including our diligent recorder for the day. As the weather had held up, a few remaining dedicated members took one last ditch foray along the more sheltered areas near the car park, and suddenly, one solitary Dingy Skipper was finally discovered!

Butterflies		Moths
Grizzled Skipper (13)	Brown Argus (3)	Common Swift (1)
Peacock (4)	Common Blue (2)	Cinnabar (3)
Small Copper (5)	Brimstone (4)	Treble Bar (1)
Orange Tip (4)	Green Hairstreak (4)	<i>Pyrauster purpuralis</i> (1)
Large White (2)	Small White (1)	Long Horn (1)
Holly Blue (1)	Dingy Skipper (1)	

Photographs from the Cut-off Channel Field Trip by Kiri Stuart-Clarke

Fig. 1: Attending members' group photograph

Fig. 2: Green Hairstreak on hawthorn blossom

Fig. 3: Grizzled Skipper Fig. 4: Brimstone on bramble

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A Round-up of Field Trips and Other Events

The spring began with our attendance at Wild about the Wensum, Pensthorpe in April. It was a reasonable day weatherwise with lots of children attending; they were particularly interested in the moths we had trapped elsewhere the night before. In May we had a stand at the two-day Bird Fayre held at Mannington Hall. This was a new venture for us and gave an opportunity to talk about Butterfly Conservation to a different audience. We set moth traps around the grounds both nights and held moth trap opening sessions each morning. In June we were again invited to co-host a Swallowtail Open Day at Wheatfen Nature Reserve. Although well attended, the weather was unfortunately wet and miserable. Later in the month we joined in with the NWT in their family fun day at Cley to celebrate National Insect Week. Again moth traps were set with the children enjoying seeing what had been caught. The Rangers at Holt CP asked us to help out at a Family Butterfly Day in July when Silver-washed Fritillaries and White Admirals would be flying. Once more we were let down by the weather although everyone attending did see both these species. Finally we again had a stand at the annual Wild About Norfolk event, held for the past 4 years at Easton College. This family-orientated day is always well attended and is again an opportunity for us to take our conservation message to a wider public.

Our Field Trip season began with the visit to Stoke Ferry (reported elsewhere). On a brightish day in June John Wagstaff took a group around Kelling Heath to see Silver-studded Blue butterflies. Those present were very interested in John's explanations about the excellent management work carried out under his watchful eye. The return trip to Long's Wood in July enjoyed much better weather than last year. The 14 members who came along were treated to a warm afternoon and 10 species of butterfly seen in good numbers as well as plenty of bumble bees and hoverflies. The omens for Foxley Wood later in the month were not good but in the event the rain held off long enough for the 12 enthusiasts to see the target species of White Admiral plus lots of other common butterflies. The season ended with the trip to Upton Fen in August. The afternoon was pleasantly warm and 17 people found 17 different butterfly species – an interesting statistic – as well as plenty of dragonflies and damselflies.

Our planned combined Butterfly and Moth Trapping Event at Hillfield Nursery was cancelled at very short notice. The forecast for the Friday night and Saturday was for strong winds and heavy rain. It is hoped to arrange another similar event next year.

The March and September indoor meetings at Blakeney were very well attended but it was disappointing that few people came along to the January and March Norwich meetings. At Blakeney in September Avril Monteath once again brought along plants to sell, the proceeds all being donated to the Branch and contributing to over £85 being collected on the night (including donations from non-members at the door and refreshments). Special thanks must go to all the speakers who not only give up their time on the night but also spend a great deal of time getting these talks ready.

It is worth noting that Ann Carpenter and Derek Longe often place reports and accompanying photographs after field trips and events on our website and facebook page. Members are encouraged to keep on eye there for more information.

Silver-studded Blue at Kelling Heath

Photography by Kiri Stuart-Clarke

Silver-studded Blue 2015 Season

By Mandy Gluth

The Silver-studded Blue flight period began later than last year with the first sighting on 12th June and the last on 25th July, both at Kelling Heath. The peak counts from each site are shown in the table below.

Kelling Heath – Thank you very much indeed to John Wagstaff (see below).

John has had a dedicated, long-standing involvement at Kelling Heath, monitoring and advising on management there especially for the Silver-studded Blue butterfly which was re-introduced in 2001. John also liaises with Kevin Jones, the contractor. Thanks are due to the Kelling Heath Trustees and Ed Stocker of Norfolk County Council for their support.

Buxton Heath – Thank you to Alan Dawson for his recording both on and off transect. Also to Alan's regular band of helpers. Thank you to NWT, Forestry Commission and the Buxton Heath Wildlife Group who between them manage the heath and the adjoining forestry ride to the north.

East Ruston Common – Agent 76 is thinking of hanging-up his hat after many years of scouring the nooks and crannies of 'The Eastern Front'. His departure will leave a sad gap in the hilarious and entertaining email correspondence we have enjoyed throughout the SSB flight period. It also creates a vacancy for recording this very interesting site. Thank you to Natural England for the management.

Cawston Heath and Reversion Field – Mike Wright is to be congratulated for his vigilance and perseverance in the Reversion Field. He has managed to find the odd one or two SSBs when the task has seemed like a needle in a haystack job! Thank you to the NWT for managing this site.

PEAK COUNT SUMMARY

Site	2015	2014	2013	2012
Kelling Heath	303	324	562	163
Buxton Heath	211	249	422	214
East Ruston Common	231	160	204	47
Cawston Heath Reversion	7	2	5	0

John Wagstaff wins Biodiversity Award

Congratulations to John Wagstaff on his Highly Commended award in the Heathlands category at the Community Biodiversity Awards 2015 run by the Norfolk Biodiversity Partnership.

Chalkhill Blue Surveys 2015

By Alan Dawson

As in previous years, we continued the survey of the Chalkhill Blue colony at Warham Camp. As you will remember, the colony is a result of an unofficial introduction in 2007, since when the butterfly has done well, particularly in 2013. Because the site is very small I said in the last report that we intended to go and have a look at the site during the Spring 2015 to see how the food plant (Horseshoe Vetch) had withstood the nibbling of the thousands of caterpillars that were present in 2013 and 2014. One visit (me and a friend) was in the middle of May, and then another, by Dave Horsley and a colleague, was in early June. On both occasions the Horseshoe Vetch was in flower, so was easy to locate, and there was quite a lot of it. However, the larger plants, which seem to be favoured by the larvae, did not seem to be present, and on neither visit were any larvae found (or even evidence of nibbled plants). The spring had been cold with high winds and the occasional torrential downpour, and the site looked very dry with some erosion of the banks, possibly due to extensive rabbit grazing. All this meant that our hopes were not high for the numbers of adults flying this year.

We monitor the population using the timed-count method. This involves doing a complete survey of the site, using the same number of recorders and taking approximately the same length of time every year (i.e. the 'recording effort' is constant). Since it is done on a single visit, we are never quite sure where we are in the flight season. However, as with many other butterflies, the males come out first, with females emerging later (as well as being harder to see). The ratio of males to females starts off very high and then decreases as the season progresses. In most years our counts show a ratio of about 10 to 1, so we think we are at least in the same region of the flight season year on year.

	2009	2010	2011	2012	2013	2014	2015
Males	22	220	853	1,382	6,133	2,422	2,044
Females	2	20	71	94	892	341	195
Total	24	240	924	1,476	7,025	2,763	2,239

On the day of the visit (August 12th) the weather was sunny with a temperature of 20°, and a light wind, so a pretty good day by the standards of 2015. As in previous years there were five of us, with another one acting as scribe, and as in previous years the NE sector was teeming with Chalkhill Blues. As you can see from the table, our fears for the population were not born out in practice. The numbers are a bit down on 2014, but that is true of quite a number of butterfly species so one cannot read too much into one year's numbers.

Last year I reported that Chalkhill Blues had been found at Ringstead Down and, for the second year running, at Cranwich Heath, together with occasional sightings elsewhere. At the time of writing, I can say that a small number was again reported from Ringstead but there were no sightings on the Cranwich Heath transect in 2015.

Beyond the County Boundary: Duke of Burgundy in Bedfordshire and Marsh Fritillary in Lincolnshire

By John Geeson

Although Norfolk has some spectacular butterflies for us to enjoy – the iconic Broadland Swallowtails, Dark Green Fritillaries in the coastal dunes, the recently arrived Silver-washed Fritillaries in our woodlands and the impressive (albeit introduced at some stage) colony of Chalkhill Blues at Warham Camp – we are outside the distribution range of many UK butterfly species.

As described in a recent article on Brown Hairstreaks in this Newsletter (Issue 89, Spring 2015, p.10), several other beautiful butterflies are easily accessible on relatively short day trips out of the county. To this end, my friend Sue Bryan and I planned a couple of excursions in May 2015, using information from fellow enthusiasts and websites, and fine-tuning our timings with the most recent available news we could glean on relevant dates of emergence.

On May 12th, we headed over to south Bedfordshire to visit some formerly quarried chalk grassland at Totternhoe, which is just to the west of Luton and Dunstable at the northern end of the Chilterns. The wooded hill of Totternhoe Knoll and the Old Quarry are two of a cluster of protected areas managed jointly by the National Trust and the County Wildlife Trust. There is a small car park (with a map board) at the top of Castle Hill Road in Totternhoe village (Grid reference: SP 986215); follow the main footpath straight ahead passing the Knoll on the left, and after about half a mile a path to the right leads into the overgrown Old Quarry.

We had made a relatively late start to allow for a small weather front to pass through, and with the usual little faith in our weather forecasters, we actually drove much of the journey in rain! However, things had improved a fair bit by the time we arrived, soon after 11.00. Spirits rose, and despite the still rather cool and breezy day and the sun still playing cat-and-mouse with us, the conditions deep in the Old Quarry were more sheltered. We were soon enjoying our target of **Duke of Burgundy** *Hamearis lucena*, the first of which had been recorded only a few days earlier. Although our exploration was by no means exhaustive, we easily found around 7 individuals all in fresh condition, and as they tend to stay low and fly only short distances, this makes them very willing subjects for photography. Also in the quarry we found good numbers of **Dingy Skippers** and a single **Green Hairstreak**, and all this with Red Kites sailing over our heads. Other friends who visited a few days later also found the first Small Blues emerged on some of the more recently quarried slopes nearby. The chalk grassland supports a fine flora – dominated by masses of Cowslips (the ‘Dukes’ main larval food plant) and Twayblade orchids *Listera ovata*, and later in the summer there would also be a fine display of Clustered Bellflower *Campanula glomerata*. For news on emergence dates visit: <http://www.bedsnorthants-butterflies.org.uk/bedsnews.php>. There are several other colonies of Duke of Burgundy in this area of south Bedfordshire and a little further south in the Buckinghamshire part of the Chilterns (e.g. Ivinghoe Beacon).

The following week, on May 21st, we headed NW to Chambers Farm Wood (the same locality as for the Brown Hairstreaks) in mid-Lincolnshire, a few miles south-west of Wragby and approx. 15 miles west of Lincoln. This wood, which is part of a patchwork of ancient lime woods in the area, is managed by the Forestry Commission and Butterfly

Duke of Burgundy in Bedfordshire (top) & Marsh Fritillary in Lincolnshire (bottom)
photographed by John Geeson



Conservation to provide good habitat for insects and other wildlife as well as for their amenity value. There is a small interpretive area with site maps and toilets in the visitors car park (Grid reference: TF146741). Further details can be found on: www.forestry.gov.uk/forestry/EnglandLincolnshireNoForestChambersWoodFarm.

Within the woodland is the small triangular Little Scrubbs Meadow, where an introduced (of about 25-30 years standing) colony of **Marsh Fritillary** *Euphydryas aurinia* thrives on the Devil's-bit Scabious *Succisa pratensis*, which grows in profusion in the damp grassland. My wife Judy and I had visited this site for the Fritillaries on a number of occasions since 1998, so this was familiar territory. Up-to-date information on their emergence is loaded onto the website at: <http://butterfly-conservation.org/510/latest-sightings.html>.



Duke of Burgundy in Bedfordshire (left) & Marsh Fritillary in Lincolnshire (right)
photographed by John Geeson

We had picked a much warmer, sunnier day this time, but as with the Duke of Burgundy, these insects especially the egg-laden females, are very obliging, staying low in or just over the short sward of vegetation and never flying far from the cameras! On this date early in the season the only other notable butterflies we saw during a couple of hours in the meadow were a few Dingy Skippers. Marsh Fritillary has a westerly distribution in Britain, and this introduced (but self-sustaining) colony is the closest to Norfolk (by a very long way!).

The dates of these visits were fairly typical for the recent emergence dates of the species concerned, but as no two years are the same, it is advisable to check any available sources of up-to-date information before planning trips.

Help needed for Public Events

We are looking for people to help us attend public events. It may be that you could volunteer to take on the responsibility for one specific event or be the person to oversee arrangements. Such occasions give us the opportunity to talk to the general public about Butterfly Conservation, gain income from sales, spread the word about creating butterfly and moth-friendly gardens and enrol new members. Without more help we will need to cut back further our attendance next year. **Please consider if you can help in any way and give Judy Dunmore a ring.**

Norfolk UKBMS Transect Recording in 2014

By Alan Dawson, Transect Coordinator

As I pointed out in my preliminary analysis of the 2014 transect season in the Autumn Newsletter, 2014 was quite a contrast to 2013. In 2013, the spring was very cold and, throughout April, transect walkers had difficulty finding a suitable day to go and walk the transect, let alone see any butterflies. In 2014, the year got off, literally, to a flying start with many butterflies being seen in April. However, while numbers rapidly increased to levels comparable with 2013, the season finished very early. Average flight times were about 3-4 weeks earlier than 2013, and by mid-August there were very few butterflies still flying. Overall, in 2013, 43472 butterflies were counted on 29 Norfolk transects, while in 2014 this number was 41054, also on 29 transects. If we look at the last 6 weeks of the season, in 2014 there were 2055 while in 2013 the equivalent number was 5179.

Full 26 week transects

As is to be expected, there were the usual small number of changes in the list of Norfolk transects that were walked in 2014. The three transects at Swanton Novers Wood came back onto the list, while unfortunately the walks at Middle Harling Heath and Stow Bedon Common could not be completed. The two transects at Sculthorpe Moor got flooded again and this time we reorganised the two walks into one (drier) one, known as Sculthorpe 3, which hopefully will be more sustainable. The vegetation at Cranwich Camp became substantially taller than the recorder over one stretch and was quite impenetrable until the Forestry Commission very kindly came and cut a path through the undergrowth, so a few weeks were missed there. The online recording software fills in numbers for weeks that have been missed, but despite this the missed weeks at Cranwich did have consequences (see below). Overall the number of full transects walked remained at 29.

Table 1 shows the annual summary for the full 26 week transects. All the numbers are corrected by the software to totals for 26 weeks (the Index) so numbers are comparable between transects and between years. The total number of species counted in 2014 was 33. This is down on the 2013 total of 34 because White Letter Hairstreak has dropped off the list. In 2013 it was seen at Holkham and Cranwich. This year it was not recorded on the Holkham transect. In 2014 it was seen on the same section as last year at Cranwich but unfortunately this was during the time when the transect could not be walked because of the vegetation so no count was recorded. Chalkhill Blue, seen at Cranwich in 2013, was also seen on the Cranwich walk during this period so could not be officially counted. However, Chalkhill Blues did turn up on the Ringstead Down transect for the first time in 2014. Another notable first was the appearance of Dark Green Fritillary at Swanton Novers for the first time for many years.

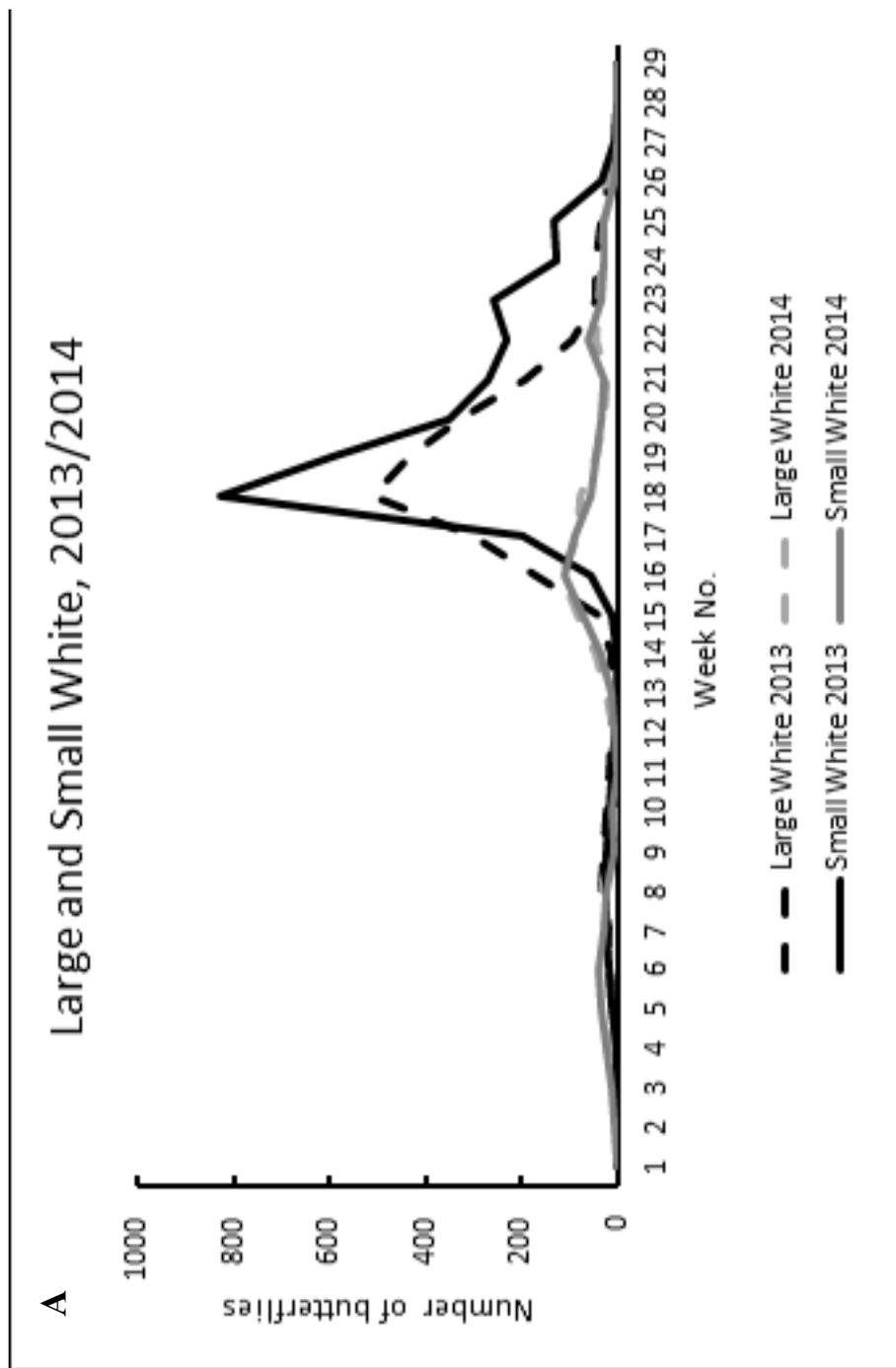
A question of considerable interest was the extent to which the major floods of December 2013 would affect the overwintering stages of the butterflies on the extreme coastal transects, particularly Scolt Head and Blakeney Point, but also Holkham and Winterton. Holme Dunes escaped the main effects of the flooding. Anyway, the answer seems to have been surprisingly little. While Dark Green Fritillary numbers at Scolt Head and Blakeney are a lot lower than in 2013 (16 and 2 cf 67 and 8 respectively), Grayling, Wall Brown and Common Blue were not seriously affected.

Table 1: 2014 Norfolk Transect Data as Indices (corrected to 26 weeks)

	Bure Marshes	Holkham	Holme Dunes	Mousehold Heath	Mousehold Heath East	Weeting Heath	Blakeney Point	Winterton Dunes	Strumpshaw Fen	Marston Marsh	Scolt Head Island	Tomas's pightle	Swanton Novers 1	Swanton Novers 2
Sm. Skipper		6	77		1		2	2		2	17	6		
Essex Skipper					7					10	5	51		
Sm/Es Skipper				3	15	150				181	23		415	19
Large Skipper	39	29	6	3	12	61		7	13	21			88	14
Dinky Skipper														
Grizzled Skipper														
Swallowtail	37								4					
Clouded Yellow	1										11			
Brimstone	120	7	2	3		40		3	71	13	1	18	62	21
Large White	5	62	8	85	34	60	3	5	37	2	36	56	66	17
Small White	2	33	4	6	12	78	12		20	16	31	40	38	3
G-v White	273	27	11	36	33	24	2		98	241	22	10	101	54
Orange Tip	13	7		29	2	25			40	102		11	11	6
Gr. Hairstreak		3		24	3						108		1	
Pu. Hairstreak				2									22	3
W-l. Hairstreak														
Small Copper		55	36	14	25	10	38	56	1	5	41		2	
Common Blue		77	138		32	18	2	3	25	19	431	21	11	1
Holly Blue		13		10					4	3		6		
Brown Argus		66	27			1	4						2	
Chalkhill Blue														
White Admiral	6	3		1									20	15
Red Admiral	25	20	13	13	15	83	11	4	69	12	155	41	29	16
Painted Lady		5	2			3	4	1	1		55	3	5	
Sm. Tortoiseshell	122	29	19	11	46	206	31	4	202	279	127	117	30	5
Peacock	235	195	39	18	17	125	9	5	292	61	136	169	160	23
Comma	26	62		19	27	12			16	8		15	46	17
S-w. Fritillary													27	4
D. G. Fritillary		65	8				2	11			16			
Speckled Wood	69	50	28	104	98	116		13	17	12		35	103	117
Wall Brown		91	68				1				127		8	
Grayling		3				4	60	377			116			
Gatekeeper	15	109	122	68	52	244	28	85	39	82	438	248	186	28
Meadow Brown	188	372	263	49	130	722	5	22	124	909	386	111	454	50
Small Heath		18	84			296		62			351			
Ringlet	145	133	56	14	30	231	4	7	48	110	36	107	1077	300
Total (index)	1321	1540	1011	512	591	2509	218	667	1121	2088	2669	1065	2964	713
No. of species	17	27	20	20	18	22	17	17	19	19	21	18	25	20
Weeks done	22	17	21	23	23	22	23	18	26	26	21	28	17	17
Transect started	1976	1976	1978	2004	2012	2008	2008	2008	2008	2009	2009	2009	1992	1998

	Swanton Novers Little Wood	Roydon Common	Sutton Fen	Gaywood Valley	Marlingford	Pensthorpe	Ludham Marshes	How Hill Full	Barnham Cross Common	Cranwich Camp	Dersingham Village R/way	Syderstone Common	Dersingham Bog	Ringstead Down	Sculthorpe Moor 3
Sm. Skipper		11	58		18	9	1	18	92	32		18	93	9	2
Essex Skipper	14	14	6		6	3	1								
Sm/Es Skipper	67	52		110	10	26	4	17				165	11	12	36
Large Skipper	24	22	121	45	2	19	16		193	99	18	47	100	15	36
Dingy Skipper										38					
Grizzled Skipper															
Swallowtail			118				2	10							
Clouded Yellow		2	8	1	2	1			3					9	
Brimstone	8		104	12	3	7	8	44	24	269		2	20	6	
Large White	21	3	14	25	30	33	52	12	25	39	14	12	39	32	14
Small White	7	2	59	48	47	37	12	37	90	44	13	45	15	57	6
G-v White	65	11	261	86	1	351	94	18	12	41	26	21	5	38	106
Orange Tip	8		3	39	27	33	7	21	21	148	4	24	8	29	52
Gr. Hairstreak										4		1			
Pu. Hairstreak	3					6	3								
W-l. Hairstreak															
Small Copper		21		10	4	7	1	4	35	37	2	62	9	21	
Common Blue	1	17	7	105	41	35	4	2	16	73	2	44	2	48	4
Holly Blue			6	8		4				9	4	4			
Brown Argus						3			1	4				22	
Chalkhill Blue														9	
White Admiral	10	1		6				9							
Red Admiral	10	17	79	30	5	101	22	37	5	18	14	13	13	14	94
Painted Lady	6	3	10	2			7	3					3	2	1
Sm. Tortoiseshell	5	33	564	203	59	98	335	38	36	92	34	19	29	33	57
Peacock	55	44	297	99	21	166	87	109	23	73	18	46	66	72	64
Comma	13	6	17	40		46	5	21	8	10	12	12	14	23	14
S-w. Fritillary	2					2									
D. G. Fritillary	1														
Speckled Wood	111	20	68	77	55	202	22	73	37	70	45	30	5	18	107
Wall Brown							47				1	3		12	2
Grayling															
Gatekeeper	30	47	361	75	112	67	84	28	73	228	53	212	121	158	87
Meadow Brown	66	115	817	109	341	261	774	42	471	1433	28	146	128	380	133
Small Heath									90	109		170		6	
Ringlet	267	34	444	285	415	327	167	214	79	406	115	250	77	144	293
Total (index)	780	475	3422	1415	1199	1844	1755	757	1334	3276	403	1346	758	1169	1108
No. of species	22	19	22	21	19	23	19	20	20	22	17	22	19	24	18
Weeks done	17	22	25	22	19	22	22	19	28	17	25	26	14	31	20
Transect started	1998	2010	2010	2011	2011	2011	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2012	2013	2013	2014

Fig. 1: Trends for the Large and Small White



B

Large and Small White, Spring emergence

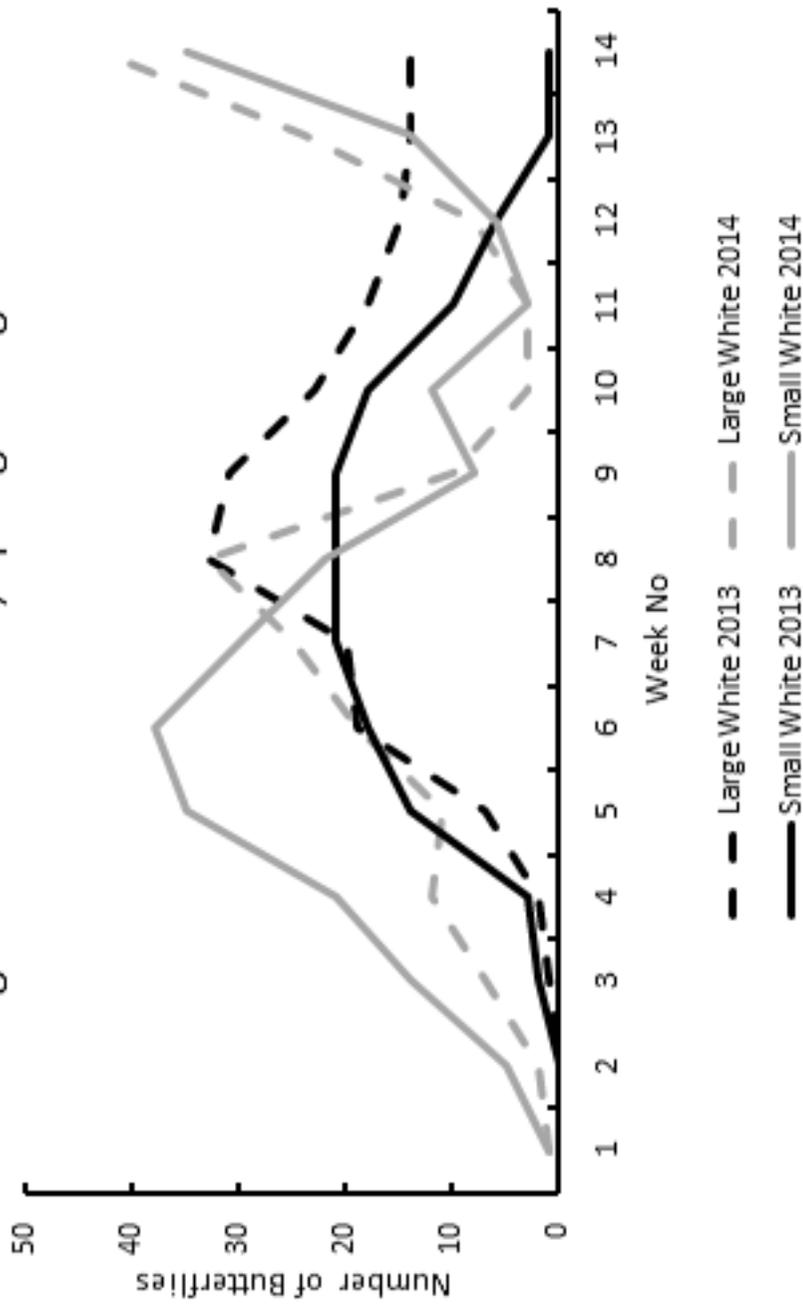


Table 2: Winners and Losers in 2014

	2014	2013	% change		2014	2013	% change
Red Admiral	923	209	342	Sm. Tortoiseshell	2823	3161	-11
Large Skipper	924	533	73	Small Copper	494	555	-11
Gatekeeper	3236	1965	65	Painted Lady	105	118	-11
Speckled Wood	1371	982	40	Grayling	560	675	-17
Orange Tip	645	466	38	Small Heath	1186	1440	-18
Ringlet	4171	3078	36	G.-v. White	1848	2369	-22
Brimstone	777	622	25	Common Blue	1166	1558	-25
Sm./Es. Skipper	1392	1156	20	D. G. Fritillary	102	155	-34
Wall Brown	352	330	7	Holly Blue	71	117	-39
Comma	413	440	-6	Peacock	2486	4211	-41
Brown Argus	128	137	-7	Large White	737	2329	-68
Meadow Brown	8459	9089	-7	Small White	766	2909	-74

As in previous years I have constructed a table of winners and losers in 2014, based on the 27 transects that were common between 2013 and 14. As usual, the table comes with an extreme health warning because there is a lot of diversity among the different transects in habitats and species present and also in fluctuation in numbers of butterflies. However, my best effort at the analysis is shown in Table 2. The big winner, as one might guess from casual observation, is Red Admiral. This had a terrible year in 2013 but has bounced back to numbers well above the 2012 level. The ‘orange’ skippers (Large, Small and Essex) did pretty well, as did Gatekeeper, Speckled Wood and Orange Tip. Many species showed rather modest declines from the highs of 2013, but the major losers were the Large and Small Whites which suffered a huge decline. I had a slightly more detailed look at what happened to the Large and Small Whites by comparing the numbers for the Spring emergence and the Summer brood. The graphs are shown in Fig 1. The numbers in the Spring emergence are rather small, so the data is rather noisy, but it looks as if numbers are similar for both species in 2013 and 2014 (Fig 1B), with the peak flight time a bit earlier in 2014, as expected. However, the summer brood is massively down in 2014, compared to 2013. The situation is rather comparable to the strange phenomenon of the Peacock in 2010, where the summer brood just did not happen. Somehow, though, it is hard to imagine Large and Small Whites becoming rarities!

Single-species transects

We have single-species transects for Swallowtail at Wheatfen Broad, Catfield Fen, Strumpshaw, and Ranworth Broad. The transect at Upton Fen has now been discontinued in its present form because no Swallowtails ever appeared on the route. Hopefully it will be possible to set up a new and more profitable route there. There is a transect for Silver-studded Blue at Buxton Heath. These transects are only walked during the flight season.

Red-List Species

We have 10 Red List species in Norfolk and, although all were sighted in the County in 2014, Grizzled Skipper and White-letter Hairstreak were not counted on transect.

Of the others:

- Dinky Skipper (38) seen at Cranwich Camp, up from 16 in 2013
- Silver-studded Blue (204). The count was down from 366 in 2013, but this can be attributed to essential maintenance work in Buxton Great Wood.
- White Admiral was recorded on 9 transects (6 in 2013, but Swanton Novers was missing). They were recorded at Bure Marshes, Holkham, Mousehold Heath, the three Swanton Novers transects, Roydon Common, Gaywood Valley, and How Hill. Roydon Common is a new site.
 - Wall Brown (10 sites, same as 2013), not seen at Dersingham Bog or Strumpshaw in 2014, but counted at Syderstone Common and Swanton Novers 1. Numbers were not greatly different from 2013.
 - Grayling (5 sites of 4 in 2013). Seen at Weeting Heath, in addition to the 2013 sites at Holkham, Blakeney Point, Winterton Dunes and Scolt Head. Numbers were slightly down on 2013.
 - Small Heath (10 sites, down from 15 in 2013). Not seen at Marston Marsh, Marlingford, Blakeney, Dersingham Bog and Pensthorpe. It was counted at Middle Harling although the transect season was not completed there.
 - Chalkhill Blue. There was a new appearance at Ringstead Down and they were still present at Cranwich. The main colony at Warham Camp was once again surveyed by a timed count method, and in 2014 the number recorded was 2763, down from the dizzy heights of 7000 in 2013 but still fairly impressive.
 - Swallowtail. There were 4 full transects and 4 single-species transects in 2014. The numbers counted were rather similar to 2013 (see Table 3)

Table 3: Trends in Swallowtail Numbers

Site	Started	Swallowtail Numbers				
		2010	2011	2012	2013	2014
Bure Marshes (NE)	1976	42	50	20	40	37
Hickling (NWT)	1995	15	23	Not done	Not done	-
Strumpshaw Fen (RSPB)	2008	6	12	4	2	4
Sutton Fen (RSPB)	2010	78	123	30	76	118
Wheatfen (Ted Ellis Trust)	2010	2	10	6	19	8
Strumpshaw Fen (RSPB)	2010	13	18	6	14	11
Ranworth (NWT)	2010	2	Not done	0	3	0
Catfield Fen (BC)	2010	4	Not done	8	17	16
How Hill (Broads Authority)	2011		22	2	13	10
Upton Fen (NWT)	2012			1	0	-

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION NORFOLK BRANCH

Income and Expenditure Accounts for the Year Ended 31st March 2015

<u>INCOME</u>	2014/15		2013/14	
	£	£	£	£
Subscriptions	3,480		3,155	
Donations	1,065		1,015	
Interest	-		375	
Catfield Fen Reserve				
Donation	39		-	
Sales at Events	711		414	
VAT Refund	32		78	
Fundraising	145		495	
Refreshments	74		-	
Refund of Room Hire Deposit	100		-	
Refund of Bank Charge	<u>24</u>	5,670	<u>-</u>	5,532
<u>EXPENDITURE</u>				
Catfield Fen Management	1,007		874	
Newsletter	1,728		2,090	
Cost of Sales Goods	233		262	
VAT Paid	22		300	
Office Expenses	302		312	
Publicity	171		448	
Travel Expenses -Conservation	26		18	
-Events	257		304	
-Surveys	35		285	
Insurance	-		8	
Equipment	57		1,130	
AGM Lecturer's Fee	45		164	
AGM Room Hire	50		-	
Members' Meetings	40		-	
Transfer of Funds to Head Office	<u>-</u>	<u>3,997</u>	<u>7,000*</u>	<u>13,195</u>
SURPLUS(DEFICIT FOR YEAR)		<u>1,673</u>	<u>(7,663)</u>	

* DEFRA has decided that the Special Payments Scheme (SPS) grants made to Butterfly Conservation, against applications made under guidance and in good faith, should be disallowed. They have required the full amount to be repaid. The Committee has decided that £7,000 of our surplus funds should be returned to Head Office as we were in receipt of SPS payments amounting to £10,100. This discharges our liability.

A more detailed version of these accounts is available from the Treasurer on request.

These accounts have been independently examined and approved.

BUTTERFLY CONSERVATION NORFOLK BRANCH

Balance Sheet as at 31st March 2015

<u>CURRENT ASSETS</u>	2014/15		2013/14	
	£	£	£	£
Stock for Sale	396		577	
Debtors	37		60	
Prepayments	133		625	
Current Account at Bank	15,189		4,817	
Deposit Account	-		8,000	
Cash Float	<u>40</u>	15,795	<u>40</u>	14,119
<u>CURRENT LIABILITIES</u>				
Creditors		<u>(3)</u>		<u>nil</u>
<u>TOTAL NET ASSETS</u>		<u>15,792</u>		<u>14,119</u>

ACCUMULATED FUND

Balance brought forward 1 st April 2014	14,119	21,782
Surplus(Deficit) for year	<u>1,673</u>	<u>(7,663)</u>
Balance carried forward 31 st March 2015	<u>15,792</u>	<u>14,119</u>

FINANCIAL RESERVES POLICY

The Committee has determined that most of the Accumulated Fund will be allocated as follows:-

	£	£
Reserve against reduction in income (6 months' estimated expenditure)		2,000
Restricted Reserves:		
Unspent maintenance grants for Catfield Fen Reserve		898
Designated Reserves:		
Estimated Deficits next three years	3,300	
Cut-off Channel Project	3,311	
Purchase of Projector	700	
Repair of Machinery at Kelling Heath	600	
Replacement Outboard Motor for Workboat	<u>2,000</u>	<u>9,911</u>
		<u>10,809</u>

Roland Rogers
Treasurer

Zebras in East Anglia

By Andy Brazil

No, not the striped equine but the Zebra Longwing (*Heliconius charithonia*) – the state butterfly of Florida. Astonishingly, no less than four reports of free-flying individuals were received this summer – two in Norfolk and two in Suffolk. Our two were seen in Roughton, near Cromer on the 22nd August (T. Mason) and then in Garboldisham on the 23rd (T. Ward). This raises the interesting question of whether they were two separate individuals, or the same insect. Since they're known to migrate from Mexico to Texas, popping across Norfolk in a day might be feasible. If we add the two sightings from Suffolk however, it seems more likely that a mass escape from a butterfly house is the most likely source.

These weren't the only oddities to turn up this year. A Map (*Araschnia levana*) was found by N. I. Rix on 28th September at the entrance to Pentney Park caravan Site. Resourcefully, he spotted a camper van with Dutch plates in the park, and on enquiry was told that yes, they had found a butterfly in the van which they had let out the window. So we must presume that our Map had crossed by Eurotunnel – possibly the first butterfly ever to arrive under the channel instead of over it! Our final oddity is a mystery. On 24th July at Eaton a large purple/black butterfly fluttered up to the driver's side window of a parked car. It was about 4 inches across and wasn't a Purple Emperor according to K. Lambert and F. Howe, who were in the car. Searching the websites of butterfly farms suggests perhaps *Papilio lowi* as a tentative identification, but we'll never know. My thanks to all the recorders who reported these wanderers. It just goes to show you never know what you might find in the countryside these days.

Fig. 1: **Zebra Longwing** (*Heliconius charithonia*) in Norfolk recorded and photographed by Toby Ward.

More Entries from the 2015 Photographic Competition

Fig. 2: Peacock by Annabelle Tipper

Fig. 3: Spanish Festoon in Andalucia, Spain by Helen Burrell

Fig. 4: Clouded Yellow by Harry Faull

Fig. 5: *Pyrausta aurata* in Norfolk by Derek Longe

Fig. 6: Spanish Swallowtail by Harry Faull

Fig. 7: Dark-green Fritillary at Horsey, Norfolk by Régine Godfrey

Fig. 8: Gold Spot by Martin Greenland

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Fig. 9: Monarch in Spain by Helen Burrell

Fig. 10 Swallowtail at Hickling, Norfolk by Stephen Burrell

Fig. 11: Scarce Vapourer Moth caterpillar at Drake's Fen, Norfolk by Tessa Needham

Fig. 12: Large Emerald by Martin Greenland



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